

Russia. The Bank is now setting out to do what it was originally set up to do because Russia may be able to absorb its efforts. To date, the Bank has approved \$205 million in final commitments to Russia. It's working on an oil and gas agreement framework that could support as much as \$2 billion in American goods and services for Russia's energy sector. As I told President Yeltsin when we met in Vancouver, the United States once had a famous citizen named Willie Sutton who was asked why he was devoting his entire life to robbing banks, and he said, "Because that's where the money is." [Laughter] In Russia, energy is where the money is. If we can work it out, we can make a huge partnership there in ways that are enormously beneficial for the American economy and good for the Russians as well.

At different junctures in this century, our country has shown itself to be a catalyst for global reform. We have faced off facism and communism. We helped to build the international institutions after World War II that made so many good things happen in the non-communist world and now, because of the collapse of communism, are coming into their own with the real potential to fully flower.

The world of tomorrow will reward those of us who not only have the values which made

these institutions possible but which behave in ways that will be rewarded in the hard glare of international economic competition.

I just saw today another set of figures showing that in the first quarter of this year, there was another huge increase in productivity in the American manufacturing sector. We want those manufacturers who are increasing their productivity. We want their workers who are the source of that increased productivity to be rewarded. I am convinced that the only way we can do it is by opening markets to the United States and giving the American people the chance to enjoy the benefits, the fruits of their labor and giving other countries the chance to grow through mutual trade and development.

You are on the frontlines of that. I came here to salute you and to assure you that through the Ex-Im Bank and every other means at this administration's command we will do our best to have the kind of trade policy that will grow the American economy and benefit the entire world.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. at the J.W. Marriott. In his remarks, he referred to Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs.

Exchange With Reporters on Bosnia May 6, 1993

Q. Mr. President, the Serbs are now saying that they're going to cut off all but humanitarian supplies to the Bosnians. Do you have any reaction to that?

The President. Well, that would be a good start. We'll see. We're working today on a lot of options. I want to see what happens over the next few days.

Q. Have you gotten back to the Europeans, sir?

The President. Oh, of course.

Q. Today I mean, with either Mitterrand or Major?

The President. I talked with President Mitterrand today.

Q. Mr. President, is military action inevitable at this point? Do you have to do something like that?

The President. I don't want to say anything else. You know what we're doing, and the Christopher mission is proceeding. And I don't have anything to add to what I said earlier except any welcome signs would be welcome. Let's see if anybody changes their conduct.

Q. It doesn't sound like you're getting a lot of welcoming from the Europeans on the Christopher mission.

The President. Oh, I have talked to Mitterrand today. We'll see what happens.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4 p.m. in the Oval

May 6 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

Office at the White House, at a meeting with former baseball player Stan Musial. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters on Health Care Reform

May 6, 1993

Q. Mr. Clinton, has your health care program slipped into June?

The President. No. What do you mean “slipped into June”?

Q. The announcement of it.

The President. I don’t know when we’re going to announce it. We haven’t decided exactly. But we’re working on it. The most important thing is we’re going to finish, outline the details on time. Then we’re going to—and one more round of extensive consultations. When we come forward with it depends in part on how we’re doing with the consultations. You know, I had lunch today with leading Republican Senators and Members of Congress. We’ll just see what happens.

But the critical thing is, we want to introduce it and reveal it in time to make sure it is considered this year. The American people need health security. We need to control the cost of the health care system. We need to be able to guarantee that the American people are not going to lose their health coverage if some misfortune befalls them. And we’re going to give the American people that kind of plan. It will be exciting, and it will be dealt with this year.

Q. Do you want to make sure it doesn’t get caught up in reconciliation?

The President. Well, I think it’s going to be caught up to some extent in it regardless. But I think there is a limit to—I don’t think Congress can consider it until they consider the reconciliation. The real issue—it’s really almost a technical one—it is at what point in the calendar must a bill be introduced in order to go through all the processes to be considered and voted on by the end of the year. No one thinks it will be considered at the time reconciliation is. The only question is, how quickly do we have to get it in so that it could actually be voted on if we can persuade the Congress to vote on it in this calendar year. That’s the issue. And it’s almost a mechanical question as much as anything else. But we’re going to have a good program. I’m encouraged.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, at a meeting with the Goodwill Industries National Graduate of the Year. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief Trophy to the U.S. Air Force Academy Football Team

May 6, 1993

Thank you very much. Please be seated. I want to say what a great pleasure it is for me to welcome the seniors from the United States Air Force Academy football team to the White House to receive the 1992 Commander in Chief’s Trophy. With me to honor the Falcons are the Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin, the acting Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Donnelly, General McPeak, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and Congresswoman Pat Schroeder,

Congressman Martin Lancaster, and of course, the Commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell—Chairman—I said the wrong word, didn’t I? It’s been a long day, folks. We were inside looking at cartoons making fun of the President. That’s what General Powell and Secretary Aspin and I were doing. [Laughter] It’s all I can do to regain my composure here. I also want to welcome the Air Force Academy Superintendent, Lt. General Bradley