

Aug. 24 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1995

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Haiti *August 24, 1995*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 107 of Public Law 104-6, I transmit herewith the report on the cumulative incremental cost of all United States activities in Haiti subsequent to September 30, 1993.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

Statement on Fire Suppression Assistance for New York State *August 24, 1995*

Tonight in Suffolk County, New York, firefighters and other emergency workers are heroically fighting several dangerous fires that have forced the evacuation of hundreds of people, including residents of two nursing homes among other facilities.

In order to help the State and county governments sustain these efforts without worry of financial hardships, I have tonight authorized fire suppression grants which will allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reimburse the State for most of the costs associated with the emergency operations.

I have also directed the mobilization of the resources of the U.S. Forest Service to provide direct assistance in fighting the fires, including

all necessary equipment and teams of particular expertise in fighting wild land fires. They are on their way. I have directed FEMA Director James Lee Witt and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Jim Lyons to go to New York tonight to manage the Federal firefighting effort. Fires are frightening, and I know that the residents of these areas are going through difficult times. Our hearts and our prayers are with them, and we commend the efforts of all of those people on Long Island who are valiantly working to contain these blazes.

NOTE: The President also recorded this statement at 9 p.m. outside the press filing center in Jackson Hole, WY, for later broadcast in New York State.

Remarks on the 79th Anniversary of the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming *August 25, 1995*

Hi, folks. Well, I'm sorry about the rain, but I want to tell you that Hillary and Chelsea and I are having a wonderful time here. I want to thank the Park Superintendent, Mike Findley, and all the people who work at Yellowstone for making our visit so nice, even with the rain.

I wanted to make a couple of points today: 79 years ago today the Congress established the National Park Service to organize and preserve our natural heritage and to preserve our common environment. Last year at the 369 national

parks, 270 million visitors came. That is an astonishing number.

Yellowstone is the symbol of our national parks because it's the oldest one and the first one in the history of the world. And I came here today basically to make two or three points: First of all, I am committed to preserving these parks. There was an effort in Congress—*[ap- plause]*—there was an effort in Congress to cut the budget in a way that could have forced the closure of 200 of these parks. That's wrong.