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In signing this bill, I have made it possible for USDA to promptly send full-year payments of nearly $1.8 billion for the Conservation Reserve Program. This program compensates farmers for protecting environmentally sensitive cropland.

I am pleased that H.R. 1976 provides the resources necessary to keep the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children on the Administration's path to full funding. An estimated 7.5 million women and children will be served, 400,000 more than in FY 1995. This program provides important nutrition benefits and health-related services.

I am also pleased that the Congress continued funding at my requested level for the Child Nutrition program and other important nutrition programs for needy Americans, including the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Soup Kitchens, and the Nutrition Program for the Elderly.

Funds included in the bill for the Agricultural Conservation Program will provide Federal cost-share financing to farmers for needed soil and water conservation practices and structures, including water quality improvements.

The bill also includes funds I requested for farm operating and farm ownership loans, which help new farmers get started in agriculture, as well as those farmers who do not quality for private-sector financing.

In addition, H.R. 1976 omits many of the troublesome provisions contained in earlier versions of the bill that would have compromised the ability of Federal nutrition programs to assist low-income Americans. However, I am concerned about the provisions to reduce food stamp spending in an appropriations bill. This action may lead to proposals for additional food stamp cuts in the reconciliation process. This program, which assists almost 27 million low-income children, elderly, and working family members, continues to be the cornerstone of the Federal nutrition safety net.

The Act permits full funding for the Export Enhancement Program, as I requested. This program assists exports of American agricultural products, which reached an all-time high in FY 1995 of $53 billion—a trend we would like to continue.

While funding provided by H.R. 1976 is an improvement over funding levels in earlier versions of the bill, I am still disappointed by its reductions from my request for rural development. By contrast the Act includes $58 million in unrequested funds for earmarked university research facilities. I believe rural Americans would have been better served had these funds instead been channeled into rural development programs. Doing so could have, for example, helped 7,000 rural families realize the American dream of owning their own home through USDA's single-family loan program.

Section 726 raises constitutional concerns and I have therefore asked the Department of Justice to advise me as to the validity and enforceability of that section.

Despite these concerns the overall bill is acceptable because of the very positive provisions I have already mentioned and because of the benefits its programs provide to farm families and rural communities.

Again, I urge the Congress to meet its responsibilities by sending me the remaining regular FY 1996 appropriations bills in acceptable form.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 27, 1995.

NOTE: H.R. 1976, approved October 21, was assigned Public Law No. 104–37.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 17 [1]

The President announced his intention to appoint Cynthia A. Murray-Beliveau to be a member of the Advisory Committee on the

[1] This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

October 20 [1]

The President has selected the following delegates to attend the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism on October 30–31: Carol Baumgarten; John Brissenden; Ray Bryant; Gregg Carano; Nancy Patton Conway; Eduardo Diaz; Sho Dozono; Mary Eaddy; Patricia Gentry Edington; Marc Fruchter; Chris Gallant; Wayne Greenhaw; Nabil Haddad; Phyllis Y. Hamilton; Yolanda Kizer; A.K. (Kirk) Lanterman; Don Madden; Patrick Murphy; Jerry T. Nagler, Jr.; Mark Nichols; Deborah L. Ortega; Ruth Ann Pastrick; Clyde V. Prestowitz, Jr.; Linus Raines; Randy Randall; Nancy Reuther; Y. Sherry Sheng; Calvin Smyre; Kathleen Anne Sweeton; Royette Tarry; Henry Topel; J. Kim Tucci; Arthur Turnbull; Janet Turner; Thomas W. Walsh; Kenneth C. Wilkins; and Amy Vanderbilt.

October 21

In the morning, the President traveled from Des Moines, IA, to Cedar Rapids, IA.

In the afternoon, the President toured the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Following the tour, he attended a reception for museum supporters and staff members in the Meeting Room and held meetings with President Michal Kovac of the Slovak Republic and President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic in the Library. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 22

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to New York City. Later in the morning, the President met with Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek of Slovenia at the United States Mission to the United Nations.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at United Nations Headquarters. He then met with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a reception for heads of state in the Gottesman Exhibition Hall at the New York Public Library.

October 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Hyde Park, NY, and in the afternoon, he returned to New York City.

The President announced his intention to appoint Yvonne Lee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The President made available $125 million in emergency funds for disaster loans to help the States and the U.S. Virgin Islands recover from Hurricanes Marilyn and Opal.

The White House announced that the President and Hillary Clinton will make a state visit to Japan November 19–21.

October 24

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jay Mazur to the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

October 25

In the evening, the President met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel in the Secretary's Sitting Room at the State Department.

October 26

In the morning, the President met with Second Deputy Prime Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia.

October 27

In the morning, the President met with President Soeharto of Indonesia.

The President announced his intention to appoint James D. Casto and Peter Field to the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint Francis B. (Frank) Moore to the United Service Organizations, Inc., Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to appoint Vance D. Coffman, Paul E. Wright, and Van B. Honeycutt to the National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President announced his intention to appoint Deborah G. Groeber, Kenneth J.

[1] This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Oscar, and Maj. Gen. Ray E. McCoy, USA, to the Committee for Purchases From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The White House announced that the President will attend the dedication of a memorial cairn commemorating the victims of the terrorist bombing of Pan American Airlines Flight 103 at Arlington Cemetery on November 3.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted October 27

Charles R. Stack,
of Florida, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, vice Peter T. Fay, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released October 22

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Anthony Lake on the President's meetings and activities at the 50th anniversary of the United Nations

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics Matters Robert Gelbard, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Richard Newcombe, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations George Ward, and NSC Senior Director for Global and Multinational Affairs Richard Clarke on sanctions against drug traffickers of the Cali cartel

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing that the President signed H.R. 1976, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996.

Fact sheets on the President's speech at the United Nations 50th anniversary

Released October 23

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a roundtable discussion led by Chief of Staff Leon Panetta on the impact of the Republican budget on children

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the President's and Mrs. Clinton's upcoming visit to Japan

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry announcing the relocation of the President's meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China

Fact sheet on nuclear materials security

Released October 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord and Director of Asian Affairs Robert Suettinger on the President's meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China

Transcript of a press briefing by NSC Senior Director for Public Affairs David Johnson on the President's meeting with President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on legislation to require the relocation of the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem

Released October 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released October 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry