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Line Item Veto

Q. Would you use the first line item veto on the tax bill?

The President. You go back and read that legislation; that was a battle over legislation—they were very artful, the Congress was, in kind of limiting the extent to which the President can use it on a tax bill. It's different. The options on spending are broader than the options on the tax bill. So I'll have to look at that.

I hope I don't have to use it at all. I hope we just make a good agreement; that's my goal.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:32 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. H.R. 956, approved June 27, was assigned Public Law No. 105–20.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

June 27, 1997

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Q. Sir, do you have any sympathy for Australia's position on greenhouse gas emissions?

The President. The Prime Minister was just expressing sympathy with ours. [*Laughter*] We're going to talk about it today. I think we have to do something. I think it's a serious problem. But we've all got to—you know, what you want is everybody making a good effort. We don't want to falsely compare one person's circumstance to another. We've got from now to Kyoto to find a solution; I think we will.

Q. Sir, is differentiation the answer?

The President. I want to make sure I know what I am answering when I give an answer.

Q. Different targets for different countries, sir, is that the answer?

The President. I don't want to say yet; I want to have time to look through this and make a judgment.

Q. Do you think Australia and the U.S. can meet on this, then?

The President. I certainly hope so. I hope we can all meet in Kyoto on it. It's what I'm working for.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—on the developing nations?

Q. Will you be discussing China today and U.S. engagement in the region?

The President. Just a minute. I think the developing nations should be part of it. And I think that—we believe we can demonstrate that the developing nations can continue to grow their economies rapidly and still adopt responsible, sustainable development policies. That's what behind our Export-Import Bank loan policy. It's what behind what Mr. Wolfensohn is doing at the World Bank. We can get there.

What did you say about Asia?

U.S. Engagement in Asia

Q. Will you be discussing the U.S. engagement in Asia?

The President. Absolutely, a lot.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Q. Mr. Howard, do you think you can talk the President around?

Prime Minister Howard. Well, I don't think it's a question of talking around. I think the Australian position is quite well known. We want to play a part; we don't expect a free ride. But we've argued for some kind of differentiation, because different countries are in different situations. And the concern Australia had was that the Group of Eight meeting in Denver might have preempted the outcome of the Kyoto Summit. And that clearly is not happening. And I get a lot of encouragement from the remarks that were made by the President yesterday in New York. And I think that is the basis of an understanding. I'd like to see Australia and the United States work together on it. We have a concern about domestic jobs, and I'm sure the United States does, too.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 1:20 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Apprehension of Indicted War Criminal Slavko Dokmanovic

June 27, 1997

I welcome the news that Slavko Dokmanovic, an indicted war criminal, has been apprehended by investigators for the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), working with the UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia (UNTAES). Dokmanovic was one of a group of suspected war criminals who are under sealed indictment. He has been transported to The Hague. He will stand trial there for his role in the beatings and executions of Croation soldiers and civilians taken from a hospital in Vukovar in November 1991.

I congratulate the ICTY and UNTAES on their successful apprehension. The United States continues to support fully the work of the Tribunal to bring indicted war criminals to justice. Cooperation with the Tribunal by all the parties is a cornerstone of the Dayton Accords.

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.

June 20 [1]

The President announced his intention to appoint Jake Steinfeld as a member of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

June 21

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton had dinner with Summit of the Eight leaders at the Fort Restaurant in Denver, CO. Later, they joined summit leaders for an evening of entertainment at the Western Event Complex.

June 22

In the afternoon, the President traveled to San Francisco, CA, arriving in the evening.

June 23

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Los Angeles, CA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with the family of Betty Shabazz to offer his condolences regarding her death.

In the evening, the President attended a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving the following morning.

The President announced his intention to nominate Saul Ramirez, Jr., to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jamie Rappaport Clark as Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

June 24

The President announced his intention to nominate Ambassador Martin Indyk as the Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Orent and Larry Schumann as members of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee.

The President appointed 11 men and 4 women from 10 States and the District of Columbia as 1997–1998 White House Fellows.

June 25

In the morning, the President traveled to Nashville, TN, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Chicago, IL. In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Hope, AR.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rudy F. de Leon to be the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

The President announced his intention to nominate M.D.B. Carlisle and Darryl R.

[1] This release was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.