

grateful as well, and I look forward to his speedy confirmation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:27 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders *July 20, 1993*

Representative Dan Rostenkowski

Q. Mr. President, do you think that Chairman Rostenkowski's legal problems will have any effect on the budget process?

The President. No. We've got a lot of work to do. Chairman Rostenkowski's done a great job with this budget so far, and we've worked very closely together. And we're going to work today. I don't know anything about the rest of it. I just know that we're going to work. That's what we all got hired to do, and we're going to do our job.

Energy Tax

Q. Are you ready to give up on an energy tax?

The President. No.

Q. Does an energy tax have to be part of the program? There's a lot of move on Capitol Hill against it.

The President. I know it. But if you look at all the numbers, it's hard to get there without it. So, I think we ought to——

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:41 p.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Democratic Members of the House of Representatives *July 20, 1993*

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader. Ladies and gentlemen, as all of you know I have just spent several days away from Washington, stopping along the way to look at the floods in Iowa and going through California to meet with the National Education Association and then on to Japan where I met with the leaders of the seven large industrial nations of the world, which included an agreement to reduce tariffs by historic rates, agreed to continue our common efforts to promote democracy and economic progress in Russia, and reached an agreement with Japan that, for the first time, convinced the Japanese explicitly to reduce dramatically their trade surplus with us and to work with us with specific numerical objective criteria to deal with that problem. Then I went to Korea to see our young men and women in uniform there defending freedom at a distant outpost. I got within about 10 yards of the dividing line between North and South Korea, the Bridge of No Return,

then flew back through Hawaii to see the many, many thousands of sailors there at Pearl Harbor along with the leaders of our military in the Pacific Command. And then I came back with Leader Gephardt on Saturday to go to St. Louis to visit the Governors who have been victimized by the floods, and their people have.

All these trips have a common thread, as disparate as they were. I had an opportunity to see people who were serving this country and people who are living here and working hard, making our jobs possible. And I was immensely moved, as I always am, by the incredible character and courage and good common sense of the American people.

Now, we come here at a difficult time for the country and for the world. The world is in a significant economic crisis. All the wealthier countries of the world are facing difficulties in creating new jobs. For a very long time there has been a kind of political paralysis in this country where we always knew what we had