

cision they make, we obviously—all countries—will accept and respect. But if they decide to stay with peace, we will do what we can to make sure they can have security as well.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:22 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.), former Chief of Naval Operations.

Remarks on the Verdict in the McDougal-Tucker Trial and an Exchange With Reporters

May 28, 1996

The President. I'd like to make a brief statement about the jury verdict in Arkansas today. First of all, the jury has completed its work, and they obviously worked for quite a long time and debated this thoroughly and tried to make a good decision. So I think we should all accept that.

Obviously, on a personal level, I'm very sorry for Governor Tucker and Jim and Susan McDougal. But the jury has decided. I was asked to give testimony; I did that. And for me, it's time to go back to work. That's what I intend to do.

Q. Do you think Governor Tucker should resign?

The President. I don't want to comment on that. I think those questions have to be resolved by the people involved and in terms of what their other options are. I don't want to comment on that.

I just think that this is a day for saying that these jurors worked a long time; they were out

for an extended period of time; they reached their verdict. And as I said, for me it's more of a personal thing today. I'm very sorry for them personally. But I did what I was asked to do, and now I've got to go back to work. That's what I intend to do.

Q. Sir, do you think this is a repudiation of your statements?

Q. Did the jurors not believe you, sir? Did the jurors not believe you?

The President. You ought to ask them that. I doubt that; I doubt that that's what was going on. But you ought to ask them. I don't know.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:20 p.m. on the North Driveway at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to trial codefendants Gov. Jim Guy Tucker of Arkansas and James and Susan McDougal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring Blue Ribbon Schools

May 29, 1996

Thank you so much. Secretary Riley, thank you for the wonderful job that you do and your clear, strong voice for education. Mr. Vice President, thank you for the work you have done in advancing our technology initiative. I forgive you for mentioning all those Tennessee schools. [Laughter] We're always doing this. You know, there's a school from Arkansas here—from Bentonville, Arkansas. And I have spoken at the high school graduation there more than once. Now, have you spoken at all those Tennessee

schools' graduation? [Laughter] We'll do this for 3 or 4 more days until—[laughter].

And I want to say to Jill Mahler how very much we appreciate not only the excellent work being done in your school—and I think I—they are so proud of her, I think I'd like to ask the representatives from Mainland High School in Daytona Beach to stand up here, and thank you very much. [Applause] Thank you.

But it also reminds us that teaching and learning are a lot more than technology. And this