

the drop in consumer confidence, the Wall Street Journal had a very detailed article which showed that the principal reason for it is the continuing worry of the American people that this economy is not producing jobs. And consumers without jobs don't have confidence because they don't have money with which to consume. So it is very important that this week, before the Congress goes home, that we pass the budget resolution to reduce the deficit and the jobs program to create jobs. If we can do that, this will be an historic 6 weeks in which we are moving at a very rapid pace.

Q. Do you think, Mr. President, that the Republicans will seek to filibuster against the stimulus package? And if they do, what's your strategy?

The President. Well, we're going to try to win. I don't think so. I believe some of the Republicans support this. As a matter of fact, I think a lot of them support it. Some of them may never vote for it because of partisan divisions. But I think they know that the American people will be very disappointed to find out that a half a million jobs went by the wayside because 41—not even a majority, but 41 Senators stopped a vote from occurring. I don't think that's going to happen. I would be very surprised.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:12 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Nomination for Posts at the Department of Defense

March 31, 1993

The President will nominate Dr. Anita Jones to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering and Graham Allison, Edwin Dorn, and Morton Halperin to be Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Plans and Policy, Personnel and Readiness, and Democracy and Human Rights respectively, the White House announced today.

"At this time of change and uncertainty, it is imperative that we have a topflight team at the Pentagon," said the President. "These four people have what it takes to keep the Defense Department moving forward."

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

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

April 1, 1993

Q. Mr. President, is your stimulus package in trouble? That's what we hear.

The President. Well, we just passed the budget, but I'm celebrating that right now. I think we can pass it. We'll keep working on it. We have to have 60 votes to pass it, but we'll keep working on it.

We're here talking about Russia today.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:30 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.