

the following question: I said, I want you to think about what kind of citizens you're going to be—[inaudible]—administration that this was the day the American people were empowered to renew their Nation and their communities, to seize a better future for themselves, and to help all of us to be what the—[inaudible]—out of helping our fellow citizens and ourselves to become what we ought to be, this country will be all right.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the Health and Physical Education Center at the university. In his remarks, he referred to Gregory O'Brien, Chancellor of the University of New Orleans. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 6554—National Arbor Day, 1993

April 30, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

It is proper that we celebrate America's forests, which provide us with a link to our past, a thriving ecosystem, and indispensable resources that are vital to our economy.

Trees are one of the symbols of our culture. Our forebears explored America's forests; lived, hunted, and fought in them; and celebrated them in art, music, folktales, and literature. Our traditions speak of the Tree of Life, just as Thomas Paine spoke of the Tree of Liberty. Paul Bunyan and Babe made their living in the forest, and Huck Finn used trees to make his wooden raft to ride down the Mississippi River on his great American adventure. Today, a walk through the woods or a city park reminds us of our country's special ties to the land we inherited.

Our trees are valuable protectors of our ecosystem. They provide a thriving habitat for animal and plant life; their roots curb soil erosion; their leaves freshen our air by providing oxygen; and their branches shelter us from the sun and the wind.

On Arbor Day, we also recognize those whose lives and livelihoods are intertwined

with our forests. Generations of Americans have depended on forests for the lumber to build houses and the fuel to heat their homes. Many Americans continue to harvest lumber and produce wood products, foresters help us manage our forests wisely, and civic associations help ensure the preservation of our woodlands.

Despite the critical importance of our forests, we have not always been diligent stewards of our inheritance. Not long after the Civil War, our ancestors realized that the need for wood products was placing too great a demand on our forests. And in 1872, concerned residents of the State of Nebraska came together on the first Arbor Day to look to the future and preserve America's forests for our generation and the ones yet to come. As we approach the 21st century, we must rededicate ourselves to a forest policy that sustains a strong forest economy and a healthy ecosystem.

Arbor Day is commemorated with an activity in which every American can take part: the planting of a tree—in a backyard, in a park, or on a mountainside. Each new sapling planted today connects us to our parks and wilderness areas here at home, as well as to the tropical forests and wetlands around the world. We must ensure that our children and their descendants have just as much to celebrate on Arbor Day 100 years from now.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 127, has designated the last Friday in April as "National Arbor Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 30, 1993, as National Arbor Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:19 a.m., May 3, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4.

**Proclamation 6555—Law Day,
U.S.A., 1993**

April 30, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Ours is a Nation of laws, united not just by a common language and culture, but by a unique devotion to and belief in a national common law: our Constitution.

On Law Day, we celebrate our Constitution and all of the legal institutions that flow from it. Though often thought of as the province of lawyers, we must never forget that these laws and institutions were created not just by lawyers, but also by farmers and architects; businesspeople and laborers; doctors, ranchers, merchants, and machinists. The protection under our laws is the birthright of all Americans, the great inheritance we have received from those who have come before.

In times past, not all Americans have shared in the rights secured by our laws. Courageous and visionary men and women devoted their lives—and sometimes sacrificed them—because they believed that none of us can enjoy the blessings of liberty unless all of us do. To the people who continue to give of themselves each day to this pursuit goes my highest tribute on this Law Day.

Today, as a lawyer and as President, I challenge the members of America's legal profession to devote themselves to the great causes and the great challenges before us as a Nation. As did your predecessors, you must be the leaders in the struggle to promote equality in our society and justice in our courts. Just as our laws are meant to benefit us all, the practice of law cannot be conducted for private benefit alone. I call on all lawyers to make a commitment to public service and civic affairs. This is the heritage of our pro-

fession, and a duty arising from the privilege bestowed upon us as lawyers.

On Law Day, I want to reiterate the commitment of my Administration to the rule of law, both here at home and around the world. My Administration will work hard to improve the quality of justice in our courts by selecting the very best men and women to serve as Federal judges. We will dedicate ourselves to promoting justice in our communities by launching new and innovative measures to combat crime and ensure public safety. We will pledge to advance justice in our society by reinvigorating our civil rights laws and our application of them.

We will strive to strengthen our families by increasing enforcement of our child support laws; to strengthen our environment by demanding that polluters pay for the harm that they cause; to strengthen our economy by ensuring that all persons have an equal right to opportunity and employment. In all of these endeavors, our laws will play a critical role.

On this day, we cannot ignore the criticisms aimed at our legal system and the calls for changes in it. I share the view that our legal system needs reform. But even as we undertake these reforms, we should never forget that it is our legal system that is the envy of the world. As the nations around the globe emerge from the long, dark days of the past into the new light of freedom, it is to our laws, our courts, our private bars—our legal institutions—that they look for inspiration. This should be a source of enormous pride for all lawyers and for all Americans.

From the days of our Nation's founding, the torch of freedom has been passed from one generation to the next. Today we hold it higher, and it burns more brightly than ever. Democracies around the world, new and old, look to us to lead the way. The law of our land stands as a beacon of hope for these people and for those still yearning to be free.

The turmoil in various parts of the world attests to the need to promote respect for international law and to strengthen international institutions for the protection of international peace and security and of