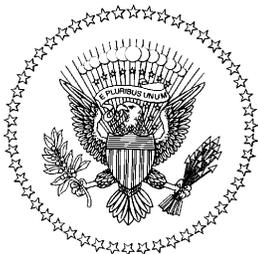


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, March 4, 1996
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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, March 1, 1996

**Exchange With Reporters Prior to
Discussions With Prime Minister
Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan in Santa
Monica, California**

February 23, 1996

Trade Policy

Q. Mr. President, does it help or hurt matters if trade policy is a campaign issue this year?

The President. I think it should be an issue. I think it's important that the American people know all the facts and make their decisions. But let me reiterate what I said today, and let me begin by saying it's a great honor for me to welcome Prime Minister Hashimoto here to the United States. We know him well and respect and admire him for his work on trade on behalf of his country. And now this is his first trip here as Prime Minister. This will be a good opportunity for us to get better acquainted before I go to Japan on my state visit in April.

Let me also say that we have a broad and deep friendship with Japan which encompasses far more than trade. We have a security partnership that has enabled us to work together to head off the North Korea nuclear threat, something which was an immediate threat to the security of both the United States and Japan. And we have worked together on issues ranging from terrorism to drug trafficking to global environmental problems.

Now, on the trade issue let me say as I have said many times, I don't mind if this is an issue in the election, but it's important that we look at the facts and the real policy alternatives. To hear the debate you would think the only choice is an open market without regard to how other countries treat our products on the one hand, or a totally closed market on the other. There is another alternative which is trade that is both freer and fairer, and that is the policy we have pursued.

With Japan, thanks to Prime Minister Hashimoto in his previous position, we have concluded 20 trade agreements. And in those areas, our trade with Japan has gone up 80 percent in just 3 years in ways that have enabled us to lower the trade deficit and to provide a broader range of products and services to Japanese citizens, sometimes at lower cost. So this has benefited both of us. There are 167,000 more Americans working today because of those 20 trade agreements and the good-faith effort that has been made in Japan to keep them. And in general, American exports are now growing faster than American imports for the first time in many years.

So I think we should all remember that this trade is a two-way street. When we raise barriers to others, they can also raise barriers to us. The goal should be freer trade and fairer trade, and that is one, but only one, part of our relationship.

This is good for America. And here in California it's certainly good. You were with me today, all of you, at the McDonnell Douglas plant where they were celebrating, among other things, the sales of their planes to Saudi Arabia.

Q. Is it possible to resolve trade differences without confrontation in the future?

The President. The answer to that I think depends, frankly, on how well all of us can make the new World Trade Organization work. The real problem with international trade dispute resolution in the past has been that it took so long, by the time you got an answer it almost didn't matter what the answer was.

So that's why the United States and Japan and other countries have held back the right to make some unilateral decisions in the trade area. But I think all of us would rather take this out of confrontation and have these matters fairly resolved. And the real question I think is going to be whether the WTO can move not only fairly but quickly.

Japan-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Buchanan has said that you will be more scared of him as President than of President Clinton. What do you think of that? And, Mr. President, your own assessment?

Prime Minister Hashimoto. Concerning the election, that's a decision the American people have to make. We learn from the United States how important the free trading system is, and also we are promoting further the free trade principles. And also, we're making concrete actions for the elimination of regulation—or deregulation that are necessary for the goal of free trade. So I'm confident that the American people will make good decisions.

I'm not taking any side, I must say.

The President. Let me say, I would hope that the Japanese Prime Minister would never be afraid of any American President. We have a partnership.

You know, let's just remember, when I became President the newspapers in America were full of the threat of North Korea becoming a nuclear power and posing dangers to Japan, to the United States, everyone. Because we worked with Japan and with South Korea and with other countries, that threat is ebbing away. The Japanese play host today to over 40,000 American soldiers that have helped to keep the peace in the Asian Pacific region, and they pay a higher percentage of the cost of maintaining those military installations than any other nation in the world where we have soldiers deployed.

Our relationship should be one of respect and friendship, even when we have different opinions and different interests. It is not based on fear. It is based on respect and friendship. Now, we've had trade disputes. All I ask you to do is to look at the record that we have established: 20 agreements, an 80-percent increase in American exports under those agreements from auto parts to medical equipment to telecommunications equipment to California rice.

There have been problems. We have taken these issues seriously, far more seriously than previous American administrations. But we have not attempted to approach them in an atmosphere that was based on fear or anger or rancor. We can be firm with each other,

strong with each other; we can even disagree with each other. But the American people should know that our friendship and partnership with the Japanese in security matters is an important part of maintaining freedom and peace in the world and helps America. And Japan has lowered its trade deficit with America—or, our trade deficit with them—dramatically in the last 3 years. We are moving in the right direction. Other countries should do as well.

Japanese Whaling

Q. Any hope for progress on whaling? Is there any hope for progress on the issue of whaling that's separating the two?

Prime Minister Hashimoto. Shall we finish the meeting right out here? [Laughter]

The President. We just started—[laughter]—we haven't started.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7 p.m. in the garden at the Sheraton Miramar Hotel. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address

February 24, 1996

Good morning. This morning I want to talk with you about what we can do to break the hold of gangs and violence in our schools and what we can do to create an atmosphere in our schools that promotes discipline and order and learning.

Today I'm visiting Long Beach, California, a community that has helped to restore order to its schools by requiring elementary and middle school students to wear uniforms. I believe that if parents and school officials decide to take this step, the rest of us should support them.

Let me tell you why. As I said in my State of the Union Address, our Nation is in a moment of great possibility, a time when more of our people will be able to live out their dreams than ever before, a time of fabulous opportunity. But we all know it's also a time of uncertainty, a time when we face economic challenges, educational challenges,

challenges to our family, to our environment, to the safety of our streets.

We will master this moment only if we meet those challenges together. When we are divided we defeat ourselves, but when Americans are together we are never defeated. That's how we have to meet all the major challenges facing our Nation: strengthening our families; building economic security for every working family; fighting crime and drugs and gangs; protecting our environment; maintaining our leadership for peace and freedom in the world; continuing to reform and reinvent our Government so that it is smaller and less bureaucratic, but still strong enough to serve the American people better.

And none of these goals can be achieved unless we meet our seventh challenge: to give our children—all our children—a good, world-class education. And we know that our children cannot learn in schools where weapons, gang violence, and drugs threaten their safety or where plain unruliness and disorder and lack of discipline make learning impossible. Most of our schools are safe, but no parent who walks a child to the bus stop and waves goodbye in the morning should ever have to wonder if that child will return home safely when the last bell rings.

Our administration has worked hard to make our schools safer: getting parents more involved in schools, keeping guns out, teaching that drugs are wrong, supporting random drug testing of student-athletes, letting communities know that schools need not be religion-free zones. I have challenged our schools to teach values and citizenship through character education. And if a juvenile kills or maims an adult, he should be prosecuted as an adult.

But we must do more, and local communities must lead the way. I believe we should give strong support to school districts that decide to require young students to wear school uniforms. We've all seen the tragic headlines screaming of the death of a teenager who was killed for a pair of sneakers or jewelry or a designer jacket. In Detroit, a 15-year-old boy was shot for his \$86 basketball shoes. In Fort Lauderdale, a 15-year-old student was robbed of his jewelry. Just this past December in Oxon Hill, Maryland, a 17-

year-old honor student was killed at a bus stop, caught in the crossfire during the robbery of another student's designer jacket.

School uniforms are one step that may be able to help break this cycle of violence, truancy, and disorder by helping young students to understand that what really counts is what kind of people they are, what's on the inside, to remember that what they're doing at school is working, not showing off their own clothes or envying another student's clothes.

Two years ago Long Beach, California, was the first school district in our Nation to require elementary and middle school students to wear uniforms to class. So far, the results have been encouraging. In the first year of school uniforms, both fights between students and students bringing guns to school were cut in half. Overall crime in the schools was cut by more than a third. Just as encouraging was the way Long Beach pulled together: the board of education voting, starting a uniform program; parents actively supporting it; businesses and churches and civic organizations helping to buy uniforms for the students who can't afford them; and students using their new freedom from fear and freedom from insecurity and freedom from envy to learn.

Aziza Walker, a fourth-grader from Long Beach, wrote me this letter. "It is easier to pick out what I want to wear. It's more convenient for my mom, so she won't have to wash so many colors. It also helps me when I walk home with my cousin or by myself. So I won't get shot, beaten, or robbed by a gang or just by some maniac on the street."

We have a basic, old-fashioned bottom line. We must get violence out of our schools, and we must put discipline and learning back in our schools. If it means teenagers will stop killing each other over designer jackets, then our public schools should be able to require their students to wear school uniforms. If it means that the schoolrooms will be more orderly, more disciplined, and that our young people will learn to evaluate themselves by what they are on the inside instead of what they're wearing on the outside, then our public schools should be able to require their students to wear school uniforms.

Let me be clear: Washington will not tell our schools what to do. We know the best

teacher for a child is a loving parent, and the decision whether to require uniforms should be made by parents, by teachers, by local schools. But if they want to do it, we want to help them understand how it can be done. That's why today I signed a directive instructing the Secretary of Education to distribute a new manual on school uniforms to every school district in the Nation. Rather than telling schools what to do, we are providing a roadmap for setting up the school uniform policy for schools who choose to start one.

Every one of us has an obligation to work together, to give our children freedom from fear and the freedom to learn. If we act together, we can give them the chance to make the most of their young lives and to build better futures.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:15 p.m. on February 23 at the Sheraton Miramar Hotel for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 24.

Remarks Prior to a Roundtable Discussion on School Uniforms in Long Beach, California

February 24, 1996

Thank you very much, Mr. Cohn. I am here mostly to listen to all of you. And I thank you for taking a little time to meet with me.

I have spent an enormous amount of my time in the last 18 years now since I became a Governor of my State in 1986-'78—in public schools. And I devoted a lot of time as President to how we can improve education through higher standards and higher expectations, get higher performance. It is obvious that unless the school is a safe, disciplined, drug-free learning environment it's impossible for learning to occur.

And what we have tried to do at the national level is to encourage all kinds of grass-roots reforms and to make it possible for people to do what they think is appropriate in their schools; not to tell schools how they should go about improving learning and improving the environment, but to support them when they wanted to do it. And because there were some legal questions raised I did send the Attorney General out here.

As you know, I mentioned your school district in the State of the Union Address, and today, just before I came here, I signed an Executive order instructing the Secretary of Education to send to all the school districts in the country this manual that we have just done up on school uniforms—that we're going to send to all the school districts in the country, not to tell them they should do what you have done, but to encourage them if they want to do it and to show them how to do it.

I also wanted to say something else. As I said, I mostly want to listen to you, but I think it's important to point out that if there is a school uniform or a dress code in a school, you not only have the chance of reducing the violence, I also think it sends a different message to the students. When young people are young we should try to teach them to judge themselves and others based on what's inside them, not what's outside them. And in that sense, I think the school uniform policy is as valuable for students from well-to-do families as it is for students from poor families because of the message it sends.

And I'm very—I'm pleased to be here, and I wanted to come here mostly to honor you for your efforts, and hopefully, to publicize your efforts throughout the country. I'm also anxious to hear from the students. I have to tell you I got a lot of hot letters from students—[laughter]—after I bragged on your policy. The mail and the e-mail were burning up—[laughter]—for the next several days.

So why don't we start and just hear from everyone who is here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:02 a.m. in the library at the Jackie Robinson Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Carl Cohn, superintendent, Long Beach School District.

