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what could have been done. But this should be a wake-up call for all parents. We can never take our children for granted. We must never let the lines of communication, no matter how frayed, be broken altogether. Our children need us, even if they don't know it sometimes.

This terrible tragedy must not be an occasion for silence. This weekend I ask all parents, if they have not already done so, to sit down and talk to their children about what happened at Littleton and what is happening in their schools and their lives.

If we are not careful, when our children move through their teen years and begin to create their own separate lives, the bustle and burden of our daily lives can cause families to drift too far apart, to ignore the still-strong needs of children for genuine concern and guidance and honest conversation. This is sometimes the hardest thing of all, but it is vital, and lives depend on it.

Finally, I ask students to do more to help each other. Next week, if you have not already done so, I ask every student in America to look for someone at school who is not in your group. You know, there have always been different crowds in schools, and there always will be. This, too, is an inevitable part of growing up and finding your own path through life. But it should not be an occasion for disrespect or hostility in our schools. After all, our children are all on the same journey, even if they're trying to chart different paths. And this can be profoundly important in building a safer future.

The spirit of America can triumph in this troubling moment, and I am convinced it will. But we must build the energy and will and passion of our country and the fundamental goodness of our people into a grassroots movement to turn away from violence and to give all our children the safe and wholesome childhoods they richly deserve.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Statement on the National Economy

April 30, 1999

Today we received more good news for America's working families about our economy. In the first quarter of this year, the U.S. economy expanded at a robust 4.5 percent annual rate. Driven by high investment and vigorous consumer demand, America's expansion continues to grow steady and strong.

Strong growth, high investment, low inflation, and low unemployment are a winning combination and more evidence that we should stick with an economic strategy that has helped usher in a new era of prosperity for the American people.

Memorandum on Emergency Refugee Admissions Consultations Relating to Kosovars

April 30, 1999

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: FY 1999 Emergency Refugee Admissions Consultations Relating to Kosovars

In accordance with section 207(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(b)), you are authorized to consult with the appropriate committees of the Congress concerning the authorization of 20,000 emergency refugee admissions during FY 1999, which would be allocated to Europe for the purpose of admitting Kosovar refugees to the United States.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

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.

April 25

The President had a telephone conversation with President Boris Yeltsin of Russia on Russian Foreign Minister Victor Chernomyrdin's mission to Belgrade.

April 26

The President announced his intention to appoint David Ibarra to be a member of the U.S. Air Force Academy, Board of Visitors.

April 27

The President named Lloyd N. Cutler as Senior White House Representative on Pacific Salmon to coordinate U.S. strategy for Pacific salmon treaty negotiations with Canada.

The President declared an emergency in Florida and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by fire hazards on April 15 and continuing.

April 29

The President announced his intention to appoint Eric Lander and Ruth Patrick to be members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science.

The President announced his intention to appoint Felix Sanchez to be a member of the Community Adjustment and Investment Program Advisory Committee.

April 30

The President announced his intention to appoint Walter Parker as the Academic Representative to the Arctic Research Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Raben to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to appoint Earl S. Richardson to serve as Chair and Willis B. McLeod to serve as a member of the President's Board of Advisers on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

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 April 27

Joyce E. Leader,
of the District of Columbia, 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 Guinea.

Submitted April 30

Frank H. McCarthy
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, vice Thomas Rutherford Brett, retired.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements

Released April 22 [1]

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's decision to seek a delay in the destruction of the declared stocks of smallpox virus

Released April 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger on the North Atlantic Council meeting on Kosovo

Statement by the Press Secretary on the White House homepage link to a site with information on the NATO 50th Anniversary Summit

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