

sector committed \$2 billion to this endeavor. All we had to do was to put up the \$100 million and the prospect of the tax benefits. How did it happen? Because of the energy generated at the local level just because the Federal Government said we want to help you decide your own future for a change. And I tell you, as you probably heard on the telephone call, I've been in the hills and hollows of Kentucky. I have walked up and down the poorest communities in America in the Mississippi Delta. I have been all over south Texas. I know those places. And they have good, smart people, too. And their children deserve a future, too. And all we did was to give them a chance to figure

out how they can make a better future for themselves.

Now, that's what this administration is all about. That's what public life is all about out there on the main streets of America. And what we ought to do at this Christmas season is make a new year's resolution that next year with the middle class bill of rights, with more responsibility, with more empowerment, with more opportunity, that's what we're going to make public life like in Washington for a change.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:17 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

## Statement on the Death of Dean Rusk

*December 21, 1994*

Today we mourn the passing of Dean Rusk, who served our Nation with dignity and with strength as Secretary of State under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Dean Rusk belonged to that great generation of Americans who helped guide our Nation and its allies through the dangerous years of the cold war. The world has changed immeasurably since he served at the side of Presidents, but the principles he helped forge—steadfast American promotion of freedom and opposition to tyranny—are as vital as ever.

Dean Rusk's decency, and his loyalty to the Presidents whom he served and to those who

served under him, remains a source of inspiration. When he concluded his 8 years as Secretary of State—the second longest tenure of any American who served in that position—President Johnson awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and he said, "The man who has served me most intelligently, faithfully, and nobly is Dean Rusk."

We will always treasure Dean Rusk's contribution to the United States. And we will honor his memory by always striving to emulate his example.

## Statement on the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan

*December 21, 1994*

Today a U.S. District Court upheld the Northwest Forest Plan. This decision allows us to continue to move forward in pursuit of my commitment to the people and the environment of the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

For years, gridlock over the management of public forest lands created an uncertain future for the people of the region. It was a problem

my administration inherited, and one that we made a priority to solve.

Just 7 months after the announcement of the forest plan, much has already been done. Unemployment for the entire region is at its lowest level in years, millions of dollars have been distributed to more than 100 communities for economic revitalization, and work is underway to analyze and restore damaged watersheds and protect millions of acres of old-growth habitat.

The plan approved today will provide for a sustainable level of timber harvesting, while protecting the environment.

In the true spirit of reinventing Government, the plan is a model of interagency cooperation with seven different Federal agencies working together, sharing information, and making joint

decisions. It is the common sense way to do business and will prevent us from falling back to the days of gridlock. We are moving forward at last, and my administration and I remain committed to the people, to the economy, and to the environment of the Pacific Northwest and northern California.

### Exchange With Reporters at Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers' Final Press Briefing December 22, 1994

*The President.* I thought I should come in and get you out of hot water, since that's what you've been doing for me for years. [Laughter]

What I want to know is, why didn't our Hearts games make this list?

*Press Secretary Myers.* That's the things I will not miss.

*The President.* Oh. [Laughter]

*Press Secretary Myers.* Because that would be on my top 10 list of things I will miss.

Q. Do you have a list, Mr. President?

*The President.* Well—

Q. Favorite questions?

*The President.* Favorite questions? No, I—Dee Dee is my best Hearts partner. That's a trauma I'm trying to deal with here at Christmas time.

No, I have nothing to say about this business work. I just wanted to come in here and say in front of all of you how very grateful I am for everything Dee Dee has done for me since long before I became President, starting in our campaign. I reminded her of the first trip we took together was on a little bitty airplane, and I fell asleep, which was some sort of omen about how helpful I would be in answering difficult questions. And we've had a wonderful professional relationship. We've had a good personal friendship. I think she is one of the best people I have ever had the privilege of working with. And I'm really going to miss her. And I'm especially going to miss the card games. And Air Force One food is not all that bad. [Laughter]

Q. Who is going to replace her?

*The President.* No one is going to replace her.

And I want you all to—I'm going to cut you some slack. We don't have to talk anything serious today. This is Christmas season. And I wish you all a very merry Christmas. I hope you have a wonderful holiday. I hope you get some rest. And consistent with this entirely fiscally and otherwise responsible moment in our history, within those limits, I hope you have a little fun at Christmastime. [Laughter] And I hope you come back full of energy and bright-eyed and everything, because it's going to be a very interesting year next year. [Laughter] And I am really looking forward to it, more every day. [Laughter]

Q. Are you going to spend some more time with us in these kinds of informal Q&A sessions?

*The President.* Yes. [Laughter] Sure.

Q. Do you have an attitude about the Gingrich book?

Q. When you came in, we were just asking Dee Dee about that.

*The President.* You know, I made \$36,000 a year for 12 years and was glad of it. I don't even know how to think in these terms. [Laughter]

Thank you very much. Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 12:30 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.