Memorandum on the School Uniforms Manual

February 24, 1996

Memorandum for the Secretary of Education

Subject: Manual on School Uniforms

Quality education is critical to America's future and the future of our children and

families. We cannot educate our children, however, in schools where weapons, gang violence, and drugs threaten their safety. We must do everything possible to ensure that schools provide a safe and secure environment where the values of discipline, hard work and study, responsibility, and respect can thrive and be passed on to our children. Most schools are safe. But we must have zero tolerance for threats to safety in our schools. It is time to make every school the safest place in its community. Parents should be able to send their children to learn free of fear. All of our schools should be permitted to focus on their original purpose: education.

Many local school districts have made school uniforms an important part of an overall program to improve school safety and discipline. Too often, we learn that students resort to violence and theft simply to obtain designer clothes or fancy sneakers. Too often, we learn that clothing items worn at school, bearing special colors or insignias, are used to identify gang membership or instill fear among students and teachers alike.

If student uniforms can help deter school violence, promote discipline, and foster a better learning environment, then we should offer our strong support to the schools and parents that try them. We should applaud parents, teachers, and school leaders when they take courageous action to make our schools safe and free of gangs, drugs, and violence.

The Long Beach, California, school district recently found that after students started wearing uniforms, there was a substantial decrease in student drug cases, sex offenses, assault and battery cases, and fights. The learning environment improved as teachers could focus more on education and less on discipline. Many other schools—in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dayton, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Memphis, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, Phoenix, Seattle, and St. Louis—have also adopted mandatory or voluntary school uniform policies with promising results.

I thus asked you, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop information about how local school districts have made uniforms part of their school safety and discipline programs. The Department of Edu-

cation, with input from the Department of Justice, has now developed a new "Manual on School Uniforms," which sets forth the benefits of school uniforms; provides a road map for establishing a school uniform policy for schools interested in school uniforms; and describes various model uniform programs from a number of school districts across the Nation.

Because maintaining safe and disciplined schools is an urgent priority in every local community, I today direct you promptly to distribute the Manual on School Uniforms to each of the Nation's 16,000 public school districts. I also direct you to provide copies of the Manual to appropriate organizations representing parents, teachers, and school administrators, and to make it available to interested members of the public.

School uniform programs are just one of the many initiatives undertaken by local school officials and parents to improve school safety and discipline. Other steps—such as truancy reduction programs, student-athlete drug testing, drug and gang prevention initiatives, zero tolerance for weapons, assisting teachers in addressing discipline problems, conflict resolution programs, and character education initiatives—have also been used to improve the education of our children. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Justice, should continue to develop guidance and information about these and other initiatives so that local organizations, families, and educators throughout the Nation have the tools available to make our schools safe, drug-free, and crime-free.

William J. Clinton

Remarks to the Community in Long Beach

February 24, 1996

Thank you very much. Thank you, Melissa Machit. Didn't she do a good job? Give her another hand. [*Applause*] Mayor O'Neill; Superintendent Cohn; Chief Ellis; our host, the principal, Alexis Ruiz-Alessi, the principal of Jackie Robinson Academy, where we are now. To the president of the board of education, Bobbie Smith, to the JROTC groups

from Wilson and Poly, thank you very much for being here. And to the Poly High School band, thank you very much for playing so well.

Just before I came out here I had a little roundtable discussion about the school uniform policy with Melissa and another fine student named Maurice Troutman and a number of—I thought he was going to run for office someday; he's already seeded the crowd—[*laughter*—and a number of teachers and parents and the chief and your board president. I would like for all the people who were in our little roundtable to stand and be recognized. They did such a good job of educating me about what was done. Thank you very much. [*Applause*]

I'm glad to be back in Long Beach. It seems like only yesterday when I was here last. [*Laughter*] I do have my pin on today; it's sort of my uniform. And I'm honored to be here. I came here today to applaud and support the efforts of this remarkable community.

Yesterday the mayor and community leaders briefed me on the remarkable plan that this community has to revive itself and deal with the impact of the defense downsizing of the last several years. Today I'm here to support what over the long run may have an even more profound impact on the future of this community and our country. This remarkable progress you have shown in your schools as a result of the school uniform policy—making them safer, more disciplined and orderly, freeing teachers to focus on teaching and students to focus on their job of learning. You are returning their schools to their original purpose and proving that public institutions can excel when they have high standards, high expectations for all children, and a high purpose with a strategy at the grassroots level supported by everybody in the community for carrying it out.

I have to tell you on a very personal note, as I told the panel, this has made my life at home even a little more difficult because for 10 years—10 years—several times a year, before Long Beach finally took this groundbreaking step, the only person who ever talked to me about school uniforms was the First Lady. And six or seven times a year we'd go to Chelsea's school and we'd go to

this or that event at school, or we'd visit other public schools, and she'd come home and say, "You know, if we had a uniform policy it would make things better in these schools." I heard it over and over and over again. And thanks to you, I have to listen to, "I told you so." [*Laughter*]

Being able to endure "I told you so" is one of the essential requirements of a successful marriage—[*laughter*—and I must say I can't think of a time when I have enjoyed hearing it more. I applaud all of you.

I want to take a few moments today to talk about how what you have done here fits into the larger pattern of what I hope is going on in America and what I am trying to do and what we are trying to do to help you to spread this message throughout the United States. When I became President I was convinced that our country had to go into the next century making significant changes if we wanted to ensure that the American dream was available to everyone willing to work for it, without regard to their race or income or background, if we wanted to bring the American people together instead of seeing them continue to drift apart, and if we wanted to see our country remain the leading force in the world for peace and freedom and prosperity. We have worked very hard over the last 3 years on all those three objectives, and we see that while progress has been made which is very substantial, serious challenges remain—challenges that can only be met if we do a better job of working together. If you were to ask me what the single most significant lesson I have learned as your President in the last 3 years is, I would without hesitation answer, it is that when Americans work together we never lose, and when we are divided we defeat ourselves.

Today California newspapers reported 285,000 new jobs in this State in 1995 alone. We are moving this economy; almost 8 million new jobs, a 15-year high in homeownership, 3 years of record highs in new businesses formed. Businesses owned by women alone in the last 3 years have created more new jobs than the Fortune 500 have laid off. The combined rates of unemployment, inflation, and home mortgage interest rates are the lowest they've been in 27 years. We are moving forward.

But we know—we know—that a lot of Americans have not participated in this economic recovery. They haven't gotten a raise, or they live in the inner city or isolated rural areas where there aren't any new jobs, or they work for one of these big companies where sometimes when they're my age and ready to send their own children to college they've been downsized. So we have more challenges to meet until we can say to every American, "You're going to live in a more rapidly changing economy but you will still be all right if you're willing to work for it."

If you look at our most fundamental institutions, many of the social problems we've had, the objective indicators clearly point out the fact that on balance our schools are doing a better job. You should know that the welfare rolls are down in this country, the poverty rolls are down in this country. Every State in the country has reported a decline in violent crime. This is all encouraging. That's the good news.

Everybody knows this country is still too violent. It's still too dangerous for children. There are still too many problems out there. There are still too many people trapped in a culture of dependence when they ought to be out working and being successful in supporting their families and contributing to their communities and country. So we have a lot to do.

Now, a lot of the things we have to do involve modernizing our systems. For example, we have reduced the size of your National Government. We have gotten rid of thousands of pages of regulation. We've made it far less bureaucratic. It's the smallest Government you've had in 30 years. But you don't want it to be weak; it's still strong enough to be there when you need it if there is an earthquake or a fire or a flood. It's still strong enough to be there to help companies change when they have to go from defense to civilian construction. And these are the kinds of things that we need to focus on. I want to give you a Government that is less bureaucratic and smaller, but still able to help every person, every family, every neighborhood, every community make the most of their own lives.

And so all the institutions have to change, we have to modernize. In just a couple of

weeks the Vice President and I will be out here to celebrate Net Day in California, the biggest next step in our campaign to make sure that by the year 2000 every single classroom and every single library in this country will be hooked up to the Internet. Twenty percent of California's schools will be hooked up this year.

But it's not all modern. Some of what we have to do is to get back to basic values and basic institutions. I see at least two Members of the Congress out here, Congressman Horn and Congressman Martinez; there may be others here. We know that there are things in Washington we cannot do that you have to do. We have to find ways to reassert the vitality of the basic institutions of this country, of the family, of the schools, of the neighborhood and the community.

In the schools, I have always had a very simple formula. I believe I have spent more time in classrooms, more time listening to teachers and parents and students than any person who had the privilege to hold this office. And I believe that all children can learn. I think that we have to have high expectations.

I believe in high national standards. I believe in high technology, nationally spread. But I believe in grassroots reform, giving kids a good head start, giving every person access to college, and giving adults a lifetime chance to always, always get education when they need it for economic reasons. But let's not kid ourselves. None of this is going to work unless our schools work and unless our children feel safe and secure; unless the environments of education are disciplined and drug-free.

We saw the tragic consequences of the time in which we live again just a few days ago with the terrible, painful, agonizing, senseless shooting of that fifth-grade teacher in front of his students in Los Angeles. We are praying—I'm sure all of you will pray along with our family—that Alfredo Perez will pull through, and that his wife, who is also a school teacher, will have the courage, the bravery to carry on, and that those students in that school who underwent that horrible experience will somehow find the courage to believe in their adults who are respon-

sible for their lives, so that they can go and grow and learn again.

We know that most of our schools are safe, but we know that our country is not as safe as it ought to be. We know that every parent who walks a child to the bus stop and waves goodbye in the morning should never worry whether the child will come home safely. Every parent has a right to expect that their children will be safe in school. Every parent has a right to believe that the children are spending their time learning and teachers are able to spend the day teaching.

When we identify national problems that have to be solved by local communities using basic values, what I believe we should do at the national level is to help to define what we ought to do and let you decide how to do it. That's what we're here to celebrate today. We've tried to help promote school safety with the Gun-Free Schools Act. We are educating our children through you, with the funds we provide, about the dangers of drugs with the help of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. We are tackling student drug use through our random drug testing programs that we have advocated for local school districts. We are getting tough on criminals when they are seriously violent by permitting the prosecution of hardened young criminals as adults. We are promoting greater parental involvement through our family partnership for learning at the Department of Education. We are supporting you and teaching our children the values of hard work, discipline, mutual respect through the introduction of character education programs all across America, again, at the initiative of local school districts, not from Washington. But when you want to do it we're there for you, and we think you should do it.

And we have worked very hard in this country, where so many people come from such diverse backgrounds and so many different faiths which they want to express in different ways, to say that the first amendment's freedom of religion is the freedom from oppression, but it doesn't make schools religion-free zones. There is a way people can pursue their values and their faith consistent with the first amendment. We have tried to do all these things.

But I have to say, in the end it matters whether all of you are working together and whether your counterparts in every school district in America are working together. That's why I took some pains in the State of the Union Address to urge that other school districts in our Nation consider following the example of Long Beach on school uniforms.

One of the great hazards of our culture, with all of its wonderful opportunities, is that we can sometimes, as a friend of mine used to say, without meaning to, teach our children to minor in the majors and major in the minors. It's important to be able to make a good living and it's important to be able to buy things that you'd like to have, but that's not the most important thing in life, and it's tragic when young people without a balanced upbringing, without grounded values, without a secure education, wind up believing that it's all right to kill somebody for a pair of sneakers or jewelry or a designer jacket.

In Detroit, a 15-year-old boy was shot recently for his \$86 basketball shoes. In Fort Lauderdale, a 15-year-old student was robbed of his jewelry. Just this past December, near where I live now, in Oxon Hill, Maryland, a 17-year-old honor student was killed at a bus stop, just standing there—caught in a cross-fire during the robbery of another student's designer jacket.

As parents, every one of us has been wrenched by these stories. We cannot stand idly by while our children are having their childhoods robbed from them and from us by people who place more value on the material things than even human life, not to mention human learning.

The Long Beach Unified School District and the parents here have not stood idly by. I want to again say, the entire United States of America is in your debt because you took the first step to show that elementary and middle school students could wear uniforms to class, reduce violence, reduce truancy, reduce disorder, and increase learning, and as was said more ably than me by my remarkable introducer, give a sense of unity and purpose and teamwork to the students and the schools that are in this school district. We are all in your debt in the United States.

After the first year of this program, fights between students and other students who bring guns to school were cut in half. Overall crime in the schools was cut by more than a third in one year. In addition to safety, learning improved, schoolwork became more important for students than showing off what they were wearing or resenting what someone else was wearing. And maybe most important of all over the long run, I think these uniforms do not stamp out individuality among our young people. Instead, they slowly teach our young people one of life's most important lessons, that what really counts is what you are and what you can become on the inside, not what you are wearing on the outside. And at least on that score, I think you can make a serious argument that this school uniform benefits the children of affluent families as much as it benefits the children of poor families, because that is a lesson all our children need to learn.

But in the end, we should remember it should be safety first. I was so moved in this panel listening to Melissa talk about unity, and then listening to young Maurice say, "I can walk down the street now and because I have my uniform on those gangs know that I'm not a problem, I'm just a student; I don't have to look over my shoulder all the time."

It is wrong for a young person to look over his or her shoulder walking down the street of the United States of America. That is wrong. And you have helped to stop it.

And let me say finally about you, you did it, reflecting the lesson I said that was the most important I have learned. You did this together. This was not imposed on you. The parents decided to do it, working with the teachers, working with the school board, working with the police department, working with others. You worked this out together.

And I've learned about the differences from school to school. I've learned about the differences in permissible uniforms. I've learned all about this. It has really pleased me to understand just how much of a grass-roots endeavor this is. And that also is important.

I do want to say, though, that in all the years that I have spent in public schools, the thing that has frustrated me most is that nearly every problem in America has been solved

by somebody somewhere in some school. But ideas don't travel very well. The most heartening thing to me, although I know it's been a headache for your superintendent, is that you've been deluged with phone calls. That's good. That means people say, "I'm not too proud to learn from them."

You know, the Founding Fathers of this country set up State governments as the laboratories of democracy with the express intent that they would not be too proud to learn from one another. When I was a Governor, whenever we were the first State to do something, I was always proud of that; but I used to tell our people, I'm even more proud when we're the second State to do something because that meant that we weren't too arrogant, hard-headed, and deaf to learn from what somebody else was doing right.

So we want to support what you have done here. And so we have taken on the job of finding out what works and how. And I want you to know that just before I came here today I signed a directive instructing the Secretary of Education to distribute this new manual on school uniforms to every one of the Nation's 16,000 school districts so they will know how to do what you did. The Department of Education worked with the Department of Justice and the Attorney General to develop this. It's a roadmap for the establishment of a policy for school uniforms for schools that want to use the tool. It provides a central source of information about successful programs, yours and those that have followed that are making a difference all across America.

Let me be clear, this is not a National Government mandate. This is not Washington telling any school or school district what to do. The decision about whether to adopt a uniform policy as a tool in an overall program to promote safety and improve learning is a local decision to be made entirely by parents, teachers, and local school officials. But at least now nobody will say, "We didn't know about this, we couldn't imagine how to do it, and we're not sure it will work." If they read this, they will know it will work and they'll know about it and they'll understand how to do it.

In the meanwhile, let me leave you with these two thoughts: Please don't grow weary

in pursuing this goal. We can never rest until violence against our children is the exception, not the rule; until we are horrified—until we are genuinely surprised when we hear about something bad happening to a child. We can never rest until we have more of our children wearing the colors of school uniforms than the colors of gangs. We cannot rest until that is true.

And please, each and every one of you in your own way, be willing to reach out to your friends and neighbors, and anyone with whom you come in contact across this great State and across our beloved country, to tell people the story of how this works. People are desperately looking for ways to restore integrity and meaning and purpose and direction and success to our schools all across America. You have shown that it can be done. Share your knowledge, share your passion, share your conviction. And remember what I said. Whenever we are defeated, we defeat ourselves. If we are divided, we can't win. But when we're together, America never loses.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 a.m. in the courtyard at the Jackie Robinson Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Melissa Machit, student, Charles Evan Hughes Middle School; Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach; and Bob Ellis, Long Beach police chief.

Remarks on the Downing of Brothers to the Rescue Airplanes by Cuba and an Exchange With Reporters in Shoreline, Washington
February 24, 1996

The President. Ladies and gentlemen, I have just been briefed by the National Security Adviser on the shooting down today in broad daylight of two American civilian airplanes by Cuban military aircraft. We are continuing to investigate the circumstances of the incident, including the airplanes' flight plan and the flight route and what, if any, warnings were given.

This afternoon I ordered the following actions: First, I directed the United States Coast Guard units in the area to conduct search and rescue operations. That is now

underway in the waters off Cuba. Second, I have ordered United States military forces in the area to provide support to the search and rescue operations and to ensure that it is fully protected. Third, I have instructed our interest section in Havana to seek an immediate explanation for this incident from the Cuban Government.

I condemn this action in the strongest possible terms. And as events unfold and we know more we will do our best to answer your questions.

I'd like now to ask Mr. McCurry to come up and either now or immediately, I think, when I leave here to do his best to answer whatever other questions you have. Obviously, we will be getting further information throughout the night, and we'll let you know when we have it.

Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, the United States does have confirmation on the shoot-down?

Q. Do you know where the planes were when they were shot down?

The President. We know—I can't say that for sure. I think Mike can answer all the questions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:35 p.m. in the automotive training center at Shoreline Community College.

Remarks to the Community in Shoreline, Washington
February 24, 1996

The President. Thank you very much.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. You know, we've listened to you, now it's my turn. [Applause] Thank you very much.

I want to thank Monica, not only for that introduction, which she did very well, but for her example, which millions of Americans will need to follow in the next few years. Let's give her another hand, she was great. [Applause]

I thank President Oertli and I thank Senator Murray, your former faculty member here and a remarkable public servant who is—yes, you can clap for that, it's all right—[applause]—she's here along with Congressman Dicks and Congressman McDermott.

Let me say that we've done a lot of good things in the last 3 years. And we've made one or two mistakes under the law of unintended consequences. And one of them was the unintended and unwarranted consequence of the way that timber rider has been carried out. And Patty Murray is going to help us fix it, and I thank her for that. I thank her for that.

I want to thank Mayor Connie King of Shoreline, and my friends, Mayor Rice of Seattle, and King County Executive Gary Locke, and Governor Lowry. They all came with me today and we've had a wonderful experience here. I want to especially thank Bill Gates and Microsoft for this remarkable donation. I hope this word goes out all across the country and others try to match him, because this is the sort of thing that we need here. This is a shining example of the kind of partnership between businesses and public institutions that we need more of in America.

Let me say to all of you that when I became President I had a very straightforward vision. I wanted this country to go into the 21st century under circumstances in which every single American could live out his or her dreams, and everybody who was willing to work for it could have their shot at the American dream. I wanted to go into the 21st century with a country that was coming together, not being driven apart, and a Nation that was still the strongest force in the world for peace and freedom.

Now, to do that it is abundantly clear that we have to meet the challenges of this present moment, and that we have to meet them together. One of the reasons I am here today is because I believe the community college in the United States is the daily model of how we are all going to have to behave if we hope to open up the opportunities of the information age to all Americans because it works by cooperation. It is completely democratic—small “d”—everybody is able to come and fulfill their own desires by working together, and everybody cooperates. And if we all did that in every other way, we would be much better off.

I was here, you know, in Washington just a few days ago when I landed at Portland and just flew over the State line and visited a community that was ravaged by the flood.

And I was in this little community of Woodland, walking down the streets, and I went into the home of a man—he and his wife were about 70 years old—and they had lost everything they had. They had lived in this house for 30 years, they had lost everything. He was hard of hearing, even his hearing aid was washed away. So I walked in, you know, really not knowing what to expect. I thought these people would be devastated. And this gentleman shook my hand and he said, “You know, I'm 70 years old and you're the first President I ever met. It was nearly worth it to lose my home.” And then he said—[laughter]—I thought that was pretty remarkable. And then he said, “Not only that,” he said, “I wouldn't have been fit to welcome a President before now. But come in here, look, I can offer you an indoor swimming pool.” [Laughter] I was stunned.

I got out of the car and shook hands with a fellow who was up in his sixties. He was retired from the local utility company, a naturalized American, an immigrant from Norway, who operated a jackhammer in doing his part to try to help deal with the flood. And he operated this jackhammer for 8 hours with a cracked rib. I don't know if any of you have ever tried to hold a jackhammer in place. I'm above average size and not entirely weak, and that's hard work. And that man did that for 8 hours with a cracked rib.

Anyway, when I got ready to leave the 70-year-old fellow said to me, “I have just loved this. You know, as awful as this is, people came in here and tried to help us at least save some of our pictures and our records and our personal effects, tried to help us save a little furniture. They've been here every day since this flood happened.” He said, “Don't you just wish we could behave this way all the time?” I say that because if you look at the challenges we face to give everybody a shot at the American dream, to grow together instead of be divided, and to maintain the world's strongest force for peace and freedom, we're going to have to do more of working together all the time.

How do we want that? How do we propose to do that? Well, just imagine what we have to do. In the State of the Union I was outlining the challenges to America. We want people to succeed at home and at work, so we

have to build strong families and strong work places. We want people to have a decent quality of life so we need safe streets and a clean environment. We know that there will be all kinds of changes in this economy, so we have to address the need for greater education and economic security that does not undermine the strength and the dynamism of this economy. We know that we have to do certain things to continue to lead the world. And we know that, just like every other organization, the Federal Government cannot be big and bloated and bureaucratic. So it needs to be smaller and less bureaucratic, but it doesn't need to be weak. It needs to be strong where it should be strong so it can be a valuable partner.

And if you look at all this, the most important areas to building the future we need are two that can be melded together that you are melding together here. One is every single American has got to have educational opportunity that is excellent and that is there for a lifetime—for a lifetime. And the second is we have to maintain the dynamism and the strength of the American economy, but give every American who is willing to work for it the chance to achieve economic security.

Now, before I came in here I met with a number of students at this community college, and some teachers, and a labor leader, and a businessman who were supporting the activities here. And I want you to just think a minute about the meaning of what Bill Gates did here today. I have worked very hard to increase the educational opportunities available to the America people, based on a simple theory: We should have high standards, high expectations, high technology and access, access for a lifetime. That's why I believe if we're going to have a tax cut in this budget debate the first and most important one we could give would be to give a tax cut for the cost of college tuition, a deductibility for that.

If we are here celebrating the work that is going on in this institution, its key to the 21st century and opportunity for all, then we should stand by those things that are working. We should keep the student loan program and strengthen it. We should keep the Pell Grant program and strengthen it. We

should keep the national service program, AmeriCorps, and strengthen it. We should do these things.

But I want to put before you the dilemma that I saw in the lives of these people that a lot of you have experienced. If I were to have told you 3 years ago when I became the President, look, here's what's going to happen in our country. Just listen to this. In 3 years we will have nearly 8 million new jobs, and all the other advanced countries in the world together will have a net of zero. The other six big economies, they'll have—a few will create a few jobs, and a few will lose a few, but they'll net out no new jobs. We'll have nearly 8 million. And in each year of the next 3 years, we'll have a record number of new businesses, and we'll be at a 15-year high in homeownership. We'll have a record number of new self-made millionaires—not people who inherited it—people like Bill Gates, people that went out and made it on their own. We will have the lowest rates of unemployment, inflation, and home mortgages combined that we've had in 27 years. You can clap for that. That's the good news. [*Applause*]

Our exports will be at an all-time high and we will turn around the trade situation so that for the first time in many years our exports will be growing faster than our imports. We will do that. We'll be opening closed markets in Asia, selling everything from Washington apples to computers to auto parts. We'll be doing these things. But half the American people will be working harder than they were 3 years ago for the same wages they were making 10 years ago.

