

Statement on the Death of Donald Slayton *June 14, 1993*

I was deeply saddened to hear last night of the death of astronaut Deke Slayton, a pioneer in space exploration who helped chart the course for America's pursuit of the New Frontier.

Throughout his career, Deke met adversity with determination, and discouragement with a dedication to never yield his dreams. His com-

mitment to space exploration helped pull the world into an era of new possibilities that grows and expands to this day.

Both Hillary and I extend our heartfelt sympathies to Deke Slayton's family and former colleagues. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate what he stood for and what he accomplished for America.

The President's News Conference *June 15, 1993*

Supreme Court Nominee

The President. Thanks for the introduction, Wolf [Wolf Blitzer, Cable News Network]. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to make a couple of opening remarks. First, let me say that this morning I had a good talk with Judge Ginsburg, complimenting her on her very moving statement yesterday. And I assured her that we were moving ahead with this confirmation process. I spoke with Senators Biden and Thurmond and Hatch and asked them to work with me to assure the speediest possible confirmation consistent with the Senate doing its duty. At any rate, I am confident that she will be ready to assume her position on the Supreme Court when the fall term begins in October.

Economic Program

With regard to the economy, we've had, since last Friday, very good reports on low inflation in terms of both producer prices and consumer prices. And in a larger sense, over the last few months, we've seen a continuing reduction in long-term interest rates, which have given us a 20-year low in mortgage rates, a 7-year high in housing sales, and have mightily contributed to the introduction into this economy of 755,000 new jobs, well over 90 percent of them in the private sector.

I am confident that the continuation of this trend depends on our ability to pass a strong economic program through the Congress which reduces the deficit, increases investment in our future, and is fair in terms of requiring a fair

apportionment of the burden. The plan that the House passed, that the Senate Finance Committee is now dealing with, for every \$10 that the deficit is reduced, \$5 comes from spending cuts, \$3.75 from upper income people, \$1.25 from the middle class, and families with incomes under \$30,000 are held harmless.

I hope that the principles I have outlined will be honored as this program moves through the Congress. The Senate Finance Committee has some tough decisions to make. I don't expect to agree with all of them, but I think they will produce a bill. I think the Senate will produce a bill. And then we can go on to conference and see what the final shape of the economic plan that the whole Congress will vote on will be. I'm encouraged, quite upbeat, by the reports I've received from Senator Moynihan, Senator Mitchell, and others about the progress being made there, and I just want to encourage the Senate to move forward.

Campaign Finance Reform

Finally, let me say that the Senate is dealing with another very difficult and very important issue now, and that's campaign finance reform. I have believed for a long time that we can't get thoroughgoing economic reform in our country until we have political reform. That requires the lobby reform legislation that is moving its way through Congress but, very importantly, campaign finance reform to lower the cost of campaigns, reduce the influence of special interests and PAC's, and open the airwaves to more