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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Proclamation 7326—To Extend Nondiscriminatory Treatment (Normal Trade Relations Treatment) to the Products of Albania and Kyrgyzstan

June 29, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Albania has made progress, since its emergence from communism, toward democratic rule and the creation of a market economy. Further, I have found Albania to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2431, *et seq.*). In 1998, Albania concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States. Albania is in the process of acceding to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The extension of unconditional normal trade relations treatment to the products of Albania will permit the United States to avail itself of all rights under the WTO with respect to Albania when that country becomes a member of the WTO.

2. Pursuant to section 301(b) of Public Law 106–200, 114 Stat. 289, and having due regard for the findings of the Congress in section 301(a) of that law, I hereby determine that title IV of the Trade Act should no longer apply to Albania.

3. Since 1991, Kyrgyzstan has made great progress toward democratic rule and toward creating a free-market economic system. Further, I have found Kyrgyzstan to be in full compliance with the freedom of emigration requirements under title IV of the Trade Act. In 1994, Kyrgyzstan concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States, and in 1999 Kyrgyzstan became a member of the WTO. The extension of unconditional normal trade relations treatment to the products of Kyrgyzstan will permit the United States to avail itself of all rights under the WTO with respect to Kyrgyzstan.

4. Pursuant to section 302(b) of Public Law 106–200, 114 Stat. 289–90, and having due regard for the findings of the Congress in section 302(a) of that law, I hereby determine that title IV of the Trade Act should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan.

Now, Therefore, I William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections 301(b)(1)(B) and 302(b)(1)(B) of Public Law 106–200, do hereby proclaim that:

(1) Nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be extended to the products of Albania;

(2) The extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Albania shall be effective as of the date of signature of this proclamation;

(3) Nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) shall be extended to the products of Kyrgyzstan;

(4) The extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Kyrgyzstan shall be effective as of the date of signature of this proclamation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., July 3, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 30, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Exchange With Reporters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

June 30, 2000

President's Electronic Signature

[*The transcript began with a reporter's paraphrased question concerning bill signings.*]

The President. ——we had a question if I could even fax a signature back on bills and Executive orders. The electronic signature, in effect, defines what the obligations—the satisfaction of the obligations of commerce contracts. Congress clearly has the authority to define that. But there's an open question as to whether we could do it for bills and fax. That's why I signed the bill before I did this, because that might require a constitutional amendment. And at least it would require some sort of judicial opinion or something before we could decide to do it.

But the volume of bills signed every year is so small, that's really not that much of a problem. The only real problem would be if the President for some reason had to go abroad at a time when the time was running out on a bill. So that's really the only issue here.

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at approximately 11:15 a.m. at Independence Hall. S. 761, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, approved June 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106–229. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act

June 30, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 761, the "Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act." This landmark legislation will help ensure that we reap the full benefits that electronic technology offers for the American economy and American consumers.

The digital economy plays an increasingly important role in our Nation's well-being. Just as the telephone and internal combustion engine brought about a new era of economic prosperity, so too "Information Technology" (IT) is creating once unimaginable economic possibilities for the 21st century.

For American businesses, new information technologies are increasing productivity, lowering costs, and spurring growth. For consumers, electronic commerce can mean greater choice, faster service, and lower prices. For our economy, the digital age means more jobs, higher growth, lower inflation, and tremendous new investment that will strengthen our economy for the long term.

The Department of Commerce reports that information technology industries are responsible for about 30 percent of U.S. economic growth since 1995. Economists have consistently found that information technology accounts for at least half of the recent acceleration in U.S. productivity growth—from 1.4 percent per year, during 1973–1995, to 2.8 percent per year since 1995. Information technology accounts for two-thirds of the growth in overall business investment in recent years. And IT industries are a major source of research and development investment. These trends suggest that the economic payoff from the technology revolution will strengthen our economy for years to come.

As S. 761 removes legal impediments to electronic commerce, we can expect to see a transformation in how businesses do business with each other and with consumers. For example, companies will be able to contract on-line to buy and sell products worth millions of dollars. Businesses will able to collect and store transaction records that once filled up vast warehouses on servers the size of a laptop. And consumers will have the option of buying insurance, getting a mortgage, or opening a brokerage account on-line, without waiting for the paperwork to be mailed back and forth.

In 1997, Vice President Gore and I unveiled our *Framework for Global Electronic Commerce.* In that document, we called for the "development of both a domestic and global uniform commercial legal framework

that recognizes, facilitates, and enforces electronic transactions worldwide." Our *Framework* also noted that government action "may prove necessary to . . . protect consumers." This Act accomplishes both goals by providing business with a predictable, technology-neutral, legal environment while protecting consumers.

The Act clarifies the legal validity of electronic contracts, signatures, notices, and other records, and allows contracting parties to choose the technology for authenticating their transactions without government intervention. It provides the legal certainty necessary for entrepreneurs to invest in electronic commerce. Firms need to know that their contracts and transactions will not be unenforceable solely because they are electronic. They need to know how they can satisfy State and Federal notice and recordkeeping requirements with electronic notices and records. They need to know that the same "rules of the road" apply to on-line business disputes as to those in the paper world.

The Act will also ensure that on-line consumers will have legal protections equivalent to those in the off-line world. The Act does not diminish the protections offered by any Federal or State law relating to the rights of consumers, other than to eliminate requirements that contracts and other records be written and signed on paper. Consumers retain the choice to do business and receive records on paper or online. Before notices and disclosures may be sent electronically, consumers must give their consent and the firm must verify that the consumer will be able to access electronically the information that will be provided.

Under my Administration, the Federal Government is rapidly adapting to the digital age. Federal and State government agencies still need, however, the ability to establish requirements to protect taxpayers, oversee program participants, and monitor program compliance online as well as on paper. I sign S. 761 with the understanding, reflected in the Congressional Record statements of Senators Hollings, Wyden, and Sarbanes, and Congressman Dingell, that this Act gives State and Federal governments the authority they need to establish record retention requirements, prescribe standards and formats for filings, and issue other regulations and orders to implement the legislation necessary to prevent waste, investigate and enforce the law, operate programs effectively, and protect consumers and the public interest. As they explained, this legislation principally addresses commercial and consumer activities, not governmental activities that have already been addressed by the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. To the extent that these two laws overlap, I instruct Federal agencies to construe them in a manner consistent with protecting the public interest and effectively carrying out agency missions.

The Act puts in place the essential legal framework for electronic commerce in the United States. We will continue our discussions with other countries to encourage their adoption of technology-neutral, legal frameworks to enable and enforce electronic transactions and facilitate global electronic commerce.

I also urge companies to take advantage of the new technology responsibly. Giving companies the right to contract and disclose and store records electronically is akin to giving them a driver's license for the Internet. It does not teach them to drive safely or insure them against accidents. Companies adopting electronic technology should ensure that their information security, privacy, and consumer protection policies are sound. A company that inadvertently mails a customer's personal information to thousands of other customers or posts personal information on an insecure website faces a serious risk to its business, including the risk of losing the confidence of its customers.

This Act demonstrates that we can achieve the full measure of the benefits that electronic commerce has to offer, if we marry one of our oldest values—our commitment to consumer protection—with the newest technologies. It also shows what we can do when we work together—business and consumer and government, State and Federal, Republican and Democrat—in the public interest.

I congratulate the many organizations that worked so hard to see S. 761 become law. I particularly want to extend my appreciation

to Chairmen Bliley and McCain, who approached the conference negotiations in the spirit of bipartisanship and whose leadership allowed us to craft this compromise legislation. I thank Senators Hollings, Leahy, Sarbanes, and Wyden, and Representatives Dingell and Markey, for their excellent efforts and teamwork, and Representatives Eshoo, Inslee, and Lofgren for their continuing efforts to promote electronic commerce. I also thank Secretaries Daley and Summers, and Commerce Department General Counsel, Andy Pincus, for their leadership.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 30, 2000.

NOTE: S. 761, approved June 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106–229. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Luncheon in Englewood, New Jersey

June 30, 2000

Thank you. Well, thank you very much, Jon. Thank you for running. I'm going to say more about it in a moment. I'd like to begin by thanking Hilary and Orin for having us in their home. What a beautiful, beautiful day this is. Not too hot. It's been real hot in Washington. And I want to thank all of you for coming.

Some of you, I think, are here because you're Jon's friends. Some of you are here because you're good, loyal supporters of the national and the New Jersey Democratic efforts. And I hope all of you are here because you believe in what's at stake.

I want to say, I've never had a chance to say this in his district before, but I am very impressed and grateful for the work that Representative Rothman is doing in the House of Representatives, and I think he's great, and I thank you for doing it. And I'm glad Bob Janiszewski and Ray Lesniak are here. They were for me for President when my mother was the only person in America who thought I could run. [*Laughter*] And I lost my voice and couldn't even talk, and no one knew who I was. It's very hazardous to lose your voice when you have zero name recognition. [*Laughter*]

Senator Baer, thank you for being here. And Assemblyman Zisa, thank you. And, Assemblywoman Weinberg, I thought that was great about you representing Sharpe James. That was really good.

Reverend McKinney, thank you for the prayer. It got me in a good frame of mind. And I thank all of you who worked on this event. And I'd like to say, Mr. Mayor, I'm glad to be in Englewood; it's a truly beautiful city. And we're delighted to be here. And you've got to forgive Senator Torricelli; we've got to pass that bill today. It's actually quite important, what's going on in the Senate today.

We have a chance to reach a bipartisan agreement to assist the democratic movement and the antidrug movement in Colombia in a way that, contrary to what the critics say, does not in any way, shape, or form involve America in the civil war down there, but gives us a chance to save the oldest democracy in Latin America. And most of the cocaine and most of the heroin that flows into the bodies of the young people in America comes out of Colombia. They have lost control of approximately one-third of the land. And you've now got some people down there that are willing to risk their lives, and they literally have to risk their lives. We've had 500 police officers murdered in the line of duty in the last couple of years in Colombia by the drug traffickers and their allies in the guerrilla movement. That's, anyway, what they're doing, and it's very, very important. And I'm very grateful.

I'd like to make just a couple of points today. You know, I do have a passing interest in that Senate race in New York, and I've got a passing interest in this one in New Jersey and in Senator Robb's election in Virginia.

I think that—people ask me all the time who is going to win. I told them, Jon, I thought you were going to win early. I told them that you were the nominee. I thought you would be Senator. People ask me, and I say, I think Hillary's going to win. I do. When Al Gore was 18 points behind in the

polls, I said, I thought he would win. I did then, and I do now.

But I want to talk about what's underneath that, because that's what's really important. Because when you leave here today, people may ask you why you came, and you could obviously say that, well, Orin harassed you and you wanted to do some event—I've got this written down—you were dying to do something that was devoid of social cache. [*Laughter*] That's why—when I ran for President—that reminds me of what President Bush said, he referred to me as a Governor of a small southern State. And I was so naive, I thought it was a compliment. [*Laughter*] And I still do.

So I'm glad you're doing this event, devoid of social cache. Maybe you did it because you didn't want Deborah to call you any more. [*Laughter*] But maybe you did it just because you love Jon and Joanne, but somebody is going to ask you. And as grateful as we are for your money, I think it's fair that—I believe that you can do just as much good if on every conceivable occasion between now and November you take the opportunity to talk to people you know about why you're here, why you wrote this check, why you're doing what you're doing.

And if I might, I'd just like to offer a couple of observations to build on the remarks Jon made. And I hope they will be taken somewhat seriously since I'm not running for anything. Most days I'm okay about it. [*Laughter*] For the first time since 1974, there is an election coming and going I'm not a part of—except I'm becoming the surrogate-in-chief for Hillary, for her, so she can campaign.

But let me just say, to build on what Jon said—in 1992, when I was elected, everybody knew what we had to do. The economy was in the tank, all the social trends were going in the wrong direction, Washington was divided in a pitched battle, and the Democrats and the Republicans seemed to operate according to kind of a rule of combat that went something like this, "I've got an idea. You've got an idea. Let's fight. Maybe we'll both get on the evening news."

And it's hard—you ask Mr. Rothman there what it's like. If he gets in a fight, he can make the news. Even the President sometimes can't get on the evening news unless you're in a pitched battle. I remember one of the most important days of my Presidency, to me personally, was the day I signed the bill creating the national service program AmeriCorps for young people. And I knew it was a big deal. And we had all these kids in this volunteer program that had been a model for what we did march up there with me. And Senator Kennedy was there, and I had the pen that John Kennedy used to sign the Peace Corps Act.

And in 4 years we had 150,000 young people serve their country in community service in AmeriCorps. It took the Peace Corps over 20 years to reach the same number. And yet, the visibility of the Peace Corps was greater than the visibility of AmeriCorps because the people that night decided this was a good news story, what did it belong on the evening news for? So I understand this. But it didn't make any sense to me because I thought the country was in trouble.