Now, you would say, well how could that happen? Well, it's because of the changes we're going through. You heard Monica talk about it. We are changing the nature of work. There's more mind and less muscle in all work. We're changing the nature of the workplace. The information revolution means you don't need as many people in the middle passing orders down and information up. And by the way, these changes are the most profound we've seen in 100 years. The last time this country changed this much was when most people moved from living on the farm to living in towns and cities, and most people moved from working on the farm to

working in factories and in businesses necessary to support them. It's a 100-year change.

In addition to that, communication is changing so rapidly. You heard Mr. Gates talk about it. In his book he says the digital chip is the most important change in communication in, not 100 year but in 500 years since Gutenberg printed the first Bible in Europe.

Now, you cannot go through that sweep of change—and understand that the markets in the world where people exchange goods and services and money are changing, the money markets and the goods and services markets are now all global—you can't go through a change like that without a great uprooting.

Now, we have two choices. We can either bore our way through this change until it benefits all Americans, or we can pretend that we can repeal the laws of change and suffer the consequences. I can tell you—you heard what Bill Gates said—remember what I said, for all of our challenges in America, we have 8 million more jobs nearly. We'll have more than that by the end of this year, and we have a much lower unemployment rate than most of our competitors. Our exports are growing faster than our imports. We're starting record numbers of new jobs. For all the corporate downsizing, listen to this, businesses owned by women alone have created more jobs than the Fortune 500 have laid off in the last 3 years.

So what we have to do—but the challenge—[*applause*]*—*that sounds great, but if you're one of those people who hasn't had a raise, if you're one of those people who gets downsized, or if you live in a remote rural community or an inner-city neighborhood that has no new jobs, it sounds great but it doesn't ring true to you.

So our challenge is not to back up, not to give up, it's to go ahead. If you look at technology, today in our public schools where our children are becoming computer wizards in elementary schools, nobody sees technology as a threat. Technology is the equalizer. Technology is the tool that means that poor kids and rich kids can learn together and access the future together. Technology is a tool that I have seen with my

own eyes bringing immigrant families into the mainstream of American educational life.

I was in a poor school district in New Jersey all the way across the country a few days ago where the student body is below the national average in per capita income and many of them come from immigrant families. But a company there, Bell Atlantic, worked with the school district and others to put computers in the classrooms and computers in the homes. And you have people who didn't even live in this country 20 years ago now E-mailing the principal to find out how the kids are doing in school. And this school district, which was on the verge of educational bankruptcy, literally about to be taken over by the State, within 2 years had an attendance record, a graduation record, and test scores above the State average. Technology was the great equalizer. We saw that.

So we have to finish that job. One of the goals we have is to do the four things that was up on one of those charts that Mr. Gates had: Put the computers in every classroom and every library in America, have good software, train the teachers, and then hook them all up to the Internet. We want every classroom and every library in every community in the United States on the Internet by the year 2000. And I think we're well on the way to getting that done.

But the significance of what we are here today about is this: The gift that Microsoft is giving to the community colleges, the work that the community colleges are doing, the people that come to places like this fine institution who have been downsized and now no longer feel diminished but feel empowered, that shows us the way to the future. The way to the future is not to back up on the technology revolution but to embrace it, work through it, and don't stop until every single American citizen benefits from it instead of being punished by it. That is what we have to do as Americans.

When we knew changes would have to be made here in the Pacific Northwest in logging practices in order to preserve the old growth forest, preserve the quality of the water, preserve the salmon population, preserve the quality of life and still permit an acceptable amount of logging to go on, we knew there would be great dislocation in a

lot of these small towns and rural areas, just like there has been in all the communities that lost their military bases when we downsized after the cold war.

So, the Congress, with the leadership of the people in your delegation whom I just mentioned, appropriated over \$1 billion for communities in the Pacific Northwest for the kind of economic transition that Monica is going through. That is what we have to do more of. But we have to do it in a way that makes technology our friend, not our enemy. At least two of the students that I met with here were downsized purely because you can do more work with fewer people because of computers.

The same thing is going on in the Federal Government. The Federal Government is 205,000 people smaller today than it was the day I took office. And I might add, I'm proud of the fact that we've worked very hard to help all these people not feel like they were downsized but feel like they were given an opportunity to go on to a better and more productive life. But we can do more work than we used to be able to do with fewer people, with less regulatory hassle, less bureaucratic hassle. The Federal Government is today as small as it was in 1965. And that's a good thing. But it's also a good thing that these people are going to have a chance to do something else that's more exciting, that's more fulfilling, that society needs done, that the marketplace says, hey, we need, and that they can get a good wage doing.

So I will say to you again: Our great challenge is to take what we know is true in the school room, that technology is the great equalizer, and take it into the workplace. And that will happen through the community college. That will happen through partnerships. That will happen if we continue to invest in student assistance programs, to invest in technology partnerships, to invest in economic transitions, to invest in the people. And it will happen if we continue to work together.

One of the worst things about contemporary political life is that the further you get away from a grassroots political office where everyone knows all the candidates running, the more likely politics and campaigns are to be used to divide people instead

of to unite them. When we are together, America never loses, and we will not lose this.

So I ask you to continue to support Shoreline Community College, to continue to support investments in education, to continue to insist that we move forward into the future and that we not stop until the benefits of technology are available to everyone. We cannot go forward as a country where half of us are growing and half of us are stuck. But we cannot pretend that we can return to a time that does not exist anymore.

We have no choice but to do what Americans have always done: to take on the challenges of the present and to march right through them. We can create more high-wage jobs. The Telecommunications Act will create tens of thousands of high-wage jobs. I want you to be trained to hold them. We can win in global competition if we insist on having an open but fair trading system. We can move into the future. And we have to do it by working together.

More than any other institution in the United States of America today, the promise of technology with a bright future for all Americans is embodied by the way the community colleges work. I want America to work that way and I want every one of you to remember what that 70-year-old man in Woodland, Washington, said to me: "That's the way we ought to behave all the time." And if we do, there is no limit to America's future.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:13 p.m. in the gymnasium at Shoreline Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Monica Walker, student, and Gary Oertli, president, Shoreline Community College; Mayor Norman Rice of Seattle; and Gov. Mike Lowry of Washington.

Statement on the Terrorist Attacks in Israel

February 25, 1996

On behalf of all Americans, I want to extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to Prime Minister Peres and the people of Israel. Our prayers are with them at this terrible moment, especially the families and

friends of those killed and wounded in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

These brutal acts of terror, which once again have taken the lives of innocent Israelis and at least one American citizen, offend the conscience of the world. They must not only be condemned; they must be brought to an end. The enemies of peace have once more attempted to turn back progress toward a new Middle East in which Arabs and Israelis may live in peace. But they have not and will not succeed. Their dark vision is of the past, not the present; of violence, not hope for a better future.

At this tragic moment, the U.S. stands alongside Israel and with all the peacemakers, as together we continue our work for a comprehensive and lasting settlement for all the peoples of the Middle East.

Statement on the Peace Vigil in Northern Ireland

February 25, 1996

Today, I join the people of Northern Ireland as you gather together in a mass vigil for peace. From where I stood last November in Belfast, to cities on both sides of the Atlantic, citizens are standing up for an end to violence and for the right of the people of Northern Ireland to a normal life.

The bombs that shattered the cease-fire and murdered and maimed innocent people in London must not be the path of the future. As today's outpouring of support underscores, the people want peace. They deserve peace, and we must all work to help them achieve this goal. Those who seek to use violence and terror should hear the voices of today's vigil being conducted across our lands: no to violence, yes to peace.

The United States continues to work with the Irish and British Governments and the parties to help the people of Northern Ireland achieve that goal. I commend all those who are standing today for peace. My hopes and prayers are with you in that effort.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal to Bernice Young Jones

February 26, 1996

The President. I want to begin, Bernice, by welcoming members of your family and your friends here, and we're especially glad to have Senator Bumpers and Congressman Hutchinson come.

I learned this morning something I did not know, that this is your first trip to Washington. Well, to have managed to live as many years as you have—

Ms. Jones. Ninety. [*Laughter*]

The President. —without ever coming to Washington, that alone is justification for this award. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Jones. And that's my sister and it's her first trip, and she's 92.

Hillary Clinton. Is that right?

The President. Well, neither one of you look it, and we're glad to have you.

Hillary Clinton. That's probably why they look so good. [*Laughter*]

The President. Let me say that, for me, personally, this is a great pleasure because I know very well of the extraordinary work you have done for health care in Arkansas, for education, and of course, the center you established in your name and your late husband's name for families in Springdale. The things that you have done and stood for and tried to help are the things that all of us in America should be trying to advance. And you are a shining example for philanthropy in our country.

I can only hope that every State will find someone like you to help do what needs to be done. And it is for that reason that I wanted to give you this President's Citizens Medal. And I'm very glad you decided to take leave of your very good policy and at least one time come to Washington, DC. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Jones. Thank you so much. I appreciate it for myself, my family, my friends, my wonderful Springdale, and Arkansas.

The President. I'd like to ask my military aide now to read the citation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Telephone Remarks to the National Emergency Management Association Meeting

February 26, 1996

The President. Hello.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt. Mr. President, good morning.

The President. Good morning, James Lee, how are you?

Mr. Witt. I'm fine, sir. We have a lot of State directors in the room, probably about 200 people here and we're very appreciative for you to call in.

The President. Well, I'm delighted to do it, and I wish I were there with you.

Mr. Witt. We do, too. [*Laughter*]

The President. You haven't seen Washington today—it just depends—I wish I were there with you even more than you wish I were there. [*Laughter*]

Let me begin by saying that I can imagine that for many of you, having the chance to come to the conference is a welcome relief from being out there on the front lines of disasters in your home States. This has been a tough, a cold, a wet, even a miserable winter for people in a lot of places and may of you are still in response or early recovery from the floods and the blizzards. We also, as I'm sure you know, have these terrible fires in some parts of our country. We've had more than 3 times as many disasters declared in the first 6 weeks of this year than in this same period in the past 20 years.

I was recently in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and Pennsylvania to see the devastation, the ruined homes, the businesses, as a result of the recent flooding. And I got a chance to talk with people who have lost their homes and their belongings and literally have to start all over again. I couldn't have known it when I became President, but I suppose that I've seen the widest array of natural disasters, along with James Lee Witt, in the last 3 years as in any period—comparable period—in modern history. We had the great Midwest flood of '93, the Northridge earth-

quake, the Oklahoma City bombing, Hurricanes Opal and Marilyn, dozens of floods and tornadoes, and of course, these fires.

I did know, though, when I became President that this was an important part of my job. When I became President I promised myself, based on my own experience as a Governor and my own frustrations with FEMA, that I would improve the Nation's response to disasters. For many years FEMA had been regarded almost universally as an agency not up to the job, and I'm very proud that under James Lee Witt's management and with all of your help, FEMA is now a model disaster relief agency, and in some corners, thought to be by far the most successful part of the Federal Government today. That is a breathtaking turnaround in just 3 years.

If I could just give one example: It used to take a month or more for many people to begin receiving relief, and now people can call in to a 1-800 number and see those checks arrive within days.

