

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 1993 *June 29, 1993*

On Independence Day, we celebrate the birth of the first and greatest democracy of the modern era. The ideals embodied by the Declaration of Independence have served as a guide for our nation and as an inspiration for people around the world. This document delineated the very idea of America, that individual rights are derived not from the generosity of the government, but from the hand of the Almighty. The Founders forever abandoned their allegiance to the old European notions of caste and instead dedicated themselves to the belief that all people are created equal.

The brilliant men who gathered in Philadelphia 218 years ago to declare our nation's independence risked their honor, their fortunes, and their very lives to create a better future for their children and grandchildren. As the inheritors of freedom's legacy, we owe our liberties to the fact that our Founders saw the need for dramatic change and acted upon it.

Today, vast changes are sweeping the globe. Nations that have known only tyranny for cen-

turies are suddenly dedicating themselves to the ideals of freedom and democracy. And wherever freedom is proclaimed, echoes of the American Declaration of Independence can be heard. Thomas Jefferson's words are being spoken in dozens of nations in hundreds of languages.

We are justly proud of the influence that our beliefs have had on the world. But the mission of America is far from complete. While the world is filled with opportunity, it is rife with uncertainty. We must dedicate ourselves to carrying on the dreams of the Founders and adding our own chapter to the unfinished American autobiography. By embracing the changes that are altering the landscape of the world today, we help ensure a brighter, more democratic, and more peaceful world. On this Independence Day, I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the conviction that our heroic journey must go forever upward.

Best wishes to everyone for a wonderful day.

BILL CLINTON

Statement on Flooding in the Midwest *June 29, 1993*

I am very concerned about the flooding in the heartland of our country, and I've asked Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy to survey the region and see firsthand what the excessive rains have done to agriculture production there. I also have directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency to keep me fully informed of their activities on behalf of the affected States.

The Mississippi River is closed to navigation over a 500-mile stretch from the Twin Cities in Minnesota to St. Louis. Clearly, this is one of the most significant natural disasters midwestern residents, business owners, and agricultural producers have faced in a very long time. This region of the country is dependent upon agricultural production, and when agriculture faces a disaster like this one, everyone is adversely affected.

Tomorrow Secretary Espy will travel to Iowa, Wisconsin (weather permitting), Minnesota, and

South Dakota to view the rain-related damage and talk face to face with farmers and area residents about the damage.

FEMA Director James Lee Witt reports that his Agency already has placed survey teams in the field where they are working with the State emergency operating centers. These teams are laying the groundwork necessary for Federal disaster assistance. We intend to speed the recovery of the affected communities and ensure disaster victims receive the help they need as rapidly as possible.

Upon his return, Secretary Espy will brief me on the condition of the area and make recommendations that will help our fellow citizens living in the region.

As you know, nine counties in southwestern Minnesota were declared disaster areas in late

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May. Last week, I granted Governor Arne Carlson's request to extend the incident period to allow for coverage for the torrential rains after May 19th through June.

Wisconsin has been hard hit. The break in the dam at Blackriver Falls has destroyed or damaged over 100 homes. Many of the town's residents have no flood insurance. Governor Tommy Thompson has already asked the National Guard to assist the evacuation of flood victims.

Iowa's Governor Branstad also is using the National Guard to assist flood victims in the eastern part of his State. He has told us that many homes and businesses have been flooded

out, and thousands more are at risk if the levee breaks.

The Mississippi River continues to rise in Missouri, threatening towns still dealing with the ravages of the May floods. FEMA teams are in eastern Missouri, continuing to monitor the flooding of the Mississippi. Some areas have been evacuated, and preliminary damage assessment teams are in place for a formal assessment request, pending a call from Governor Mel Carnahan.

I commend the bravery and endurance of the many midwesterners facing torrents of rain and rivers that have not yet crested. We will work together to rebuild your communities as we work together to rebuild America.

Nomination for the Federal Communications Commission

June 29, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate attorney Reed E. Hundt as a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Once Mr. Hundt is confirmed as a member, the President intends to designate him Chairman of the FCC.

"Telecommunications innovations are constantly changing the way we as Americans com-

municate with each other and with the world. With his years of experience, I am confident Reed Hundt will do an excellent job steering the FCC through the challenges it will face over the next 5 years," the President said.

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

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

June 30, 1993

Nuclear Testing

Q. Mr. President, why not resume nuclear testing? There are a lot of people who argue that it's necessary to ensure the safety of the stockpile.

The President. I'll have a statement on that in the next few days. I've been working very hard on it. I will say this then, the story I read about it today is not quite accurate. But I have made a decision, and the administration will have a policy, and we'll announce it sometime in the next few days. We're working out some of the details, and we haven't finished our congressional consultations yet.

Q. You mean if somebody else tests first, you won't then test?

The President. I have nothing else to say about it. I just—I'll talk about it when—

National and International Economy

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the new economic figures that have come out over the last couple of days?

The President. Well, most of them are pretty discouraging, and some are encouraging. But the most important thing is to look at this thing over the long run. We've had 3 or 4 very tough years. And there's a global recession. Two-thirds of our jobs in the late eighties came from exports, and it's hard to generate jobs from exports when many European countries have actually