

the prospects of our getting a budget agreement and continuing to work to bring the deficit down. But I would remind you that we still have some roadblocks in the way that I think need to be cleared away.

I urge Congress to keep the Government open and to pass the straightforward continuing resolution until we pass the rest of the appropriations bills for this year.

We've also seen news that just today—of the serious consequences that could result if the Congress was to default on the debt limit. No mayor would ever consider doing such a thing. The repercussions would be far too harmful. And the Congress should not, either. Congress must choose not to shut the Government down again, and must choose to honor the full faith and credit of the United States.

We are a very great nation, and we are a very great nation not just because we're big, not just because we're wealthy, and not just because we've got a powerful military. It's because people know that we stand for certain things. They know we can be trusted. They know we keep our word.

When the United States of America borrowed that money, the United States gave its word it would honor its obligations. And we should not, under any circumstances, for any reason, ever, ever, not a single one of us, break the word of the United States of America.

Let me say, too, to all of you, I have been very honored to fight the battles that we have fought together, across party lines, for the crime bill, to end unfunded mandates. You have been a source of great inspiration to me. But this organization has been a source of inspiration for progressive, positive change ever since you convinced a reluctant President Hoover to sign a municipal assistance bill in the Depression.

So I ask you to keep working with us. Help us to pass the "Community Flexibility Act." Help us to protect the community development banks. Help us to support the reform of HUD. Help us to get real welfare reform. Help us to keep the crime rate coming down. Help us to do these things. We can do these things if we do them together.

The cities are the model. Why did people begin to live in cities? Because they knew

instinctively they could do things together that they could never do on their own. America can do what we have to do if we do it together. And the mayors, the cities, the community leaders can lead the way.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m., in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Conference of Mayors officers Mayor Norm Rice, Seattle, WA, president; Mayor Richard Daley, Chicago, IL, vice president; Mayor Paul Helmke, Fort Wayne, IN, advisory board chair; and John Thomas Cochran, executive director.

### **Statement on the Resignation of Roger Johnson as Administrator of General Services**

*January 25, 1996*

I learned of Roger Johnson's resignation as Administrator of the General Services Administration with deep regret. He served his country with distinction over the last 3 years, bringing a common-sense approach and let's-get-down-to-business style to the GSA.

He worked closely with the Vice President and the staff of the National Performance Review to implement real reforms at the GSA. Because of his work, today's GSA provides better service with a smaller bureaucracy and lower operating costs. We will continue to build on the work Roger started.

At a time when all Americans need to come together and confront our common challenges, we need people like Roger Johnson—a long-time Republican, a business leader—more than ever. Even as he leaves the Government, I hope public servants everywhere remember his example: to put partisan differences aside and work for the common good.

Hillary and I wish Roger and Janice nothing but the best as they return to California. I am deeply gratified by his kind words and look forward to working with Roger in the months ahead.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting the Report of the  
Department of Transportation**

*January 25, 1996*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In accordance with section 308 of Public Law 97-449 (49 U.S.C. 308(a)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Transportation, which covers fiscal year 1994.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
January 25, 1996.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 26.

**Statement on the 10th Anniversary of  
the Loss of the Space Shuttle**

***Challenger***

*January 26, 1996*

Ten years ago this week, our nation and the world were stunned and saddened by the loss of the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger. A decade later, we are still moved by the memory of the Challenger Seven and honor the extraordinary sacrifice they made for our country.

Throughout our history, pioneers have dared to dream and live life to the fullest. Like the pathfinders and explorers of our earliest days, like the settlers who pushed our boundaries westward, like the pilots who first took to the air, or the Apollo astronauts who lost their lives in pursuit of President Kennedy's visionary call to reach the moon, the Challenger astronauts believed in themselves and in their mission. They believed in the quest for knowledge and the pursuit of discovery. And each of them—including a special school teacher who touched America's heart, Christa McAuliffe—possessed the rare courage of those willing to risk much to achieve great things.

The people of our space program still carry with them the memory of the Challenger astronauts and keep alive in their daily striving the spirit of the friends and colleagues they lost on that tragic day. Today, our space program is still strong, the Shuttles continue to

broaden our horizons, the frontiers of knowledge continue to expand, and the dream of exploration, as we find at Challenger Education Centers around the country, lives on.

We have been fortunate to view our world from the vastness of space, and we owe a lasting debt of gratitude to the Challenger Seven and all those who have taught and still teach us about our place in the cosmos. For, as T.S. Eliot wrote:

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this statement.

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**Digest of Other  
White House Announcements**

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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.

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***January 20***

In the morning, the President traveled to Houston, TX, where he met with the family of former Congresswoman Barbara Jordan before her funeral. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

***January 21***

In the morning, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton toured the Johannes Vermeer exhibit at the National Gallery of Art.

The President declared a major disaster in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by flooding beginning January 19 and continuing.

***January 22***

The White House announced that the President has invited President Konstandinos Stephanopoulos of Greece for a state visit on May 9.