

tucky and Vermont with plans on the griddle, a lot of other things being considered. So I think we need to maintain the elbow room and the creativity of the States in solving some of these problems, but there needs to be enough of a framework so that no one fears being left out and so that there's enough systematic change to bring these cost increases down. We have got to get health care costs down closer to inflation, plus population growth, or we're never going to turn this economy around in the long run. We're spending 14 percent of our income on health care, and only one other nation in the world, Canada, is even over 9 percent of income, and they're just barely over.

So we are going to have to have some uniformity, but I want the private system to remain in place, and I want as much flexibility for the States as possible.

Mr. Wesely. Thank you, Mr. President.

[*Mr. Hamilton then thanked the President for participating in the program.*]

The President. God bless you, Art. Thank you all, and goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Room 459 of the Old Executive Office Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters at a Meeting With Democratic Members of Congress July 27, 1993

Flood Relief Legislation

Q. Mr. President, the flood aid bill, sir? Your response to the House—overwhelmingly passed the flood aid bill?

The President. I'm elated. I'm elated. I think it's a wonderful thing. We had, as you know, the Governors from the flooded States, and they're real grateful. And we just have to see quick action from the Senate. There are still a lot of problems out there, a lot of things that could still go wrong. And the front needs to break up so the South and East can get

some rain, or we're going to have some agricultural disasters there.

Q. Would it help with the chances in the Senate that Kansas has had some pretty severe flooding at this point?

The President. I don't think that has anything to do with it. I think the Senate will support it on a bipartisan basis and without regard to where they're from.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:26 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Matthew Ridgway July 27, 1993

There can be no greater tribute for a patriot than to say he spent his life serving his nation. General Matthew Ridgway was such a patriot. He fought for our liberty and in opposition to tyranny through two great conflicts, World War II and the Korean conflict. Through his efforts, General Ridgway became one of our most venerated military leaders. His greatest legacy is

the freedom his tireless work helped preserve and promote.

Hillary and I wish to extend our condolences to Mrs. Ridgway and the rest of his family. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Matthew Ridgway, soldier and patriot.

NOTE: The related proclamation of July 29 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.