So we all knew what we had to do. We had to fix the economy, and we had to try to change the crime policy, the welfare policy, the education policy of the country, and we had to try to have the Government work in a different way. And we had to be engaged in the rest of the world in a different way.

And so we brought this whole set of ideas there, Al Gore and I and the rest of our crowd, and lo and behold, most of them worked pretty well. And I'm very grateful for that. I am profoundly grateful that I had the chance to serve. I am so grateful that we've got over 22 million new jobs and the lowest welfare rolls in 32 years, the lowest crime rates in 25 years, the lowest African-American and Hispanic unemployment rates ever recorded, and the lowest female unemployment rate in 40 years, the lowest poverty rate in 20 years. I'm grateful for that.

But the issue that we face is, now what? And I guess what I would like to say to you is that I believe what a nation does with its prosperity is just as stern a test of its judgment, wisdom, and character as what a nation does in adversity. There's nobody here today, over 30 years old at least, who cannot recall at least one time in your life when you made a fairly significant mistake, either personally or professionally, not because things were

going so badly but because things were going so well you thought there was no penalty for the failure to concentrate. If you live long enough, you'll make one of those mistakes.

And the thing that really bothers me about this election—I listen to people talk about this election—I had a friend of mine from Chicago spend the night with me a couple of nights ago. He's 41 years old. He wasn't particularly political before I became President. We got to be very close. None of his friends are politicians; they're not active in the Democratic or the Republican Party. He's just tearing his hair out. He says, "All these guys I run around with, they don't think there's very much difference between these two guys. And they sort of say, they seem kind of nice, maybe—it's like your fraternity had it for 8 years, maybe we should give it to their fraternity for a while."

So the first and most important thing I want to say to you is, this is a big election. I've been following this stuff since I was a boy. Not in my lifetime, not one time, have the American people ever had this much economic progress, this much social progress, this much national self-confidence with so little internal crisis or external threat. We don't know whether this will come along again in 50 years. We don't know if this will come along again in 100 years. And the pastor there will tell you that nothing lasts forever.

Now, when you're in a tight, and I've been in a few in my life, that kind of keeps you going—thank God this can't last forever. [*Laughter*] But neither does anything good. Nothing lasts forever. And I submit to you that those of us who are of age will be judged and held at quite a high standard on the question of what we do with our prosperity, what we do with this magic moment? That's what this whole election ought to be about.

And I believe the reason that Jon has done so well is that people say, here's this guy that could be off making a gazillion dollars and laying around 3 days a week, and he actually cares about whether poor kids get a decent education and whether parents have a safe place to make a home, and all that other stuff. I mean, this is a big deal.

What do you think we should do with this prosperity? Now, in elections, very often the answer depends upon what the question is. We've got a leg up if people really believe that's the question and if they understand what a very, very serious moment this is for our country—first one I want to make.

The second thing I would like to tell you is that we don't have to run a negative campaign this year. We can just run a campaign on the issues. I think for 20 years we've had too many of these really hateful campaigns where one candidate would be trying to convince the voters that his or her opponent was just one notch above a car thief. You've seen a lot of those, and maybe participated in a few. But this year we've got a gift here. We can say, look, let's assume, from the Presidential candidates to the Senate candidates to the House candidates, everybody is honorable and good. And let's just look at where we differ on what we should do with our future. And I'm just here to tell you, there are real differences, and I'll just mention a couple.

First of all, on economic policy. The Republican—Governor Bush and the Republican congressional program ought to have a lot of appeal in New Jersey because there are a lot of wealthier people here. And basically, what they say is, "Vote for me, and I'll give you a $1.5 trillion tax cut, 3 times what the Democrats will give you—more than 3 times. And I'll partially privatize Social Security, and you will do well with that." But you should know that when you do that, all of us who might take our 2 percent out, somebody's got to fill that up to keep this program from going broke. So, that will cost another $1 trillion over the next decade. But it sounds good.

Their message is, "You couldn't mess this economy up with a stick of dynamite. Nobody's going to mess it up; it's on automatic. Information technology is surging ahead. Biomedical technology is surging ahead. This thing is rocking along. Nobody can mess this economy up. Vote for me, and I'll give you your money back." That's basically their message.

Our message is, we don't think that this economy happened by accident. We think it happened by prudence and discipline and vision, and we'll give a more modest tax cut, keep paying down the debt to save Medicare and Social Security for the baby boomers,

and we think we've got to invest in America—Mr. Corzine's theme. We've got to give all our kids a world-class education. We've got to make sure we can grow the economy and preserve the environment. We've got to deal with the health and other challenges that families face. There's a whole bunch of investment issues out there.

Now, their argument is, "Hey, I'm trying to give you money. Have you been listening to me? This is a good economy, I'll try to give you a bunch of money." That's their argument. Our argument is—well, I'll just ask you this. Don't answer out loud but think to yourself. What is your projected—do you have an opinion of what your projected income is for the next 10 years? Have you thought about that, what you think you will actually make in each of the next 10 years? That's what all these proposals are based on—you need to know that—our projected income.

So what do you think your projected income is going to be for 10 years? Now, what's your level of confidence that that's your projected income? How would you feel—let's assume all of you have a level of confidence over 50 percent—how would you feel if I asked you to come up here right now and sign a contract committing to spend all your projected income for the next 10 years? That's what the Republicans are asking you to do. And I don't believe I'd have many takers. That's what they're asking you to do.

And let me just point out this: If by continuing to practice prudence, we keep interest rates one point lower, that's worth $250 billion in lower home mortgages alone. That's a $250 billion tax cut—just for home mortgages. That doesn't count student loans, car loans, business loans, and all the economic benefits attendant there. So that's a huge issue.

I think Jon's right. I think we're right. I think—and I think we have certain responsibilities to people who haven't fully participated in this economic recovery. We've got the biggest bunch of school kids in our country's history. They are the most diverse group ever. They're our meal ticket to the future—if we can prove they can all get a world-class education. These are big issues.

We differ on a Patients' Bill of Rights. We differ on the Medicare drug benefit. We differ on the nature of environmental protection that we should have. We differ on so many issues. We differ on whether we should take extraordinary efforts to ensure equal pay for women for equal work—big issue for our people. The average woman is still working 17 weeks a year longer for the same income as the average man in America, for all of the progress we've made. So there are real differences.

And the last point I want to make is this. It would be interesting to see if this is true in New Jersey. Most of the Republicans don't want you to know what the differences are, and that's a dead giveaway about who would win if the people knew what the differences were.

And so, here comes Jon, riding in on his horse. The guy has never run for office before—actually committing the unpardonable sin of saying exactly what he thinks, even when it gets him in trouble, and trusting the people to get it right. And what my experience is—and I encouraged him once I knew he was getting a little weary from the cost as well as the strain of the primary campaign, and I said, "Look, what makes democracy work?"—this is why this campaign finance reform issue is important—"What makes democracy work?" When the people have enough time and information—and they need both—they nearly always get it right. Otherwise, why would we still be around here after 200 years? People nearly always get it right.

So this big election, there are real differences. If the voters know what they are, I think they will make the right decision. I just want to make two final points. I want to say a word for the Vice President; then I hope people may ask you about that. I just want you to know, I believe I know him better than anybody outside his family now after 8 years. And there are four things I want all of you to know about that—four reasons I think he should be elected.

Number one is, our country has had Vice Presidents who have done great things as President—Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, Harry Truman. Lyndon Johnson gave us the civil rights legislation and the

Federal aid to education and Medicare. But our country has never, not in over 200 years, never had anybody who made nearly anywhere near as much difference in a positive way as Vice President as Al Gore. He is by far the most positively impactful Vice President the country ever had. It's not even close. And I've spent a lifetime studying the history of my country and the institutions of National Government.

From breaking the tie on the economic plan in '93 to running our employment zone programs to bring economic opportunity to people and places left behind to ramming through a telecommunications provision to guarantee that the poorest schools in America could be hooked up to the Internet—something I learned coming to New Jersey when I saw the benefits in some of the schools here—to managing a lot of our relations with Russia and Egypt and South Africa, no Vice President ever had remotely as much responsibility or done as much good.

The second thing I want to say to you is, he shares Jon's economic philosophy. We don't believe we should go to the American people and say, "You guys figure out your projected net income. Now, let's sign it away for 10 years right now." Because it's all projected, you might get it, and you might not. And we don't want to get back into deficits and high interest rates and give away all the money we need to be investing in our future.

The third thing I want to say is this: You need somebody in office—another argument for Jon—you need somebody in office in 2000 that understands the future. Let me just give you a couple of examples. You see where we announced the human genome sequencing last week? I had to study that stuff for a year just so I'd understand what I was saying at the press conference last week. [*Laughter*] It's the most fascinating thing I've ever studied in my life. And I really do believe that those of you who are young enough to still be having kids, I think that it won't be 10 years before American children will be born with a life expectancy of somewhere around 90 years. Within 20 years, I'm confident American children will be born with a life expectancy of 100 years. Anybody who lives to be 65 today has a life expectancy of 83. It's going to change everything.

But people will know that all this genetic information is somewhere in somebody's computer. Don't you think that you ought to have the right to say yes before somebody gets to it, and that people shouldn't be denied jobs or promotions or health insurance because of their genetic profile? And don't you think we ought to have somebody in the White House that really understands this stuff?

Or, you take the Internet. When I became President, there were 50—50 websites on the World Wide Web in 1993. There are now 10 million—50 to 10 million. Now, Al Gore understands this as well as anybody in American life. All of our medical and economic information is going to be on somebody's computer. Don't you think you ought to have to say yes before somebody gets your financial information or your medical records, and don't you think somebody ought to be present who understands it?

And the last thing I'll say—and it's the thing that I really love about Jon, because life's been good to him, and he didn't go around being sanctimonious about being successful. I can't stand these successful people who want you to believe they were born in a log cabin they built themselves. And you've all heard a lot of that.

We need a President and we need a Congress who understand the future, who will keep the economic prosperity going, but who also want us all to go along for the ride. That's what the hate crime legislation is all about. That's what the employment nondiscrimination is about. That's what the appointments to the Supreme Court are about. Twenty cases decided this term by one vote. Twenty, by one vote—20. And the next President gets between two and four judges.

So whichever one of them gets elected, it's going to change the balance of the Supreme Court. For you to pretend otherwise is to be living in a dream world. And I think we ought to have a President and I think we ought to have a Senator from New Jersey and New York, and a Senate and a House that think we all ought to go along for the ride. When you really strip it all away, that's basically why most of us are Democrats. We know we're lucky.

Shoot, man, people ask me, in the toughest days of my Presidency, weren't there days that I regretted it? I said, regretted it? Are you kidding me? Another turn in the road and I could be home doing $200 divorces and deeds and stuff. [*Laughter*] This is the cost of doing business. The Republicans have decided to impose a certain cost of doing business if you want to be a Democrat and be President. I wouldn't take the world for it. I've had a wonderful time.

But I'll tell you what, on the good days and the bad days, I wanted everybody along for the ride. And that's another thing about this prosperity, we need to take everybody along. That's what Jon will do, and that's what Al Gore will do.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Senatorial candidate Jon Corzine and his wife, Joanne; luncheon hosts Hilary Bollon and Orin Kramer; Hudson County Executive Robert C. Janiszewski; State Senators Raymond J. Lesniak and Byron M. Baer; State Assemblyman Charles (Ken) Zisa; State Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg and Mayor Sharpe James of Newark, NJ, cochairs, Corzine campaign; Rev. Calvin McKinney, president, General Baptist Convention of New Jersey; Mayor Paul Fader of Englewood; Senator Robert G. Torricelli, chair, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee; luncheon cochair Deborah Lynch; and Gov. George W. Bush of Texas. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on the Senate Vote on Appropriations Legislation

June 30, 2000

I am deeply disappointed that today the Senate passed a Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill that fails to make crucial investments in our Nation's future. While the Senate bill provides more acceptable funding for some programs than the House version, it relies on unacceptable spending cuts and falls short on critical funding for education, health care, and worker training. The Senate bill invests too little in improving our schools and demands too little from them; fails to provide funds to reduce class size and repair aging schools; includes a fatally flawed so-called patient protection provision that excludes over 110 million Americans from protections and actually eliminates some of the limited accountability provisions now in State law; bankrupts the Social Services Block Grant, drastically reducing services to abused children, the elderly, and the disabled; and shifts funds from the State Children's Health Insurance Program, undermining the bipartisan agreement passed by Congress in 1997 to insure millions of low income children.

This bill also shortchanges vital health care programs, including domestic and global HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, mental health and substance abuse services, family planning, health care access for the uninsured, training for health professionals in children's hospitals, nursing home quality, and oversight of Medicare contractors. The bill fails to guarantee funding for critical education priorities such as reducing class size and making urgent repairs to our schools, including Native American schools. It underfunds programs that would strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools, expand before-school and after-school opportunities, assist low income students in preparing for college, help bridge the digital divide, improve teacher quality, and expand English language/civics education programs for adults. The bill also denies adequate resources for training programs to help unemployed workers and low income youth train for and find jobs, assistance to help more low income fathers work and support their children, efforts to ensure workplace safety and enforce domestic labor laws, and initiatives to address illegal and abusive child labor practices abroad.

