

the Domestic Policy Council and will work with all the relevant agencies. I am pleased to announce today that Kathleen McGinty will lead this Office and its efforts.

We are today changing the way Government works, replacing the Council on Environmental Quality with a new office that will have broader influence and a more effective and focused mandate to coordinate environmental policy. The American people look to us to make Government work better and more efficiently and more effectively for them. We are taking an important step in that direction today. The American people, our economy, and our environment will benefit as a result of this.

And I'd like to say a special word of thanks to Vice President Gore for the work that he has done on this since the election. We have been working hard now for more than 2 months to determine exactly how we ought to reorganize our environmental efforts and how we could integrate the environment, for the first time really, into national security policy, national economic policy, and other domestic policies. I think we've taken a long step in that direction. I thank the Vice President for his leadership, and I turn the microphone over to him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Turgut Ozal of Turkey

February 8, 1993

Tax Payment for Domestic Help

Q. Mr. President, are you now going to ask all of your Cabinet Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries whether they have paid Social Security taxes and whether they ever had hired any illegal domestic help?

The President. I've handled that through the White House Legal Counsel. I think Mr. Stephanopoulos has already given a statement about it.

Q. Do you feel confident that everyone will now pay back taxes?

The President. I do. I think everybody will do what they're supposed to do.

Q. Sir, when are you going to—

Bosnia

Q. Sir, when do you expect to have a statement on Bosnia?

The President. We're very close. I don't want to give you a specific time, but we're very close. As you know, we've done an awful lot of work on it. I spent a lot of time on it last week and a considerable amount of time today. So we're quite close.

Q. Do you think this week you might have a diplomatic initiative?

The President. I think we might be prepared to make a statement in the next few days, yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Economic Advisers

February 8, 1993

Stimulus Package

Q. Mr. President, do you have any response to the Republican letter? Did they say that they will not support your economic plan unless you do more on the spending side?

The President. They said they were against the stimulus program, and that's basically a statement that they think things are fine in the economy now, and I just disagree with that.

I'd like to read this statement, and then I'll

be glad to answer it. That reflects the old way of thinking, you know, we're coming out of a recession, therefore we don't need a stimulus package. It overlooks the fact that there are now 3 million jobs less in this economy than there would be if we were in a normal recovery, that we now have fewer nonfarm payroll jobs today than we did 2 years ago—3 years ago, 646,000 fewer jobs than in January of 1990.

Let me make this announcement about unemployment, and then I'll answer a couple of more questions on this.

Unemployment

You all know that we've been here working every day for hours and hours, putting together this economic package designed to increase income and generate jobs and reduce the deficit.

Before we begin our next meeting, I have two things that I want to say: First, despite these encouraging statistics about the increased productivity, there are still millions of Americans who want to go to work to support their families, but they can't find jobs. The unemployment rate, indeed, is 7.1 percent. It's been above 7 percent for 14 months and is now higher than it was at the so-called bottom of this recession.

Secondly, no short-term solution to the problems of the unemployed is adequate. Many unemployed workers are what we call "permanently displaced." And they need much better access to reemployment services that will provide them the information and the changing skills necessary to compete in the changing world. The old ways of doing business are simply not good enough anymore. Unemployment compensation must now be both a short-term lifeline for workers and a long-term link to the skills that it will take for them to get where they want to be, back in the work force.

Interestingly enough, Secretary of Labor Reich just showed me this little chart which makes the point painfully well. In the last four recessions, 56 percent of the workers laid off did not think they would get their jobs back; 44 percent did. In this recession, 86 percent of the workers don't believe they're going to get their jobs back, and only 14 percent think they will. That means that we need a much stronger plan to create new jobs and an aggressive effort at unemployment compensation that does more than just pay.

Today I want to announce a two-part initiative. First, I'm directing the Department of

Labor to pursue legislation to extend the emergency unemployment compensation program for 7 months beyond March 6th, the date set for its expiration. I'm very pleased to also announce that this package will include reforms to the unemployment insurance program that will dramatically improve reemployment services available to structurally unemployed workers.

The first step is to provide the critical link between permanently displaced workers and services to help them find the jobs. Using the data that is now routinely collected when an unemployed worker files a claim, individuals can be profiled by the 5th week of their unemployment to determine their need for reemployment assistance, and a referral for appropriate services can then be made. Recently, a number of demonstration projects, particularly the New Jersey Re-Employment Project, showed that this kind of work and referral can significantly reduce the time that workers spend unemployed, as well as raise their earnings once they do go back to work. And of course, that means that that will reduce State unemployment insurance costs and costs to the Federal Treasury.

I will say again: I know the economic upturn looks good in terms of the big statistics, but the unemployment rate is higher than it was at the bottom of the recession. There are fewer jobs than there were 3 years ago this month. We are 3 million jobs below where we would be in a normal recovery at this time. So we need this unemployment extension, and we need the economic stimulus program that I will propose when the Congress comes back into session.

Stimulus Package

Q. Have you made your decision on that stimulus program, and have you ruled out anything except the COLA on the Social Security?

The President. I have made the decision on the general outline of the stimulus program, and I have made a lot of the specific decisions within it, but we're going to go back over it all one more time to refine it. I have worked very hard on the deficit reduction package, and I'll have more to say about that on the 17th.

Kimba Wood

Q. Mr. President, a lot of groups feel that there is a double standard here on the gender issue, because Kimba Wood was disqualified even though she had paid Social Security, but

members of your Cabinet have not paid Social Security and are now trying to catch up. Are women being treated unfairly?

The President. Absolutely not. For one thing, this issue was never an issue, and it never occurred to anyone to make it an issue, until Zoe Baird voluntarily disclosed it. So, no one knew, so no one was subjected to a double standard. Since that time—the Attorney General, which should be held to a higher standard than other Cabinet members on matters of this kind—all of our interviews, for men and women alike, have been conducted in a totally evenhanded fashion.

And finally, I think Judge Wood has been somewhat unfairly treated inasmuch as what happened to her happened in the ordinary course of the vetting process. It's happened to many other people in the months that we have been working on this. She was singled out only because it was wrongly reported that she had

been offered a job that she had not been offered by me or anybody else. I'm sorry that happened, and some say that a leak inside this administration caused that. If I knew who did it, they wouldn't be here.

Q. What about the leak about the——

Q. Playboy bunny girls, and——

Q. ——Playboy Club?

The President. That did not come out of here. Absolutely!

Q. Where did——

The President. It categorically did not come out of here, and I thought whoever leaked it, it was outrageous. But it did not come out of here.

Q. When do you hope to have a decision on Attorney General, sir?

The President. I have nothing else to say.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Statement on Signing Legislation Designating the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building

February 8, 1993

Today, I am signing into law, S. 202, which designates the newly-completed Federal Judiciary Building in Washington, D.C. as the "Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building."

It is fitting that a building which houses the work of more than 2000 judicial employees be named after a man who dedicated more than six decades of his life to public service in the judicial arena. Leading the legal arm of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Thurgood Marshall worked tirelessly for more than a quarter century to dismantle racial segregation in all manner of human endeavor. His twenty-nine victories before the U.S. Supreme Court serve as a reminder to the American people of our individual

potential to have a dramatic impact in our service to others.

Marshall brought the same fervent commitment to social equality to his work as an appeals court judge, the Solicitor General of the United States and Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. His insistent vision for America is a legacy which I hope we will cherish and strive to fulfill.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
February 8, 1993.

NOTE: S. 202, approved February 8, was assigned Public Law No. 103-4.