

tant to U.S. goals and interests in the region and, fundamentally, to the restoration of democracy in Haiti. I am not able to indicate at this time how long the deployment of U.S. Naval Forces in this multilateral operation will be necessary. I have continued the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces for these purposes pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief.

I appreciate the support the Congress has provided for this important U.S. contribution to multilateral efforts to restore democracy to Haiti, and I look forward to continued co-operation with you in these matters.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Nomination for Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration

April 20, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Fredric K. Schroeder as Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

"As one who gradually became blind as a teenager, Dr. Schroeder knows all too well the challenges facing people with disabilities," the President said. "He has devoted his life to empowering disabled people, and I'm confident he will continue in his new assignment to help disabled Americans achieve their goals."

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

Remarks at the Democratic Congressional Dinner

April 20, 1994

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for that enthusiastic introduction and for your equally enthusiastic leadership of the House.

Senator Mitchell, Congressman Gephardt, Senator Graham and Congressman Fazio, Senator Rockefeller, Congressman Torricelli, to the host committee, and especially to our chair, Hugh Westbrook, all of you who have made so many sacrifices for the Democratic Party and for our country.

The Vice President and I are glad to be here tonight to see so many old friends; to know that what we have done together has made you willing to continue to work to keep our majority so that we can continue to work for you. And I have to tell you that I'm very proud—very, very proud—of all the Democratic Members of Congress who have worked with us and without whom we could not have done anything over the last 15 months to deal with the profound problems this country faces.

In that context, I am praying for the large-mindedness to forgive George Mitchell for retiring. I have found the silver lining in that cloud. I finally figured out what George had in mind, you know, when he said at least he was going to give his whole heart and soul to passing health care. I didn't have it figured out until he announced today his engagement to the director of a sports marketing firm. [*Laughter*] This is the method behind his madness. He is always methodical.

What he's got in mind for the rest of the year is a bunch of commercials with George and Larry Byrd and Michael Jordan. [*Laughter*] And they'll be at the top of a building or in space somewhere, and he'll say, "Here's how we're going to pass health care." He'll say, "Off the Finance Committee, over the Ways and Means Committee, through the Conference Committee, to the President, nothing but net." [*Laughter*]

I will say Senator Mitchell has caused me some minor inconvenience, not at all of his own doing, but because of developments in the last 24 to 36 hours when he decided he did not want to be on the Supreme Court. I had to go back to the drawing board. Well, you know, it's a real pain to get anybody confirmed in the Senate today. Have you noticed that? [*Laughter*] I mean, it's gotten to the point where I don't even want to go to dinner with anybody that can get confirmed in the Senate. [*Laughter*]