

but they'll get much better benefits, and their rates will go up less. So, there will be some people who will pay more now than they were paying. But I believe that if we can—keep in mind, if we can stop the cost of health care from going up at 2 and 3 times the rate of inflation, if we can get it down where the rate of increase is much lower, by the end of the decade everybody will be way better off than they were.

Russia

Q. Mr. President do you approve of—Boris Yeltsin's announcement that he's going to dissolve the Parliament, and does the United States support him in his power struggle with his opponents?

The President. Well, first of all, let me say I have had only a sketchy briefing about this, and I have not talked to President Yeltsin yet. I would like to reserve the right to issue a statement after I attempt to talk to President Yeltsin. In any case, I will issue a statement before the end of the day, but I think at least I should have a direct briefing.

Yes sir, one more. Go ahead.

Health Care Reform

Q. President Clinton, tomorrow you'll be speaking before a joint session of Congress and there are 535 people, individuals, in Congress that will have their own specific plans of what they want—

The President. Yes.

Q. If you could say that you could put your name on one or two or three specific parts of this that you want to say, "This is my health care plan," that you want to see no matter what 535 other people want to see, that you feel you want to be part of your Clinton health care program, what two or three items, specifically?

The President. Number one, every American would have security in their health care system. You would be able to get health insurance, there would be adequate benefits, and you wouldn't lose them. Number two, the system would impose a far higher level of responsibility for managing costs than it does now on all the players, including the consumers. Number three, people would keep their choice of physicians and medical providers. And number four, we would guarantee adequate access to preventive and primary care so we could stop some of the big things that are happening to us before they get going. And five, we would have market incentives to bring costs down. Those are the things that I want to be the hallmark of our program.

I wish I could stay all day. I'm sorry, but thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. Richard Strauss was the White House radio services coordinator.

Statement on the Situation in Russia
September 21, 1993

From the beginning of my administration, I have given my full backing to the historic process of political and economic reform now underway in Russia. I remain convinced that democratic reforms and the transition to a market economy hold the best hope for a better future for the people of Russia.

The actions announced today by President Yeltsin in his address to the Russian people underscore the complexity of the reform process that he is leading. There is no question that President Yeltsin acted in response to a constitutional crisis that had reached a critical impasse and had paralyzed the political process.

As the democratically elected leader of Russia, President Yeltsin has chosen to allow the people of Russia themselves to resolve this impasse. I believe that the path to elections for a new legislature is ultimately consistent with the democratic and reform course that he has charted.

I called President Yeltsin this afternoon to seek assurances that the difficult choices that he faces will be made in a way that ensures peace, stability, and an open political process this autumn. He told me that it is of the utmost importance that the elections he has called be organized and held on a democratic and free

basis.

In a democracy, the people should finally decide the issues that are at the heart of political and social debate. President Yeltsin has made

this choice, and I support him fully. I have confidence in the abiding wisdom of the Russian people to make the right decision regarding their own future.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report on Mine Safety and Health

September 21, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with Section 511(a) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1969, as amended ("the Act"), 30 U.S.C. 958(a), I transmit herewith the annual report on mine safety and health activities for fiscal year 1992. This report was prepared by, and covers activities occurring exclusively during the previous Administration. The enclosed report does not reflect the policies or priorities of this Administration.

My Administration is committed to working with the Congress to ensure vigorous enforcement of existing mine safety and health standards. We are also intent on improving these rules where necessary and appropriate to better protect worker health and safety.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 21, 1993.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation

September 21, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 1992. This report has been prepared in accordance with section 10 of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Act of May 13, 1954 (33

U.S.C. 989(a)), and covers the period October 1, 1991, through September 30, 1992.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 21, 1993.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the National Science Foundation

September 21, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 3(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862(f)), I am pleased to send you the annual report of the National Science Foundation for Fiscal Year 1992. This report describes research supported by the Foundation in the mathematical, physical, bio-

logical, social, behavioral, and computer sciences; engineering; and education in those fields.

Achievements such as the ones described in this report are the basis for much of our Nation's strength—its economic growth, national security, and the overall well-being of our people.