

Stevenson was an elegant, good man who thought politics was a noble endeavor. And he said it better than just about anybody ever has.

I will never forget coming to a rally in southwest Missouri in early 1992, when Mel was involved in a very tough primary for Governor that he wasn't necessarily favored to win, and I was running for President, polling a distant fifth in New Hampshire. Only my mother thought I could win. But Mel Carnahan came to that rally in southwest Missouri and came out for me. He had absolutely nothing to gain by it—nothing. He did it just because he thought it was right. And for 8 years, he has been my friend and my partner.

In so many ways, he was a magnificent Governor. I suspect only those who have worked with him across a wide range of issues can know just how good he was. The last thing we did here together, Jean, was talk about the Patients' Bill of Rights and to eat a little barbecue. Mel made sure we went in the kitchen and shook hands with the people there. He never let me forget that just because I wasn't running again, I was still a public servant.

I am grateful—grateful—that I knew Mel Carnahan. I am grateful that we had the chance to work together. He left us too early, but he had a great ride. He had a wonderful wife, devoted children, people who believed in public service. Robin worked in our administration for a while, and I'm grateful for that. And I think we should remember him with this admonition of Saint Paul to the Galatians: "While we have time, let us do good."

I spoke the other day to a congregation of bishops of the Church of God in Christ, and I made the mistake of saying I was glad to be with them because, unlike me, they weren't term-limited. And the head bishop stood up and said, "Mr. President, we are all term-limited." So if he were here—and in a way, he is—he would say, "Okay, so I had a lot more I wanted to do, but I had a good ride. And it's not so bad being up there. The boys are good company, and I'm looking down on you. You know what to do. While you have time, do good."

We'll miss you, Mel. We'll try to take up the slack, but we'll not have another one like you. God bless you, and Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:57 p.m. on the South Grounds of the State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Governor Carnahan's widow, Jean, and their children Robin, Tom, and Russ, and Russ' wife, Debra; and Governor Carnahan's successor Roger B. Wilson, and his wife, Pat. Governor Carnahan died in a plane crash south of St. Louis on October 16 while traveling to a campaign event with his son Roger (Randy) and his senior adviser, Chris Sifford.

Statement on Signing the Fourth Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001

October 20, 2000

Today I am signing a measure that will grant Congress still one more in a series of extensions it needs to finish its work. Unfortunately, Congress has shown little urgency toward completing its work, even though we are now 3 weeks into the new fiscal year, and some of our most essential priorities, especially in the area of education, have yet to be addressed.

As of today, Congress has failed to make a commitment to reducing class size and repairing our crumbling schools—two priorities crucial for our Nation's students. I urge Congress to approve our proposed tax credits to help local communities with new school construction. In addition, Congress should invest in accountability to turn around or shut down failing schools and open them under new management, in improving teacher quality, and in expanding after-school efforts that help children learn in a safe environment.

Congress must get to work to address these and other key priorities. The measure I am signing today ends in 5 days. Congress should complete its work by Wednesday, when this stopgap funding measure expires. If Congress fails to complete its work by then, I will only grant additional extensions one day at a time. Congress needs to stay in town and complete its business without additional delay.

NOTE: At the time of publication, H.J. Res. 114, approved October 20, had not been received by the Office of the Federal Register in time for assignment of a public law number.

Statement on General Motors Success in Tripling Average Fuel Economy

October 20, 2000

I congratulate General Motors on the news today that its Precept hybrid vehicle has achieved fuel economy of 80 miles per gallon. This extraordinary achievement is the result in part of a Government/industry effort, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles, begun by Vice President Gore in 1994. The goal set then in the face of strong skepticism was to triple average fuel economy. This car meets that test.

Today's announcement is further evidence that the investments in clean energy technologies we have made over the last 8 years are paying off. The benefits of these investments include not only improved gas mileage and a cleaner environment but also reduced dependence on foreign oil. These technologies are a cornerstone of this administration's effective and forward-looking energy and environmental policy.

Indeed, while America's gross domestic product has grown by more than 20 percent over the last 5 years, energy usage has increased by less than 8 percent. This trend of reduced energy intensity in our economy is critical to ensuring a healthy environment and strong, sustainable economic growth.

But we must do more. Unfortunately, Congress has refused to act on our package of consumer tax credits—including credits of up to \$4,000 for consumers to purchase the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles. At a time that America's business leaders are making headlines every day with new investments in clean energy technologies, it is time that Congress joins us in these important efforts to strengthen America's energy security.

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.

October 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO, and in the afternoon, he traveled to Seattle, WA. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

October 15

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt, arriving October 16.

October 16

In the morning, the President met with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in the Sinai Suite at the Jolie Ville Golf Resort. Later, he met separately with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel, Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority, King Abdullah II of Jordan, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in the Noweiba Suite at the resort.

The President announced his intention to nominate Peggy Goldwater-Clay to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Duke to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to reappoint Frances M. Visco as a member of the President's Cancer Panel.

October 17

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a disaster in Michigan and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on September 10–11.