I am very pleased with the progress that's been made. I also am more impressed than ever before about the importance, the integral importance of FEMA to the Nation's business. It now relates to the Transportation Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Labor Department, the Energy Department, right across the line because of all of us having to work with James Lee in the dealing with disasters. So today it's a pleasure for me to announce to all of you that I am extending Cabinet membership for the first time in history to FEMA and to James Lee Witt.

Mr. Witt. Thank you, sir.

The President. Let me also say that I think all of us know that in dealing with these disasters, the most important thing is the spirit of the people. I'll never forget when James Lee and I were in Woodland, Washington, a few days ago. We came upon a 70-year-old man, and he and his wife had lost everything in the flood. He had even lost his hearing aid. And he looked at me and he said, "Well, I'm 70 years old and I've never had a President shake hands with me before. It was nearly worth losing my home to do that at my age." [*Laughter*]

And I thought to myself I wished that spirit could kind of somehow capture America. And at the end of my visit with this man he said to me how grateful he was for the help he'd received, how grateful he was for everyone treating him as they had. And then he said, "It's just too bad that we don't behave this way toward each other all the time." And I think that's an important lesson that we could take out of the work that FEMA and all of you have done. The teamwork, the spirit of can-do, the openness to doing what has to be done, the total lack of cynicism that you see in the midst of a disaster and taking care of its aftermath, that's really what this country needs all day, every day. When America works together we never lose; and if we don't, we beat ourselves.

So I want to say again to all of you how grateful I am to you. I know the American people look to you, your Governors, to James Lee, and to me when they need us in these disasters. I know that they rise to the challenges they rarely do on a daily basis when a disaster occurs. And I just want to tell you how grateful I am to you for your public service and how I want to encourage you to continue to imbue the spirit of service that you demonstrate in times of disasters every day, every week, all year long.

Congratulations for all the good work you do. Have a successful conference, and let's hope and pray that for the rest of this year you won't have quite so much to do as you have had in the beginning.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:24 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Announcing Sanctions Against Cuba Following the Downing of Brothers to the Rescue Airplanes

February 26, 1996

Good afternoon. Two days ago, in broad daylight and without justification, Cuban military aircraft shot down two civilian planes in international airspace. Search and rescue efforts by the Coast Guard, which began immediately after we received word of the inci-

dent, have failed to find any of the four individuals who were aboard the airplanes.

These small airplanes were unarmed and clearly so. Cuban authorities knew that. The planes posed no credible threat to Cuba's security. Although the group that operated the planes had entered Cuban airspace in the past on other flights, this is no excuse for the attack, and provides—let me emphasize—no legal basis under international law for the attack. We must be clear: This shooting of civilian aircraft out of the air was a flagrant violation of international law. It is wrong, and the United States will not tolerate it.

Saturday's attack is further evidence that Havana has become more desperate in its efforts to deny freedom to the people of Cuba. Also on Saturday the Cuban Council, a broad group that wants to bring democracy to Cuba, had planned a day of peaceful discussion and debate. Instead, in the days leading up to this gathering, scores of activists were arrested and detained. Two have already been sentenced to long prison terms. They join about 1,000 others in Cuba who are in jail solely because of their desire for freedom. Now the downing of these planes demands a firm response from both the United States and the international community. I am pleased that the European Union today strongly condemned the action.

Last night, on my instructions, Ambassador Albright convened an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Cuban action and to present the case for sanctions on Cuba until it agrees to abide by its obligation to respect civilian aircraft and until it compensates the families of the victims.

Today, I am also ordering the following unilateral actions. First, I am asking that Congress pass legislation that will provide immediate compensation to the families, something to which they are entitled under international law, out of Cuba's blocked assets here in the United States. If Congress passes this legislation, we can provide the compensation immediately.

Second, I will move promptly to reach agreement with the Congress on the pending Helms-Burton Cuba legislation so that it will enhance the effectiveness of the embargo in

a way that advances the cause of democracy in Cuba.

Third, I have ordered that Radio Marti expand its reach. All the people of Cuba must be able to learn the truth about the regime in Havana—the isolation it has earned for itself through its contempt for basic human rights and international law.

Fourth, I am ordering that additional restrictions be put on travel in the United States by Cuban officials who reside here, and that visits by Cuban officials to our country be further limited.

Finally, all charter air travel from the United States to Cuba will be suspended indefinitely.

These deliberate actions are the right ones at this time. They respond to Havana in a way that serves our goals of accelerating the arrival of democracy in Cuba. But I am not ruling out any further steps in the future, should they be required.

Saturday's attack was an appalling reminder of the nature of the Cuban regime: repressive, violent, scornful of international law. In our time, democracy has swept the globe, from the Philippines exactly 10 years ago, to Central and Eastern Europe, to South Africa, to Haiti, to all but one nation in our hemisphere. I will do everything in my power to see that this historic tide reaches the shores of Cuba. And let me close by extending on behalf of our family and our country our deepest condolences to those in the families of those who lost their lives.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Proclamation 6866—American Red Cross Month, 1996

February 26, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Since its founding in 1881 by Clara Barton, the American Red Cross has brought hope and healing to citizens and communities across the country. Today, some 1.4 million trained volunteers work to fulfill the Red Cross' mission by providing relief to disaster

victims; by ensuring that our Nation has an adequate and safe blood supply; by training millions of Americans in essential lifesaving and safety techniques; and by assisting members of our Armed Forces, their families, and our distinguished veterans.

This past year, the American Red Cross has carried on its extraordinary legacy across the country and around the world. When a bomb destroyed the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, the Red Cross was there within minutes to assist those whose loved ones were killed in the tragic blast. After a series of record-breaking storms and hurricanes ruined houses and displaced people, the Red Cross served more than a million meals and helped victims to begin rebuilding their lives. And today, as OPERATION JOINT ENDEAVOR works to secure the peace in Bosnia, the Red Cross is facilitating emergency communications between our troops and their families at home.

The Red Cross has earned our Nation's deepest respect and appreciation for its important lifesaving and life-rebuilding work and for its countless daily efforts to promote health and safety. This month and throughout the year, let us take time to recognize this vital organization and do all we can to further its goals of preventing, preparing for, and responding to emergencies.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1996, as American Red Cross Month. I urge all the people of the United States to support Red Cross chapters nationwide by volunteering and participating in Red Cross blood drives.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 27, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 28.

Statement on Tax Provisions for American Troops in Bosnia

February 26, 1996

Today, in recognition of the sacrifices members of the U.S. Armed Forces are making in and around Bosnia, I am asking Congress to extend to them a series of special tax rules.

Historically, these provisions—which include extending the time to file returns and certain tax relief for those serving under hostile conditions—have been restricted to individuals deployed in “combat zones.” However, the men and women of today’s military confront hardships and risks in non-combat missions like the one we have undertaken in Bosnia. I believe the law should be extended to cover them. I look forward to working with Congress to enact these changes as quickly as possible.

Remarks Welcoming the World Series Champion Atlanta Braves

February 26, 1996

The President. Thank you very much. Senator Nunn, Congressman Lewis, Congressman Bishop, Terry McGuirk, Harvey Schiller, Bill Bartholomay, Stan Kasten, John Schuerholz, and to Bobby Cox and the coaches, the staff, and of course, the Atlanta Braves: Let me welcome you all to the White House. We are delighted to have you here.

Secretary Riley is relocating from South Carolina to Georgia as a result of the outcome of the World Series. [Laughter] We’re glad to see you here.

This is a happy day for all of us. Three years ago, shortly after I became President, I had occasion to meet the Canadian Prime Minister when he hosted a meeting in Vancouver between President Yeltsin and me. And he wanted to have all this high-flowing policy discussion, and I said, “Now, before anything else, I want to tell you that my number one objective in our relations with Canada is to win the World Series back.” [Laughter] And I want to thank the Atlanta Braves

for helping my foreign policy with Canada to succeed.

It was a great season, and it was a magnificent World Series victory. Since 1990 this team has been the winningest team in baseball, with three National League pennants and four division titles and an absolutely extraordinary level of performance, which for every baseball fan in America has been a thrilling thing to watch. Your victory is very well-deserved, not only because you have been there before, but throughout the season you were dogged by doubts and second-guessing. I can identify with that. [Laughter] You proved your critics wrong, and you achieved baseball’s highest goal by overcoming adversity and criticism.

Casey Stengel once said, good pitching beats good hitting and vice versa. [Laughter] Well, the Braves proved that last year. You had great hitting, great fielding, and great pitching. Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux have won every Cy Young Award for the past 5 years. You may have an antitrust suit on your hands, even with baseball’s exemption. [Laughter]

We were all thrilled by Dave Justice’s play and his solo home run in the final game, which put the Braves on top. And we were—I think all of us who grew up around baseball were literally stunned—I think “stunned” is the only word—by the success of your entire pitching staff. We may never see a performance like that again in my lifetime, and I want to compliment all of them, especially since Senator Nunn told me on the way in they were all good golfers as well. [Laughter]

I think the Braves have shown us the best side of professional sports: perseverance and hard work and commitment, and a commitment that has endured over seasons. There really does seem to be a spirit of teamwork that has worked for this team. At a time when so many people wonder whether the team spirit and the ties to community still characterize professional athletics, the Braves have demonstrated beyond doubt that in Atlanta and with the Braves that is still the truth, and that it has been richly rewarded by consistent performance year in and year out and, finally, by the World Series victory.

For all of that I say on behalf of our entire country, congratulations. Welcome to the

White House. It is an honor to have you here. And if you keep doing what you've been doing I expect you'll be here for several more years, and I hope I'm around for a few of them to welcome you back. Thank you very much.

[At this point, several gifts were presented to the President.]

The President. Thank you very much. I looked in here hoping I could find out how many strokes I would get from each player. [Laughter]

Let me say again to all of you, I welcome you here. We're going to take a little picture now and then have a receiving line next door so we can bring everyone in. It occurred to me that I ought to make one more point since the team is here and we were forced to delay this once because of the operation in Bosnia.

This room is a good reminder of why teams and why this country should never say die. And I think I should tell you this. It was in this room in 1814, 182 years ago, that symbolically the light of liberty in America almost went out. This room was all set up for a fancy banquet, and unbeknownst to the people who were planning to come, in the War of 1812, the British had actually landed a few miles from here.

And our President, James Madison, was the last President of the United States that actually was the operating Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. He was out of the White House, and his wife, Dolley, was basically going to host this dinner we were having. And so James Madison sent his wife word that the British were coming and that she should get out of here before she was killed.

But she had to save that picture of George Washington, which was painted in 1797, 200 years ago next year, by Gilbert Stewart. And we bought it for \$500 in 1797. It's worth a dollar or two more today. [Laughter] She cut that picture out of a frame, rolled it up, and just before the British rolled in here she cleared out, along with all the party-goers. They came in and had the gall to eat all of our food, and then they burned the house down. And a lot of people thought the next day that America's days were numbered. It didn't turn out that way.

And I think if we all remember that, we can do more in our own lives to help our country, our teams, our families, and our communities. And that's the sort of spirit you've exhibited. I hope you'll—when times get tough, you'll remember that story. That was a long time ago, and we're still here.

God bless you, and thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Terry McGuirk, Executive Vice President, Turner Broadcasting Service, Inc.; Harvey Schiller, President of Turner Sports; Bill Bartholomay, Chairman of the Board, and Stan Kasten, President, Atlanta Braves Organization; John Schuerholz, general manager, Bobby Cox, field manager, and Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux, and Dave Justice, players, Atlanta Braves; and Brian Mulroney, former Prime Minister of Canada.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Uzbekistan-United States Investment Treaty

February 28, 1996

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex, signed at Washington on December 16, 1994. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment treaty (BIT) with Uzbekistan is designed to protect U.S. investment and assist the Republic of Uzbekistan in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thus strengthen the development of its private sector.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to

international law standards for expropriation and compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investments; freedom of investments from performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's or investment's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty, with Annex, at an early date.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 28, 1996.

