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Week Ending Friday, March 27, 1998

Statement on Andrew F. Brimmer's Service to the District of Columbia Financial Control Board

March 20, 1998

Dr. Andrew Brimmer has contributed his considerable skills, energy, and commitment to the effort to restore the District of Columbia to financial health. Today we can say the District has started down the path toward fiscal discipline and responsibility.

The First Lady and I, along with the entire administration, would like to thank Dr. Brimmer for all he has done on behalf of the District. We are pleased that he has been able to meet his commitment to the administration to serve a 3-year term. His work for the District is the capstone of a long and distinguished career of public service.

We are grateful for Dr. Brimmer's service in this endeavor, which, at times, has been a difficult undertaking. Having worked with him during this period, I personally would like to offer Dr. Brimmer my sincere thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Tornado Disaster in Georgia

March 20, 1998

Today I spoke with Governor Zell Miller to express my concern over the tornado that hit Georgia early this morning. Hillary and I are deeply saddened to learn of the individuals who lost their lives in this tragic disaster.

I have asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to add the counties of Hall, White, Habersham, Dawson, and Rabun as disaster areas to the existing disaster declaration I issued for Georgia on March 11th. This action will allow victims of this tragedy to apply for Federal funds. I have also asked FEMA Director James Lee Witt to lead a Federal team to Georgia to inspect the damage and report back to me.

Labor Secretary Alexis Herman has approved a grant of up to $3 million to assist workers who lost jobs. The money will help to create temporary jobs to assist in cleanup, repair, and restoration efforts. In addition, FEMA has begun working on a long-term recovery plan for Georgia.

I want to assure the people of Georgia that this administration is committed to ensuring a speedy recovery from this tornado. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by this extraordinary natural disaster.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

March 21, 1998

Good morning. Today I want to talk about Social Security and how all of us can ensure that one of the greatest achievements of this century continues to serve our people well into the next.

These are good times for America. We have 15 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 24 years, the lowest core inflation in 30 years, the highest homeownership in history. Over the past 5 years, we've reduced the size of Government and nearly eliminated the budget deficit—even as we've expanded opportunities for education, strengthened our families, invested in our people.

But this is no time to rest. It's a time to build. Last month I sent to Congress the first balanced budget in a generation. Instead of deficits, America can now look forward to $1 trillion in surpluses over the next 10 years. But as I said in the State of the Union, we must not spend a penny of this surplus until we have saved Social Security first.

For 60 years, Social Security has meant more than an ID number on a tax form, more