

*Oct. 29 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1993*

tion to the well-being of all his people. His emphasis on dialog and reconciliation should provide confidence that the Haitian crisis can be solved peacefully by negotiation. I urge all parties to build on that spirit at next week's meeting.

The sanctions and their enforcement are an unprecedented defense of democracy in the Americas. The U.N. and OAS sanctions and additional steps we have taken against individuals blocking a negotiated solution underscore the depth of our Nation's commitment to end this crisis. We will maintain sanctions and strictly enforce them by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard and by ships of several allies. We will also consider the most effective ways to tighten the sanctions.

As we work for the return of President Aristide, we will maintain our policy of direct

return of migrants and continue to process political asylum applications within Haiti. Mindful of the impact of sanctions on Haiti's poor, we will also continue our humanitarian assistance to assist those in need. It feeds half a million Haitian children every day and provides health services to 2 million Haitians. We will closely monitor the provision of these services and seek to ensure an adequate supply of fuel for their delivery.

The Haitian crisis challenges our country's principles and interests. We must maintain our commitment to work for its peaceful resolution. Let me say to the Haitian people: I am determined to help you restore the democracy you sacrificed so much to attain. And when it is restored, we in the international community will be by your side to help you create a future of hope.

## Nomination for United States District Court Judges

*October 29, 1993*

The President today announced the nominations of three U.S. District Court judges from the State of Florida. The President named Henry Adams and Susan Bucklew for the Middle District of Florida and Theodore Klein for the Southern District of Florida.

With these nominations, the President has nominated 32 men and women for Federal judgeships. At the same point in their administrations, President Bush had named 18; Presi-

dent Reagan had named 27; and President Carter had named 26 judicial nominees.

"All of these nominees have demonstrated the qualities that will make them valuable additions to the Federal bench for years to come," said the President.

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

## Teleconference Remarks on the California Fires

*October 30, 1993*

*The President.* Hello?

*James Lee Witt.* Good morning, Mr. President.

*The President.* Have we got James Lee?

*Mr. Witt.* Yes, sir. I have Roger Johnson with me, the Administrator of GSA, at the disaster field office here in Pasadena. Secretary Espy is also on, who is at the Oak Grove fire camp in southern California.

*Secretary Espy.* Hello, Mr. President.

*The President.* Hello, Secretary Espy. How are you?

*Secretary Espy.* How are you doing, sir? I'm at the Oak Grove fire camp near Altadena, California.

*Mr. Witt.* Also, Mr. President, we have Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer on, and Dick Andrews, the California director of emergency service is here in the disaster field office with Roger and I.

[At this point, Mr. Witt, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, reported on conditions in California and discussed Federal, State, and private efforts to deal with the disaster.]

*The President.* That's good. That's very good.

[Mr. Andrews discussed the improvement in weather conditions, the number of fires still burning, and deployment of State and Federal resources to fight the fires. Mr. Witt then asked if the President had any questions.]

*The President.* No. I want to say before I go on to Secretary Espy that I have just been terribly impressed by the work of the people who have been out there fighting the fires. I know that we have provided from the Federal Government a lot of the firefighters. And of course, there have been the folks here at the local level. But it's been really amazing to me just to watch and see how hard they've worked.

As you know, Mack McLarty, who is here with me now, has been coordinating this from our end, so I've been pretty well briefed all along. I also want to say I'm very pleased that the Insurance Association is going to have people in the disaster assistance area. That's something, as you well know, James Lee, all of us could have used for years. And that's a very, very good sign, and I thank them.

Maybe I should hear from Secretary Espy and Roger Johnson and Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein, and maybe then I'll see if we've got any questions.

[Secretary Espy reported to the President on the Kinneloa fire, the highest priority fire at that time, and the efforts of firefighters.]

*The President.* How much Federal land have we lost out there?

*Secretary Espy.* Oh, gosh. We've got 150,000 or so acres already burned.

*The President.* But a lot of it belongs to the Federal Government, doesn't it?

*Secretary Espy.* Yes, sir.

*The President.* Twenty thousand or thirty thousand acres, something like that?

*Secretary Espy.* We've got two major national forests out here, and it's under pretty good attack here. The problem in the future, of course, once the fires have receded, is revegetating and reseedling, making sure that in the Forest Service area, we can do a lot of rehabilitation. And so that's what we've got to turn our attention once the immediate situation abates.

*The President.* Well, we should be able to help California with that.

*Secretary Espy.* Yes, sir.

*The President.* We know how to do that.