**Memorandum on the Argentina-
United States Nuclear Energy
Agreement**

February 28, 1996

Presidential Determination No. 96-12

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State,
the Secretary of Energy*

*Subject: Presidential Determination on the
Proposed Agreement for Cooperation
Between the United States of America and
the Argentine Republic Concerning Peaceful
Uses of Nuclear Energy*

I have considered the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and the Argentine Republic Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, along with the views, recommendations, and statements of the interested agencies.

I have determined that the performance of the agreement will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Pursuant to section 123 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b)), I hereby approve the proposed agreement and authorize you to arrange for its execution.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

**Letter to Representative
John Conyers, Jr.,
on Abortion Legislation**

February 28, 1996

Dear John:

I understand that the House is preparing to consider H.R. 1833, as amended by the Senate, which would prohibit doctors from performing a certain type of abortion. I want to make the Congress aware of my position on this extremely complex issue.

I have always believed that the decision to have an abortion should be between a woman, her conscience, her doctor, and her God. I strongly believe that legal abortions—those abortions that the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* must be protected—should be safe and rare. I have long opposed late-term abortions except, as the law requires, where they are necessary to protect the life of the mother or where there is a threat to her health. In fact, as Governor of Arkansas, I signed into law a bill that barred third trimester abortions except where they were necessary to protect the life or health of the woman, consistent with the Supreme Court's rulings.

The procedure described in H.R. 1833 is very disturbing, and I cannot support its use on an elective basis, where the abortion is being performed for non-health related reasons and there are equally safe medical procedures available. As I understand it, however, there are rare and tragic situations that can occur in a woman's pregnancy in which, in a doctor's medical judgment, the use of this procedure may be necessary to save a woman's life or to preserve her health. In those situations, the Constitution requires that a woman's ability to choose this procedure be protected.

I have studied and prayed about this issue, and about the families who must face this awful choice, for many months. I believe that we have a duty to try to find common ground: a resolution to this issue that respects the views of those—including myself—who object to this particular procedure, but also upholds the Supreme Court's requirement that laws regulating abortion protect both the life and the health of American women.

I have concluded that H.R. 1833 as drafted does not meet the constitutional requirements that the Supreme Court has imposed upon us, in *Roe* and the decisions that have followed it, to provide protections for both the life and the health of the mother in any laws regulating abortions.

I am prepared to support H.R. 1833, however, if it is amended to make clear that the prohibition of this procedure does not apply to situations in which the selection of the procedure, in the medical judgment of the attending physician, is necessary to preserve the life of the woman or avert serious adverse health consequences to the woman.

I urge the Congress to amend H.R. 1833 to ensure that it protects the life and the health of the woman, as the law we have been elected to uphold requires.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 28 but was not issued as a White House press release.

Statement on the Northern Ireland Peace Process

February 28, 1996

I welcome the announcement made today by British Prime Minister Major and Irish Prime Minister Bruton of a path to negotiations for a just and lasting settlement in Northern Ireland. I want to express my admiration for these two leaders, who have shown so much courage and determination in the cause of peace. The clear path they have laid out leads to inclusive talks on the future of Northern Ireland, once the cease-fire has been restored. I am convinced that this is the path supported by the overwhelming majority of the people of Northern Ireland, who have so resoundingly rejected violence and embraced peace. I call on those who have resorted to violence to heed the voice of the people and cease their campaign of terror.

The process that Prime Ministers Bruton and Major have announced will begin with intensive consultations among the Governments and the parties to reach agreement on a broadly acceptable elective process, which will lead directly and without pre-

conditions to all-party negotiations by June 10, 1996. The consultations, to begin early next month, will also address the framework for those negotiations and whether to hold a referendum on support for the peace process. I hope all the parties will commit themselves to participate fully in the process announced today in order to create the lasting peace the people of Northern Ireland deserve.

The United States remains fully committed to supporting the search for peace in which the two Governments, the parties, and the people of Northern Ireland have invested so much. I will remain in close touch with Prime Ministers Major and Bruton, who know they have my full support in their pursuit of peace. We will continue to work with the parties in the same cause.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Entertainment and Media Executives *February 29, 1996*

Good morning. Let me once again welcome all of you to the White House and thank you for coming for what is a truly historic meeting. Many of you have come from a long way away, and I am gratified by this astonishing and positive turnout.

Three weeks ago today I signed the telecommunications bill. This is, as all of you well know, truly landmark legislation that will free the full force of American ingenuity and creativity. It will help us to better enrich minds, to create more jobs, to help us understand one another, to help us enjoy more entertainment, and to help us grow together into the future.

Those of you who are gathered here today will be the ones to unleash this American ingenuity. Arguably, you are the most powerful cultural force in the world. But we know, too, that freedom and creativity can truly thrive in a free society that is also a responsible society.

In the State of the Union Address I challenged Congress to pass the telecommunications bill and to include within it the V-chip. Congress did that, agreeing that we should try the V-chip to give parents more control over the content of television pro-

grams their children watch, so that those that young people plainly should not watch would at least be subject to some parental control and influence.

I asked you here today so that we could discuss our common responsibilities to help our children and our families. I believe the telecom bill and the V-chip, and perhaps most important of all, this entirely voluntary gathering of your industry, embodies what I see as the three great challenges this country faces as we go through this period of remarkable transformation. The telecom bill plainly will create more opportunities in this new era. The V-chip and your endeavors will enable us to exercise more responsibility to promote the strength and values of family. And if we do these things in a completely voluntary and open way, it will help us to come together as a national community.

There are so many forces in America today that are operating to divide the American people, and I think we should work on uniting ourselves. It's been my experience and observation that when this country is united we are never defeated; we always achieve what we set out to do. And you have gone a long way toward helping build that kind of community by your very presence here today. And I thank you for that.

We are here to discuss how we can best fulfill our common responsibilities in two ways: First, how we can give parents more control over what their children see on television; and second, how we can improve children's programming.

Two months ago I doubt that many people thought that this meeting, or any meeting like this, could have even occurred. But we have now made so much progress, and we're on the verge of making new progress. I am excited about what I think we can achieve here today for our children, our families, and our future.

And let me say again, for an industry that gets more than its share of criticism, I think it is worth noting that you have all put aside all your vigorous, internal, competitive rivalries and dealt with what I think is a very profound set of questions for the future. And so I thank you for being here. I welcome you here, and I must say I'm very much looking forward to our discussion.

And I'd like to ask the Vice President now, who has worked so hard in helping to organize this meeting, to make a few opening remarks, and then we'll get down to work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:42 a.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Entertainment and Media Executives February 29, 1996

Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. I have just concluded a very significant meeting with the leaders of America's media and entertainment industries. I am pleased to report on a breakthrough voluntary agreement to help parents protect their children from violence and adult content on television.

Our purpose in this meeting has been to find out how we can help parents raise their children in the right way and to protect them as they raise them. In this high-technology age, our goal should be more opportunity, more responsibility, and more community, to make changes in the way we do business that will help people to raise their children and bring us together as a people even as we grow the economy and enjoy the opportunities that this new technological era brings.

Just a little over a month ago in my State of the Union Address I challenged Congress to pass legislation that requires new television sets to include a V-chip, to give parents the power to screen out violence and objectionable content in television programs. Earlier this month, with the Telecommunications Act, I signed the V-chip into law. Since that time, our administration, spearheaded by the Vice President, has worked with broadcasters, cable firms, production studios, and others to encourage them to find ways to take more responsibilities toward meeting our shared goals. I am gratified that the far-sighted leaders gathered here in this unprecedented meeting have risen to the challenge. And I thank them all.

As a result of our discussions, the media and the entertainment industry has agreed to a voluntary system of ratings for television programs. These ratings will be put in place by the end of this year or the beginning of

next year to help parents decide what programs they want their children to watch. And the V-chip will give parents the power to block those programs they do not want them to watch from their televisions.

We're handing the TV remote control back to America's parents so that they can pass on their values and protect their children. In the next few moments, Jack Valenti will describe the next steps the industry will take. But they've already shown that they recognize their creativity and their freedom carries with it significant responsibility. I applaud them for it, and all Americans are in their debt.

The work we began here is just that—a beginning. In our meeting I invited the industry leaders to come back to the White House to report once they have developed their rating systems, and I look forward to the work that they will do.

Let me say on their behalf—I know Jack Valenti will say this, but this is a complicated and difficult undertaking. They talked a lot about some of the challenges that they will face. I think that should cause all the rest of us to be all the more supportive of the fact that they are doing it, doing it together, and doing it with real deliberation and discipline on a specific timetable.

We also had a very good discussion this morning of the urgent need to improve children's programming. It is not enough for parents to be able to tune out what they don't want their children to watch; they want to be able to tune in good programs that their children will watch. We take the Children's Television Act seriously. We want to continue to work with the industry to do the very best we can for our children in both quantity and quality of children's programming. And I believe the executives here today will bring to this challenge the same sense of responsibility they have brought to the issue of TV ratings.

Ultimately, we're trying to raise our children successfully in an age of information overload in which the typical child will watch 25,000 hours of television before his or her 18th birthday. Television is a powerful force to bring people together, to entertain, to educate, to open our minds and hearts. But we also know that young people are exposed reg-

ularly to numbing and pervasive violence and other destructive behavior when they park in front of the family television.

I believe what we are doing here today shows how America can meet this challenge and many of our challenges by businesses and parents and Government all working together, each doing our part. It shows what can happen when visionary business leaders do make a commitment to values and the common good, as well as the bottom line, and when they live up to their responsibilities as corporate citizens of our great country.

I want to say, too, that I hope the kind of responsibility these leaders have shown here today will be matched by other executives, in other industries, on other problems the American people face in common. That is how we can move forward into this new age of possibility.

Finally, let me give credit where credit is due. This breakthrough we see today is the result of literally years of concerns by America's parents. Ultimately it is only parents who can prevent our children from seeing programs that teach violence that has no consequences, or that inappropriate behavior is glamorous. So to all the parents of America, I say: You will be handed a powerful tool; that you must now exercise it with the responsibilities that go with it. And to all the parents who have worked for this day, I say a very special thank you, especially to Tipper Gore, who has worked on this issue for 20 years, and to the First Lady, who has given it so much of her concern.

America's media and entertainment industry is the world's most vital creative force. It would be much more difficult for me to be President were it not for the economic advantages in international trade brought to us by the creative energies of America's entertainment industry.

I hope that this agreement today will ensure that that creativity will forever be a source of learning and values and responsibilities in the lives of our children, even as it continues to be a great source of your own success, our entertainment, and America's strength.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Jack Valenti, president, Motion Picture Association of America.

**Executive Order 12990—
Adjustments of Rates of Pay and
Allowances for the Uniformed
Services, Amendment to Executive
Order 12984**

February 29, 1996

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 601 of Public Law 104-106, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C. 203(a)), the rates of basic allowances for subsistence (37 U.S.C. 402), and the rates of basic allowances for quarters (37 U.S.C. 403(a)) for members of the uniformed services and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay (37 U.S.C. 203(c)(1)) are adjusted as set forth on the schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 2. The adjustments in rates of pay and allowances set forth on the attached schedule are effective on January 1, 1996.

Sec. 3. Section 4 and Schedule 8 of Executive Order No. 12984 of December 28, 1995, are superseded.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 29, 1996.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:01 p.m., March 1, 1996]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

NOTE: This Executive order was signed on February 29, and released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 1.

**Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion
With Families on Television
Programming**
March 1, 1996

The President. Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. I might say, aren't we all glad to be in his big, beautiful office here. I love to come over here. I want to thank all of you for coming and to say to you and to the members of the media who are here, yesterday we heard for 2 hours from a remarkable assemblage of people who are involved in the television industry, people who broadcast the programs; we heard from cable people; we heard from the people who write the programs; people who represent the actors; producers. It was an amazing assemblage of people who got together and came to Washington to announce that they had decided to develop a rating system for television programs like the movie rating system, and that as the Vice President said, that that would be able to be used then when the V-chip becomes available in televisions.

Now, the V-chip, of course, will start coming into televisions in a couple of years. And we replace about 25 million televisions a year, I think, in America, so it will quickly be a fixture in a significant percentage of America's televisions. But the rating system presumably will still be helpful for parents even before they have the V-chip.

We wanted to have you in here today because we want to get a feel and we want the country to get a feel for what kinds of things parents feel about this rating system and the V-chip, what the young people feel about it, what you expect out of it, what do you think it will do, what won't it do, what would you like to see, how would you like to see it work? And of course, we have some advocates and professionals here who can talk about the impact of this on child-rearing in America and on childhood.

I must tell you, this is going to be a very complicated and difficult thing for these people in television to do in the sense that they have—there are many, many thousands of—tens of thousands of programs on all of these television stations, and as we get more cable channels, they will multiply exponentially. So the job of rating them is very different from

the job of rating a couple of thousand movies a year. So as they undertake this task, I think it's important for the people in the entertainment industry and the public at large to get just a feel for how parents feel about it, how young people feel about it and kind of how it should proceed, because they committed to have this done by the first of next year—no later than the first of next year, and perhaps sooner.

So we really just felt we ought to have this conversation today, and we thank you for joining us. And maybe we ought to start with you, Mrs. Somson. If you could tell the press—everybody, if you could tell the press your name when you speak and how you happen to be here.

[At this point, Ms. Somson praised the rating system and the V-chip as tools that parents can use to guard what their children will watch on television. Another participant then suggested that the V-chip and the industry meeting on ratings was a first step in pooling resources to produce better children's programming.]

The President. I want to talk about the better programming in a minute because I think that's a big part of it, especially when I ask the young people about it. But I want to give the parents who are here a chance to say anything they'd like to say about the V-chip and the ratings issue, and then I want to come back and talk about the V-chip with you. I want you to tell your story.

[A participant said that the technology of what viewers will be doing with the V-chip will assist the industry in refining and defining the rating system. He then said that he thought that viewers will actually vote with the V-chip so that advertisers and programmers will produce more family programming.]

The President. I'm so glad to hear you say that, because there were—you made two comments; I just want to say that to kind of resonate with the discussion we had with the people from the industry yesterday. Ted Turner said, and he went out and said in public, so I'm not saying anything in private he didn't say in public—that he strongly supported the rating system and what we were

doing, what they were doing, but he did think it would be very costly. And I think it will obviously cost a lot of money to figure out how to do this and then review all these programs, to set up the system. But I think he meant he thought it would be costly over the long run because programs would not have the same viewership and their advertisers would drop.

I think I see it more like you do; it's a voting system. It would be another—it's like the Nielsen ratings, except you won't have—this won't be a sample, you'll be able to actually know. You'll be able to at least sample all the V-chip homes, you take a representative sample. And it might actually change the content of programming so that the market, the market forces actually produce more positive programs.

The other thing you said I think is important, a couple of the folks who were skeptical yesterday talked about how this wouldn't be a panacea, it wouldn't solve all the problems. And one of the men in the broadcasting meeting said—I mean the industry meeting—he said, I'm going to take off my industry hat now and tell you that I'm a parent of three small children. I'm not looking for panaceas, I'm looking for a little help. And I think that's the way all of us who are parents look at this. There is no such thing as a panacea; we're looking for a little help.

So you made that point, and I thought it was very good.

[A participant said that the V-chip should reduce family tension because it would eliminate repeated discussion of whether a particular program is acceptable.]

The President. Hillary almost fell off the chair when you said that, the keeper of the remote. *[Laughter]*

Q. So we're really delighted with both the V-chip and the rating system.

[A participant said the V-chip and rating system is a vital first step for working parents who can't always be present when their children are watching television.]

[Vice President Gore then introduced Dr. Robert Phillips, Deputy Medical Director, American Psychiatric Association who discussed the powerful effect that free and gra-

tuitous violence on television has on children. He thanked the President and Vice President for their work in facilitating the industry and parents to work together to create a stronger and more healthy environment in which children can use television in a productive and useful way.]

The President. Hillary, do you want to comment on that, based on what you said in—

[At this point, Hillary Clinton said the more parents understand the link between what children see on television and their behavior, the more willing they will be to implement the rating system in their homes and to be ready to use the V-chip when it is available.]

The President. I want to get to the young people here. And let me tell you, it's okay if you disagree with us about this. We want to hear what you really think. But I want to ask the doctor one more question. Before I had this job, as I used to say, back when I had a life—*[laughter]*—I was Governor of my State when I ran a big prison system and a big criminal justice system, obviously. And then I was attorney general, and before that I taught criminal law. So I've been following issues of crime and violence closely from that perspective for more than 20 years now.

For most of my time, it was an article of faith that 75 percent of all the violent crimes in America were created by people between the ages of 17 and 26. And that there was almost a hormonal problem. If you could literally just get violent people and put them somewhere until they were 27, you could let them out and then they would not do that again. That there really almost seemed to be sea changes.

Now we see an astonishing thing. With the crime rate going down among people 18 and over, and I might add, drug use going down among people over 18, and violence going up among people under 18, as well as casual drug use. And I think there are plainly other reasons for increasing violent behavior among young people, including the lives that many of them have to live, virtually raising themselves on some of the meanest streets in America. But I gather from what you said that you really believe that the sort of cumulative, almost deadening impact of all this

media-generated violence is at least partly the explanation for rising rates of violence among juveniles.

[Dr. Phillips agreed with the President, and pointed out that the increase in juvenile crime was a multifactorial problem. Vice President Gore then pointed out that some of the other factors involved would be addressed at the President's White House Conference on Youth Violence on March 7. He then thanked the industry for taking the steps that they agreed to.]

The President. I thought maybe we ought to start with Catherine next to me because Catherine Murphy actually passed the first V-chip bill—*[laughter]*—in the United States of America. I think you all need to know that. It wasn't us; it was her. And so I think you ought to hear her story, and I'd like to know how you came to propose this legislation and what you think of it.

[At this point, Ms. Murphy referred to the "mock Senate" she attended with girls from around the world, and mentioned that the Girls Nation Senate president vetoed the "Senate's" proposed legislation on the V-chip.]

The President. They'll do that to you. *[Laughter]* Let me ask you this. Do you believe—I want to ask and then I want to go around to the students here—how do you think the V-chip should be used? And how much difference do you think there is in the age of the children in terms of the regulation of the programming?

[The participant described her family's television viewing and past-time habits, and mentioned that most young children watch too much television.]

The President. You watch television a lot?

[A participant discussed his preference for outdoors activities and said he only watches the news and a couple shows on television. Talking about his peers, he said they base their lives on television and what they see there.]

The President. If you've actually seen that in your friends who believe it—

Q. Yes.

The President. —that they're acting, they model what they do based on what they see on television.

[The participant confirmed that his peers model themselves after television show characters and voiced his support of the V-chip.]

The President. What about you? You're eleven, right?

[A participant said that he spends most of his time playing on the computer and asked if there will be a V-chip for computers.]

The President. Let's talk about that because that's going to be a big issue.

[Vice President Gore pointed out the need for an industry-wide system to rate computer games and allow parents to screen the Internet to prevent material inappropriate for children.]

The President. What do you think? Do you think your mother should have some influence over what you watch on television or should you decide?

[A participant said that parents should have influence over what children watch on television and described children in her class who pretend to be characters that they see on television.]

The President. Playing out what they saw on TV.

Q. Right.

The President. What about you all?

[A participant said that children tend to act out television shows instead of playing and expanding their imagination. Another participant referred to recent studies on television viewing habits and suggested that parents need to encourage children to be critical viewers.]

The President. What do you think?

[Vice President Gore, prompted by a participant's remark that children get scared by some television programs, said the V-chip would give parents a tool to help children avoid watching programs which may be harmful. Other participants said that the parents should teach their children to be critical viewers and encourage them to participate in constructive activities and hobbies.]

Several participants elaborated on the negative influence of violent programs on children. A participant then pointed out the useful, positive influences of television.]

The President. I'm so glad to hear you say that as well. But that—I don't know how much time we have left, but I think we ought to hear from the young people especially on the flip side of this because we believe it's important, we applaud the industry for developing the rating system and making it compatible with the V-chip.

But the Children's Television Act, which was passed a couple of years ago, also calls upon producers of the television programs to develop more and better programs that will be appealing to children in a positive way.

And I just want to make two points and then ask anybody who wants to comment to comment. There were two interesting ideas which came out yesterday. One is, the people who were there, not us, the Vice President and I just watched, but in the room there, in the industry, there was a genuine argument about whether, particularly younger people, would be as likely to watch any kind of educational program as they would a sort of a violent cartoon or something. And there was a woman there from the Discovery Channel who was a very powerful advocate and said, that is not true. If you make education entertaining, it will be watched. And she gave some examples. That's the first thing: would you like to have more positive programming on television?

The second thing I think's important to point out, one of you sort of inched up to it when you were talking about the Internet, young people on the computer. All these technologies, the Vice President knows 100 times more about this than I do, but it looks to me like they're all merging. I mean, it won't be very long before you can call up any movie you want on your computer and before a lot of the things you see on your television screen are interactive.

So that I think that basically we're watching, we're seeing a process—and that, by the way, will engage more young people because as they become more computer literate, if they have interactive programs on television, it will bring them up. Or if they can call mov-

ies up on the computer, it will, so we really need to also focus on the positive things that we ought to be doing for our children.

And so, what do you think? Do you think, would young people be just as likely to watch more constructive programs if they were genuinely entertaining, or do you believe there's just an inherent predisposition to watch the violence?

[A participant stated that if children were fascinated by interesting programming, it would open doors of opportunity for them. Hillary Clinton pointed out the concern of the industry that older children will not choose programming for themselves that is educational, and asked how we can send a message to the industry that this is not always true. A participant then stated that she preferred watching nonviolent movies.]

Mrs. Clinton. You are an exception—*[laughter]*—based on the numbers that are out there.

Q. I think also it has to do with where I live and the family upbringing that I had.

Mrs. Clinton. That's exactly right.

[At this point, a participant discussed programming for high school children and suggested that the industry involve teenagers in programming. Another participant discussed how strengthening the Children's Television Act impacted on the quality of programming. Vice President Gore then said that it is up to parents to choose the programs they want their children to watch and the V-chip will be a tool to aid them in their efforts.]

The President. First of all, I would like to thank all of you for being here, especially the young people. Thank you, doctor, it's good to see you again.

Dr. Phillips. Good to see you, Mr. President.

The President. I want to thank Tipper Gore when she first proposed a rating system for records it was considered heresy. And now she's lived and worked hard at this long enough to make it a matter of American conventional wisdom in television.

And let me say that for Hillary and for me, based on our experience over the last 15 or 20 years, maybe the most important reason to have this conversation today was the point that Catherine made when she first talked about her work for the V-chip, and that is that technology is intrinsically action-oriented, but neither intrinsically good nor bad. It depends on the values and the action of the people in control of the technology. And while this gives more—the V-chip and the ratings information will give more power to parents, it's utterly useless unless they use it.

