

can go out and try to print it for a lower cost. That's good. That means we'll have a little competition and these books will be everywhere. [Laughter]

I want to implore all of you to get this and read it, to get as many of your friends and neighbors as possible to read it, and to create a climate in this country where we have an honest, nonpartisan American debate to have an American solution to this issue; and that you insist that these principles be observed—that we fix what's wrong, keep what's right—and that we act on this, that we act on it before Congress goes home next year. It begins with you knowing about it. Please help us.

Thank you very much, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. in the Newton White Athletic Center. In his remarks, he referred to William C. Richardson, president, Michael E. Johns, dean, medical faculty, Carol J. Gray, dean, School of Nursing, Alfred Sommer, dean, School of Hygiene and Public Health, and Robbye McNair, medical student, Johns Hopkins University; and James A. Block, president, Johns Hopkins University Hospital.

**Statement on Signing the  
Departments of Veterans Affairs and  
Housing and Urban Development,  
and Independent Agencies  
Appropriations Act, 1994**

*October 28, 1993*

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2491, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1994."

The Act provides funding for the Departments of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Housing and Urban Development and independent agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and National Science Foundation. This Act will fund important activities in the space program, housing programs, environmental protection, and programs for our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the Act provides the funding for a number of my high-priority investment proposals, including the National

Service Initiative. The National Service Initiative will provide an opportunity for young people to obtain funding for a college education while serving the country in areas of great need such as education, environment, public safety, and human services.

The Act also provides funding for the redesigned Space Station and New Technology Investments. These programs will set a new direction for the Nation in space exploration, science, and technology.

The Act includes \$6.7 billion in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Act provides funds for EPA programs that protect our environment through enforcement of our environmental laws, cleanup of hazardous waste sites, and construction of needed water and waste-water treatment facilities.

The Act meets the needs of our Nation's veterans by providing \$15.6 billion in VA medical care, an increase of \$980 million over the FY 1993 enacted level.

The Act includes \$25.4 billion in funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, including funding for programs such as the HOME block grants for housing, Community Development Grants, and Severely Distressed Public Housing. These programs will assist communities and individuals in revitalizing neighborhoods and increasing opportunities for home ownership.

The Act provides \$3 billion in funding for the National Science Foundation, a \$283 million increase over the FY 1993 enacted level. These programs will promote basic research that is vital to enabling our Nation to compete in world markets.

Regrettably, the Act does not fund all of my priority investment proposals, including the Community Investment Program and Community Development Banks. Due to tight budget constraints, the Congress has had the difficult task of balancing the competing priorities of this Act. Although I am disappointed this bill does not fund these programs and includes cuts to programs in space, science, and technology, the bill provides funding for veterans programs, housing initiatives, and environmental programs at acceptable levels. We will continue to work

with the Congress to address our mutual concerns in seeking solutions to our Nation's problems.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
October 28, 1993.

NOTE: H.R. 2491, approved October 28, was assigned Public Law No. 103-124.

**Proclamation 6619—National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 1993 and 1994**

*October 28, 1993*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Home should be a place of warmth, unconditional love, tranquility, and security. And for most of us, home and family can, indeed, be counted among our greatest blessings. Tragically, for many Americans, these are blessings that are tarnished by violence and fear.

Domestic violence is more than the occasional family dispute. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, it is the single largest cause of injury to American women, affecting six million of all racial, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

In our country, a woman is battered every 15 seconds, and 40 percent of female homicide victims in 1991 were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. Yet unbelievably, more than half of women in need of shelter may be turned away due to a lack of space.

Women are not the only targets. Young children and the elderly are also counted among the victims, and sadly, emotional scars are often permanent.

A coalition of organizations has emerged to directly confront this crisis. Law enforcement officials, those involved with shelters and hotline services, health care providers, the clergy, and other concerned citizens are helping in the effort to end domestic violence. We must recognize the compassion and dedication of these volunteers and professionals, applaud their efforts, and increase

public understanding of this important problem.

**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 October 1993 and October 1994 as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to observe these months by becoming more aware of the tragedy of domestic violence, supporting those who are working toward its end, and participating in other appropriate efforts.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:06 p.m., October 28, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 1.

**Remarks at the Wall Street Journal Conference on the Americas in New York City**

*October 28, 1993*

Thank you very much, Peter. And thank you for that wonderfully understated observation that your editorial positions don't always agree with mine. [*Laughter*]

I am delighted to be here tonight on a matter on which we both agree. I thank you for sponsoring this meeting, and I was glad to see you and my longtime acquaintance Al Hunt, who invited me. I would say "friend," but it would destroy his reputation in the circle in which we find ourselves. [*Laughter*] He invited me here only because he had been replaced by Alan Murray, and therefore he knew he could not guarantee me one line of good press for accepting this invitation. [*Laughter*] I thank you, I thank William Rhodes and Karen Elliott House and all the others who are responsible for this event.