Finally, I am deeply disappointed that the Senate chose to follow the House's imprudent action to block the Department of Labor's standard to protect our Nation's workers from ergonomic injuries. After more than a decade of experience and scientific study and millions of unnecessary injuries, it is clearly time to finalize this standard.

For these reasons, as well as for others, this bill is unacceptable. I will veto this bill and any other bill that fails to provide necessary resources for education, health care,

worker training, and other vital initiatives. We need to work on a bipartisan basis to develop a bill that strengthens our schools, adequately funds public health priorities, addresses the needs of our Nations' workers, and provides for other important national priorities while honoring our commitment to fiscal discipline.

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

Statement on Funding To Hire Highly Qualified Teachers

June 30, 2000

Today Secretary Riley announced the award of $1.3 billion to continue on the path to hiring 100,000 new, highly qualified teachers as part of my class size reduction program. These funds will allow States to place more high-quality teachers in smaller classes in the early grades, so that approximately 1.7 million children can receive the personal and academic support they need. The Vice President and I have a longstanding commitment to ensure that all children have access to a first-class education, and these grants provide support to State and local communities to work toward this goal by investing in what works. Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress are rejecting this proven strategy of investing in what works and insisting on accountability for results in favor of unfocused block grants with little or no accountability. I urge Congress to reverse its recent actions and enact full funding to reduce class sizes in the early grades, strengthen accountability and turn around failing schools, expand before-school and after-school opportunities, assist low income students in preparing for college, help bridge the digital divide, improve teacher quality, and expand English language/civics education programs for adults.

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

Notice—Continuation of Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

June 30, 2000

On July 4, 1999, I issued Executive Order 13129, "Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with the Taliban," to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The order blocks all property and interests in property of the Taliban and prohibits trade-related transactions by United States persons involving the territory of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban.

The Taliban continues to allow territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Laden and the Al-Qaida organization who have committed and threaten to continue to commit acts of violence against the United States and its nationals. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond July 5, 2000. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency declared on July 4, 1999, with respect to the Taliban. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 30, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., July 3, 2000]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on July 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Taliban

June 30, 2000

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

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the Taliban is to continue in effect beyond July 5, 2000.

On July 4, 1999, I issued Executive Order 13129, "Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with the Taliban," to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Taliban in Afghanistan. The order blocks all property and interests in property of the Taliban and prohibits trade-related transactions by United States persons involving the territory of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban.

The Taliban continues to allow territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Usama bin Laden and the Al-Qaida organization, who have committed and threaten to continue to commit acts of violence against the United States and its nationals. This situation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to maintain in force these emergency authorities beyond July 5, 2000.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Internet Address

July 1, 2000

Good afternoon. Two hundred and thirteen years ago, about a hundred feet from where I'm sitting now, in a summer as sweltering as this one, the Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution of the United States. In the very first article of that doctrine, they wrote that Government shall make no law, quote, "impairing the obligation of contracts."

James Madison called this contract clause "a constitutional bulwark in favor of personal security and private rights." He and his fellow framers understood that the right of individuals to enter into commercial contracts was fundamental, not just for economic growth but for the preservation of liberty itself.

Yesterday I had the privilege of signing into law legislation that carries the spirit of the Founders' wisdom into the information age. The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, which passed with overwhelming support from both parties in both Houses, will open up new frontiers of economic opportunity while protecting the rights of America's consumers.

This new law will give fresh momentum to what is already the longest economic expansion in our history, an expansion driven largely by the phenomenal growth in information technologies, particularly the Internet, with its almost unlimited potential to expand our opportunities and broaden our horizons.

Yet that potential is now being held back, ironically, by old laws written to protect the sanctity of contracts, laws that require pen and ink signatures on paper documents for contracts to be enforceable.

Under this landmark new legislation, on-line contracts will now have the same legal force as equivalent paper ones. Companies will have the legal certainty they need to invest and expand in electronic commerce. They will be able not only to purchase products and services on-line but to contract to do so. And they could potentially save billions

of dollars by sending and retaining monthly statements and other records in electronic form. Eventually, vast warehouses of paper will be replaced by servers the size of VCR's.

Customers will soon enjoy a whole new universe of on-line services. With the swipe of a smart card and the click of a mouse, they will be able to finalize mortgages, sign insurance contracts, or open brokerage accounts.

Just as importantly, the law affords consumers who contract on-line the same kinds of protections and records, such as financial disclosures, they currently receive when they sign paper contracts. Consumers will be able to choose whether to do business and receive records on paper or on-line. They will have the power to decide if they want to receive notices and disclosures electronically. It will not be their responsibility but the company's to ensure that the data sent to a consumer can be read on the consumer's computer. No more E-mail attachments with gibberish inside.

Finally, government agencies will have the authority to enforce the laws, protect the public interest, and carry out their missions in the electronic world.

For 8 years now, I have set forth a new vision of government and politics, one that marries our most enduring values to the demands of the new information age. In many ways, the Electronic Signatures Act exemplifies that vision. It shows what we in Washington can accomplish when we put progress above partisanship, cross party lines, think of the future, and work together for the American people.

Thank you, and happy Independence Day.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:35 a.m. on June 30 at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, PA, for broadcast at 10 a.m. on July 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. S. 761, the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, approved June 30, was assigned Public Law No. 106–229.

The President's Radio Address

July 1, 2000

Good morning. Millions of Americans will hit the highway this weekend to join their families in celebrating the birth of our Nation and the independence we enjoy. While our Nation has never been stronger or more prosperous, we must do more to free working families from the grip of rising energy costs, especially the price we pay at the pump.

We're all feeling the effects of higher gas prices. That's why our administration is taking action to meet America's energy needs in both the short and long term. Right now the Federal Trade Commission is conducting an investigation to determine if oil companies are engaging in illegal gasoline pricing practices.

In the 2 weeks since the investigation began, prices have fallen 8 cents a gallon at the pump in the Midwest and more than 12 cents a gallon at the pump in the Chicago region. We're also continuing to work with foreign countries to close the gap between oil production and consumption. While that's good news, we still have more to do to strengthen our security over the long term. That's the most important thing.

Over the last 7 years, with the Vice President's leadership, our administration has pursued a forward-looking and balanced strategy that increases both our energy supply and our energy efficiency, saving consumers money and preparing for unexpected energy shortages in the future. For example, we've invested in new technologies to more efficiently develop our domestic oil reserves and to promote wind, solar, and other alternative sources of energy. My budget this year includes several other measures to further enhance our energy security.

Unfortunately, the Republican Congress has failed to act on key elements of our strategy to meet America's energy needs in the 21st century. They want to revert to an old 19th century approach that endangers our environment instead of one that invests in the future.

Since 1993, the Congress has approved only 12 percent of the increases I've proposed to develop clean, efficient sources of energy. Now the Republican leadership wants to gut the programs they've already approved, like our partnership with Detroit to develop ultra-efficient cars of the future. And they want to turn back the progress we've made to protect our treasured lands by expanding drilling in our most precious natural areas, from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to Federal lands in the Rockies and along the California coast. That's a short-sighted approach to a long-term problem.

Instead of drilling holes in our progress, I ask Congress again to approve the steps we have proposed to increase our energy supply, to protect the environment, to increase energy conservation, and keep our economy strong.

First, I propose tax incentives to support domestic oil production and the development of alternative energy sources. I've also proposed commonsense tax credits to help families and businesses buy fuel-saving cars, energy-efficient homes, buildings, and appliances. These measures won't just save energy; they'll also reduce pollution and put money back in the pockets of consumers. Only by developing new technologies can we ensure a cleaner future where we're not as reliant on fossil fuels and foreign oil.

Second, in my budget this year I've asked for more than $1 billion to accelerate the research and development of cleaner, more efficient energy technology. These investments will help to develop the technologies that will allow us to convert corn and other crops into the fuels of tomorrow.

Third, I've proposed comprehensive legislation to foster a new era of competition in the electricity industry. By allowing consumers all across our country to choose their own electric supplier, we can enhance the reliability of electric power and save consumers nearly $20 billion a year on energy costs.

Fourth, I've asked Congress to reauthorize the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a critical part of our Nation's insurance policy against national emergencies caused by interruptions in the supply of oil.

Once again, I ask Congress also to establish a home heating oil reserve in the Northeast to reduce the likelihood that future heating oil shortages will harm consumers as they did this past winter. I've also asked Secretary Richardson to take the steps necessary to create a reserve through administrative authority if Congress does fail to act, so that a heating oil reserve will be in place by next winter.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Teddy Roosevelt reminded us, "Neither man nor nation can prosper unless, in dealing with the present, thought is steadily taken for the future." That's the vision that guided our Founding Fathers. It's especially true today when it comes to our energy security. If we take the right steps now, we can secure our independence, protect our environment, and continue to grow our economy for generations to come.

Have a happy and healthy Fourth of July, and thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:21 a.m. on June 30 in the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks on Departure for Camp David, Maryland, and an Exchange With Reporters

July 1, 2000

Campaign Finance Disclosure Legislation

The President. Good morning. Just a few moments ago, I signed into law the first new campaign finance restrictions in more than two decades. This legislation closes a special interest loophole that allowed so-called 527 organizations to raise unlimited funds to influence elections without disclosing where the money came from or where it was going. Anonymous donors could simply pour millions of dollars into these efforts, while keeping citizens in the dark.

Today's actions will stop special interests from using 527 status to hide their political spending behind a tax-exempt front group. It will help clean up the system by forcing

organizations to come clean about their donors. This is good news for the American people, and I want to commend Congress for passing this legislation with broad bipartisan support. Especially, of course, I want to thank Senator McCain, Senator Lieberman, and Senator Feingold in the Senate; and Representatives Doggett and Houghton, who worked hard on this legislation in the House.

Let me give you an example of why this disclosure is important. We're fighting hard here for voluntary, dependable, affordable Medicare prescription drug coverage for all seniors and people with disabilities. Three in five Medicare beneficiaries don't have such coverage now, and many seniors aren't getting the drugs they need.

Now, over the past few months, a so-called 527 group calling itself Citizens for Better Medicare has flooded the airwaves with negative ads against our plan. They spent tens of millions of dollars to mislead the public, confuse seniors, target Members of Congress, and distort the debate, all to the benefit of the drug companies.

The American people have no earthly idea who Citizens for Better Medicare is, who is paying for the ads. The bill I just signed lifts the curtain. It makes groups like this reveal the sources of all future funding. Of course, in a case like this, the damage may already be done. The special interest money is already in the bank. The attack ads are already on the air.

So in the spirit of this law which I have signed, which clearly has broad bipartisan support, I think that Citizens for Better Medicare ought to respect the legislation, open their books, and disclose the sources of the funds which have paid for these ads. Let the American people judge if this organization truly is for better Medicare.

This law will make a difference, but it's just a step, not a substitute, for comprehensive campaign finance reform. Again, I ask Congress to pass the bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators McCain and Feingold and Representatives Shays and Meehan, to limit spending, end soft money, and give candidates free or reduced rate TV air time.

As we celebrate this first Independence Day of the 21st century, let's do more to strengthen our majority. I ask Congress to join the Vice President and me to build on today's progress, to put public interest over special interests, and pass real campaign finance reform.

But let me say, this is a good day, and this is a good law. And I thank everyone for voting for it, and I wish you a happy Fourth of July weekend.

Arkansas Supreme Court

Q. Mr. President, what is your reaction to the Arkansas Supreme Court?

The President. I'm sorry, but I've got to go back; I've got an important phone call, and I can't delay it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. H.R. 4762, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities, approved July 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106–230.

Statement on the Verdicts in an Iranian Espionage Trial

July 1, 2000

I am deeply disturbed by the verdicts handed down in the trial of the 13 Jewish Iranians accused of espionage. International human rights organizations, the Special Rapporteur on Iran for the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United States, and many other nations have denounced the seriously flawed judicial process by which these sentences were determined. The proceedings have been rightly criticized around the world for their failure to accord due process of law to the defendants.

We have raised our concerns time and again, when the Iranian Government has treated intellectuals, journalists, Muslim clerics, and members of the Baha'i community with the same fundamental unfairness. We are deeply disappointed that the Iranian Government has again failed to act as a society based on the rule of law, to which the Iranian people aspire.

We call upon the Government of Iran to remedy the failings of these procedures

immediately and overturn these unjust sentences. We will continue to engage with other interested governments and organizations as part of our broader concern for the treatment of minority groups and human rights in Iran.

