

ons of mass destruction, discourage them from selling them to other people. So I think that's very, very important.

Now the super collider is different. The space station is a technological wonder that maintains our leadership in an area we have already fleshed out. The super collider is science. It's research. Therefore, it is, by definition, less certain. But this country has gotten a long way throughout its history by taking a chance on things that might not be certain that promised enormous potential benefits. So the possible benefits of the super collider, the possible implications of it, in any number of areas of technology in the future, are absolutely staggering.

Sure, it might not work. It's like any investment of this kind. But that's what science is. This is scientific research. This is an attempt to break down barriers of knowledge, to see the world in a whole different way, to unlock all kinds of secrets. And we have made a major investment in this. We also, by the way, can

get some other countries to invest in it, but not if they have to sit around every year waiting to see if we're going to chuck it. I mean, one of the biggest problems we've had in getting these other countries who said they'd invest in it, is they don't know from one year to the next whether we're going to keep it. And one of the things that I hope we can do this year, if we can get it passed in the Senate, get it in the conference, is to get a commitment for a multiyear continuation of it.

Now, it is more difficult to save than the space station simply because it's science instead of technology, if you see what I mean. It is by definition more theoretical. But I still think it's quite important, and I am hoping we can save it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The interview began at 5 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on National Service Legislation

July 28, 1993

By approving my national service plan today with overwhelming support, the House proved that Government can work, without partisan rancor, in a spirit of community, and for the common good.

Now that House Republicans and Democrats have joined in this great act of civic service, I urge Republican Senators to put partisan politics aside and do what is right for this country.

House Members showed the spirit of service that we need in our politics and around the

country. Members of both parties recognized that national service isn't Democratic or Republican. It's just plain American, helping young people who help America. The bill embodies principles that Americans from every political viewpoint share: community, responsibility, and opportunity. House Republicans put service ahead of politics. I urge Senate Republicans to do the same.

Nomination for Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Education

July 28, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate financial expert Donald R. Wurtz as Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Education. Wurtz is director of the General Accounting Office unit charged with cracking down on high-risk areas of waste, abuse, and

fraud in the Federal Government and has worked extensively on problems involving the Education Department's guaranteed student loan program.

At the Education Department, Wurtz will be charged with improving accounting and financial

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management. He also will play a key role in implementing the direct student loan program.

"Throughout his career, Don Wurtz has worked to uncover and correct the abuse and mismanagement that is too common in the Federal Government," the President said. "As CFO at Education, Don will work with Secretary

Riley to ensure that the tax dollars of hard-working Americans are not wasted, but instead directed 100 percent to bettering education in America."

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

Memorandum on Excused Absence for Federal Employees in Disaster Areas

July 28, 1993

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Excused Absence for Employees Affected by the Flooding of the Mississippi River and Its Tributaries

I am saddened by the devastating losses caused by the flooding of the Mississippi River and its tributaries and the impact on the well-being and livelihood of our fellow Americans. Many parts of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster and to begin a massive effort to recover from the ravages of this flooding.

As part of this effort, I request heads of executive departments and agencies who have Fed-

eral civilian employees in the areas designated as disaster areas because of the flooding to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is faced with a personal emergency because of the flooding and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up efforts authorized by Federal, State or local officials having jurisdiction.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 29.

Remarks on the Earned-Income Tax Credit and an Exchange With Reporters

July 29, 1993

The President. I don't want them to miss the vote. [Laughter] This is what is known as an excused absence for the Congress. I want to say a warm welcome and a word of thanks to the Risners, the Dorseys, and the Dikemans, all of them, for coming here. They're not used to being public speakers, but I think they did a fine job, don't you?

I'd also like to say a special word to Mr. Dorsey. When I was a boy, I cut lawns for a living, too, and nobody ever gave me more than I charged. You're either a better salesman, a better grass-cutter, or you had better customers. [Laughter]

I am so glad to have these families here today because they emphasize that a pivotal part of this economic plan is increasing the earned-income tax credit which, more than anything else we could do, will reward work and family and responsibility and make a major downpayment on welfare reform.

You heard Robin make that point. There are so many Americans in this country who want to work, who want to be independent, who want to support themselves, and who find themselves in a position of not being able to make ends meet, not being able to cover basic costs. The earned-income tax credit can help them do that.