

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

June 8, 1993

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, the Republicans have said they won't accept a plan with any taxes. How are you going to bridge that gap with Bob Dole?

The President. I don't know what the bridge will be. Let me just say this, I think it's very important that we move this promptly as possible to pass the economic plan. After the House acted, long-term interest rates dropped again. We now have a 7-year high in housing sales, unemployment below 7 percent—it's the first time in a year and a half—755,000 new jobs since January. And that's because there's a serious attempt to reduce this deficit through a combination of cuts and tax increases, almost all of which come on wealthier individuals. So I think we just need to move forward.

There will be some changes in the Senate, and that is fine. Then we just need to hold to the principles: there ought to be \$500 billion in deficit reduction; it ought to be in a trust fund so that neither the taxes nor the spending cuts can be diverted; and the tax burden ought to be progressive, falling largely on the wealthiest Americans; and we ought to keep the incentives for private sector growth in there. We're moving from welfare to work for investing in the depressed areas of the country for starting small businesses. Those are the principles that I have. And the energy tax ought to encourage conservation and the use of cleaner fuels. Those are the things that I think ought to be done. We'll just see what happens.

Q. Does it have to include—does it have to be a Btu tax, or can you find another energy—

The President. I have delegated to—I don't want to get into the name game here. I'm interested in the principles of the program: deficit reduction, lower interest rates, job growth. We've got job growth coming back into this economy now, and I think we have to continue to do what produces it, which is lower interest rates. The lower interest rates are causing people to refinance all

their debt and putting it back into the economy. And that's the thing I'm interested in.

We'll just see. Secretary Bentsen and Mr. Panetta are representing the administration in the conversations with the Senate. And we'll just see what comes out of it.

Q. Do you think you can start over with Bob Dole—after all the bad blood?

The President. I like Senator Dole. I always have. Besides that, he knows more jokes than I do, and I resent it. Get him to share some with you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:35 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Signing the Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993

June 8, 1993

It is with great pleasure that I sign into law S. 564, the "Government Printing Office Electronic Information Access Enhancement Act of 1993," which will enhance electronic access by the public to Federal information. Under this Act, the public will have on-line computer access to two of the major source documents that inform us about the laws and regulations that affect our daily lives: the *Congressional Record* and the *Federal Register*. With recent advances in information technology, we can go beyond the costly printing of tons of paper documents without diminishing the quick and accurate delivery of important information to the public.

As Vice President Gore and I announced in our February 22nd statement, *Technology for America's Economic Growth, A New Direction to Build Economic Strength*, we are committed to working with the private sector to use technology to make Government information available to the public in a timely and equitable manner. Federal agencies can make Government information more accessible to the public, and enhance the utility of Government information as a national re-

source, by disseminating information in electronic media.

For many years, Vice President Gore has been a leader in this area. He introduced the Senate version of this Act last year and worked closely with Chairmen Charlie Rose and Wendell Ford and others on both sides of the aisle to refine the Act.

This important step forward in the electronic dissemination of Federal information will provide valuable insights into the most effective means of disseminating all public Government information. The system to be established by the Government Printing Office (GPO) will complement, not supplant, commercial information services and Federal agency information dissemination programs. Likewise, it should not supplant existing GPO mechanisms of information dissemination to the private sector. Indeed, the lessons learned from this program will be used by Federal agencies to develop the most useful and cost-effective means of information dissemination. To do this, the GPO initiative must be coordinated with related projects in the Executive branch.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 8, 1993.

NOTE: S. 564, approved June 8, was assigned Public Law No. 103-40.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Report of the
Federal Council on the Aging**

June 8, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 204(f) of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3015(f)), I hereby transmit the Annual Report for 1992 of the Federal Council on the Aging. The report reflects the Council's views in its role of examining programs serving older Americans.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
June 8, 1993.

**Nomination for Director of the
Trade and Development Agency**

June 8, 1993

The President announced his intention to nominate New Hampshire management consultant and political activist J. Joseph Grandmaison to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, U.S. International Development and Cooperation Agency.

"Joe Grandmaison has many years of experience in economic development, as well as in civic affairs," said the President. "His knowledge of how the private and public sectors can work together will serve him well in this new position."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

**Nominations for Posts at the Office of
Science and Technology Policy**

June 8, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate NASA scientist Robert Watson Associate Director for the Environment at the Office of Science and Technology Policy and Mark Schaefer, Washington office director of the Carnegie Commission on Science, Technology and Government, as Assistant Director for the Environment at the OSTP.

"Bob Watson and Mark Schaefer are scientists who have spent the bulk of their careers studying the connection between science and the environment," the President said. "With their understanding of the important connection between these two fields, I am confident they will ensure American policies work to promote a strong economy and a healthy environment."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.