

May 14 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

the great progress you have made in such a short time. And do not underestimate what you can do with your dreams as free people.

We have just toured your General Motors Opel plant, established in 1991. It is now a model for the entire world, with its technology, with strong worker participation in decisions, with innovative efforts to protect the environment. I am proud that American companies like GM have invested in your future. I want more of them to do it until every person in every part of Germany has a chance to live up to the fullest of his or her God-given abilities.

As you march into the future, you have not forgotten your past. You honor Luther and Bach and teach the world of their gifts, and you honor America by recalling our role in your journey to freedom.

As the mayor said, you have a sister city in the United States, in Waverly, Iowa. In your

city hall there is a quilt handmade by women from Waverly, Iowa, most of them of German heritage, one of them 101 years old when she worked on the quilt. Through your darkest years, these long-lost German cousins of yours never lost faith that one day you would be free.

On this beautiful Thuringian day in the spring, we are bathed in the light and the warmth of freedom. May it always shine across Germany, across this continent, across the world, and may you have every opportunity you have waited so long and are working so hard for.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:42 p.m. in Market Square. In his remarks, he referred to Minister President Bernhard Vogel of Thuringia; and Mayor Peter Brodhum of Eisenach.

Statement on the Death of Marjory Stoneman Douglas

May 14, 1998

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of one of America's greatest environmentalists, Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Mrs. Douglas was 103 when I had the honor of awarding her the Medal of Freedom, and throughout her life, she was always ahead of her time. Long before there was an Earth Day,

Mrs. Douglas was a passionate steward of our Nation's natural resources, particularly her beloved Florida Everglades. She was both inspiration and mentor for a generation of American conservationists, and her legacy will continue to call us to action on behalf of the environment.

Statement on Bipartisan Tobacco Legislation

May 14, 1998

I want to commend Representatives Hansen, Meehan, and Waxman for the strong bipartisan support they have marshaled for the legislation they are introducing today to reduce youth smoking in this country. The Hansen-Meehan-Waxman bill contains tough company penalties for failure to reduce youth smoking, full FDA authority to regulate tobacco, strong restrictions on advertising and youth marketing of tobacco products, and key protections against exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. With the introduction of this important bipartisan bill, the

House of Representatives can follow the lead of the Senate and finally get down to the serious business of reducing youth smoking in this country. I look forward to working with Representatives Hansen, Meehan, Waxman, and all of their House colleagues to pass a comprehensive tobacco bill this year that includes effective measures to reduce youth smoking and that protects farmers and farming communities.