

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on International Agreements

March 15, 1994

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Pursuant to subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act (1 U.S.C. section 112b(b)), I transmit herewith a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Nomination for the Federal Communications Commission

March 15, 1994

The President today announced his intent to nominate Susan Ness as a member of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

“As a former communications lender, Susan Ness brings to the FCC valuable perspective. Her extensive experience covers many communications industry sectors including tele-

communications, radio, television, cable television, programming and publishing,” the President said. “She will be an excellent addition to this important Commission.”

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

Memorandum on the White House Conference on Small Business

March 15, 1994

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: White House Conference on Small Business

In September, I appointed the White House Conference on Small Business Commission. The Commission is charged with convening a series of State and regional meetings that will culminate in a national White House Conference on Small Business in June 1995.

These 66 meetings will attract up to 40,000 participants who will discuss the challenges facing small businesses. These representatives—small business owners and entrepreneurs—will develop specific recommendations for executive and congressional action. These recommendations will help constitute the small business agenda for the 21st century.

I ask each of you to support this important effort, by taking the following measures. First, each department and agency should prepare a list of significant policy initiatives affecting small businesses undertaken in the past year. Second, each department and agency should identify one or two potential new initiatives that would improve the economic or regulatory climate for small businesses. These two items should be forwarded to Gene B. Sperling, Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, no later than April 1, 1994.

The White House Office of Cabinet Affairs, working with the National Economic Council staff, the White House Office of Public Liaison, and the Small Business Administration, will coordinate various departments’ and agencies’ participation in the Conference. To facilitate that process, please designate a deputy-level contact

on your staff to serve as a liaison and to work directly with the White House offices and the Small Business Administration. Each liaison will be asked to attend regular meetings and charged with oversight of the department's or agency's contribution to and participation in the Conference. Please forward your designee's name

to Christine A. Varney, Deputy Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs, by April 1.

Thank you for your support of this important effort to assist our Nation's small businesses.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 16.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation on Reemployment March 15, 1994

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and prompt enactment the "Reemployment Act of 1994". Also transmitted is a section-by-section analysis. This legislation is vital to help Americans find new jobs and build sustainable careers.

Our current set of programs was designed to meet the different needs of an earlier economy. People looking for help today confront a confusing, overlapping, and duplicative tangle of programs, services, and rules. Job seekers—whether unemployed or looking for better jobs—have a difficult time getting the information they need: What benefits and services are available to them? Where can they get good quality training? What do they need to know to find and hold good jobs and to build sustainable careers?

The underlying problem is the lack of a coherent employment and training system. Instead, we have many disconnected, category-based programs—each with distinct eligibility requirements, operating cycles, and program standards. We need a true system of lifelong learning—not the current hodgepodge of programs, some of which work, and some of which don't. The legislation I am transmitting today is an important first step in building this system.

We need to build a reemployment system because our current unemployment system no longer delivers what many American workers need. In the past, when a worker lost a job, he or she often returned to that job as soon as the business cycle picked up again and the company was ready to rehire. The unemployment system was designed to tide workers over

during temporary dry spells. Today, when a worker loses a job, that job often is gone forever.

Our economy has generated new jobs. In 1993 alone, 1.7 million new private sector jobs were created—more than in the previous 4 years combined. While the jobs exist, the pathways to them aren't always clear.

The Reemployment Act of 1994 strives to fix this. It is based on evidence of what works for getting workers into new and better jobs. Programs that work are customer-driven, offering customized service, quality information, and meaningful choices. Programs that work provide job search assistance to help dislocated workers become reemployed rapidly, feature skill training connected to real job opportunities, and offer support services to make long-term training practical for those who need it.

The Act reflects six key principles:

First is universal access and program consolidation. The current patchwork of dislocated worker programs is categorical, inefficient, and confusing. The Reemployment Act of 1994 will consolidate six separate programs into an integrated service system that focuses on what workers need to get their next job, not the reason why they lost their last job.

Second is high-quality reemployment services. Most dislocated workers want and need only information and some basic help in assessing their skills and planning and conducting their job search. These services are relatively simple and inexpensive, and they have been shown to pay off handsomely in reducing jobless spells.

Third is high-quality labor market information, which must be a key component of any reem-