Proclamation 7327—Spirit of the ADA Month, 2000

July 1, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 10 years ago this month signaled a transformation in our Nation's public policies toward people with disabilities. America is now a dramatically different—and better—country because of the ADA.

In the last 10 years, we have worked hard to eliminate harmful stereotypes and have grown to understand disability as a natural part of the human experience. We are taking steps, such as renovating and constructing public accommodations to make them fully accessible, to ensure that people with disabilities are fully integrated into our communities and workplaces. And we have come to appreciate that people with disabilities are a key element—and an untapped resource—in sustaining our Nation's historic economic growth.

Throughout our Administration, Vice President Gore and I have worked hard to achieve the ADA's core goals—equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Our Administration has vigorously defended the ADA in court cases across the Nation; we are collaborating with State Medicaid directors to implement the Supreme Court's 1999 *Olmstead* decision, which prohibits unjustified isolation of institutionalized persons with disabilities; we helped ensure that 80 percent of America's public transit buses are now accessible; we are implementing the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act, which I proudly signed into law last December; we have worked closely with schools and colleges to improve the enrollment, retention, and graduation of students with disabilities; and my Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities is developing far-reaching policies for a comprehensive, coordinated employment agenda.

We still have much to accomplish. Because the many barriers confronting people with disabilities took generations to develop, breaking them down requires consistent, coordinated, and farsighted effort. We must work aggressively to increase the employment rates of people with disabilities by attacking a range of work disincentives, including barriers to education, health care, technology, housing, and transportation. We must provide real choices for people with disabilities to live and work in their communities with the necessary services and supports. And we must be vigilant in protecting the rights we have secured through decades of legal activism. I am encouraged that the first 10 years of the ADA's life have provided us with a solid foundation for meeting these challenges.

To mark the ADA's 10th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the American Association of People with Disabilities has organized a nationwide "Spirit of ADA" Torch Relay. Twenty-four cities from coast to coast are hosting official relay events, and hundreds of communities are organizing additional local events as part of this national celebration. The Spirit of ADA's organizing theme is "Renew the Pledge" to encourage individuals, organizations, and government entities to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the ADA and IDEA. Vice President Gore and I are proud to join in the celebration and to renew our own pledge to help advance the cause of disability rights.

Promoting disability rights not only improves the lives of the 54 million Americans with disabilities, it improves all of our lives. As President Franklin Roosevelt recognized more than 60 years ago, in words that are now inscribed on the FDR Memorial in our Nation's capital: "No Country, however rich, can afford the waste of its human resources."

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 July 2000 as Spirit of the ADA Month, 2000. I urge government officials, business people, community leaders, educators, and all the people of the United States, to celebrate the contributions people with disabilities have made, and continue to make, to the progress and prosperity of our Nation, and to renew our commitment to upholding the nondiscrimination principles of the ADA and IDEA.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 6, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 7.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Certain Former Eastern Bloc States

June 30, 2000

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

On September 21, 1994, I determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection of the 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and I made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations status for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Statement on the Election of Vicente Fox as President of Mexico

July 3, 2000

I called President-elect Vicente Fox today to offer my congratulations and those of the American people on his historic victory in Mexico's national elections yesterday. I also spoke to President Zedillo to express my admiration for his extraordinary contributions to Mexico, including his efforts in working with other Mexican leaders to strengthen and deepen democracy. Mexicans should be proud of the extraordinary steps they have taken during the last 6 years to strengthen and consolidate democratic institutions and set Mexico on a course of economic growth and prosperity.

Mexico is our neighbor and friend. Mexico's national elections, the freest and fairest in the nation's history, stand as a vivid testimony to the depth of the democratic commitment of the Mexican people. I reiterated both to President-elect Fox and President Zedillo that the United States stands ready to work to enhance the close cooperation that characterizes our bilateral relationship.

Remarks Aboard the U.S.S. *Hue City* in New York City

July 4, 2000

[*The President's remarks are joined in progress.*]

The President. ——make this day possible. To all the rest of you, I can't imagine a better way to greet the dawn of Independence Day than on this remarkable ship, with its outstanding crew.

I do want to say I learned this morning that one of your sailors, Petty Officer Sims, has been nominated to come to work at the White House because he's a top-rate cook. I want to apologize and say I am not responsible for taking him away from you, but I'm not going to give him back.

Our military leaders have worked hard to increase your time with your families and your quality of life at sea. But all of us know that what you do will always require sacrifice from you and your loved ones. So I want to say on this Independence Day how grateful I am and how grateful your Nation is for your service, for you defend the freedom we celebrate today.

I hope every American will take a few moments to think about how we earned our exceptional place in human history. On this day in 1776 not all the action was taking place in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where the Declaration was signed. Here in New York, General George Washington was preparing his troops for battle. Five long years and countless engagements later, America's soldiers and sailors emerged victorious and helped to light the flame of liberty that now burns around the entire world.

So today, on the birthday of our Nation, I believe we should pay tribute to those who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to our freedom. And today I think we should also honor all Americans, regardless of their background, whether their ancestors came here on immigrant ships or slave ships, whether they flew across the Pacific or walked across the Bering Strait, for all Americans have helped to extend the march of liberty, democracy, and opportunity.

God bless you. Thank you for your service, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. aboard the ship in New York Harbor. In his remarks, he referred to Petty Officer Talmadge F. Sims, USN, Mess Management Specialist 1st Class. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary did not include the complete opening remarks of the President.

Remarks Aboard the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy* in New York City

July 4, 2000

Let me say, if Seaman Rosa Norales-Nunez gets much more practice, she can start running for office in her new country someday. Wasn't she terrific? Let's give her another hand. I thought she was great. [*Applause*]

I would like to also welcome the other new citizens who we swore in a few moments ago, and I ask you to give them a hand, too. They come from all over the world. [*Applause*]

Hillary and Chelsea and I are honored to be here with all of you: Secretary and Mrs. Cohen, Attorney General Reno, Secretary Slater, Ambassador and Mrs. Holbrooke, Secretary Danzig; to the Members of the Congress who are here. I know that Senator Levin and Senator Dodd and former Senator John Glenn are back there behind me, and I saw Senator Lautenberg out in the audience. And there are a lot of other Members of Congress here. I'd like to ask all the Members of Congress to stand and be recognized. [*Applause*] I saw a half a dozen—Representative Lowey, Miller—thank you. Thank you all for being here.

I'd also like to recognize the currently reigning Miss America, Heather French, who has made the welfare of our veterans her great cause this year. Heather, stand up and be recognized. Thank you for being here. [*Applause*]

And I would like to recognize also, because President Kennedy started this event, I would like to thank Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and Ed Schlossberg and their three wonderful children for being here today. And welcome to all of you.

And I would like to thank Chairman Robertson and his wife. You know, he told me when he got up here and opened this, that's the first public speech he had ever made. I think he did a pretty good job, don't you? And besides that, he produced all these ships. So give him a hand. [*Applause*] Thank you.

I want to thank all the men and women in uniform who are here, and all of those who have come here from other nations to be a part of the international naval review and Operation Sail. I want to thank Captain Mike Miller, the officers, and the crew of the *JFK*, especially. I know they had to "turn to" to make this day possible.

For all of you who are not familiar with the exploits of the U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy,* let me tell you that from the Atlantic to the Red Sea to the Mediterranean to the Arabian Gulf, this great ship has more than met its mission; it has proved truly worthy of its heroic and noble name.

Let me also say today that there is another heroic name we honor today. I am especially pleased to announce that the United States Navy will designate its newest class of ship, the Zumwalt class, in honor of Admiral Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt. And I would like to ask his wife, Mouza, and his son and other family members to stand today and be recognized. Let's give them a big hand. Thank you. God bless you. [*Applause*]

Admiral Zumwalt passed away just 2 days into this new century. He was my mentor, my friend, and a magnificent role model. He was a friend and a passionate advocate for every sailor in his beloved Navy. His deeply, profoundly moral leadership will shape the character and conscience of our Navy for generations to come, and all America salutes him today. He deserves to have a class of ships named after him.

When he passed away, one of the naval aides who works for me in the White House, who happens to be a Filipino-American and has been in the United States Navy for 30 years, looked at me with tears in his eyes and he said, "Admiral Zumwalt was our admiral; he cared about all of us." And today we honor him in this way.

I just want to say one or two other things about this important day, for the Navy and for all Americans. On this day, which we commemorate because of what happened at Independence Hall with the Declaration of Independence, the greatest hero of our Revolution was not in Philadelphia but instead was here on Manhattan Island preparing his outnumbered army for battle. Staring out over the very waters where we sit today, General George Washington saw the British warships landing at Staten Island, the vanguard of the largest expeditionary force ever launched by the British Empire.

As the armies eyed each other across this channel, the Declaration of Independence arrived from Philadelphia. George Washington ordered it to be read aloud to the troops. It was at the tip of Manhattan Island, just to our north, where the troops first heard they were actually citizens of a new nation, where they first heard the words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident," and where they first pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor.

The patriots of 1776 took these colonies and made out of them a country. They took a vision of liberty and made it into the law of this land. To a world that knew rule only by kings and lords, America's creed confounded imagination. In the words of one British loyalist, "If the people be the governors, who shall be the governed?" America's answer was, the governors and the governed must be one and the same.

More than two centuries later, for the first time in all of history, more than half of the people of this globe live under governments of their own choosing. An astonishing long way we have come since this day in 1776.

Just behind me on Ellis Island, the ancestors of more than 100 million United States citizens took their first steps on America's soil. They're the forebears of the immigrants who took the oath of citizenship today. Pulled by the vision of liberty and opportunity, often pushed by forces of intolerance and hopelessness, they came and brought with them their skills, their knowledge, and their hearts.

For more than a century, those who came through this gateway have passed a statue as large as the ideal for which it stands. "She was beautiful with the early morning light," said one young woman fleeing tyranny from eastern Europe. "The whole boat bent toward her because everybody went out; everybody was in the same spot; and everybody was crying." One Greek immigrant remembers looking up at the Statue of Liberty and asking her, "Please, give me the chance to become someone in America."

Lady Liberty, like those whom she welcomed, was also an immigrant, a gift from

France, a nation which did so much to help to give us birth.

Perhaps more than any other nation in all history, we have drawn our strength and spirit from people from other lands. Bearing different memories, bringing diverse traditions, immigrants have enriched our culture, enhanced our economy, broadened our vision of the world. And that is why, on this Fourth of July, standing in the shadow of Lady Liberty, we must resolve never to close the golden door behind us and always, not only to welcome people to our borders but to welcome people into our hearts.

To go beyond the things which divide us, race and culture and religion, to understand that whether our ancestors came here on immigrant ships or slave ships, whether they flew across the Pacific or once walked across the Bering Strait a very long time ago, anyone who accepts the rights and responsibilities of citizenship is our fellow citizen, equal in the eyes of God, entitled to be treated equally and with dignity by all of us. That must be our resolution on this and every Independence Day.

In 1827, 51 years after the Declaration of Independence was signed, the sole surviving signer of the Declaration was Charles Carroll of Maryland. He wrote the following: "I recommend to the future generation the principles of the Declaration as the best earthly inheritance their ancestors could bequeath. All of us are created equal; all are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights; among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

You may have noted that last week it was my great honor to announce on behalf of our common endeavors with our British and Japanese and other counterparts, that the first rough map of the human genome has been decoded. We now know that there will be an explosion of scientific discoveries which may give the young children in this audience a life expectancy of 100 years. But one thing we have already learned that proved the wisdom of the Founders is that genetically, without regard to race, we are 99.9 percent the same and that the genetic differences of individuals within each racial and ethnic group are greater than the genetic differences of one group to another.

It is important that we remember that—that, after all, the Founding Fathers were pretty smart and that science has confirmed what they said so long ago. The really difficult thing is to confirm what they said in our everyday lives.

Remember this fine young woman who introduced me today, and resolve to make the creed of our Declaration the reality in all of our lives.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. aboard the ship in New York Harbor. In his remarks, he referred to Seaman Rosa Norales-Nunez, USN, newly sworn-in citizen, who introduced the President; Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, daughter of President John F. Kennedy, her husband, Edwin Schlossberg, and their children, Rose, Tatiana, and John; Charles A. Robertson, chairman, Operation Sail, Inc.; Janet Langhart Cohen, wife of Secretary Cohen; Kati Marton, wife of U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Richard C. Holbrooke; James Gregory Zumwalt, son of the late Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr.; and Capt. Michael Miller, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *John F. Kennedy.* A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Announcing the Camp David Summit and an Exchange With Reporters

July 5, 2000

The President. Good morning. Early next week, Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat will come to Camp David at my invitation. A few days before that, their negotiators will arrive to help pave the way for this summit. The objective is to reach an agreement on the core issues that have fueled a half-century of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.

After lengthy discussion with the two leaders, and after listening to Secretary Albright's report, I have concluded that this is the best way—indeed, it is the only way—to move forward.

