

Statement on the Death of Admiral Arleigh A. Burke

January 1, 1996

We mourn the passing today of Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, U.S. Navy (Retired), whose dedicated and exceptional career is cherished by everyone who knew of his extraordinary courage, legendary reputation, and selfless service.

Last summer, as I prepared for the 50th anniversary of the commemoration of V-J Day and the end of the war in the Pacific, I had the honor and privilege of having dinner with Admiral Burke. I benefited then from his wise counsel, as had previous Presidents before me. Courageous and gallant, he was renowned for his heroism and leadership during the Pacific battles of World War II, from Cape St. George and the Solomon Sea to Leyte Gulf and Okinawa. During his 6-year tenure as Chief of Naval Operations in the pivotal years of the cold war, Admiral Burke's vision ensured a balanced and

versatile Navy to help deter world war and respond to whatever crises might come. The U.S. Navy, in naming one of its most powerful class of surface ships after "31-Knot Burke," has ensured that his name will ride the seas as a reminder in the coming century of an indomitable destroyerman and naval leader who stood for freedom and the excellence needed to defend it.

To Admiral Burke's wife of 72 years, Roberta, his family and friends, and to the Navy community, I extend my heartfelt condolences. We will remember him as one of America's finest sailors and most capable military leaders.

NOTE: The related proclamation of January 2 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Loan Guarantees to Israel

December 30, 1995

To the Congress of the United States:

Enclosed is an unclassified report on the Loan Guarantees to Israel Program and on economic conditions in Israel, as required by section 226(k) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87-195), and section 1205 of the International Security and Develop-

ment Cooperation Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-983).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
December 30, 1995.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 2, 1996.

Exchange With Reporters on the Budget Negotiations

January 2, 1996

Q. Mr. President, is this the meeting at which you're going to start making some compromises on the most contentious issues?

The President. Well, I'm looking forward to it, and I hope we can reach an agreement. I want to compliment the Senate on voting to

reopen the Government today for the next several days while we attempt to finalize this, and I hope the House will follow suit. That's a very good sign, and I'm looking forward to the meeting tonight.

Q. Will the House follow suit, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich. Well, our Members will be back by noon tomorrow, and we hope to meet with all of them and brief them on tonight's meeting and whatever happens tomorrow morning and maybe get something done during the day tomorrow. I think if we can both get movement on the balanced budget and get the Government back to

work and paid for, that really would be a good step in the right direction.

Q. Will you encourage them to take the Senate bill?

Speaker Gingrich. We're going to have a good meeting tonight, and we'll report to the Members what happened when they get back tomorrow.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:15 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House, prior to a meeting with congressional leaders. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Impact of the Budget Impasse and an Exchange With Reporters

January 3, 1996

The President. Good afternoon. I have just finished meeting with my Cabinet to receive an update on the consequences of the Government shutdown that Congress has imposed on the American people and on the hardworking public employees who are now working without pay and the many who want to work but are not permitted to return to work. Each day this shutdown continues, the consequences grow worse.

Before I get into some of the specific things that came out of the Cabinet meeting, let me remind the American people that this shutdown is not caused by the fact that the congressional leaders and I have not yet reached agreement on a balanced budget plan or on all the appropriations for this year. In fact, it is part of an explicit strategy by Republicans to shut the Government down to get their way on budget and tax issues. This has never been done before. It is not a natural disaster. It is an unnatural disaster born of a cynical political strategy.

It is long past time to reopen the Government. I am pleased that after 2 weeks of this shutdown, the Senate Republicans have voted to reopen the Government, putting the interest of our country ahead of politics. Our budget talks are proceeding seriously and in good faith. I have been impressed by the efforts made on all sides, including those by Senator Dole and by Speaker Gingrich and Leader Armey and

Senator Daschle and Mr. Gephardt. We are working together in good faith. This shutdown is not speeding our talks. It is only casting a shadow over them.

Let me report to you some of the specific examples of harm already caused by the shutdown. This week, the Meals on Wheels program for senior citizens will run out of money. Half the Head Start programs in the country will run out of money within the month. The Centers for Disease Control tracking system cannot accurately keep up with the flu outbreak in the Midwest. On an average day, 260 small businesses are being denied \$40 million in capital, loans that would create new jobs for Americans. We are not able to enforce our trade laws to protect our workers and our products. We're not able to weatherize homes in this winter to protect the elderly from the cold.

Yesterday, the Environmental Protection Agency shut down toxic waste cleanups at 32 sites across America. Every day, 240 calls to the Drinking Water Contamination Hotline now go unanswered. The EPA's efforts to prevent cryptosporidium from contaminating city water supplies, something that proved a deadly threat in the city of Milwaukee, have been badly delayed. EPA enforcement efforts have completely stopped.

Medicare contractors who serve our elderly are not being paid. Many of them now are dip-