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So I ask you this. You gave me a chance to serve again; now let's get behind a common goal: to raise our standards to the highest in the world in education and to believe that every one of our children can learn and to commit ourselves to a future more brilliant than our glorious past and to know that the way we're going to do it is one child at a time. I'll do my part. You do yours, and we'll all be celebrating when 2000 rolls around.

God bless you, and thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. at Benedum Airport in Bridgeport, West Virginia. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. Gaston Caperton of West Virginia; Mayor Carl E. Furbee of Bridgeport; Mayor Robert T. Flynn of Clarksburg; Secretary of State Ken Hechler; State Attorney General Darrell McGraw, Jr.; State Treasurer John Perdue; State Auditor Glen Gainer III; State Agriculture Secretary Gus Douglass; Speaker of the House of Delegates Robert Kiss; State Senate President Earl Ray Tomblin; State Senate Majority Leader H. Truman Chafin; and Mary Frances Smith, who sang the national anthem.

Statement by the President on Supplemental Emergency Legislation for Disaster Assistance

May 22, 1997

I urge the Congress not to leave for Memorial Day recess without sending me a clean, emergency supplemental bill that provides the disaster assistance upon which hundreds of thousands of Americans are depending. The people of 33 States are waiting for the Congress to act. In recent weeks, we have witnessed extraordinary destruction in the Dakotas and Minnesota matched only by the courage with which residents of these States have faced their plight. The Congress owes it to them to pass a clean bill and send it to me for my signature.

Proclamation 7006—Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 1997

May 22, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The observance of Memorial Day is one of America's noblest traditions. At its core lies the most basic of the beliefs on which our Nation was founded: that freedom is so precious it is worth the price of our lives to preserve it.

Throughout our history, we have been blessed by the courage and commitment of Americans who were willing to pay that price, and more than 1.3 million of them have died for our Nation. From Lexington and Concord to Iwo Jima and the Persian Gulf, on fields of battle across America and around the world, our men and women in uniform have risked—and lost—their lives to protect America's interests, to advance the ideals of democracy, and to defend the liberty we hold so dear.

This spirit of selfless sacrifice is an unbroken thread woven through our history. Wherever they came from, whenever they served, our fallen heroes knew they were fighting to preserve our freedom. On Memorial Day we remember them, and we acknowledge that we stand as a great, proud, and free Nation because of their devotion.

But this is not the only day on which we honor their service and sacrifice. Whenever we lend our hearts and hands and voices to the work of peace in the world, whenever we show respect for the flag, cast a vote in an election, or exercise our freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship, we honor our fellow Americans who guaranteed those freedoms with their lives.

In respect and recognition of these courageous men and women, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950 (64 Stat. 158), requested that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe each Memo-

rial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the American people might unite in prayer.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 26, 1997, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11:00 a.m. of that day as a time to join in prayer. I urge the press, radio, television, and all other information media to take part in this observance.

I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff during this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control, and I request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, 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, 10:59 a.m., May 23, 1997]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 27.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 18

In the morning, the President traveled to Baltimore, MD, and he returned to Washington, DC, in the evening.

May 19

The President announced his intention to nominate Catherine Woteki for Under Secretary for Food Safety at the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirley Robinson Watkins to be Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services at the Department of Agriculture.

May 20

The President announced his intention to nominate David J. Scheffer as Ambassador at Large for War Crimes Issues at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate James W. Pardew as U.S. Representative for Military Stabilization in the Balkans with the rank of Ambassador at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ambassador Peter Burleigh as Deputy Representative of the U.S. to the United Nations with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

May 21

The President announced his intention to nominate John Christian Kornblum as Ambassador to Germany.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marc Grossman as the Assistant Secretary for European and Canadian Affairs.

May 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Clarksburg, WV, and he returned to Washington, DC, in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate David R. Andrews as Legal Adviser at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen R. Sestanovich as Ambassador at Large and Special Adviser to the Secretary of State on the New Independent States at the State Department.

May 23

The President announced his intention to nominate James Phillip Rubin as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the State Department.