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worked with the airline industry to identify and correct safety problems. We hired more than 200 safety inspectors, and we're budgeted for 258 more. We've issued uniform safety standards. We began field testing new high-tech explosive detection machines in San Francisco and Atlanta. And we very much hope we can work through the problems with those machines and bring them on-line in all airports in the near future. We significantly increased security vigilance at our airports. And the FAA created a new Government and industry panel to review and improve airport security and airline security.

Today I'm announcing new measures to increase the safety and security of air travel. First, I have ordered the Secretary of Transportation to issue new directives on airline security that cover international and domestic flights and apply to passengers and to cargo. From now on, we will hand-search more luggage and screen more bags. And we will require preflight inspections for any plane flying to or from the United States, every plane, every cabin, every cargo hold, every time.

Second, I have asked Vice President Gore to take charge of a commission to review aviation safety, security, and the pace of modernization of the air traffic control system, a subject that he and his reinventing Government task force have been working on for more than 3 years now. The Gore commission will work with the National Transportation Safety Board, the Departments of Transportation and Justice, industry advisory groups, and concerned nongovernmental organizations. The Vice President will report his initial findings of aviation security to me in 45 days, including an action plan to deploy new high-technology inspection machines that can detect the most sophisticated explosives.

I want to stress again, we do not know why TWA Flight 800 crashed. If it proves to be a mechanical failure, additional safety measures may be required. If it proves to be a criminal act, other security steps may be required. Whatever needs to be done, we will do it. I will use the full powers of the Presidency. And if congressional authorization is required, I am certain we will have full bipartisan congressional support.

The steps we are taking today and others we may take in the future could increase the inconvenience and the expense of air travel. I want the American people to know that up front. We'll do everything we can to minimize these costs, but the safety and security of the American people must be our top priority.

We're privileged to live in a time of great possibility and great opportunities for mobility for our people and people throughout the world. But we know that these times are not free of peril. Our responsibility now as Americans is to pull together and work together to solve the problems of tragedies like TWA Flight 800; to support their families with our thoughts, our prayers, and where we can, our tangible support; and to do whatever is necessary to look out for the security and the safety of the American people and its aviation system.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in Hangar 12 at the John F. Kennedy International Airport.

Statement on Senate Action on Health Care and Minimum Wage Legislation

July 25, 1996

I am pleased that the Senate has broken the gridlock and appointed conferees to deal with two of my highest priorities to help working families: health care and the minimum wage. I commend the leadership of both parties who have diligently worked to reach this point.

The Kassebaum-Kennedy bill will allow American workers the security of knowing that they will not lose their health coverage if they change their jobs. We now have the opportunity to move forward and enact real health insurance reform this year.

Raising the minimum wage for millions of America's hardest workers is also the right thing to do. Working parents simply cannot support a family on $4.25 an hour.

I urge the conferees to take swift action on these two important measures before the

August recess. America's working families deserve nothing less.

Proclamation 6910—National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, 1996

July 25, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Forty-three years ago, a negotiated cease-fire ended 3 years of open warfare on the Korean peninsula. This cease-fire came after more than 54,000 American deaths and the capture of thousands of our brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines. For those who returned home, the armistice brought mixed emotions—too many of their comrades-in-arms remained prisoners of war or missing in action, and the importance of this Cold War conflict was yet to be fully understood.

Today, as the United States and South Korea maintain a strong partnership and democracy continues to sweep the globe, we remember the extraordinary sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform during the Korean conflict, and we pay tribute to their courage and their commitment to freedom. As American service men and women support the cause of peace around the world, we honor the proud legacy of our Korean War veterans who gave of themselves so that others might live in liberty. And as a testament to their proud and selfless service and sacrifice, the Korean War Veterans Memorial stands today in our Nation's Capital.

The Congress, by Public Law 104–19 (36 U.S.C. 169m) has designated July 27, 1996, as ''National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day'' and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 27, 1996, as National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. I call upon Government officials, educators, and the American people to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that recognize and give thanks to our Nation's distinguished Korean War veterans. I also ask Federal departments and agencies, interested groups, organizations, and individuals to fly the American flag at half-staff on July 27, 1996 in memory of the Americans who died as a result of their service in Korea.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth 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 twenty-first.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:29 a.m., July 26, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 26, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 29.

Proclamation 6911—Parents' Day, 1996

July 25, 1996

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

No job presents greater challenges, demands broader responsibilities, or promises more profound rewards than parenthood. Parents are daily caretakers and lifelong role models. They guide us and share the values and lessons that enable us to grow and flourish. Throughout our lives, we remember our parents' example, recognizing that their joys and aspirations, triumphs and disappointments, have shaped our experience and given us meaningful direction.

Our Nation has always depended on strong families, and we must continue to do all we can to help hardworking men and women shoulder the duties of parenthood. It is vital to support today's parents, to honor those who have taught us so much, and to impress upon young people the awesome responsibility of parenthood.

On this day and throughout the year, let us take time to celebrate the special, enduring bond between parents and children. Foster parents and stepparents, biological and adoptive mothers and fathers—all deserve our respect and gratitude. Parents open their