

harder just to fall into poverty. That's wrong, and we need to turn it around. We need to give everybody a fair shot at the American dream.

In closing, let me say that our work here requires a partnership with you, so that we'll be ready to compete and win in the 21st century; so that we don't raise the first generation of Americans to do worse than their parents; so that, instead, we begin to grow the middle class and shrink the under class again. The future of our Nation depends upon rewarding the efforts of workers like you. You and your families are the heart and soul of America, so we have to work together to preserve not only what has been won but to fight for the jobs, the incomes, the justice, the American dream of the future. We can do it. We can do it.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at approximately 5:45 p.m. from Room 459 of the Old Executive Office Building to the UAW meeting in Anaheim, CA. In his remarks, he referred to Owen Bieber, outgoing president, and Steve Yokich, incoming president, United Auto Workers.

Statement on the Retirement of Lane Kirkland

June 12, 1995

American workers, and workers around the world, owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Lane Kirkland. For nearly five decades, he has been a catalyst for international democracy and a guiding force for workplace fairness, dignity, and innovation.

His record of achievement rivals the great labor leaders that came before him, and his ideas and accomplishments will benefit working families for generations to come. He served with distinction during some of the toughest times for American workers and brought creativity, a laser-like determination, true grit, and an unparalleled intellect to his job as president of the AFL-CIO.

Hillary and I wish him the very best for the future and will always be grateful for his strong support, keen advice, and valued friendship.

Proclamation 6809—Father's Day, 1995

June 12, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As children finish the school year and families begin to enjoy the long days of summer, Americans across the country reach out to their fathers in thanks. Every year, Father's Day gives us a chance to spend time with our families and to honor the bond between parent and child. It is a moment for dads to find joy in the blessings that fatherhood brings. And it is a day for remembering that children can grow up immeasurably stronger with the gift of a father's love.

The most fortunate among us can claim warm memories of our fathers' lessons—times when dads can be models of energy and patience. Whether encouraging their children in taking their first steps, riding a bike or meeting other challenges in life, fathers teach us the importance of balance and stand behind us until we're steady. Through the scrapes and self-doubts that every young person confronts, fathers can be our role models and heroes, soothing childhood fears and instilling the steady values of hard work and fair play. They are our guidance counselors and our best friends. Their faith inspires us to try again when we fail and fills us with pride when we succeed. As coaches and caregivers, teachers and workers, fathers who make parenthood a priority earn their families' lasting respect.

We Americans rely on our fathers for courage and compassion, and the security of having them with us gives us confidence in all of our endeavors. On this special day, let America's sons and daughters show their fathers that they care. Let us continue to strive for a world in which every child grows up safe—a world in which every child knows that though they may feel sometimes unsteady, their fathers are behind them always.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 18,

1995, as “Father’s Day.” I invite the States, communities, and citizens of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that demonstrate our deep appreciation and affection for our fathers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and nineteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:02 a.m., June 13, 1995]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 14.

Remarks at a Memorial Service for Les Aspin

June 13, 1995

I would like to begin by thanking all the people who have spoken before. Each of them has given us a little slice of the incredible, complex, rich person that Les was. I think he would have liked this service. I think somewhere he’s saying, “Gee, I guess I did all right.”

I always identified with Les Aspin. We were policy wonks. We sometimes worried more about our workload than our waistlines. And on occasion, we forgot that in this complicated world, how things appear are sometimes almost as important as how things are. But I will never forget that the essence of him was truly extraordinary. And I am in great debt to the contribution he made to my life and to the work of this administration.

One of my favorite pictures that has been in the press since I’ve been in office is one of Les and I walking across the White House lawn. I had my arm around him, and we looked like we were deep in thought. You know, what I was really telling him is, “You have to stop working so hard, lose some weight, loosen up.” [Laughter] If the Presidency is preeminently a place of the power of persuasion, I failed on that occasion. [Laughter]

A friend once described Les’ idea of a vacation as thinking about defense in a different setting. [Laughter] Once when he did take a few days off, he sent a postcard home to his staff. On the front, there was a picture of a beach; on the back he had scribbled, “Why are you wasting time reading postcards?”

Those of us who had the privilege of being close to Les Aspin know that he was not only exceptionally brilliant, he was iconoclastic in the best sense. That was a great benefit now as we go through this period of transition from the cold war into a new and exciting but still troubling world.

He was always questioning the conventional wisdom and always refusing to be bound by it. He was a good teacher. I learned a lot from him. I remember the first time I came to see him I was the Governor of my home State and not a candidate for President, a curious person. And when I left his office after our first talk, I was utterly exhausted. I thought I had finally found somebody with 4 times the energy I have.

Through the years, I sought him out more and more. And in 1992, he, more than any other person, was responsible for the fact that in our campaign we determined that both parties would be strong on defense.

Les Aspin did a lot of different things in a lot of different ways. He showed sophistication, and then he showed the lack of it. But, as has been said in different ways today, everyone who really knew him never doubted one thing, that his first and foremost concern was to do whatever would make this country stronger and safer and better. That is what he cared about above all else.

As the cold war wound down, he played a critical role as chairman of the Armed Services Committee. But as my Secretary of Defense, he was finally able to put his remarkable knowledge and passion and vision for defense policy at work to reshape our forces to the demands of the 21st century. The blueprint he took the lead in drafting will guide us into that new world. It will guide us for decades to come. And all of us will be in his debt.

After he left the Defense Department, we continued to talk, and I continued to be amazed by his incredible openness to service,