

great scientific skills, laboratory management experience, a strong commitment to environmental protection, and the savvy required to deal effectively with sensitive issues.”

As Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Clarence L. (Larry) Irving will direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). “One of the most important missions that I have charged the Commerce Department with is nurturing the key industries of the future, in areas like telecommunications,” said the President. “Larry Irving has a clear vision for turning telecommunications innovations into high skill, high wage jobs.”

“In addition,” said President Clinton, “with his experience on Capitol Hill, Larry will be invaluable in moving legislation swiftly through the Congress. He will be joined in that effort by Sheila Anthony, someone with the political and management experience to strengthen the lines of communication between Commerce and Capitol Hill. I am so pleased to have a native of Hope, Arkansas, working closely with Congress to get our plans enacted.”

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

## Nomination for Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency February 12, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate James Lee Witt, the head of Arkansas’ State Office of Emergency Management and a former county judge, as Director of the Nation’s Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“The devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew last year was a sober reminder that we need to provide strong, organized, and effective

help to American families whose lives are dramatically affected by disaster,” President Clinton said. “James Lee has done an outstanding job in Arkansas, and I am confident he will do the same for the country in his new role.”

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

## Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With the Economic Policy Group February 13, 1993

Q. What’s on the agenda, Mr. President?

*The President.* We’re working on the budget. You know what we’re doing. [*Laughter*]

Q. Still?

Q. [*Inaudible*]—all the decisions, sir?

*The President.* No, otherwise I wouldn’t be asking them to meet on Saturday.

Q. Mr. President, have you heard anything from the lawmakers that would cause you to change your mind on any policies that you intend to propose?

*The Vice President.* That’s kind of a broad question anyway. [*Laughter*]

*The President.* I’ve gotten a lot of good advice from them, a lot of good ideas. I’ve basically just been asking them for their ideas, not only

in the meetings here but in telephone calls. And I’ve gotten some good suggestions, some of which we’ve been able to incorporate.

Q. How long do you think you’re going to have to work?

*The President.* I’m going to work a while today and a while tomorrow and a while—

Q. You playing golf today?

*The President.* It doesn’t look like it. It’s warmer today, though, isn’t it?

Q. A little wet.

*The President.* I knew as soon as I decided not to play golf it would warm up.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:35 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.