

The President. Well, let me tell you, the votes that really matter here—first of all, let's give him a hand. I think that was quite a moving thing. [Applause]

I wanted to end with that because I was so moved by the letter that he wrote to Hillary. And it seemed to sort of capture so many of these things that we talk about in kind of esoteric terms: preexisting conditions; people falling in between the gaps; why you can't change jobs; all that kind of stuff. And you hear a story and you realize that this is the business of America.

But the votes that really matter here are the votes of the Members of Congress. So before we leave, I'd like to ask the Members of Congress who sat through this entire panel to please stand and be recognized. I see Congresswoman DeLauro there and Congresswoman Eshoo there, who are standing, so they can't stand; and Congressman Serrano's in the back. Would all the Members of Congress who are here please stand so you can see them?

Thank you, Mr. Bowles. Thank you, Congressman. And thank you most of all to these fine members of our small business family in America.

Thank you. We're adjourned.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

Memorandum on Assistance to Certain States of the Former Soviet Union

March 22, 1994

Presidential Determination No. 94-18

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Eligibility of Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania To Be Furnished Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act and the Arms Export Control Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 3(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, I hereby find that the furnishing of defense articles and services to the Governments of Albania, Bul-

garia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Romania will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

You are authorized and directed to report this funding to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Nomination for Ambassador to the United Kingdom

March 22, 1994

The President today announced his intent to nominate Admiral William Crowe, Jr., as Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

In announcing this nomination, President Clinton said, "Admiral Crowe has distinguished himself throughout four decades of dedicated public service. I am very pleased that he will continue his service to this Nation and that I will be able to rely on his wise counsel in this very important position."

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

Nomination for Seven Federal Judges

March 22, 1994

The President announced the nominations today of seven individuals to serve on the Federal bench. The President nominated Theodore A. McKee to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He also announced six U.S. District Court nominees: Paul L. Friedman, Gladys Kessler, Emmet G. Sullivan and Ricardo M. Urbina for the District of Columbia; Vanessa D. Gilmore for the Southern District of Texas; and Raymond L. Finch for the District of the Virgin Islands.

"These seven men and women have outstanding records of achievement in the legal profession and in public service," the President said today. "I am proud to nominate these distinguished individuals to serve as Federal judges."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service

March 22, 1994

The President today announced his intent to nominate Larry Wilson to be Chief Financial Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

"Larry Wilson is an innovative and dynamic financial manager," the President said. "His leadership at USDA proves that he will be a strong addition to the National Service team. I look forward to working with him and the AmeriCorps participants on getting things done in communities throughout America this year."

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

Teleconference Announcing a Defense Diversification Grant for Charleston, South Carolina

March 23, 1994

The President. Mayor?

Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Mr. President.

The President. How are you doing, Mayor?

Mayor Riley. Well, I'm doing fine. How are you?

The President. I'm great. Nice to hear your voice.

Mayor Riley. Well, it's great to hear yours. And we're pulling for you and just keep trying and working hard. We're in your corner. And thanks for all the tremendous cooperation we've been getting from the administration with our reconversion efforts. It's been terrific.

The President. Well, thank you. As you know, I'm calling you with some good news today. The Secretary of Labor Bob Reich is awarding \$15 million in defense diversification program funds to the Charleston County Employment and Training Administration.

Mayor Riley. Well, that's wonderful.

The President. We hope it will help to retrain about 1,920 people who are being laid off from your naval complex there.

Mayor Riley. Well, Mr. President, that's great news. And it will be a huge help. We've got great workers with great skills. They will be making a career change, and to get the training to move from one career to another is essential. And this is terrific news for the Charleston community; it really is.

The President. Well, I just want to say again to you what you and I have already talked about so many times privately, and that is that I'm committed not just to training and preparing those folks for other careers but seeing to it that the base facilities themselves are successfully redeveloped. And I know that your Best committee is aggressively moving forward with redevelopment planning. And I commend you for that, and I just want to tell you so you can tell them that I am personally, and this whole administration is, committed to working with them and making the best use of those enormously important facilities there.

Mayor Riley. Well, that's wonderful. Thank you, Mr. President. We have a great committee. They've done a terrific job and I want you to know, from your people in your White House, Secretary Perry on down, the response couldn't be better and more enthusiastic and supportive. And as I told you in our private conversation, our goal—and told Secretary Perry—is to make Charleston a model that you can point to of where a major reconversion occurred and occurred successfully.

The President. Well, I know Secretary Perry and the Navy Secretary John Dalton have been down there, and I know that the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment has already provided about \$2 million in planning grants. But we want to keep going, and we want to assist those workers as they begin their transition to new careers. And I think you've already got a transition assistance center open on the base.

Mayor Riley. We do, yes, sir. A very fine one.

The President. So we now will be able to provide with today's grant the full array of services through that one-stop career center there, including counseling and basic skills remediation and occupational skills training and other kinds of things that we believe will really help to get people new jobs