*Secretary Espy.* We are. The Soil Conservation Service will be taking the lead in the rehabilitation exercises out here.

*The President.* Is Jim Lyons out there with you?

*Secretary Espy.* Jim Lyons is here. He's been here for a couple of days. Now, he's a little bleary-eyed, he had to get up this morning to do a bunch of things, but—

*The President.* He used to be a firefighter, didn't he?

*Secretary Espy.* Yes, he said he did. We're in a place that looks like a—

*The President.* We just thought he ought to have a little continuing education. [Laughter]

*Secretary Espy.* That's right. We need those pale guys to get their hands dirty every now and then.

*The President.* I really appreciate you, Mike. Thank you.

*Secretary Espy.* Well, thank you. Thank you. I just can't say enough about the good work. It's very prompt, very vigorous, effective. And you know, they've been out here from day one, many without sleep, without rest, and it's just incredible to be here. It's great.

*The President.* Is Roger Johnson on?

*Roger Johnson.* He's here, Mr. President. Good morning.

*The President.* You saved your home, didn't you?

*Mr. Johnson.* Yes, sir. They saved it.

*The President.* Congratulations.

[Mr. Johnson gave a brief description of the General Services Administration's disaster response and a personal view of the losses and firefighting efforts.]

*The President.* That's great. How many homes were lost, 350 in Laguna alone?

*Mr. Johnson.* Yes. About 700 overall, I think. Jumped into an area, Emerald Bay, where we used to live. So there were a lot of our friends there, and I think the home we used to live in is gone as well.

[Mr. Witt reported on plans for Federal and State authorities to meet with California insurance associations to provide for special needs in the application centers.]

*The President.* Thank you very much.

Senator Feinstein, Senator Boxer?

*Senator Feinstein.* Good morning, Mr. President. How are you?

*The President.* I'm fine.

[*Senator Feinstein described the mobilization and organization of State firefighting strike teams and Firescope, a unified command of Federal, State, and local authorities to deal with the disaster.*]

*The President.* Thank you. Thank you, Senator.

James Lee, I think you and Mike——

*Senator Boxer.* Do you have room for one more Senator?

*The President.* Yes. I'm going to call in just a minute. I just wanted to say to James Lee and Mike Espy, I think you ought to make a recommendation to me on what we should do on this unified command issue after you get back.

Senator Boxer, the floor is yours.

[*Senator Boxer described the devastation, commended FEMA for its response to the disaster, and expressed her thanks to the President.*]

*The President.* Thank you, Senator. I want to thank both the Senators. And, Dick Andrews, I thank you, and through you Governor Wilson,

you tell him that if there's anything else we can do, you just pick up the phone and call.

And, to Roger Johnson and Secretary Espy and to James Lee Witt, I thank you all for your quick response, and I can't wait to talk to you some more in person after the fire dies down some more and we make sure that we don't forget them when the fire's gone. We'll be there for the followup.

I thank you all, and I hope you have a good day and keep those winds away out there. Thank you. Goodbye.

[*At this point, the teleconference ended.*]

*Q.* Are you going to California?

*The President.* I don't know that yet. We're going to monitor the winds today. That's the big issue. I don't want to be in the way out there. They've got a lot of work to do. The thing, I think, is pretty well in hand now if they don't have a resurgence of the winds. So we're all basically going to—it's quite early there, it's still 7 a.m. in the morning. And we're just going to spend the next 4 or 5 hours waiting for the weather reports.

I've got to do the radio address, folks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. A portion of this item could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## The President's Radio Address

October 30, 1993

Good morning. In the next few days, you'll have the chance to pick up what may be the most important book of information you'll read for yourself, your children, your parents, and others you care about. It's a book that's also very important for the future of our Nation. The book is called "Health Security: The President's Report to the American People." And while it deals with a very complex issue, the overhaul and reform of our health care system, it does so in straightforward, very human terms.

The book describes our plan to solve the Nation's health care crisis by guaranteeing every working American comprehensive health care that's always there, that can never be taken away. While many people worked hard on this

book, especially the First Lady and her task force on health care reform, in many ways, the book was written by you, the American people. For a long time, since I was the Governor of my State, I've been talking with Americans who, against their will, become all too familiar with the failings of our health care system, Americans caught without insurance or with inadequate insurance when they or a loved one became ill and when they needed the coverage the most, people who had their bank accounts emptied, their trust in the system betrayed, and too often their hearts broken.

Many of you listening today know someone who has fallen through the cracks of our health care system. These cracks have become chasms