

up, and there he is with his weapon pointed at me, and I thought: This would be a heck of a note for the Secret Service. [Laughter] “Clinton killed by agent protecting the President.” [Laughter] That poor—I think he still has nightmares about that. [Laughter]

We’re all laughing about it, but this is a hard job. And it’s an important job. And it’s important, the protections that are provided to other people and all the other things the Secret Service does, and I want to say more about that in a moment. But especially, I want everyone to know—I want Larry and Donny and all the people on PPD and all their predecessors to know how profoundly grateful I am for the way my wife and my daughter and I have been treated and genuinely cared for and protected, whether we like it or not. It has made an enormous degree of difference in the confidence with which I think the American people can express toward their Government, and we are all in your debt.

I also want to thank you for naming this building after the 32 brave men and women who gave their lives in guarding our democracy and in whose memory the building now stands. Ten of those 32, I’m sad to say, lost their lives during my Presidency, including the 6 in the Oklahoma City bombing, one of the most difficult events in my life.

You have honored their memory in two ways: First, by naming this building in their honor; and second, by using this building to continue your mission and their mission. Most people know the Secret Service as these sort of mysterious, stone-faced figures that are either steely eyed or masked behind sexy sunglasses, protecting Presidents and visiting world leaders. They don’t know much about the ongoing efforts of the Secret Service to protect the integrity of our financial system, but that’s a proud history that stretches back 130 years now.

When our country was awash in counterfeit currency after the Civil War, America turned to the Secret Service. When three Presidents were assassinated in four decades, America turned to the Secret Service, broadening the mandate at the beginning of this century to include protective duties.

Now, with the new challenges we face in a new and rapidly changing world, America

still turns to the Secret Service. You are out there every day, fighting telecommunications fraud, credit card fraud, computer crimes, counterfeiting, abuses of Government programs, taking on your investigative and protective assignments across the country and all around the world.

Regardless of the times or the tasks, there has always been a thread of honor and integrity, trust, and true confident performance, also, a remarkable ability to adapt to change and challenge. Those values are symbolized in this building. It is a solid, solid building, standing on a firm foundation but looking toward the future.

So, today, I’m honored to join you in dedicating this building and honoring the memory of those who gave their lives for what you do every day and in saying a special, special word of profound appreciation for the many sacrifices so many have made for me and my family and our country.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:47 p.m. in the Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi, pastor, St. Patrick’s Church, who gave the invocation; and Debra L. Worley, headquarters consolidation project manager, and Larry Cockell, Special Agent-in-Charge, Presidential Protective Division, U.S. Secret Service.

Videotape Remarks to the National Summit on Community Food Security

October 14, 1999

Good afternoon, and thank you for taking the time to participate in this first-ever summit on community food security. Thank you, Secretary Glickman, for your leadership in this vital area.

Sometimes it’s hard to comprehend that in the middle of the strongest peacetime economy in our Nation’s history, when poverty is at a 20-year low and incomes are rising all across America, there are still people in our country who go to bed hungry. More than 3 million children suffer from hunger at some point during the year. And nearly 1 in 10 American households are at serious

risk that an expensive car repair or an unexpected rent increase could make them go hungry. That kind of deprivation is simply unacceptable in our land of plenty.

From the earned-income tax credit to Medicaid to child care, our administration has carried out a new approach to help lift people out of poverty by forging a new social contract that rewards work, promotes responsibility, and helps families who need it.

Last July, I took executive action to help families gain access to food stamps. Secretary Glickman is leading our efforts to launch a nationwide food stamp public education campaign, and all of you gathered here today are critically important to that effort. I ask each and every one of you to join with us in our partnership to ensure families get the help they need.

Our work is far from done. While the Federal Government continues to be deeply involved in the fight against hunger, our nutritional safety net alone can't conquer the problem.

The solution lies in new and innovative partnerships with grassroots efforts. For too long, Government programs haven't done enough to capitalize on community expertise. And likewise, community efforts have often not taken full advantage of the Government resources available to them. This conference is about building stronger partnerships, about bringing all the parties to the table and forming stronger ties among the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, nonprofit groups, the faith community, and private citizens. The more we work together, the better we can do in meeting the challenge of hunger.

Thank you again for your participation and for the hard work you do and the dedication you show every single day in the fight against hunger.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 2:50 p.m. on October 12 in Room 459 in the Old Executive Office Building for later transmission to the National Summit on Community Food Security, meeting in Chicago, IL, on October 14. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Nomination of Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart To Be Commander in Chief, United States Space Command, and Related Positions

October 14, 1999

I am pleased to nominate Gen. Ralph E. Eberhart, United States Air Force, to be Commander in Chief, United States Space Command; Commander in Chief, North American Aerospace Defense Command; Commander, Air Force Space Command; and Department of Defense Manager for Space Transportation Systems Contingency Support. If confirmed by the Senate, General Eberhart will succeed Gen. Richard B. Myers.

General Eberhart currently serves as the Commander of the Air Combat Command. Over a distinguished career, General Eberhart has gained extensive operational and planning experience and demonstrated tremendous leadership ability. A Command Pilot, he commanded the 10th Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 363d Tactical Fighter Wing, U.S. Forces Japan, and the 5th Air Force, as well as Air Combat Command. His broad professional experience also includes significant tours on the Joint Staff and Air Staff in the Pentagon and on the staff of Commander in Chief, U.S. Air Forces, Europe.

General Eberhart assumes the post of Commander in Chief, United States Space Command, at a time when U.S. capabilities in space have become critical to our economic prosperity, our position of leadership in the world, and our national security. He will be charged with protecting and extending those capabilities, and as well as taking on new responsibilities for information operations. I have the utmost trust and confidence in his ability to do so.

Statement on the Nomination of Gen. Richard B. Myers To Be Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

October 14, 1999

I am pleased to nominate Gen. Richard B. Myers, United States Air Force, to be Vice