To state the task is to suggest the magnitude of the challenge. Behind the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lie the most profound questions about beliefs, political identity, collective fate. Etched in each side's mind are intense fears and emotions and a deep-seated

commitment to defend their people's interests. There are no easy answers and, certainly, no painless ones. And therefore, there is clearly no guarantee of success.

Why this summit, and why now? While Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have made real progress, crystallizing issues and defining gaps, the truth is they can take the talks no further at their level. Significant differences remain, and they involve the most complex and most sensitive of questions. The negotiators have reached an impasse. Movement now depends on historic decisions that only the two leaders can make.

I will be there with them, and I intend to do all I can to help them in this endeavor. But to delay this gathering, to remain stalled, is simply no longer an option, for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as all of us has seen, knows no status quo. It can move forward toward real peace, or it can slide back into turmoil. It will not stand still. If the parties do not seize this moment, if they cannot make progress now, there will be more hostility and more bitterness, perhaps even more violence. And to what end?

Eventually, after more bloodshed and tears, they will have to come back to the negotiating table. They will have to return to face the same history, the same geography, the same demographic trends, the same passions, and the same hatreds, and, I am sure, the exact same choices that confront them here and now.

Of course, action does have its perils but so, too, does inaction. The decisions will not come easier with time. Fundamentally, that is what I have concluded. The leaders have to make the decisions that are still there to be made, and the longer we wait, the more difficult the decisions are likely to become. The Israeli and the Palestinian people have leaders now who are visionary enough, courageous enough, capable of building a fair, just, and lasting peace.

In coming here and accepting this challenge, Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat have shown they are ready to take risks to pursue peace. The rest of the world, and especially the rest of the region, cannot afford to be bystanders. For all those who are truly committed to the cause of peace and to the well-being of the Israeli and Palestinian people, now is the time to lend their support to the peacemakers.

To the people of Israel and to the Palestinian people, I would like to say this: Peace under circumstances like these is never cost free. Neither side can achieve 100 percent of its goals. For the optimal solution of each party is, by definition, one the other party cannot and will not accept. Negotiations, therefore, must create an outcome that is realistic, balanced, and fair, and that meets the fundamental objectives of both sides, an outcome that strengthens the two parties rather than weakens one of them, an outcome that accommodates both sides' vital needs and dreams, an outcome that reconciles their competing grievances.

That is the only outcome that will permit Israelis and Palestinians to offer their children a future far different from the past, one with more opportunity and less fear, more hope and less despair. And that, of course, is the ultimate prize of peace.

The objective is often overshadowed, I might say, as all of you know, by the abject dreariness of the pursuit—one that you will, no doubt, have occasion to comment on in the days ahead. The ups and downs of the process, the daily hassles and disputes, the open-ended nature of the negotiations—all these, over time, have blurred the vision of what it is we are trying to achieve.

For Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat, the challenge next week will be to start drawing the contours of the long-awaited peace, a peace that can fulfill the Israeli people's quest for security, for recognition, for genuine reconciliation with Palestinians and genuine acceptance in the region—acceptance in deeds as well as words—a peace that can fulfill the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations to determine their destiny on their own land and to build a better future.

Almost 7 years ago now, we witnessed the historic handshake between the late Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat. It began a process that offered the Israeli and Palestinian people the chance to achieve what I then described as "the quiet miracle" of a normal life. That is still the vision that must inspire the efforts and call forth the commitment, courage, and creativity of

Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat next week.

Q. Mr. President, do you think that this is the last opportunity for peace during your Presidency? And how long will you give these negotiations? Are you talking days, weeks, what?

The President. Well, the answer to the first—actually, the short answer to both questions is, I don't know. I'll tell you what I do know. I know that Prime Minister Barak strongly believes that the nature of this process is such that the final decisions cannot be made except by a meeting between the two leaders and that he cannot go further than he has gone without that sort of meeting.

Chairman Arafat understands that the nature of the process is such that the final decisions will have to be made by the two leaders. And so they're willing to give it their best shot. And they understand, too, that as we have already seen, delay tends to make these things worse, not better.

One of the most important judgments any political leader has to make when dealing with a thorny problem is whether delay will make it better or worse. Occasionally, you actually get problems where the best thing to do right now is nothing, that delay will actually cause them to become less severe. These are not such problems. Delay only seems, to me, to make them more severe. So that's the answer to the first question.

The second question is, we all know what the deal is. We know what the issues are. We know at least within a range what the options are. I think if we work hard, we can get it done in several days, but I will give it whatever time is required, as long as we're still moving forward.

Q. Mr. President, could you describe the extent of your participation? Are you going to move up to Camp David, lock, stock, and barrel, for as long as it takes? And are you going to present a U.S., maybe a model plan, that might bring these two sides together?

The President. Well, I think the less I say right now about what I'm going to do, the better. And I will spend as much time there as I need to spend. I may come back here from time to time, depending on what else is happening, what else I need to do. We've got a lot going on in Congress now, even though they'll be gone a lot—some of the time, perhaps. But I think they'll be here most of the time, we'll be here, and I may have to come back. So we'll just see. But I will be there a lot, and I'll work as hard as I need to work.

Q. What happens if this slips past the deadline in September? How important is that deadline?

The President. Well, it's a deadline they set for themselves, and I think they all see it in terms that are—both sides see it in terms that are different from the deadline they set for the framework agreement—that is, they knew that there were problems inherent in making the framework agreement that if they could overcome, they could make the final agreement consistent with the framework agreement. So that's one of the things, obviously, that has driven my decision here.

I think that neither of them really want to see us go by September without a resolution of this, and I think they understands the stakes here.

Q. Mr. President, can you talk about the symbolism of the location of Camp David, what impact at all it might have on the parties to help them bridge the difficult gaps between them?

The President. Well, it is a place where, obviously, a milestone in Middle East peace was reached, and I hope in that sense, I think, it has to be a positive environment. But I think they also realize that from the very beginning, these were the hardest questions that go to the core of both sides' identity and sense of themselves, far more difficult to resolve, with all respect, than any issues between Israel and the Egyptians or the Jordanians or even the Syrians. Although we are not there yet with the Syrians, everybody knows pretty much what the deal is there and that there are practical questions there that are not nearly so charged with emotion and identity and almost national consciousness as these are.

So these are the difficult ones. And obviously, I hope that the setting will help to inspire them and to inspire us. I hope we'll all be inspired by it. But it's also a great place for us to be, because it gives us a reasonable

chance to work in quiet and without interruption and to observe the necessary discretion that, without which, we won't be able to move forward.

Thank you.

Mexican Elections

Q. Mr. President, something about Mexico, about the Mexican elections, please?

The President. Well, I called President Zedillo and congratulated him on what was clearly an open and fair and well-fought election. And I called President-elect Fox and congratulated him on his victory. We talked a little bit about the importance of our relationship and what lies ahead, and I told him that he would be welcome here at any time if he would like to come up.

Obviously, he has a lot of things to do, and he'll have to make that decision. But I'd be happy to meet with him if he would like to come up and sort of get our relationship started. Most of his term will unfold with the next President, but the relationship that we have with Mexico needs to go beyond individual personalities always, because we have too much in common and too much of a future to build together.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and President Ernesto Zedillo and President-elect Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Remarks on Signing the United Nations Optional Protocols on the Rights of Children in New York City

July 5, 2000

Thank you very much, Ambassador Holbrooke. That generous introduction confirms one of my unbreakable laws of politics, which is, whenever possible, you should endeavor to be introduced by someone you have appointed to high office. [*Laughter*]

I thank you, Deputy Secretary-General Frechette, for your welcome and for hosting me here today. And I'm delighted to see Olara Otunnu, Carol Bellamy. And thank you, Jim Wolfensohn, for being here and for your truly visionary leadership of the World Bank. I thank the members of the Security Council and the other Ambassadors who are here.

It's a special honor to have the President of Mali, President Konare, here, as well. I thank Secretary Summers for his work, and for coming here. And I'm delighted to be here with three Members of the House of Representatives, the chairman of the House Committee on International Affairs, Mr. Ben Gilman from New York, and Representative Carolyn Maloney, who represents the district in which the United Nations is located, and Sheila Jackson Lee from Houston, Texas, who did so much work on these subjects we're here to discuss today.

I also appreciate the presence here of members of the NGO community and members of the State, Defense, and Justice Departments' negotiating team who worked on these agreements. I'd also like to acknowledge the leadership of the Defense Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff who worked hard to ensure that we could sign the child soldier's protocol in good faith, without compromising our military readiness or our national security in any way.

Let me begin just by expressing a general word of appreciation, if I might, to the United Nations for the work that you have done. You mentioned the 500 multinational protocols that have come out of this organization since it began. We are grateful for the attention that you are now devoting to the world health crisis, and for the opportunity that we will have to introduce this resolution tomorrow, for the work you are doing for peacekeeping, most recently in Sierra Leone, and in so many other ways. It's a profound honor for the United States to host the United Nations, especially in this millennial year, and I'm looking forward to coming back for the Millennial Summit.

These two protocols today, I believe, are very important statements that go beyond their very terms. With the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor I signed last year, they form a trio of vital protections for children, and they must be signposts for the future of the global society.

To give life to our dream of a global economy that lifts all people, first we must stand together for all children. Yet every day, tens of millions of children work in conditions that shock the conscience. Every day, thousands of children are killed and brutalized in fighting wars that adults decided they should fight in. Every day around the world, and even here in the United States, children are sold into virtual slavery or traffic for the worst forms of sexual abuse.

Think about what has been lost for the future because roughly 2 million children have fought in wars over the last two decades. In Sierra Leone today, as many as half the rebel forces are under 18, some as young as 5 or 6. In Colombia, guerrillas have taken thousands of children from their villages to serve as soldiers.

Two years ago when we went to Africa, Hillary met with Ugandan children who had been abducted and heard their stories of unspeakable horror—of children forced to kill each other, family members, even their own parents. In Africa and around the world, she has been an eloquent and strong and consistent voice on behalf of our children—those who have been abused, exploited, and forced into war. And I wish she could be with me here today, because she's an important reason for why we're all here. This morning she reminded me that I should say, again, there is now worse sin in life than sending a child to kill the people who gave him life.

The Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict sets a clear and a high standard: No one under 18 may ever be drafted by any army in any country. Its signatories will do everything feasible to keep even volunteers from taking a direct part in hostilities before they are 18. They will make it a crime for any non-governmental force to use children under 18 in war. And they will work together to meet the needs of children who have been forced into war, to save a generation that already has lost too much.

What happens to the world's children in peacetime can be just as shocking. In the 21st century, it is difficult to believe that the global traffic in human beings is the third-largest source of income for organized crime—hundreds of thousands of children bought and sold, exploited and prostituted every year. Yet many countries don't even have laws against this kind of trade.

The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography will do a great deal to change that. It specifies that child pornography, prostitution, and enslavement are crimes everywhere. It provides better tools for law enforcement to extradite and prosecute those who profit from this dirty business.

Already we are waging a firm fight against those who traffic in children, but this protocol will make a big difference. And I was glad that the Deputy Secretary-General invited other countries to sign this and other outstanding protocols when they're here for the Millennial Summit.

Every American citizen should support these protocols. It is true that words on paper are not enough, but these documents are a clear starting point for action, for punishing offenders, dismantling the networks of trafficking, caring for the young victims. They represent an international coalition formed to fight a battle that one country, even a large country, cannot win alone. They represent a worldwide consensus on basic values, values every citizen of our country shares. In short, I believe they represent the United Nations at its very best. And they remind us why, at a time when crime, disease, and hate can spread faster than ever before, we need a strong United Nations more than ever before.

The United States has already passed a sense of the Senate resolution in support of the Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict. I will send both protocols to the Senate this month, and I hope very much that they can be ratified this year.

Both agreements are stand-alone documents; they create no obligations to other agreements which the United States has not ratified. They speak to an international sense of justice and to the belief profoundly shared by our people that children deserve love and protection.

During one of the darkest moments of the 20th century, the great German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, reminded us that "the test of the morality of a society is what it does for children." Today more than ever, this is a test the world cannot afford to fail.

The United States should always be at the forefront of this effort.

I am grateful for the opportunity Americans had to take a leading role in negotiating these agreements and to be among the first nations to sign them. I pledge my best efforts to see that we are also leaders in implementing them and, in so doing, in granting the world's children a future far better than its recent past. I thank all of you for your support as well.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the West Foyer at the United Nations. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Richard C. Holbrooke; U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Louise Frechette; Olara A. Otunnu, Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict; Carol Bellamy, executive director, UNICEF; and President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali.

Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibilities Under the Foreign Relations Authorization Act

July 5, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Responsibilities Under Section 1232 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (Public Law 106–113)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the duties and responsibilities vested in the President by section 1232 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (the "Act")(Public Law 106–113), to transfer from War Reserve Allies Stockpiles in Korea and Thailand to the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Thailand, respectively, in return for concessions to be negotiated by the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, any or all of the items described in paragraph (a)(2) of section 1232 of the Act, subject to the conditions, requirements, and limitations set forth in section 1232 of the Act.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provisions of any Act shall be deemed to be a reference to such Act or its provisions as may be amended from time to time.

