

July 2 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1996

result, not just in November but far more important for our children and our grandchildren.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom at the West Tower of the Chicago Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Steve Protulis, executive director, and Tom Buffenbarger, board member, National Council of Senior Citizens; Lois Wellington, president,

Congress of California Seniors; George Becker, president, United Steelworkers of America; Jay Mazur, president, Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees; Douglas Fraser, former president, United Auto Workers; Justin Dart, former Chair, President's Committee on Employment of People With Disabilities; and Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 1996

July 2, 1996

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans across the nation and around the world in celebrating Independence Day.

On this day each year, we gather with family and friends to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of our Declaration of Independence. With vision and courage, our Founders stated unequivocally to the world: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." These were literally revolutionary concepts, and they fundamentally changed the course of human history.

Today we are living through another period of profound and historic change—change in the way we work, the way we live, the way we relate to one another and to the rest of the world. But the truths set down in our Declaration of Independence are immutable, and they continue to light our path into the challenges and possibilities of the future. Equality, indi-

vidual rights, life, freedom, opportunity—we still cherish these values, and we must continue to reaffirm them daily.

America is a work in progress, and we have strived through decades of challenge and change to become what our Founders envisioned on our first Independence Day. As we continue that endeavor, let us work together to create an America that remains the world's strongest force for peace, justice, and freedom. Let us work for an America that is not driven apart by differences but instead is united around shared values and respect for our diversity. Let us work for an America in which every one of us, without regard to race or religious belief or gender or station in life, can achieve our dreams. In this way we will best pay tribute to those who, 220 years ago, pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to guarantee our freedom.

Best wishes for a memorable Fourth of July.

BILL CLINTON

Remarks at a Reception for Representative Dick Durbin in Chicago

July 2, 1996

The President. Thank you very much.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you. Well, if we get them, they'll be a lot better if Dick Durbin is in the Senate, I'll tell you that.

First of all, I'm delighted to be here with Senator Simon and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, my good friend Bill Singer, and all of you who have contributed to this terrific fundraiser. I want to say how very much I admire Dick and Loretta Durbin—they live their family