And so what I'm hoping that this did today is to convince other people in other community settings and every community in our country to begin to discuss these matters and to begin to now, if their community does not have an advocacy group like the one you are involved in, perhaps to form one or at least figure out how friends and neighbors can get together and figure out how they're going to use this ratings information and figure out how they're going to use the V-chip as the V-chip comes in.

But I was glad to hear Mrs. Somson say what she did about this. You don't have to wait for the V-chip to make use of the ratings information. You know, most parents are still influenced—most children still have some influence about what their parents say, and parents are influenced by their children. So I just want to encourage that we need that every place in America.

But this law that was passed, and this remarkable effort by the industry will not amount to a hill of beans if the parents do not take action in their homes and if in each community the community activists who know how to make the most of this don't work with the parents to do it.

Thanks a lot. It's great to see you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the Vice President's Ceremonial Office, in the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Ted Turner, chief executive officer and president, Turner Broadcasting Service, Inc.

Proclamation 6867—Declaration of a National Emergency and Invocation of Emergency Authority Relating to the Regulation of the Anchorage and Movement of Vessels

March 1, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas, on February 24, 1996, Cuban military aircraft intercepted and destroyed two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba;

Whereas the Government of Cuba has demonstrated a ready and reckless willingness to use excessive force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty;

Whereas, on July 13, 1995, persons in U.S.-registered vessels who entered into Cuban territorial waters suffered injury as a result of the reckless use of force against them by the Cuban military; and

Whereas the entry of U.S.-registered vessels into Cuban territorial waters could again result in injury to, or loss of life of, persons engaged in that conduct, due to the potential use of excessive force, including deadly force, against them by the Cuban military, and could threaten a disturbance in international relations;

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of title II of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191), sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, find and do hereby proclaim that a national emergency does exist by reason of a disturbance or threatened disturbance of international relations. In order to address this national emergency and to secure the observance of the rights and obligations of the United States, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of Transportation (the "Secretary") to make and issue such rules and regulations as the Secretary may find appropriate to regulate the anchorage

and movement of vessels, and delegate to the Secretary my authority to approve such rules and regulations, as authorized by the Act of June 15, 1917.

Section 1. The Secretary may make rules and regulations governing the anchorage and movement of any vessel, foreign or domestic, in the territorial waters of the United States, which may be used, or is susceptible of being used, for voyage into Cuban territorial waters and that may create unsafe conditions and threaten a disturbance of international relations. Any rule or regulation issued pursuant to this proclamation may be effective immediately upon issuance as such rule or regulation shall involve a foreign affairs function of the United States.

Sec. 2. The Secretary is authorized to inspect any vessel, foreign or domestic, in the territorial waters of the United States, at any time; to place guards on any such vessel; and, with my consent expressly hereby granted, take full possession and control of any such vessel and remove the officers and crew, and all other persons not specifically authorized by the Secretary to go or remain on board the vessel when necessary to secure the rights and obligations of the United States.

Sec. 3. The Secretary may request assistance from such departments, agencies, officers, or instrumentalities of the United States as the Secretary deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this proclamation. Such departments, agencies, officers, or instrumentalities shall, consistent with other provisions of law and to the extent practicable, provide requested assistance.

Sec. 4. The Secretary may seek assistance from State and local authorities in carrying out the purposes of this proclamation. Because State and local assistance may be essential for an effective response to this emergency, I urge all State and local officials to cooperate with Federal authorities and to take all actions within their lawful authority necessary to prevent the unauthorized departure of vessels intending to enter Cuban territorial waters.

Sec. 5. All powers and authorities delegated by this proclamation to the Secretary may be delegated by the Secretary to other officers and agents of the United States Government unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Sec. 6. This proclamation shall be immediately transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Message to the Congress on Cuba

March 1, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 1 of title II of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, 50 U.S.C. 191 and sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, United States Code, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency in response to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba.

In the proclamation (copy attached), I have authorized and directed the Secretary of Transportation to make and issue such rules and regulations that the Secretary may find appropriate to prevent unauthorized U.S. vessels from entering Cuban territorial waters.

I have authorized these rules and regulations as a result of the Government of Cuba's demonstrated willingness to use reckless force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty. I have determined that the unauthorized departure of vessels intending to enter Cuban territorial waters could jeopardize the safety of certain U.S. citizens and other persons residing in the United States and threaten a disturbance of international relations. I have, accordingly,

declared a national emergency in response to these threats.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
March 1, 1996.

Proclamation 6868—Irish-American Heritage Month, 1996

March 1, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

I am pleased to count myself among the over 40 million Americans who can trace their heritage back to Ireland. Like so many of our forebears, immigrants from the Emerald Isle came to this country seeking dignity and prosperity, and they brought with them traditions rooted in the values of family and faith. Some arrived on our shores even before our Nation was founded, lending their energy to the establishment of our Republic; nine sons of Ireland signed the Declaration of Independence, and our first President, George Washington, proudly claimed Irish ancestry.

The largest wave of Irish immigration occurred 150 years ago, when more than 1 million people left Ireland for America as potato blight and famine devastated their homeland. These sons and daughters of Erin transformed our cities, stimulating industry and commerce from New York to Boston to Chicago. In pursuing the American Dream, they set an example of courage, hard work, and determination that was to be followed again and again by hopeful newcomers.

Today, Irish Americans celebrate this history and the contributions that their brethren have made to all aspects of American life—providing leadership in Government, the law, business, finance, literature, and the arts. Renewed interest in Gaelic culture has led to university courses in Irish studies, and hundreds of Saint Patrick's Day parades across the country attest to the vigor of Irish American communities. This month and throughout the year, let us recognize the gifts brought to America by children of Ireland

and honor the strengths they have added to our national character.

In tribute to all Irish Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 103-379, has designated March 1996 as "Irish-American Heritage Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1996 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:12 a.m., March 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Proclamation 6869—Save Your Vision Week, 1996

March 1, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Vision is a remarkable gift. Our eyes allow us to read, to see the faces of our loved ones, and to experience many of life's greatest pleasures. Too often, we take our sight for granted and must be reminded that our eyes require regular care and attention. The more we learn about preventing eye disease and vision loss, the better equipped we will be to take care of these vital organs.

Many young people suffer from vision-related learning disabilities that jeopardize their academic success. However, with early intervention, such sight problems are often easily correctable. Senior citizens, too, are

particularly vulnerable to eye difficulties, but we are fortunate that advances in medical research are improving our understanding of the diseases that often rob older Americans of their sight.

As a result of these new technologies and discoveries in the field of eye care, many diseases that would have caused permanent sight loss just decades ago can now be treated with excellent prospects for full recovery. For example, people with diabetes can reduce their risk of blindness with timely laser surgery, the effects of glaucoma can often be prevented, and studies are exploring the role of vitamins and minerals in slowing the progression of age-related macular degeneration and cataract.

To educate people about these strides and to encourage all Americans to protect their precious eyesight, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 169a), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 3 through March 9, 1996, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all the people of the United States to participate in this observance by making eye care and eye safety a priority and to recognize the important contributions that vision research makes to our lives. I invite eye care professionals, the media, and all public and private organizations committed to the goal of sight preservation to join in activities that educate our citizens about the simple steps they can take to save their vision.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:13 a.m., March 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

**Memorandum on Narcotics
Producing and Transit Countries**

March 1, 1996

Presidential Determination No. 96-13

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification for Major Narcotics
Producing and Transit Countries

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, ("the Act"), I hereby determine and certify that the following major drug producing and/or major drug transit countries/territories have cooperated fully with the United States, or taken adequate steps on their own, to achieve full compliance with the goals and objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances:

The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(B) of the Act, I hereby determine that it is in the vital national interests of the United States to certify the following countries:

Lebanon, Pakistan, and Paraguay.

Information on these countries, as required under section 490(b)(3) of the Act, is attached.

I have determined that the following major producing and/or major transit countries do not meet the standards set forth in section 490(b):

Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, Iran, Nigeria, and Syria.

I have made these determinations, taking into account the factors set forth in section 490 of the Act and based on the information contained in the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of 1996. Because the performance of these countries varies, I have attached an explanatory statement in each case.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress im-

mediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

**Message on the Observance of Saint
Patrick's Day, 1996**

March 1, 1996

Warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Saint Patrick's Day.

On this feast day of the patron saint of Ireland, we remember with gratitude the gifts of the Irish people. For generations, the sons and daughters of Ireland have come to America seeking a new life and a new freedom, bringing with them a deep faith in God, a profound love of liberty, and a determination to help shape the American Dream.

As soldiers and scholars, poets and Presidents, Irish Americans have enriched every facet of American society. Today we honor their many accomplishments, their vital contributions in building the cities, industries, and culture of America, and the long friendship and close ties between the United States and Ireland.

Like millions of Americans, I rejoice in my Irish heritage; and like millions of Americans, I pray for lasting peace in the land of our ancestors. We must not permit the process of reconciliation in Northern Ireland to be destroyed by those who are blinded by the hatreds of the past. As we pay tribute to Saint Patrick's enduring message of faith and courage, I salute the people of Ireland for their devotion to defeating the enemies of peace. In this age of hope and possibility, I am confident that their steadfast efforts will be rewarded with lasting tranquility and the blessings of a bright future.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday.

Bill Clinton

**Statement on the Food and Drug
Administration Approval of an
HIV/AIDS Drug**

March 1, 1996

Our national investment in AIDS research is paying off. Among scientists, as among many people living with HIV, despair is giv-

ing way to hope. We cannot stop now. We must recommit ourselves to finding a cure.

NOTE: The statement referred to the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the second protease inhibitor to treat HIV/AIDS.

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.

February 24

In the morning, the President traveled from Santa Monica to Long Beach, CA. In the afternoon, he traveled from Los Alamitos, CA, to Seattle, WA, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on worker retraining at Shoreline Community College. In the evening, the President departed for Washington, DC, arriving after midnight.

February 26

In the morning, the President met in the Oval Office with Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey, Director-Designate of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The President announced his intention to appoint John C. Culver, William H. Mauk, Jr., and Jane Slate Siena to the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel to the Commission of Fine Arts.

February 27

The President announced his intention to nominate David J. Barram as Administrator of the General Services Administration.

In the evening, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton attended a performance of "Les Miserables" at the National Theatre.

February 28

In the morning, the President met in the Oval Office with Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah of Kuwait. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sonia Perez as a member of the Advisory Council of the Border Environment Cooperation Commission.

March 1

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with the Commission on Roles and Capabilities of the U.S. Intelligence Community to receive its report.

In the evening, the President and Hillary and Chelsea Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

The President appointed Linda Jane Zack Tarr-Whelan as U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

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.

February 26

Christopher M. Coburn, of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Enrichment Corporation for a term expiring February 24, 2000, vice Greta Joy Dicus.

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 February 23¹

Transcript of a press briefing by Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific

¹ This release was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Affairs Winston Lord on the President's meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto of Japan

Released February 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released February 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the terrorist attacks in Israel and the downing of American civilian aircraft by Cuba

Released February 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the award of the Presidential Citizens Medal to Bernice Young Jones

Fact sheet on sanctions against Cuba in response to the downing of American civilian aircraft

Announcement of a letter from Chief of Staff Leon Panetta to Senator Bob Dole and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich on the debt limit

Released February 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Ginny Terzano and Deputy Press Secretary David Johnson

Released February 28

Transcripts of press briefings by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on National Security Adviser Anthony Lake's meeting with John Alderdice, leader of the Alliance Party in Northern Ireland

Announcement of the regional finalists for White House Fellowships

Released February 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Released March 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Mike McCurry

Statement by Press Secretary Mike McCurry on the President's meeting with the Commission on Roles and Capabilities of the U.S. Intelligence Community

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.