

Nomination for Posts at the Department of the Air Force *February 23, 1994*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Rudy de Leon Under Secretary of the Air Force, the number two civilian position in that branch, and Jeffrey K. Harris Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space.

"These two individuals have each given almost two decades of substantial service to their coun-

try," the President said. "I am confident their experience and commitment will serve them well in their important new roles."

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

Nomination for Ambassador to Finland *February 23, 1994*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Derek Shearer, director of the International and Public Affairs Center at Occidental College in California, as Ambassador to Finland.

"Derek Shearer has a keen intellect and a broad range of foreign policy experience, particularly in international economics," the Presi-

dent said. "I am pleased that he has accepted this assignment, and I have full confidence that he will represent our country effectively and with honor."

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

Remarks on Arrival in Groton, Connecticut *February 24, 1994*

The President. Well, this is hardly the time and place for a speech, but I am delighted to be here with Senator Dodd and Senator Lieberman, Congresswoman Kennelly, and your Congressman, Mr. Gejdenson.

We're here to talk about health care today and to talk about the future of the people of Connecticut and the future of our country. I also want to say, since I am fairly near Groton, that I think most of you probably know, but yesterday Electric Boat was awarded one of the administration's technology reinvestment projects for defense conversion, to help to use the defense technologies that were developed in the 1980's to build the high-tech jobs here at home of the 1990's. And that will be a help in the future.

Audience member. Sea Wolf!

The President. Well, we hung in there with the Sea Wolf—we did the Sea Wolf. I did that. We reversed that decision. That's right.

I also want to just say a special word of thanks to all of you for braving this weather and for coming out and for bringing your messages as well as your support. My family and I are very grateful for the friendship that we've been given all across this country, especially in the last month as I've dealt with the loss of my mother, and we've tried to deal with a lot of the challenges facing our country. And when you come out here and stand in this rain after the tough snow you had last night, it's very moving to me personally. I thank you for that.

I want you to know one other thing. We've got a lot of tough challenges still ahead facing our country. We've got a lot of hard work to do in the Congress. We are facing the health care issue, the welfare reform issue. We're going