

Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

October 18, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate GTE executive Graham R. Mitchell to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy.

"I have called on the Commerce Department to take the lead in giving our country the technological capability to win in a competitive world

marketplace," said the President. "With his years of high-tech management experience, Graham Mitchell has the know-how that effort requires."

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

Nomination for an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

October 18, 1993

The President announced today that he will nominate Rafael Diaz to be an associate judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. The President is empowered by statute to choose DC Superior Court judges from a list submitted by a local nominating commission.

"Rafael Diaz has proven himself with a decade's service to the District of Columbia," said

the President. "His solid record and his reputation for competence have been widely noted, and he has been strongly recommended by a wide range of people. I expect him to be an outstanding judge."

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

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Members of Congress

October 19, 1993

NAFTA

The President. Let me say, first of all, I'm glad to have this bipartisan House delegation here, the latest in a round of several meetings on NAFTA. I want to begin by expressing my encouragement of today's housing numbers as well as the reports of increased business investment, which indicate that the economy is picking up. And I'm encouraged by that. And I know that all of us hope that that will work and that the lower interest rates and the declining deficit will help to support continued economic renewal.

But if America wants to grow more jobs, we're going to have to increase our exports. And therefore it is critical that we continue pushing and pass this trade agreement before

the Congress goes home. And I'm here to—hopeful we pick up a few more votes for the NAFTA agreement today and to discuss some of the outstanding issues on it with the Members here. It's imperative: We can have an economic recovery, but if we're going to create jobs, we're going to have to increase exports. That's what wealthy countries have to do. And I hope we can do that here and pass NAFTA.

Somalia

Q. Mr. President, does the withdrawal of the Rangers from Somalia, sir, mean that you've given up on the search for Aideed?

The President. No, it means that we have 3,600 marines coming in, many of whom have similar capacities, who will be there. And it means that right now we are engaging in a polit-