The authority delegated to the Secretary of Defense may be redelegated in writing within the Department of Defense.

The Secretary of Defense is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

William J. Clinton

Remarks at a Military Salute Week Dinner in New York City

July 5, 2000

Please be seated. Let me say, first of all, I'm delighted to be here at Boomer Esiason's podium. [*Laughter*] When he was up here talking about being President, it was all I could do to avoid screaming, "Throw long, throw long!" [*Laughter*]

I want to also thank my good friend Lieutenant General Marty Steele, who is the president of the Intrepid Museum. It's a big step forward for him. He, like me, he was born and grew up in Arkansas, and he never saw a ship this big in his life until he was too old to figure out how to run one. [*Laughter*] So I appreciate your broadening his experience in life.

I'd like to thank the Members of Congress who are here, and General and Mrs. Shelton, I thank you for being here. And to all the executives who have worked so hard with Tony and the Fisher family to advance the cause of the Intrepid Museum and Foundation, I thank you.

I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Dick Grasso. He is the only person in New York who would give me any credit for the growth of the stock market in this last 7 years. [*Laughter*] There's ol' Mac saying he's wrong about that. It just shows you how confident Mr. Grasso is in his own leadership. [*Laughter*]

Let me say I am delighted to be here. Hillary and I were here yesterday with Chelsea for the tall ships and the review of the military ships. It was a magnificent day. I know many of you were here, and it's a

Fourth of July that I think all of us who were here will never, ever forget.

We are now at a place which, in some sense, makes every day the Fourth of July, for the Intrepid is a monument to the heroism of our Armed Forces. It is a place where young people come to learn about our history and our values and exactly how we went about defending them. It is a testament to the extraordinary generosity and vision of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher.

We all miss Zach tonight. I will never forget his devotion to our troops and to their families. His pride in them and their service and his sensibility to their hardship led him and Elizabeth to reach out to them in ways that were profoundly moving and genuinely life-changing for many of them. He gave a college scholarship or a place to stay near a hospitalized loved one or a program for a disabled child over and over and over again.

By their acts of generosity, the Fishers made our Armed Forces stronger. And therefore, they made our Nation stronger. And I hope they made all the rest of us more sensitive to the sacrifices of military service and the continuing needs of our military families. All Americans owe them a debt of gratitude.

Now the Fisher family, and those of you who support their work, carry on this important legacy, a legacy embodied by this magnificent ship. But we all must carry on their legacy as citizens. Our remarkable economic prosperity, to which Mr. Grasso referred, has made this not only a time of opportunity but a time of profound responsibility as well.

I have been saying over and over again, like a broken record, so much that even my fans are getting tired of it, but I'm going to say one more time tonight, how a nation handles its prosperity is as stern a test of its judgment, its values, and its character, as how a nation handles adversity.

And in some ways, it is more difficult. There's not a person in this audience tonight, over the age of 30 anyway, who can't remember at least one time in your life when you made a serious mistake, not because things were so bad but because things were so good you thought there was no penalty to the failure to concentrate. And so it is that our Nation today is confronted with the chance of a lifetime to shape the future of our dreams for our children and, with wise leadership, to shape the first several decades of the 21st century world, because of the gift of our prosperity.

A big part of that will depend upon whether we're prepared to give wise and generous leadership to the rest of the world—for peace and freedom, for security and prosperity. And that will depend in no small measure on whether we do the right things in meeting the military challenges of the 21st century.

The Congress this year is passing a defense budget that I believe will meet those challenges—to modernize our forces, to strengthen our readiness, to give our men and women in uniform the training they need, the equipment they need, and even more than we have done in the past to give them the quality of life they deserve. A strong defense, no less than in the past, is still a force for peace and stability in the world.

I also hope the Congress will support a strong diplomacy as a part of that defense. Congress recently approved our package for aid to Colombia, which I know has been somewhat controversial, but I believe it is profoundly important. Colombia is the oldest democracy in all Latin America. About a third of her land today is besieged by drug traffickers and guerrillas. There are people there every day who put on military uniforms and police uniforms and put their lives at risk simply by doing their jobs, in a way that is almost inconceivable for an American to imagine in this year. And so we are going to help them, and in so doing, we hope they'll keep more drugs out of the bodies of our own children.

I hope we will continue to support peace in the Balkans. Our military won a war in Kosovo and ended another one in Bosnia and stood up for the proposition that people in Europe in the 21st century will not be murdered because of their religion or their ethnic background. We saw it happen before—it led to the Holocaust in World War II—and the United States will not let it happen again in this new century.

We are doing our best to free the poorest countries of the world from the burdens of

crushing debt and disease, to support peacekeeping in Europe, Asia, and Africa, to support peace from Northern Ireland to the Middle East.

I announced today that early next week the peace talks will resume between the Israelis and the Palestinians in Washington with the Prime Minister and Chairman Arafat. I ask for your prayers and support for these brave people as they come here to try to end an old conflict. But if they are willing to make a sacrifice for peace, then the United States must lead the way in helping to make the investments necessary to ensure that the peace has a positive impact in ordinary people's lives.

The challenge of securing peace did not go away with the end of the cold war; it only became more complex. It still requires our leadership, not just from the White House and from Congress and our military leadership but also from our scholars, our scientists, our engineers, our business leaders, and from ordinary citizens.

The reason there was a man like Zach Fisher is that America is a place of shining opportunity. The reason that our military families needed his help is that we need so many people to serve, and they have needs that, even with all the generosity of Congress, we have not fully met while we continue to try to lead the world toward peace and to avoid war. His example, if nothing else, should convince every American that we should support our military, and even more important, we should support our mission, because when citizens do that, in ways large and small, America is stronger, and the world is a safer and more decent place.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. in Technologies Hall at the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum. In his remarks, he referred to former NFL quarterback and sports announcer Boomer Esiason, program emcee; Lt. Gen. Martin R. Steele, USMC (Ret.), president and chief executive officer, Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum; Gen. Henry H. Shelton, USA, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his wife, Carolyn; Anthony Fisher, nephew, and Elizabeth Fisher, widow, of the late Zachary Fisher, founder, Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum; Richard Grasso, chairman and chief executive officer, New York Stock Exchange, who introduced the President; Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri

July 6, 2000

Thank you very, very much. I want to begin by thanking President Pacheco and Chancellor Wallace. I'm delighted to be here. I want to thank the doctors and nurses who are here. And I want to say a special word of thanks to Doug Bouldin. I wish he could make that talk personally to every Member of the United States Congress. That was very moving, and I thank him.

I want to thank the other officials who have joined us here—Attorney General Jay Nixon; Secretary of State Rebecca McDowell Cook; State Auditor Claire McCaskill; Speaker of the House Steve Gaw; and Representative Harlan and the other members of the legislature that are here. And Mayor Hindman and members of the city and county council who are here, I thank you all for joining me.

And of course, a special word of thanks to Governor and Mrs. Carnahan for their friendship through the years and their leadership on this issue.

I must say I'm glad to be here. The last thing—when I got up this morning, very early in New York, to come here, the last thing my wife said to me was, she said, "You know, I went to Columbia once. It's a beautiful place. You'll have a good time." So I told Hillary, I said, "Well, you made the decision about how you're going to spend this year. I'm going to Columbia and have a good time." [*Laughter*] It was great.

I understand that, in addition to the history lesson we got about the University of Missouri, that this university also began the tradition of homecoming. I always feel at home when I'm here in Missouri, so I like that, and I wanted to mention it.

I'd like to say, too, how much I appreciate the opportunities that I've had to work with the leaders and the people of this State over the years—during the terrible floods along the Mississippi, and then when we were promoting welfare reform. I came here more often than to any other State during the 3½

year battle we had to pass meaningful welfare reform legislation because I thought that Governor Carnahan had done the best job of any Governor in any State in showing how to do the right kind of welfare reform.

We've worked together in education, in fighting crime, and, obviously, now, in ensuring quality health care. And I'd just like to say—because I don't know how many more times I'll be in Missouri when I'm President—[*laughter*]—that before I was President, for a dozen years I was a Governor of your neighboring State. It's a great job. It's like being president of a State without all the perks and without all the hassles. [*Laughter*] And I served with 4 Missouri Governors and over 150, believe it or not, other Governors across America. And Mel Carnahan is clearly one of the very best Governors I ever served with, and I thank him.

When I knew I was coming here—there are so many things that I want to talk about here at the university. I wanted to talk a little bit about increasing college access. We have now 10 million people taking advantage of either the HOPE scholarship or the lifetime learning tax credit. We reformed the student loan program. In 7½ years, students have saved $8 billion on student loan repayments. We've increased the Pell grant a lot, and now I'm trying to convince the Congress to let college tuition be tax deductible up to $10,000 a year. And I hope we can do that.

But the president talked about the importance of research, and we have tried to support basic research for our colleges and universities and through our national laboratories, and I could talk about that until tomorrow morning. But I'll just mention one thing to lead into why we're here.

I had the profound honor last week, along with Prime Minister Blair of Great Britain, to announce the completion of the first rough sequencing of the human genome. Now, this is a truly extraordinary thing that will change the lives of people who deliver health care.

Before you know it, young mothers will go home from the hospital with little genetic maps of their kids' lives. And it will be kind of scary in some ways. It will say, well, unfortunately, your child has a greater propensity to develop this or that problem. But it will also say if you do the following five things, you can cut the risk by two-thirds.

We will see the combination, the continuing combination of the information technology revolution with the revolution in genetics so that most of my friends in the field believe that within a few years, we'll be able to develop digital chips to replicate the failures of nerve cells, even in the spinal column, so that people confined the wheelchairs will be able to walk again. We will see—people completely paralyzed will be able to regain the movement of their limbs. I believe that children born sometime within the next 10 years will probably have a life expectancy of somewhere around 90 years. And sometime in the first few decades of this century, we'll have children born who, if they can manage to avoid accidents or other unnatural causes of death, will have life expectancies of 100 years. Now, that's the good news.

But the reason we're here today is that we have to run our health care systems consistent with our values. And if we're going to have all these advances, they have to be implemented in a way that all Americans can be treated fairly, equally, and have access to the benefits of everything from emergency room care to basic care to specialized care. That's what this whole debate's about.

Let me say to you, I feel a special responsibility here because I think, in general, managed care can be a good thing. That is, when I became President, the price of health care was going up at 3 times the rate of inflation every year. We were spending 4 percent more, and still are, of our gross national product on health care than any other country in the world, and it was obvious that we had to manage the system better.

But it's equally obvious that you can't turn the fundamental life-and-death decisions about the quality of health care over to people who are managing for things that have nothing to do with whether the patient turns out healthy or not. And that's what this whole thing is about.

It's about how to strike the right balance toward saying, "Yes, health care is like any other big enterprise. Of course you should have prudent management. Of course we should avoid wasting any money. Of course we should do the very best we can to run

it. But let's not forget why all these people are doing this, why they've got their white coats on. It's to help people stay well and to help them get well if they get sick or to help them recover if they're injured."

The reason we need the Patients' Bill of Rights is because we are awash in examples, which Doug just gave us a couple of, of the forest overcoming the trees. We have lost the forest for the trees, over and over and over again. That's why we're here.

Now, as has already been said by the previous speakers, I wanted to come here because Missouri has passed a strong law, and you proved it wasn't a partisan issue in the Heartland. It's amazing how many issues that are partisan issues in Washington aren't partisan issues once you get 5 miles outside of DC. I don't know—[*laughter*]. But survey after survey after survey shows that more than 70 percent of all Americans, whether they identify themselves as Republicans or Democrats or independents, support a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. And therefore, in Washington, we have an obligation to pass it and not to pass less than that just because the organized interest groups are trying to prevent it up there.

Here's the state of play and why I wanted to come here to highlight this. We are so close. The Norwood-Dingell bill, a bipartisan bill, passed the House with a lot of votes to spare. We had virtually every Democrat for it, and a fair number of Republicans voted for it. We had a good bipartisan group. Then the bill was taken up in the Senate, and we came within one vote of having enough to pass it. We had all the Democratic Senators. And Senator McCain, once again proving his independence, Senator Specter, Senator Fitzgerald, and Senator Chafee voted for it. So we're one vote away. And that's very important. And I came here because I don't think we ought to stop one vote short.

I don't know how many health care professionals I've heard tell stories like the one Doug Bouldin just told me. I don't know how many people I've heard—I saw a nurse once who was trying to explain to me what she had to go through calling HMO's to get approval for health procedures that the doctor for whom she worked wished to perform that were blatantly self-evident, and how many times she'd been turned down, and how many times it was her unhappy duty to go tell the patient that once again he or she had been shafted. And I'll never forget that woman just weeping. She literally could not complete what she had worked so hard on to tell me. And I've seen it over and over and over again.

