

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 p.m. at the Hyatt Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Jeffrey H. Erickson, president and chief executive officer of Trans World Airlines and dinner cochair; Gov.

Mel Carnahan of Missouri and his wife, Jean; Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II of Kansas City, MO; Joan Kelly Horn, candidate for Missouri's Second Congressional District; Becky Cook, Missouri secretary of state; and Bob Holden, Missouri State treasurer.

Memorandum on Employees Affected by Hurricane Fran and Its Aftermath *September 10, 1996*

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Excused Absence for Employees Affected by Hurricane Fran and its Aftermath

I am deeply concerned about the devastating losses caused by Hurricane Fran and the impact on the well-being and livelihood of our fellow Americans who have been affected by this disaster. Elements of the Federal Government have been mobilized to respond to this disaster.

As part of this effort, I request heads of executive departments and agencies who have Federal civilian employees in the areas designated as disaster areas because of the effects of Hurri-

cane Fran and its aftermath to use their discretion to excuse from duty, without charge to leave or loss of pay, any such employee who is faced with a personal emergency because of this storm and who can be spared from his or her usual responsibilities. This policy should also be applied to any employee who is needed for emergency law enforcement, relief, or clean-up efforts authorized by Federal, State, or local officials having jurisdiction.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 11.

Teleconference Remarks to the Regional Meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology *September 11, 1996*

I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you to this regional meeting of the White House Conference on Environmental Technology. I'm sorry I can't be there with you. But our administration is very well represented by my Science Adviser, Jack Gibbons, and Fred Hansen, Sherri Goodman, and Al Alm, and I thank them all for being there.

I want to say a special word of thanks to Governor Romer for working with Jack to host this event and to thank Ralph Peterson and the other Colorado industry leaders who have worked so hard to put this meeting together.

I know that you're very committed both to promoting economic growth and job creation in Colorado and protecting your priceless environ-

ment. And by deploying a new generation of innovative environmental technologies and building a world-leading environmental industry, you know that you can do both. Promoting the development and deployment of new environmental technologies by American industry enables you to do a better job of cleaning up and protecting the environment at lower cost. And by strengthening the United States environmental technology industry, of course, an industry that already has created more than 1.2 million high-wage and high-skill jobs for American workers, you're making America's economy and our environment stronger. And of course, you're especially helping Colorado.