

And that's what it is our obligation to do, because that little boy—I'll keep that picture with me until the day I die of that kid standing by the fireplace. And I'll remember that our obligation is to all those little boys that can still stand in front of the fireplace on holidays and have those pictures taken. And if we do that, this country is going to be just fine.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Jeffrey H. Erickson, president and CEO of Trans World Airlines and dinner cochair; Jean Carnahan, wife of Governor Mel Carnahan; and Becky Cook, secretary of state, and Bob Holden, State treasurer, Missouri. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Memorandum on Employees Affected by Hurricane Fran and its Aftermath**

*September 10, 1996*

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*

*Subject: Excused Absence for Employees Affected by Hurricane Fran and its Aftermath*

I am deeply concerned about the devastating losses caused by Hurricane Fran and the impact on the well-being and livelihood of our fellow Americans who have been affected by this disaster. Elements of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster.

As part of this effort, I request heads of executive departments and agencies who have Federal civilian employees in the areas designated as disaster areas because of the effects of Hurricane Fran and its aftermath to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is faced with a personal emergency because of this storm and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up

efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 11.

### **Remarks to the Regional Meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology September 11, 1996**

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to this regional meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology. I'm sorry I can't be there with you. But our administration is very well represented by my Science Adviser, Jack Gibbons, and Fred Hansen, Sherri Goodman, and Al Alm, and I thank them all for being there.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Governor Romer for working with Jack to host this event and to thank Ralph Peterson and the other Colorado industry leaders who have worked so hard to put this meeting together.

I know that you're very committed both to promoting economic growth and job creation in Colorado and protecting your priceless environment. And by deploying a new generation of innovative environmental technologies and building a world-leading environmental industry, you know that you can do both. Promoting the development and deployment of new environmental technologies by American industry enables you to do a better job of cleaning up and protecting the environment at lower cost. And by strengthening the United States environmental technology industry, of course, an industry that already has created more than 1.2 million high-wage and high-skill jobs for American workers, you're making America's economy and our environment stronger. And of course, you're especially helping Colorado.

I'm very pleased that there are so many industry, environmental, and State and local government leaders here today working together to make this happen. I look forward to hearing your recommendations. And again, I want to thank Jack Gibbons and the