

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 3, 1993

Q. Mr. President, when do you want campaign's finance reforms to go into effect?

The President. We're here to talk about what's going to be in the bill. I want to pass a bill early this year, as early as we can, and we're going to talk about that.

There was a good bill last year—it had a lot of good features in it—which was vetoed by President Bush. And I guess we'll start talking about that and see where we go from there. But I hope we can get a good bill.

In terms of when it goes into effect, and the last bill skipped an election cycle and was widely applauded by all the public interest groups as a great advance over where we are now. I think when it goes into effect is a subject of discussion here. But I want to pass a good bill. That's my concern.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Letter to Federal Emergency Management Agency Acting Director William C. Tidball on Disaster Assistance for California

February 3, 1993

Dear Mr. Tidball:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the State of California, resulting from severe winter storms, mud and rock slides, and flooding on January 5–22, 1993, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("the Stafford Act"). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the State of California.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as

you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance and Public Assistance in the designated areas. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Letter to Governor Pete Wilson on Disaster Assistance for California

February 3, 1993

Dear Governor Wilson:

As requested, I have declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Stafford Act) for the State of California due to damage resulting from severe winter storms, mud and rock

slides, and flooding on January 5–22, 1993. I have authorized Federal relief and recovery assistance in the affected area.

Individual Assistance and Public Assistance will be provided. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental,

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any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs in the designated areas.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") will coordinate Federal assistance efforts and designate specific areas eligible for such assistance. The Federal Coordinating Officer will be Mr. Frank Kishton of FEMA. He will consult with you and assist in the execution

of the FEMA-State Disaster Assistance Agreement governing the expenditure of Federal Funds.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

NOTE: This letter was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary but was not issued as a White House press release.

Nomination for Deputy Secretary of Defense

February 3, 1993

The President today nominated William J. Perry, a highly respected expert on military technology, to serve as Deputy Secretary of Defense under Secretary Les Aspin.

"William Perry is a sound and sophisticated adviser whose expertise on military technology and policy is unmatched," said President Clin-

ton. "Secretary Aspin and I will rely heavily on his knowledge, imagination, and judgment as we work to keep our military the strongest in the world in a time of budgetary constraints."

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

Remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast

February 4, 1993

Thank you very much. Congressman Emerson and distinguished guests at the head table; to my friend Reverend Billy Graham and Ruth; and to all those who have given such moving presentations. This has been a wonderful morning, I think, for all of us.

When I heard Wentley Phipps recounting our first, rather awkward meeting, I thought that I would admit to being Governor of Alabama just to hear him sing. *[Laughter]*

My mind has been full of memories this morning. I helped to start the first Governor's prayer breakfast in my State; it became a very important part of our life there. And every year I had the pleasure of delegating two Arkansans, one a clergyman or -woman and one a citizen, to come to this wonderful event.

I thought about the first time I ever saw Billy Graham—appropriate to mention now. He came in the 1950's, in the heat of all our racial trouble, to Arkansas to have a crusade. And the white citizens council tried to get him, because

of the tensions of the moment, to agree to segregate his crusade in the fifties in the South. And he said, "If I have to do that, I'm not coming." And I remember I got a Sunday school teacher in my church—and I was about 11 years old—to take me 50 miles to Little Rock so I could hear a man preach who was trying to live by what he said. And then I remember, for a good while thereafter, trying to send a little bit of my allowance to the Billy Graham crusade because of the impression he made on me then.

I am honored that all of you are here not for a political purpose. We come here to seek the help and guidance of our Lord, putting aside our differences, as men and women who freely acknowledge that we don't have all the answers. And we come here seeking to restore and renew and strengthen our faith.

In this town, as much as any place on the face of the Earth, we need that. We need faith as a source of strength. "The assurance of things