

Nomination for Assistant Secretaries of the Army and Air Force *January 24, 1994*

The President announced his intention today to nominate three assistant secretaries at the Pentagon: Gilbert F. Decker to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Research, Development and Acquisition; Robert F. Hale to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Financial Management; and Sara E. Lister to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserves.

"As I ask William Perry to take over the reins at the Department of Defense, I am pleased

to be continuing the process of ensuring that we have a strong team at every level of the Pentagon," said the President. "I expect Gilbert Decker, Robert Hale, and Sara Lister to all play an important role in keeping our armed services the best in the world."

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

Nomination for the Federal Maritime Commission *January 24, 1994*

The President announced today his intention to nominate Joe Scroggins, Jr., to be Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission.

"Joe Scroggins is a talented public servant with an outstanding knowledge of maritime

issues. I thank him for his service on the Maritime Commission," said the President.

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

Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the State of the Union *January 25, 1994*

Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Members of the 103d Congress, my fellow Americans:

I'm not at all sure what speech is in the TelePrompter tonight—[laughter]—but I hope we can talk about the state of the Union.

I ask you to begin by recalling the memory of the giant who presided over this Chamber with such force and grace. Tip O'Neill liked to call himself "a man of the House." And he surely was that. But even more, he was a man of the people, a bricklayer's son who helped to build the great American middle class. Tip O'Neill never forgot who he was, where he came from, or who sent him here. Tonight he's smiling down on us for the first time from the Lord's gallery. But in his honor, may we, too, always remember who we are, where we come from, and who sent us here. If we do that we will return over and over again to the principle

that if we simply give ordinary people equal opportunity, quality education, and a fair shot at the American dream, they will do extraordinary things.

We gather tonight in a world of changes so profound and rapid that all nations are tested. Our American heritage has always been to master such change, to use it to expand opportunity at home and our leadership abroad. But for too long and in too many ways, that heritage was abandoned, and our country drifted.

For 30 years, family life in America has been breaking down. For 20 years, the wages of working people have been stagnant or declining. For the 12 years of trickle-down economics, we built a false prosperity on a hollow base as our national debt quadrupled. From 1989 to 1992, we experienced the slowest growth in a half century. For too many families, even when both