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I remain committed to using every power of my office to protect children from the dangers of tobacco. Through these actions, we can use the industry's darkest secrets to save a new generation of children from this deadly habit.

William J. Clinton

Remarks on Arrival at Little Rock Air Force Base in Jacksonville, Arkansas

July 17, 1998

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, General. First let me say I am delighted to be back home. I'm glad to be with your Congressman, Vic Snyder, and our Secretary of Transportation, Rodney Slater. They're doing a great job for you. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming out to make me welcome, and thank all of you for coming out.

I want to spend most of my time just saying hello to people in the crowd, but let me just make a couple of points. First of all, I am so grateful to the people of Arkansas for all that you did to give me a chance to serve as President. And I hope you take a certain amount of personal pride in the role you played when you read every day the news of our country's progress.

I'm very grateful that I had a chance to serve in a time when, working together, we've got the lowest crime rate in 25 years, the lowest unemployment rate in 28 years, the first balanced budget in 29 years, the lowest welfare rolls in 29 years, the lowest inflation rate in 32 years, and the highest homeownership in the history of America. I'm proud of that. You should be proud of that.

I'm also very, very proud of the work that America is doing, and the role that the people who serve at this base have in it, in advancing peace and freedom and prosperity and security around the world. And I know you have some folks overseas right now doing important missions—we thank them for that.

I also want to know that I consider the training mission of this base vital, and I'm very pleased with the Air Force report, which has been embraced by the Defense Department, to continue the important mission of the base here, and I will support that. I know you will too. Thank you for what you do every day.

Now, let me say one of the things that the President cannot do anything about, at least in the short run, is the heat. [*Laughter*] So I think it's time to stop the speeches and start the greeting, so you can get out of here before anything too bad happens.

But I'm glad to be back. Thank you. Thank you for everything. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. on the Little Rock Air Force Base flight line. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Jack R. Holbein, USAF, Commander, 314th Airlift Wing; and Mayor Tommy Swaim of Jacksonville, AR. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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.

July 11

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended a concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts honoring the 200th anniversary of the Marine Corps Band.

July 13

In the afternoon, the President had a luncheon with Senator Thomas A. Daschle and Representative Richard A. Gephardt in the Oval Office Dining Room.

The President announced his intention to nominate Karl J. Sandstrom to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Christopher W.S. Ross for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the State Department.

July 14

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles R. Rawls to serve as General Counsel at the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mike Walker to serve as Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate George M. Staples as Ambassador to Rwanda.

July 15

The President announced his intention to nominate John J. Pikarski, Jr., to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

July 16

In the morning, the President met with President Emil Constantinescu of Romania in the Oval Office. Later, he attended a meeting with National Security Adviser Samuel Berger and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana in Mr. Berger's office at the White House. In the evening, he traveled to Chevy Chase, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Hawke, Jr., to serve as Comptroller of the Currency at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Melvin Yates to be Ambassador to Cameroon.

July 17

In the morning, the President attended an American Legion Boys Nation reunion reception in the State Dining Room at the White House. In the afternoon, he traveled to Little Rock, AR.

The President announced his intention to nominate Romulo L. Diaz, Jr., to serve as Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Charles Fox to serve as Assistant Administrator for Water at the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia T. Montoya to serve as Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 14

Bill Richardson,
of New Mexico, to be Secretary of Energy, vice Federico Peña, resigned.

Submitted July 15

Charles R. Rawls,
of North Carolina, to be General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, vice James S. Gilliland, resigned.

George McDade Staples,
of Kentucky, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Rwanda.

Robert M. Walker,
of Tennessee, to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, vice Harvey G. Ryland, resigned.

Submitted July 16

John D. Hawke, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of 5 years, vice Eugene Allan Ludwig, resigned.

John Melvin Yates,
of Washington, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cameroon.