

Oct. 12 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993

and let us act on them, so that 200 years from now our children, 12 generations removed, will still celebrate this glorious day.

Thank you, and Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:24 p.m. in Kenan Memorial Stadium. In his remarks, he referred

to C.D. Spangler, Jr., president, William C. Friday, president emeritus, and Paul Hardin, chancellor, University of North Carolina; James Taylor, entertainer; and Luther H. Hodges and Terry Sanford, former Governors of North Carolina.

Statement on Support for the North American Free Trade Agreement *October 12, 1993*

I am very pleased today to acknowledge the efforts of President Bush, President Carter, and President Ford in convening a group of prominent citizens for NAFTA. Never before have former Presidents joined forces to speak to the Nation about such a pressing issue.

This group includes distinguished Americans who have demonstrated achievement in such diverse fields as government, industry, and civil rights. These individuals have taken many paths to prominence, but they have come to a common conclusion that this trade pact is good for America and good for America's economic fortunes.

This debate is fundamentally about creating jobs and defining America's role in an increasingly competitive global economy. Our fundamental choice is whether we will respond to change and create the high wage jobs of tomor-

row or attempt to cling to the jobs of the past. America is always at its best when we look to the future.

While I continue to be concerned about America's rate of economic growth, it is increasingly clear that exports are a key factor in boosting our economy. NAFTA represents the best immediate opportunity to expand our markets and create new jobs at home.

I am increasingly confident that this agreement will be approved by Congress. When thoughtful people look at the facts about NAFTA, they will come to the same conclusion as this group of distinguished Americans. I am hopeful that this group will elevate the debate about NAFTA and participate vigorously in the discussion about which direction America should take.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Members of Congress *October 13, 1993*

NAFTA

The President. Let me make a brief comment and then I'll answer a question or two.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here today. This is, as you can see, a fairly large bipartisan group of House Members who have come for one of a series of meetings I've been having to try to persuade them to vote for the North American Free Trade Agreement. I want to reiterate that the thing that has impressed me is that more and more Members are trying to look beyond the politics

of this issue and just ask what's good for America, whether it will create jobs for America, whether it opens the opportunity for more growth. I strongly believe that. I think we're making progress, and I'm looking forward to having a good discussion.

I thank Mr. Michel for coming, and the Speaker who was going to come and couldn't come at the last minute. But we've had good support there, and I'm looking forward to this discussion this morning.