Now, I have done all I can do through executive action. I issued an Executive order to extend the Patients' Bill of Rights safeguards to the 85 million Americans who get their health care through Federal plans, through Medicare, Medicaid, the veterans' system, the Federal health insurance plan. We have provided similar patient protections to every child covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program. But I've done all I can. The Governor and the State Legislature in Missouri, they've done all they can. But I want to explain clearly again why we need Federal legislation and why only Congress can close the loophole.

In spite of your strong law, which is as good as any in the country, more than one million Missourians do not have patient protections today because they are in plans that are outside the jurisdiction of State law, under Federal law. Now, only Federal legislation can fix that. The House-passed bill, the Norwood-Dingell bill does it. And the protections are listed here on the chart.

First, it must protect every American in every health plan. The bill that the Senate did vote on—that the majority passed, but they know is dead on arrival—excludes over 135 million Americans. It covers fewer than one in 10 people in HMO's. I mean, why are we doing this, anyway?

So when you hear people say, "Well, I support a Patients' Bill of Rights," the operative word in that sentence is "a" as opposed to "the." The difference in the one-letter word and the three-letter word is 135 million of your fellow citizens. This State has established strong safeguards, but not everybody is fortunate enough to live in Missouri. There are a lot of States that haven't done this.

Now, we have recognized that on certain fundamental things, there should be national action—that's Social Security, Medicare, environmental standards, the civil rights laws. We have said in certain fundamental areas,

a patchwork is not enough; there ought to be a floor on which every American can stand and through which no American falls. That's what this bipartisan bill does.

The second thing, the Patients' Bill of Rights must ensure access to specialists. Under the Senate bill—the one that passed, not the one they beat by a vote—you might have the right to see a cancer specialist, but the nearest doctor your plan may offer could be 100 miles away, or you might have to wait 2 weeks to see the person that's listed. That's wrong. The bipartisan bill ensures real access in a timely fashion to specialists. And if you or your family has ever needed one, you know how important that is.

The third thing the bill does is to ensure access to the nearest emergency room care, and you just heard that story. Now, you've got to understand, this is not an exceptional story. This is not a story that happens to people in small towns, and, "Oh my goodness, our plan just didn't happen to cover"—you know, we've heard stories from people that live in big cities in this country where somebody gets hit by a car on a crowded city street where there's a traffic jam everywhere, and they go past three hospitals before they get to the one that's covered for the emergency room.

This is not—Doug did not make up this story. I know you know he didn't make it up, but he did not make it up as a representative story. This is not some bizarre accident. This happens all the time, all over America. And most people don't know it, and when they hear it, they can't believe it. But it is true.

Now, the Senate bill, as Doug said, allows plans to saddle patients with an extra charge if they don't first call their health plan for permission before they go to an emergency room. Now, I feel quite confident that whoever wrote that has never been hit in a crosswalk by a passing car. "I have three broken ribs. My nearest relative is 500 miles away. I also have a concussion, but could you please wait before you put me in that ambulance and let me call my health plan?" [*Laughter*]

We're laughing because we don't want to cry, but this can be a life or death decision. You know it, and I know it. No one in an emergency should have to think twice about going to the nearest hospital. We just need to get over this.

Fourth, a real Patients' Bill of Rights must ensure access to clinical trials. This is also very important. Only the bipartisan bill provides coverage for all clinical trials, from cancer to heart disease to Alzheimer's to diabetes. This is going to get to be more and more important. You're going to have an explosion of chemical trials as a result of advances coming out of the human genome project, and people shouldn't be denied the right to get a new lease on life because they happen to be in an HMO. That's not right.

Fifth, and fundamentally, patients must be able to hold health plans fully accountable for harmful decisions. The Governor alluded to this, but—and I'm not sure even he knows this because it was just released today—but listen to this. A new analysis released today by a number of prominent legal scholars concludes that the Senate bill would be even worse than the current law, because it would effectively wipe out protections that States like Missouri have already passed and replace them with provisions that would make it more difficult to hold plans accountable for harmful decisions.

In other words, when they voted to pass that bill, they voted to weaken the law you have already passed. So they voted to cast away vital protections that the Governor and the State legislature fought so hard to give your families. That's not a step forward; it's a leap backward.

Now, the bipartisan bill, here's what it says. It doesn't say we want everybody to go file a lawsuit. That's not what it says. It says courts should be a last resort. There should be reasonable protection for companies and health plans that do the right thing, but if a health plan can be clearly proved to have caused harm, families simply must have the right to hold the insurance company accountable. A right without a remedy is not a right.

We need a real Patients' Bill of Rights with real accountability and real rights, not one that just provides cover for the special interests. We don't need more cover for them. We need more health care coverage for the American people.

I want to say one other thing for the skeptics who will hear about this, because I know

I'm largely preaching to the choir here. People say, "Oh, this is fine, but what does it cost? Does it cost something?" Yes, it costs something. Do you know what it cost the Federal health plans when I ordered all these protections I just told you? I issued an Executive order, and we put it into the Federal health plans. Do you know what it costs? Less than $1 a month a policy.

The congressional majority's own research service, that are the people that basically are against this, their own people say that the costs would be less than $2 a month a policy. Now, I'd pay $1 or $2 a month on my policy to know that you could go to the nearest emergency room if you got in an accident. And I think you'd feel the same way about your friends and your neighbors. I would pay.

So all of this business about how the cost is going to bankrupt the country and add to new health care costs, it is simply not so. And we have got to be clear about that.

Now, we are so close. We're one vote away. We have to overcome all the maneuvering power that the interest groups have through their influence with the leadership in the Senate, but we're one vote away. We can enact a strong, enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights this year. More than 300 health and consumer groups have endorsed it.

I've done everything I could to try to avoid making health care a partisan issue. We have passed bipartisan health care legislation to allow people to take their health insurance from one job to another, to have portability. We have enacted bipartisan legislation to provide for children's health insurance for low income people that aren't poor enough to be on Medicaid. We've approved a measure that allows people with disabilities to keep their Government-funded health care if they go into the work force. It's been a godsend. It hasn't cost you a penny as a taxpayer, and it's put a lot more people in the work force, making money and paying taxes themselves.

We have proved over and over again we could do this. And this whole thing is being hung up, with 70 percent of the American people on the other side, because one group of interests do not wish to be held accountable, like all the rest of us are, if they cause injury, because they don't want to give up the right to tell you which specialist to see, whether you could see one, and which emergency room you can visit. It doesn't make any sense.

So I'm honored to be here. I thank you all for what you have done and for once again having the Show Me State show the way. But I want you to think about the million Missourians who aren't covered by your own law, and the 135 million of your fellow Americans who wouldn't be covered by that Senate bill that poses as a Patients' Bill of Rights. And I want you to think about the one vote standing between all America and the kind of health care system we need. All we need is one vote, and we can change America for the better.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in Jesse Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Manuel T. Pacheco, president, University of Missouri System; Richard Wallace, chancellor, University of Missouri at Columbia; Doug Bouldin, family nurse practitioner, who introduced the President; State Representative Timothy Harlan; Mayor Darwin Hindman of Columbia; Gov. Mel Carnahan of Missouri and his wife, Jean; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Statement on the Release of School Accountability Funds

July 6, 2000

I am pleased that the Education Department announced today the release of the first $100 million from the Title I School Accountability Fund to help States and school districts turn around low performing schools. Over the last 7 years, we have followed a commonsense reform strategy—invest more in our schools and demand more in return. The funds announced today will support local communities in 31 States and the District of Columbia implement strategies that work to turn around their worst performing schools by: implementing a tougher curriculum; helping teachers get the skills and training they need; and if necessary, closing down a failing school and reopening it under new leadership or as a public charter school.

Today I call on Congress again to enact my budget proposal, which would double the

Accountability Fund to $250 million; fulfill our commitment to hire 100,000 high-quality teachers to reduce class size in the early grades; build and modernize public schools; and ensure after-school help for every child in a failing school. I also urge Congress to pass my "Education Accountability Act," which will enhance the efforts of States, districts, and schools to ensure all of America's children can achieve high standards by focusing on results.

NOTE: The statement referred to Title I—Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–382), which amended Title I—Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law 89–10).

Proclamation 7328—To Amend the Generalized System of Preferences

July 6, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 502(c)(7) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)(7)), provides that, in determining whether to designate any country a beneficiary developing country under this section, the President shall take into account whether that country has taken or is taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in that country. Section 502(d)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(d)(1)) provides that the President may withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) with respect to any designated beneficiary developing country based on consideration of the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2461 and 2462(c)). Section 502(f)(2) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2)) requires the President to notify the Congress and the affected country, at least 60 days before termination, of the President's intention to terminate the affected country's designation as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

2. Section 502(e) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country if the President determines that such country has become a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

3. Pursuant to section 502(d) of the Trade Act, and having considered the factors set forth in sections 501 and 502(c), I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend Belarus's GSP benefits because it has not taken and is not taking steps to afford workers in that country internationally recognized worker rights. In order to reflect the suspension of benefits under the GSP for articles imported from Belarus, I have determined that it is appropriate to modify general note 4(a) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

4. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the Trade Act, I have determined that Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia meet the definition of a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Accordingly, pursuant to section 502(e) of the Trade Act, I am terminating the preferential treatment under the GSP for articles that are currently eligible for such treatment and that are imported from Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia, effective January 1, 2002.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other Acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to Title V and section 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to reflect the suspension of benefits under the GSP with respect to Belarus, general note 4(a) of the HTS is modified by deleting "Belarus" from the list

of independent countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 60 days after the date of publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

(2) In order to terminate the designation of Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia as beneficiary developing countries under the GSP, general note 4(a) of the HTS is modified by:

(a) deleting "Malta" and "Slovenia" from the list of independent countries, and

(b) deleting "French Polynesia" and "New Caledonia" from the list of nonindependent countries and territories, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2002.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:39 a.m., July 7, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 10.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Proclamation To Amend the Generalized System of Preferences

July 6, 2000

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

I hereby transmit a Proclamation in which I have determined that it is appropriate to suspend preferential treatment for Belarus as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) because Belarus has not taken and is not taking steps to afford workers in Belarus internationally recognized worker rights. The Proclamation also determines that Malta, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Slovenia meet the definition of a "high income" country as defined by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and that therefore they will be graduated from the GSP, effective January 1, 2002.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Remarks on Dedication of the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument

July 7, 2000

Well, thank you very much. Hello, everyone, and welcome to what most people call the Old Soldiers' Home, the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, on this historic day.

I want to begin by thanking General Hilbert for his leadership here. And I want to thank Bill Woods for speaking on behalf of all the residents at the home. He said to me, "You know, I stumble a little. I'm not used to doing this." I thought he did a fine job.

He told you one of the things that I wanted to say, which is that the people who live in this home open amazing volumes of mail—1.9 million pieces since he's been at it. A lot of that mail is mail that very young children send to Socks and to Buddy. And you may know that Hillary actually did a book on the best letters that children wrote to the White House asking questions of our pets. And it would have been impossible to do that book, and it would be impossible to respond to those children with the staff we have at the White House, if it weren't for the veteran volunteers here who do this and so many other things to help the White House work.

I hope one of the things that will come out of this today is that the people who have retired after distinguished careers in military service will finally get some of the credit they deserve for helping the White House to operate every single day of the year. And we thank them all.

I also think we brought Buddy and Socks out here today to play. I hope I get them back before the end of the day.

I would like to say a special word of appreciation to Secretary West for his work with our veterans. And because of what we're doing today, I want to say again how indebted I feel the country is to Secretary Babbitt and to those who work with him, especially Bob Stanton, the Director of the National Park Service. We make another milestone decision today under the leadership and with the drive of Bruce Babbitt. When all is said and done, I'm not sure America will ever have had an Interior Secretary who had done so much good for the natural heritage of America as Bruce Babbitt.

I want to thank George Frampton, of the White House, who has done so much to support this effort. I thank the members of the DC City Council who are here today. We're going to try to raise a little more money to help you with the continued renaissance of our Nation's Capital, and we thank you for your leadership.

I want to thank Richard Moe, the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, for all that his organization has done to protect this site and others like it. The trust is helping to put places like Anderson Cottage literally back on the map.

And finally, this is one of the First Lady's White House millennial projects, which has allowed us to honor our past and imagine the future. I want to thank Ellen Lovell, who runs that project, and I want to thank Hillary for the truly astonishing impact this millennial effort has had in our country. Dick Moe told me on the way up here that we've now seen $100 million divided almost 50/50 between public and private monies committed to preserve the great treasures of America, of which this is one. And I know how passionately Hillary feels about this.

