

*Jan. 27 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994*

guish themselves, as members of the Federal judiciary.”

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

### Appointment for Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator *January 27, 1994*

The President today appointed former Massachusetts secretary of environmental affairs John P. DeVillars to be the Environmental Protection Agency's Region I Administrator.

“I have worked with and respected John DeVillars for nearly a decade,” said the Presi-

dent. “I am proud that he is bringing his considerable energy and talent to protecting the very special environment of New England.”

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

### Remarks to a National Conference of Mayors *January 28, 1994*

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President, all the members of our Cabinet who are here, and all those who have been here. I trust they've done such a good job that they've taken care of all the heavy lifting. *[Laughter]*

Mayor Abramson, I'm glad to be here with you and all your colleagues. And I thank you for coming to the White House and for coming to Washington. We need your help. I look out in this crowd today, and I see a lot of people with whom I have worked, people I know, people I consider my friends, and most importantly people I consider to be Americans in the best sense now, trying to come to grips with these problems.

This is going to be a good week for me. I long for the days when the mayors and the Governors come to town. It is in those days that this city is at its least partisan. When we have people who are responsible for running things, getting results, dealing with problems that have no necessary partisan content, I feel that at least there is a moment of hope in the air that we will be able to break out of this crazy paralysis that too often dominates this city. And so I am delighted to see you all.

I also want to thank you for the contributions you have made and will continue to make to the life and the ideas of this administration.

I saw the press conference yesterday that Mayor Daley, I think, and Mayor Johnson, maybe some others had, on the meltdown of the weapons. I received a copy of Mayor Rendell's letter to the Vice President on suggestions for an urban agenda, gave the instructions that we should review those ideas in a hurry. I've had a lot of talks in the last few days with Mayor Archer, Mayor Riley, and Mayor Rice. Mayor Webb has talked to me about his efforts.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Mayor Abramson for the op-ed piece that he wrote about—I think it was called your Russell Project, is that what—because you made the point that I have seen in Louisville, in Cleveland, in Chicago, and many other places, that there really are things that we can do if we have the right sort of partnership. There are ways to use the relatively modest amount of Federal money now available to match with local funds and private sector funds to really do things to get a lot of our troubled urban areas going again. And that was a very important point because there's a lot of cynicism about that around this town. And you helped to put a fresh note of reality into our discussions, and I appreciate that very much.