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Thank you very much.

Senator Trent Lott

Q. What do you think of Trent Lott taking over?

President Clinton. Congratulations to him.

NOTE: The President's 123d news conference began at 4:05 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. The President met with President Romano Prodi in his capacity as President of the European Council and President Jacques Santer of the European Commission. In his remarks, he referred to Bosnia Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic. STET is an acronym for the Societa Finanziaria Telefonica, S.p.A., an Italian telephone company.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Endowment for the Arts

June 12, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

It is my pleasure to transmit herewith the Annual Report of the National Endowment for the Arts for the fiscal year 1995.

On September 29, 1995, at the close of the fiscal year, the Arts Endowment celebrated its 30th anniversary. A young man or woman born at the same time as this Federal agency's establishment has enjoyed access to the arts and culture unparalleled in the history of the country. The National Endowment for the Arts has helped bring tens of thousands of artists into schools, teaching tens of millions of students about the power of the creative imagination. This small Federal agency has helped launch a national cultural network that has grown in size and quality these past 30 years.

This Annual Report is another chapter in a great success story. In these pages, you will find projects that bring the arts to people in every State and in thousands of communities from Putney, Vermont, to Mammoth Lakes, California. The difference art makes in our lives is profound; we see more clearly, listen more intently, and respond to our fellow man with deeper understanding and empathy.

In these challenging times, when some question the value of public support for the arts, we should reflect upon our obligation to the common good. The arts are not a luxury, but a vital part of our national character and our individual human spirit. The poet Langston Hughes said, "Bring me all of your dreams, you dreamers. Bring me all of your heart melodies. . ." For 30 years, the Arts Endowment has helped keep those dreams alive for our artists and our audiences. May it long continue to do so.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 12, 1996.

Statement on the Court Decision on the Communications Decency Act

June 12, 1996

The Justice Department is reviewing today's three judge panel court decision on the Communications Decency Act. The opinion just came down today, and the statute says we have 20 days to make an appeal.

I remain convinced, as I was when I signed the bill, that our Constitution allows us to help parents by enforcing this act to prevent children from being exposed to objectionable material transmitted through computer networks. I will continue to do everything I can in my administration to give families every available tool to protect their children from these materials. For example, we vigorously support the development and widespread availability of products that allow both parents and schools to block objectionable materials from reaching computers that children use. And we also support the industry's accelerating efforts to rate Internet sites so that they are compatible with these blocking techniques.

Remarks Welcoming President Mary Robinson of Ireland at Fort Myer, Virginia

June 13, 1996

President Robinson, Mr. Robinson, members of the Irish delegation. On behalf of the American people, let me begin by saying to President Robinson, *Ceade Mile Failte,* a hundred thousand welcomes.