

asked those in the room a question about Bosnia, and Nelson stepped forward to answer it with his usual succinct and clear wisdom. He was always ready to step forward for peace in Bosnia.

Bob, Joe, and Nelson devoted their lives and they gave their lives to achieve that goal. Now, we must follow the example they set to make sure this peace takes hold. Nothing we can say or do can bring our friends back again. But by striving to seal the peace in Bosnia for good, we can shape a future worthy of their noble sacrifice.

We honor their memory today and forever with the President's Citizens Medal.

Commander, post the orders.

[At this point, Lt. Comdr. John M. Richardson, USN, Naval Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the awards.]

The President. Let me just say in closing that all Americans, whether or not they knew Bob, Joe, and Nelson, have been touched by their service to our country. Yesterday I saw it myself in Paris and just last month in my trip to the United Kingdom, to Ireland, to Germany and Spain. From people on the streets to Presidents and Prime Ministers, the world is looking for our leadership for peace because they know America can be trusted.

The world places that faith in our Nation because of the work of individual American citizens like Bob and Joe and Nelson. They embodied the spirit of service that sets our Nation apart. They stood for something larger than themselves. Like so many of their colleagues, they accepted hardship and the risks that go along with the job they embraced.

Often they were rewarded for their efforts only by more difficult assignments, for our country needs its best people precisely where the challenges are greatest. They answered that call to duty with courage and conviction and grace. They understood that our leadership requires our involvement and our commitment, not from the sidelines but on the ground at the heart of events.

These three exemplify the qualities that make our country strong: a faith that one person can touch the lives of many, a willingness

to work hard for something they believed in, a generous heart and spirit. Their wonderful families that you have applauded so warmly today are perhaps the best and finest testament to the lives that they lived.

Without pause or complaint, they took it upon themselves to bring the gift of peace and freedom to others around the world, not for personal ambition but solely because it was the right thing to do.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "Let him be great, and love shall follow him." Looking at the faces of Katharina Frasure and Sarah and Virginia, Gail Kruzel and John and Sarah, Sandy Drew and Samantha and Philip and all the other family members here, we can say that love has truly followed these three great Americans we have honored.

May God bless and protect their memories, their families, and the country they gave everything to serve.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. The medal was awarded posthumously to Nelson Drew, Joseph Kruzel, and Robert Frasure, American diplomats who died in Bosnia on August 19, 1995.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

December 15, 1995

Dear Mr. Leader:

I am increasingly concerned that, under the current continuing resolution, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance program (LIHEAP) is not meeting the needs of families requiring heating assistance.

With the onset of winter, low-income families need more help to keep their homes warm. Each year, LIHEAP assistance goes to about six million needy households, many of which have an elderly or disabled member or young children.

Normally, by this time of year, States' energy assistance programs would be adequately funded to help households tackle high energy bills and insulate drafty homes. This year, however, Congress still has not passed a full-year appropriations bill for

Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies—the bill which funds LIHEAP. The House voted to end LIHEAP altogether.

Under the two continuing resolutions that have been enacted this fall, LIHEAP has been funded at only \$232 million. Last year, over three times that amount was available to States between September and the end of December.

I strongly urge Congress to pass a full-year appropriation as soon as possible that includes funding for LIHEAP. At a minimum, Congress must enable the Administration to make available a seasonally appropriate share of the previously appropriated funds for LIHEAP.

Congress should act quickly. Since winter is almost upon us, a rising number of low-income Americans, particularly those living in colder regions, will continue to need more help to keep warm at home.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives; Robert Dole, Senate Majority Leader; Richard Gephardt, House Democratic Leader; and Thomas Daschle, Senate Democratic Leader.

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.

December 9

In the morning, the President traveled to Fayetteville, AR, and in the afternoon, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR.

December 10

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

December 11

In the early afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria.

December 12

In a morning ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Francois Bujon de l'Estang of France, Cheick Oumar Diarra of Mali, and Jalbuugiin Choinhor of Mongolia.

In the afternoon, the President had telephone conversations with Senate majority leader Bob Dole and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich on budget negotiations.

Later, the President met with Democratic and Republican Senators to discuss Bosnia.

The President announced his intention to nominate A.E. Dick Howard to the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Thomas L. Baldini as Commissioner of the International Boundary Commission, United States and Canada.

December 13

In the afternoon, the President met with a bipartisan group of Governors to discuss Medicaid.

In the evening, the President traveled to Paris, France.

December 14

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Princeton Lyman to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Davidson, Speight Jenkins, and Townsend D. Wolfe III to the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced his intention to nominate George W. Black, Jr., to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Roslyn A. Mazer to be Chair of the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Col. Warren L. Freeman to be the