I'll never forget, I was once reading—a couple years ago I was reading this biography of Rutherford Hayes. And President Hayes, he was one of those Union generals from Ohio that got elected President—Grant, Hayes, Harrison, McKinley. After the Civil War, if you were a Union general from Ohio, you had about a 50 percent chance of being elected President. [*Laughter*] There has never been any category of Americans that had such a high probability of being elected President as Union generals from Ohio between 1865—or 1868 and 1900.

But anyway, I was reading how Hayes brought his family up here because the Potomac was a swamp, and the mosquitoes were terrible, and the heat was unbearable, and no one could work in the White House. And I started talking to Hillary about this, and she kind of nosed around up here. And we knew about the home because of all the work that the veterans here do for the White House. And one thing led to another, and this became one of our millennial treasures.

But I am very grateful to her and to Ellen Lovell, because I think that the millennial projects around the country—and I'll say a little more about this later—have really given a lasting gift to America. So I want to thank them. I know Hillary wishes she could be here today.

Now, I understand I am the first President since Chester Arthur to actually go up and down the stairs at the Anderson Cottage—more than 100 years ago. But the place is very special to America. It has so much of the spirit of Abraham Lincoln, even though it has almost been forgotten for more than a century. It's not because the people have forgotten President Lincoln. Last year more than one million people visited Ford's Theatre alone. But barely 100 made it here to Anderson Cottage, where Lincoln lived and worked, where his son played and his wife found solace, where his ideas took shape and his last, best hopes for America took flight.

In some ways, this cottage behind me is the most important, as well as the least known, Lincoln site in the entire United States. He spent a quarter of his Presidency at this cottage he called the Soldiers' Home. It was, in part, summer days like this one, that drew the Lincolns here, to higher ground, where the breeze flows more and a visitor can breathe a little easier. In 1862, Mr. Lincoln's second year as President, he and Mary packed up and moved the family these few miles north for the summer. It was quieter here; it was a place to reflect; and for them, at that time, it was, sadly, also a place to grieve for the loss of their young son Willie.

It was a place where the President could sit beneath the canopy of a beautiful copper beech tree, to go again through the books of poetry he loved so or drop the books and follow his son Tad up into the cradle of the tree's great limb. That tree is just behind the cottage here. I saw it when I arrived, and I walked beneath its canopy just as President Lincoln did almost 140 years ago. It is still very much alive, standing proudly and, I might add now, because it is three centuries old, it is our last living link to Abraham Lincoln.

It's hard to believe we're just a few miles from the White House. On a clear day, it's close enough to signal by semaphore from the Sherman Building tower; close enough to commute. On my short drive here today, I thought about how Mr. Lincoln used to come here on horseback or by carriage, up and down the old 7th Street Pike. His days were spent in wartime Washington, his nights and mornings here, not a bad commute by our standards, but it wasn't especially safe, either.

One evening in August of 1864 the sound of a gunshot sent Mr. Lincoln, who was riding alone on horseback, scrambling for home. He made it back here safely, though his $8 plug hat did not. The bullet passed through the hat but, thankfully, not through him. His guards found it along the road, and they found the bullet hole.

The Soldiers' Home gave the Lincolns refuge in times of trouble, but not escape. If anything, being here often brought President Lincoln closer to the front. The Battle of Fort Stevens was waged just 2 miles north of here. Lincoln got on his horse and went to witness the fight. On another ride, he passed an ambulance train, a terrible reminder of the war's human cost. And in July of 1864 the able Confederate General, Jubal Early, got so close to this cottage that Lincoln had to return in haste to the relative safety of the White House.

The war was never far away from him. In that, I think we see the real significance of the Soldiers' Home. For Lincoln came to this cottage not to hide from war but to confront its deepest meanings, to plumb its most difficult truths, to find the solace necessary to muster the strength and resolve to go on. It was here, as many of you know, that President Lincoln completed a draft of the Emancipation Proclamation, which abolished slavery in the seceding States. When he signed it, Lincoln said, "My whole soul is in it." You can still feel that spirit strongly in the room in this cottage where he worked.

America knows Monticello, Mount Vernon, Hyde Park. We come to understand our heroes not only through their words and deeds but by their homes, the quiet places they created for themselves and their families. But not enough Americans know about Anderson Cottage and the truly historic role it has played in our Nation's history. We should, and now we shall. There is fragile, vital history in this house. Today we come to reclaim it, to preserve it, and to make it live again, not simply to honor those who came before and not only for ourselves but for generations yet to come who need to know how those who lived here lived and made the decisions they made at a profoundly fateful time for our Nation.

Our compact with the past must always be part of our commitment to the future. So today I am proud to designate President Lincoln's summer home, the Soldiers' Home, as a national monument.

I am using the power vested in me under the Antiquities Act, because conservation applies not only to places of great natural splendor but to places of great national import. This cottage, in its way, is just as precious as a giant sequoia, as irreplaceable as the ruins of cultures long past, and it is our profound obligation to preserve and protect it for future generations.

I am also announcing, as part of our partnership with the private sector to save America's treasures, awards of $1.1 million to Anderson College. Now, we need a lot more, but this is a good start, one of 47 grants we're awarding today, $15 million overall, to fund preservation efforts across America.

As I said, Hillary inspired this whole millennial Save America's Treasures project. We both look forward to the important work ahead, to continuing it for the next 6 months and in the years ahead when we return to private life. This new round of awards will reach from Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to

Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; from Ellis Island in New Jersey to the U.S.S. *Missouri* anchored off Hawaii.

The *Missouri,* as some of you may recall, is where the Japanese formally surrendered, bringing an end to the Second World War. We have a gentleman here today who served on that battleship and witnessed that ceremony. Tony Antos, if you're here, I wish you'd stand up so we could give you a hand. Where are you? Thank you, sir. [*Applause*]

The Save America's Treasures movement has already saved the Star-Spangled Banner, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution and now, Anderson Cottage. The new steps I announced today, along with the new funds, will help to ensure that the Soldiers' Home is restored to the way it looked when the Lincolns lived here. Then, at long last, school children and scholars alike can tap this precious national resource. And we will all better understand the life, times, and legacy of Abraham Lincoln.

Earlier, I said Mr. Lincoln sat beneath the copper beech tree and read books of poetry, the works of Burns, Holmes, Whittier. His favorite poem was called, "Mortality," by William Knox. He knew every line, every word, by heart. He said it so often, people started to believe he had written it. In a few moments, when I sign the proclamation establishing this as a national monument, you might think of this stanza as a brief meditation, which meant so much to President Lincoln, and you might think of it any time we act to preserve our history and our heritage for our future:

For we are the same our fathers have
been;
We see the same sights our fathers have
seen;
We drink the same stream, we view the
same Sun,
And run the same course our fathers have
run.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 noon at Anderson Cottage at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Donald Hilbert, USA (Ret.), Director, and M. Sgt. Bill Woods, USA (Ret.), resident, U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home.

Proclamation—President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument

July 7, 2000

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year from 1862 through 1864, President Abraham Lincoln and his family left the White House to take up residence during the warm weather months at Anderson Cottage, a home in northwest Washington, D.C., on the grounds of a site then known as the Soldiers' Home. It is estimated that President Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency at this home, riding out to it many evenings from late June until early November. The house and surrounding land are now part of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a component of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, an independent establishment in the executive branch. This house and its grounds are objects of great historic significance and interest.

It was here, in September of 1862, that President Lincoln completed the drafting of the Emancipation Proclamation. His second floor bedroom and much of the rest of the house are configured as they were when he was in residence, and original mantels, woodwork, and windows are retained. A magnificent copper beech tree under which he read and relaxed is still growing at the site. It was also from this house that, in July of 1864, he traveled 2 miles north to view the battle of Fort Stevens, during which he actually came under fire as he stood beside the Union troops defending the capital. The house has been designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

The land was purchased by the Federal Government through the Soldiers' Home Trust Fund in 1851 to establish a home for invalid and disabled soldiers of the U.S. Army, the first such attempt to provide for members of the regular army. The house was first used as a summer retreat by President Buchanan from 1857 to 1860, and continued to be used as such by several presidents, including President Hayes from 1877 to 1880 and President Arthur from 1882 to 1884. It

became known as Anderson Cottage in honor of Major Robert Anderson, the Union commanding officer at Fort Sumter at the outbreak of the Civil War.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of lands, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Whereas it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands as a national monument to be known as the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument:

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument for the purpose of protecting the objects identified above, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described on the map entitled "President Lincoln and Soldiers' Home National Monument" attached to and forming a part of this proclamation. The Federal land and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 2.3 acres, which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or leasing or other disposition under the public land or other Federal laws, including but not limited to withdrawal from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

The monument historically has been a part of the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, a facility administered by the Armed Forces Retirement Home, an independent establishment of the Executive Branch. The Armed Forces Retirement Home, through the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home, shall manage the monument as an integral part of that surrounding facility and consistent with the purposes and provisions of this proclamation. In managing the monument, the Armed Forces Retirement Home shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service.

For the purpose of preserving, restoring, and enhancing the public's appreciation of the monument, the Armed Forces Retirement Home shall prepare, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service, a management plan for this monument within 3 years of this date. Further, to the extent authorized, the Armed Forces Retirement Home shall promulgate, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service, regulations for the proper care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation. Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

NOTE: At the time of publication, this proclamation had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register for assignment of a proclamation number.

Statement on the National Economy

July 7, 2000

Today we have more evidence that our economic strategy is working. The American economy has created more than 22 million jobs since the beginning of 1993. More than 20 million of these jobs are in the private sector, giving us the highest share of private-sector job creation since President Truman was in office. The benefits of job creation have been enjoyed across the American economy, with the unemployment rates for African-Americans and Hispanics falling to record lows this year.

This good news is another reminder that America should not reverse course with irresponsible tax cuts that risk our fiscal discipline and jeopardize our continued economic strength. Let's ensure that the American people can continue to break records by maintaining fiscal discipline, paying off the debt by 2012, keeping Social Security and Medicare strong for the next generation, and investing in education and other priorities.

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 1

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD.

July 3

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

July 4

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled to New York City, and in the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC, where he addressed participants in the Independence Day celebrations on the South Lawn.

July 5

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New York City, and in the evening, he and Hillary Clinton traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

July 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Columbia, MO, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President had a telephone conversation in the Oval Office with President Ben Ali of Tunisia concerning postponement of President Ali's scheduled state visit.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

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 July 4

Fact sheet: New Class of Ship Named After Admiral Zumwalt

Released July 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by NSC Senior Director for Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs Eric Schwartz on the United Nations Protocols on Child Soldiers and the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography

Fact sheet: United Nations Protocols on Child Soldiers and the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography

Released July 6

Statement by the Press Secretary: Postponement of Tunisian State Visit

Released July 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Jake Siewert and Assistant Press Secretary for Foreign Affairs P.J. Crowley

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 1

H.R. 4762 / Public Law 106–230
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities

Approved July 6

H.R. 642 / Public Law 106–231
To redesignate the Federal building located at 701 South Santa Fe Avenue in Compton, California, and known as the Compton Main Post Office, as the "Mervyn Malcolm Dymally Post Office Building"

H.R. 643 / Public Law 106–232
To redesignate the Federal building located at 10301 South Compton Avenue, in Los Angeles, California, and known as the Watts Finance Office, as the "Augustus F. Hawkins Post Office Building"

H.R. 1666 / Public Law 106–233
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service at 200 East Pinckney Street in Madison, Florida, as the "Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr., Post Office"

H.R. 2307 / Public Law 106–234
To designate the building of the United States Postal Service located at 5 Cedar Street in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, as the "Thomas J. Brown Post Office Building"

H.R. 2357 / Public Law 106–235
To designate the United States Post Office located at 3675 Warrensville Center Road in Shaker Heights, Ohio, as the "Louise Stokes Post Office"

H.R. 2460 / Public Law 106–236
To designate the United States Post Office located at 125 Border Avenue West in Wiggins, Mississippi, as the "Jay Hanna 'Dizzy' Dean Post Office"

H.R. 2591 / Public Law 106–237
To designate the United States Post Office located at 713 Elm Street in Wakefield, Kansas, as the "William H. Avery Post Office"

H.R. 2952 / Public Law 106–238
To redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Orchard Park Drive in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Keith D. Oglesby Station"

H.R. 3018 / Public Law 106–239
To designate certain facilities of the United States Postal Service in South Carolina

H.R. 3699 / Public Law 106–240
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8409 Lee Highway in Merrifield, Virginia, as the "Joel T. Broyhill Postal Building"

H.R. 3701 / Public Law 106–241
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3118 Washington Boulevard in Arlington, Virginia, as the "Joseph L. Fisher Post Office Building"

H.R. 4241 / Public Law 106–242
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1818 Milton Avenue in Janesville, Wisconsin, as the "Les Aspin Post Office Building"

H.R. 3903 / Private Law 106–5
To deem the vessel M/V MIST COVE to be less than 100 gross tons, as measured under chapter 145 of title 46, United States Code