

*Oct. 4 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1994*

we will walk every mile with you and that we will not grow weary on the way.

I say to all of you here, *Nkosi Sikelel' i Afrika*. God bless Africa. And God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Statement on Unfunded Federal Mandates Reform Legislation

*October 4, 1994*

I want to state today my continued support for efforts by Congress to restore balance to the intergovernmental partnership between the Federal Government and State, local, and tribal governments. Since my days as Governor of Arkansas, I have spoken out on the need to address the burgeoning growth of Federal unfunded mandates. As President, I have taken action to resolve this problem within the executive branch by issuing Executive Order 12875, "Enhancing the Intergovernmental Partnership."

However, more needs to be done. Therefore, I want to reiterate my endorsement of and

strongly encourage the Congress to send to my desk before the session ends, the bipartisan "Federal Mandate Accountability and Reform Act of 1994." This legislation, drafted by Senator Glenn and Senator Kempthorne in close consultation with my administration, will curtail the imposition of Federal mandates on State, local, and tribal governments without adequate Federal funding and will promote informed and deliberate decisions by Congress on the appropriateness of Federal requirements in any particular instances.

## Nomination for the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

*October 4, 1994*

The President today intends to nominate Alan Dixon, former U.S. Senator of Illinois, to be Chairman of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

"I am pleased to nominate Alan Dixon to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. His record of dedicated public service, extensive background in defense mat-

ters, and tested leadership will contribute greatly to the valuable work of this Commission," the President said. "I look forward to his confirmation."

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

## Appointment for the President's Committee on Mental Retardation

*October 4, 1994*

The President today announced his intention to appoint the final eight members to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. The appointees are Gisselle Acevedo Franco, Tom Smith, Robert Dinerstein, Cathy Ficker Terrill, Deborah Spitalnik, Lorenzo Aguilar-Melancon, Ruth Luckasson, and Virginia Williams.

"We have now assembled a strong and dynamic group of advocates, self advocates, family members and professionals who share our common vision of moving from exclusion to inclusion, from dependence to independence, from paternalism to empowerment," the President said. "I look forward to the leadership that these