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night, and I hope the Senate will do the same before it adjourns for the year.

Statement on Signing the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997

September 30, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3675, the ''Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997.''

The Act provides $35.5 billion in funding for the Department of Transportation and several smaller agencies, including the National Transportation Safety Board. The bill is consistent with my request in most key areas.

I am pleased that the Congress fully funded my request for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety programs. This bill, together with the FY 1997 omnibus appropriations bill that I have also signed, provides an increase of $286 million over fiscal 1996 for FAA operations. The FAA manages the world's largest and safest aviation system.

To address the recent tragic aviation incidents, I asked Vice President Gore to chair a Commission on Aviation Security and report back with recommendations for improving aviation security. I am pleased that in the omnibus appropriations bill, the Congress fully funds my request of $201 million for the Department of Transportation to implement the Vice President's September 9 recommendations.

The Act includes $150 million to capitalize my proposed new State Infrastructure Banks (SIBs). It also lifts the limit on the number of banks, allowing all States to apply. SIBs are an innovative use of private sector financing ideas that will permit States to leverage infrastructure investment.

I am particularly pleased that the Congress, in the omnibus appropriations bill, fully funded my request for the Alameda Corridor project, which connects the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, California. This intermodal project will speed the transportation of goods from these ports throughout the country and will also help sustain our Nation's competitive edge in Pacific Rim trade.

The Act provides funding for most of the Department's high-priority programs. I commend the Congress for not including any new earmarked highway projects. States can better determine how to use these funds to meet their transportation infrastructure priorities.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
September 30, 1996.

NOTE: H.R. 3675, approved September 30, was assigned Public Law No. 104–205. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 1.

Statement on Welfare Reform Initiatives

September 30, 1996

Today, I am pleased to announce two important steps my administration is taking to continue our progress in making work and responsibility the law of the land.

First, today we have given the green light to the first two States to submit their State plans under the new law—Wisconsin and Michigan. Both States will receive funding under the new welfare block grant for FY 1997 as well as part of FY 1996, and will now come under all the requirements of the new welfare law, including the work requirements and the 5-year lifetime limit on welfare receipt. Both States no longer need an AFDC waiver to carry out their welfare reform plans.

I am especially pleased by this action, because as I have said before, Wisconsin's plan to replace the broken AFDC system with a system based on work is one of the boldest, most revolutionary welfare reform plans in the country. I am delighted to see it move forward. Michigan is also embarking on an innovative plan to reward and require work and demand responsibility. I congratulate both States for recognizing what all Americans agree on: Welfare reform is first and foremost about work.

Second, tomorrow we will release the first allotment of child care funds to the States. I fought hard for the increased child care

funding in the new law, because I believe that child care is essential to move people from welfare to work. Under the provisions we fought for, funding in the new child care block grant for States will increase this year from $1.3 billion to $1.9 billion. That means States will receive $600 million more for child care this year than they would have received without the new law.

These steps build on the progress we have already made over the last 4 years to reform welfare and crack down on child support enforcement. Since I took office, the welfare rolls have dropped by 1.9 million; child support collections have increased by nearly 50 percent to a record $11.8 billion; and last year's decline in the number of Americans in poverty was the largest one-year drop in 27 years. I am determined to keep working to make sure these trends continue moving in the right direction.

Memorandum on the Drawdown of Defense Department Commodities, Services, and Training for the Economic Community of West African States' Peacekeeping Force

September 30, 1996

Presidential Determination No. 96–56

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense

Subject: Determination to Authorize the Drawdown of Commodities, Services, and Training from the Department of Defense for the Economic Community of West African States' Peacekeeping Force (ECOMOG) Under Section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2348(c)(2) (''the Act''), I hereby determine that:

(1) as a result of an unforeseen emergency, the provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act in amounts in excess of funds otherwise available for such assistance is important to the national interests of the United States; and

(2) such unforeseen emergency requires the immediate provision of assistance under Chapter 6 of Part II of the Act.

I therefore direct the drawdown from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense of an aggregate value not to exceed $10 million in commodities and services to provide assistance to states currently participating (Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Mali), and for those states that may in the future participate, in ECOMOG to enhance ECOMOG's peacekeeping capabilities to bring about a peaceful solution to the crisis in Liberia.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Statement on Signing the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1997

September 30, 1996

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3816, the ''Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1997.''

The Act provides $20 billion in discretionary budget authority for programs of the Department of Energy (DOE), portions of the Interior and Defense Departments, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and several smaller agencies.

The Act provides $11.4 billion for atomic energy defense programs, $0.3 billion above my request. I am disappointed that the Congress has funded unrequested increases for nuclear weapons management and related programs, while curtailing investments in important civilian activities. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the Act will provide for a significantly enhanced Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship and Management program that will continue DOE's strong commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of the nuclear weapons stockpile. This Act will also enable the Defense Environmental Restoration and Waste Management program to aggressively address the environmental legacy of previous weapons activities.