

legislation. But to answer this, why is this different, for one thing, the divisions in the campaign finance reform are both not only divisions—they're divisions of party and also divisions of incumbency and non-incumbency. And then they're honest differences of opinion about what would work and wouldn't—all kinds of problems—and complicated by Supreme Court decisions and a zillion other things.

But the other thing is, frankly, every Member of Congress that really doesn't want to pass it knows that the Republic will go on and that the system we have is capable of producing significant positive change; witness the Balanced Budget Act and the fact that we've had the biggest increase in aid to higher education in 50 years and the biggest increase in coverage of children's health insurance in 35 years. So people know that this system can be made to function.

The Members of Congress in both parties know that at some point in the future Social Security will stop functioning, with grievous consequences to the fabric of American life that affect people who are Republicans and Democrats and independents, in all walks of life, with all manner of circumstances. And basically, there's enough patriotism in the Congress to want to address it. That's the honest truth. It's an issue of our survival as a people, our unity as a people, and the innate patriotism of the people that are serving. That's why I believe it will happen.

What I think will happen, what I want to see is that we will spend the time between now and December trying to answer the question this gentleman had: How can we get out this information to people? We also want you to become more familiar, so you can answer questions for yourselves. If you had to choose, for example, between a faster movement to a higher retirement age or an individual savings account or, you know, raising the cap on income or all these choices they're going to have to make, what choices would you make and why? And how would you answer the other charges? This ought to be a big national debate. There is no other program that affects so many of you in such an intimate, personal way.

And then what I believe will happen is all these Members will have lots of forums in

their own States. They'll listen to their own people. They'll listen to these experts. You're going to see 100 or more articles written by people like our panelists here, coming up with new refinements on ideas, analyzing the proposals that Senator Kerrey and others have made.

And then in December, in January, we'll sit down and come up with the best possible solution. It won't please everybody 100 percent, but it will save Social Security for the 21st century, and it will make us a stronger, more united country. And then I think the Congress will come in and pass it because it is the right thing to do.

That may seem naive, and I may be old-fashioned, but I'm more idealistic today than I was the day that I took the Oath of Office. That's what I think will happen. And I think you will make it possible, because you'll support people like these folks who will do the right thing by your children and your future.

Thank you.

NOTE: The discussion began at 2:16 p.m. at the Penn Valley Community College. The panel included Senators J. Robert Kerrey and Rick Santorum; Representatives Kenny C. Hulshof and Earl Pomeroy; Marilyn Moon, senior fellow, Urban Institute; Gary Burtless, senior fellow, economic studies, Brookings Institute; David Walker, trustee, Social Security and Medicare Trust Fund; and Fred Goldberg, former executive director, Commission on Social Security and Entitlements.

Statement on the Death of Tammy Wynette

April 7, 1998

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of Tammy Wynette. For more than 30 years, Tammy Wynette defined the Nashville sound that helped to make American country western music popular all over the world. Her string of number one hits has¹ filled music halls, homes, and radio waves—and her trademark style has¹ filled our hearts and made her a legend. From the Mississippi cotton fields where she worked as a child, to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry where she presided as the First Lady of Country Music, Tammy

¹ White House correction.

Wynette was an American original, and we will miss her.

Executive Order 13079—Waiver Under the Trade Act of 1974 With Respect to Vietnam

April 7, 1998

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (“Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2432(c)(2)), which continues to apply to Vietnam pursuant to section 402(d) of the Act, and having made the report to the Congress required by section 402(c)(2) of the Act, I hereby waive the application of sections 402(a) and 402(b) of the Act with respect to Vietnam.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
April 7, 1998.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 8, 1998]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Proclamation 7078—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 1998

April 7, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As a new century of great promise and possibility approaches, as science and technology advance at astonishing rates, it is clear that now, more than ever, education is the key to our children’s future.

We should also recognize that education must serve not only as a path to knowledge, but also as a means to develop the character of our Nation’s youth. When expanding educational opportunities, we must ensure that in addition to raising academic standards, we emphasize values, personal responsibility, and community spirit.

A firm believer in nurturing both mind and heart, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi

Menachem M. Schneerson, devoted his life to helping young people realize their potential and become visionary leaders and thinkers, as well as concerned, caring, and productive citizens. He established more than 2,000 educational and social institutions in more than 40 States and nearly 60 countries. He was deeply committed to fostering civic pride and moral integrity along with professional success.

On this day, as we remember Rabbi Schneerson’s achievements, let us reaffirm our commitment to providing our Nation’s children with an education that will enable them to flourish, both intellectually and spiritually.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 7, 1998, as Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A. I invite Government officials, educators, volunteers, and all of the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activities, programs, and ceremonies.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of April, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 8, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Most-Favored-Nation Status for Vietnam

April 7, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to subsection 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, (hereinafter the “Act”), I have issued an Executive order waiving the application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act with respect to Vietnam.