

areas of the United States have caused significant reductions in feed grain supplies and severe hardship to livestock producers;

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 813 of the Agricultural Act of 1970 (7 U.S.C. 1427a) (the "Act"), do hereby find and proclaim that the extended drought in the Southwest and other natural disasters in other feed grain areas of the United States have resulted in a state of emergency and that the state of emergency warrants the release of the reserve established pursuant to section 813(a) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 1427a(a)). Accordingly, I hereby declare that such amounts of the reserve as determined necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture ("the Secretary") should be disposed of by the Secretary as authorized by the Act.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of July, 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., July 3, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 5.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Drought in Southern Plains States**

*July 1, 1996*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Today, I have proclaimed a State of Emergency due to the extended drought in the Southwest, and other natural disasters in feed grain-producing areas of the United States. The proclamation of a State of Emergency will permit the Secretary of Agriculture ("Secretary") to release feed grain supplies from the Disaster Reserve to assist livestock producers that have been greatly harmed by

the drought. The Secretary has prepared a plan that would implement the disposition of the feed grain supplies from the Disaster Reserve.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

### **Proclamation 6908—A National Month of Unity, 1996**

*July 1, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Our Nation was founded by people who sought the right to worship freely, and religious liberty is enshrined in our Constitution as the "first freedom" granted by our Bill of Rights. The United States is now the most multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracy in history, and we must preserve this precious freedom while making the most of our diversity. Ours is a great and noble struggle to make our national voice a chorus of unity—varied by differing intonations, but carried and lifted by a rich harmony.

The recent rash of arson attacks against black churches and other houses of worship is a stark reminder that our work to build common ground is far from over and that our progress can be threatened by forces that tear at the very fabric of our society. It is hard to think of a more heinous act than the destruction of a sacred structure. The violence that charred and defaced these buildings challenges our fundamental right to worship in safety, and has left us grim emblems of the hatred and alienation that too often darken our daily experience.

And so we must look into our hearts as America approaches the new century, pledging to devote our energies to reinvigorating the shared values that will enable us to embrace the future together. We must never go back to the terrible days of racial and ethnic division, nor can we afford to dismiss our problems by ascribing them to isolated groups or areas of the country. Instead, let