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team has already seen. I think that it is just the beginning of what will doubtless be years and years and years of stunning achievement if they can just keep their goals high and keep working for them.

It's a great honor to have them here and I'd like to invite them to say a few words. Who's going first? Jerry?

Let's give them a hand.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:53 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson and owner Jerry Jones.

Proclamation 6651—National Poison Prevention Week, 1994

March 1, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Keeping families healthy is an integral part of strengthening our Nation's future. It is the cornerstone in America's efforts to provide security for every one of our citizens. Yet, in this great Nation of wisdom and unparalleled potential, the American Association of Poison Control Centers estimates that almost one million American children are exposed to potentially poisonous medicines and household chemicals each year. This single statistic is appalling, but it is also correctable, for we are certain in the knowledge that accidental poisonings are preventable. This week, we recognize that it is one of our duties as a society to do everything in our power to prevent injuries and deaths caused by poisoning.

As the United States observes the 33rd National Poison Prevention Week, we are able to celebrate some small, but significant, triumphs. That the number of childhood deaths from poisoning annually has declined from 450 to 49 over the past thirty years is a testament to the dedicated efforts of countless citizens actively involved with poison control programs across the country. National requirements of child-resistant packaging for medicines have helped to limit dangerous exposure. Poison control centers, pharmacies, and public health centers have worked together to distribute vital information regarding poison prevention to our families and communities, and these measures have, indeed, saved lives.

If we are to end the tragedy of childhood poisonings once and for all, we must continually remind ourselves to take the basic steps necessary to prevent this occurrence in our own homes. Safety measures, such as using child-resistant packaging correctly and keeping potentially harmful substances out of children's reach, can mean the difference between health and injury, between life and death. During this week, we must seek to educate ourselves and others about all the ways we can work to avoid this kind of senseless loss. America's parents must take primary responsibility for this effort. Our Nation's children deserve no less.

To encourage the American people to learn more about the dangers of accidental poisonings and to take more preventive measures, the Congress, by joint resolution approved September 26, 1961 (75 Stat. 681), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of March of each year as "National Poison Prevention Week."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning March 20, 1994, as National Poison Prevention Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by participating in appropriate ceremonies and activities and by learning how to prevent accidental poisonings among children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:17 p.m., March 1, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 3.

Message to the Senate on the Chemical Weapons Convention

March 1, 1994

To the Senate of the United States:

On November 23, 1993, I transmitted the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (the ''Chemical Weapons Convention'' or CWC) to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. As stated in the transmittal message, I now submit herewith an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the information of the Senate. This EIR summarizes the documented environmental effects that could result from the entry into force of the CWC for the United States. Considerable study has already been devoted under related Federal programs to examining and describing the environmental impacts of activities that are similar or identical to what the CWC will entail when it enters into force. This EIR is a review of published information and, as such, should not be considered an analysis of data or a verification of published conclusions.

United States ratification of the CWC will result in a national commitment to the CWC requirements that will modify the existing chemical weapons stockpile demilitarization and non-stockpile programs, as well as create additional declaration, destruction, and verification requirements. The CWC ratification and entry into force will have both environmental and health benefits and adverse effects for the United States because of the actions the United States and other parties will need to take to meet the Convention's requirements.

The report consists of six sections. Section 1 is the introduction. Section 2 provides an overview of the current U.S. chemical weapons destruction program, which can be thought of as the environmental baseline against which the potential environmental consequences of the CWC must be measured. It includes discussions of the Chemical Stockpile Disposal Program (CSDP), the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Program (NSCMP), the environmental consequences of these programs, and the environmental monitoring program currently in place. Section 3 contains documentation on the possible environmental consequences of each component of the existing chemical weapons program—all of which would occur regardless of whether the United States ratifies the CWC. Section 4 is a discussion of environmental consequences that could result from U.S. ratification of the CWC, including both the benefits and potential adverse consequences for the physical and human environment. Section 5 contains a discussion of three options that could be selected by the United States instead of prompt ratification of the CWC and a discussion of the possible environmental consequences of each option. Finally, Section 6 contains the endnotes.

I believe that the Chemical Weapons Convention is in the best interests of the United States. Its provisions will significantly strengthen U.S., allied and international security, environmental security, and enhance global and regional stability. I continue to urge the Senate to give early and favorable consideration to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to give advice and consent to its ratification as soon as possible in 1994.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 1, 1994.

Nomination for a Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration

March 1, 1994

The President today nominated Helen Dixon as the Regional Director for Region V at the Small Business Administration.

''I am pleased to nominate Helen to the position of Regional Director,'' the President said, ''Her firsthand experience with small business will be a great asset to our SBA programs in the Midwest.''

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.