

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting with Congressional Leaders *January 26, 1993*

Q. Mr. President, are you going to have a policy statement on gays in the military by the end of the week?

The President. I'm going to talk to the leadership of Congress about our legislative agenda.

Q. How do you feel your meeting with the Joint Chiefs went yesterday, Mr. President?

The President. It was a very good meeting. I was very impressed by them. The country's well served.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Nomination for Ambassador to Russia *January 26, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Thomas R. Pickering as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

In making this announcement, President Clinton said, "It is essential that we continue to expand and develop our relationship with Russia. I want to do everything I can to support democratic and economic reform there and want an

experienced and dedicated Ambassador to represent our Nation in Moscow. Ambassador Pickering has demonstrated throughout his career that he has the ability and wisdom to carry out this important assignment. I have full confidence in him."

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

Nomination for Director of the Office of Personnel Management *January 26, 1993*

The President today announced that he intends to nominate Jim King as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"Jim King will bring invaluable expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the Office of Personnel Management," said President Clinton.

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

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders *January 27, 1993*

Q. Mr. President, would you consider backing down on your lifting the ban on gays in the military because of the opposition?

The President. We're not here to discuss that. We're here to discuss the economy, which is all I discussed yesterday with congressional leadership, contrary to——

Q. But would you consider——

The President. We're here to discuss the economy.

Q. Have you decided on a consumption tax yet?

The President. No——

Q. Are you closer to a decision——

The President. I'm going to give a speech to the joint session February 17th, and we'll lay out my program then. But I've not made any decisions yet. This is the first opportunity I've had to meet with the economic leadership of Congress.

Q. [Inaudible]—you decide, or announce what you've decided on a consumption tax in your—a joint address——

The President. [Inaudible]

Q. Is this gay-in-the-military issue distracting you at all, sir, from the——

The President. No, it's distracting you, it's not distracting—[laughter].

Q. Can you reach \$145 billion in deficit reductions without a consumption tax?

The President. I don't know the answer to that. We're working on it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan

January 28, 1993

Q. Mr. President, what's the principle you're fighting for in sticking with your plan not to ban gays in the military? What's the principle that you believe in that makes you want to stick with that?

The President. I came here to talk about the economy today with Mr. Greenspan. If he wants to express his opinion on that subject, I'll be glad to hear it. Most people with whom I talk, except you folks, never discuss that. We have other things we're trying to deal with.

Q. Sir, there was good news about the economy—[inaudible]

The President. I think that there's a lot of response to the efforts we're making now, but there's also a lot of troubling news about lost jobs. And we've got a lot of work to do, a lot of work to do.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the School Principal of the Year and an Exchange With Reporters

January 28, 1993

The President. This is Janie Hatton from Milwaukee, and she is the School Principal of the Year. You can tell she's from Wisconsin because Senator Kohl is here, but I have to tell you she also grew up in my hometown of Hot Springs, Arkansas. We grew up in the same town. She's younger than I am. [Laughter]

That's her husband, Isaac, who also comes from Arkansas. And these other three gentlemen are with the National Association of School Principals.

Janie Hatton. And MetLife.

The President. And MetLife, which sponsors this award. She gave me two paperweights for

my wife and daughter, and now you're going to give me something, right?

Mrs. Hatton. Right. This is a hat for you to jog in, as well as, when the days are cold, the long jogging pants, "Tech has style." And the mornings when it's kind of warm, you can wear the short ones that says "Tech, Milwaukee." This is the one that we're most proud of because '93 Tech and when you have said Milwaukee Tech, you've said it all. And we invite you to Tech at all times, any time. We're building a referendum issue February 16. We want you to think thumbs up because that style is really good. So wear it with pride. And Tech