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I think the other big problem is, I haven't been out there as much as I should have been engaging the American people directly since February. I've been here doing huge, heavy lifting and long meetings on health care and the economy. That's what I've been working on, and I've been forced to deal with a lot of other issues. I think when the American people see that the program that I promised them on February 17th is still intact and on the boards and going forward, when they realize that we are going forward with health care and that that is, notwithstanding, what the perception is, taking the lion's share of my time and attention, and when I get back out there and engage them again on it, I think that those things will turn around.

But you know, you can't operate this job by polls. Anybody who thinks they can be President by polls—I didn't run the Governor's office that way. The only thing that matters is the polls that come around on election day, those are the things that matter. And you have to be willing to take on tough decisions. It takes a certain amount of time to do things, to make difficult decisions and to work through them, and you can't carry on a totally continuous campaign. It's simply not possible.

Middle East Peace Talks

Q. Mr. President, on the Middle East, you mentioned the Middle East talks. Do you think the U.S. should now offer proposals to bridge the gaps? Should the Syrians offer a full peace before Israel agrees to withdraw from the Golan Heights? And could you accept or see a Palestinian state eventually emerging from the talks?

President Clinton. If I answer any of those questions I will undermine the Middle East peace talks. The real answer to that question is, if those parties can agree among themselves in good faith to proposals which will bring an end to the hostilities between Egypt and Syria—I mean, between Israel and Syria, between Israel and the Palestinians—they can get the multilateral talks going, if they bring in the Jordanians, the Lebanese, that the United States will be prepared to be supportive of their agreements. That is the answer to that. And I hope they can reach them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's 14th news conference began at 2:03 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Slobodon Milosevic, President of Serbia.

Proclamation 6559—Mother's Day, 1993

May 7, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than half a century, Americans have celebrated Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. On this day, we honor our mothers and reflect on the many hours of love and care they have devoted to our lives.

Mothers are the cornerstone of our communities. As caregivers, community activists, teachers, leaders, and business professionals, they serve as role models and inspirations for our achievements. Their tireless devotion to the family nourishes us as individuals and enriches our Nation.

Throughout life, a mother is a teacher, a nurturer, a supporter, and a source of strength. Our mothers instill in us strong values and the confidence to dream big dreams. With their encouragement and support, we can pursue our dreams and make them come true.

Mothers enrich our lives in so many ways. Whether biological, foster, or adoptive, a mother holds an enduring place in our hearts; a mother's love transcends all differences and divisions. We admire the energy, strength, and conviction of our mothers, and we honor their dedication to helping others. As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us cherish their gifts of selflessness and love.

In recognition of the contributions of all mothers to their children and to the Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America,

do hereby request that Sunday, May 9, 1993, be observed as Mother's Day. I direct Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings, and I urge all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, 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, 9:24 a.m., May 10, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 11.

Proclamation 6560—Be Kind to Animals and National Pet Week, 1993

May 7, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, animals have played an important part in our lives. In colonial times, we relied on animals to carry us and our belongings over great distances to our frontier homesteads. When we arrived, they worked with us, sustained us, and helped us earn a living. Today, animals still help us in our economic lives, but they have taken on a greater role as our guardians and companions.

We celebrate this week in order to remember the many ways that animals help us. By serving as guides, animals aid the blind. As lookouts and detectives, animals assist in our military, customs, and law enforcement efforts. As friends and companions, pets befriend our children, ease the loneliness of the elderly and the ill, and entertain our families in our daily lives. We also salute the veterinary professionals and animal protection organizations that help us provide food, shelter, and medical care for animals and pets.

Together with all the creatures of the world, human beings are a part of nature. Just as we must respect our environment, we must treat animals kindly. In recognition of this, the Congress, by Public Law 102–504, has designated the week of May 2 through May 8, 1993, as "Be Kind to Animals and National Pet Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of May 2 through May 8, 1993, as Be Kind to Animals and National Pet Week. I urge the people of the United States to observe this week with the appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of May, 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, 10:34 a.m., May 10, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 11.

Nominations for the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority

May 7, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate two Tennesseans, Johnny Hayes and Craven Crowell, to serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority. Following his confirmation, Mr. Crowell will be designated by the President as Chairman of the Board.

"The Tennessee Valley Authority is one of the great success stories of the 20th century," said the President. "It transformed the life of an entire region, and still has tremendous impact today. Through their years of service to their State and their Nation, Johnny Hayes and Craven Crowell have proven themselves