

June 18 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:08 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president, Appeal of Conscience Foundation; Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick, Archbishop

of Newark; Rev. Don Argue, former president, National Association of Evangelicals; President Jiang Zemin of China; and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

Excerpt of Videotaped Remarks on the United States-Iran World Cup Game

June 18, 1998

The World Cup is beloved across our planet because it offers a chance for people from around the world to be judged not by the place they grew up, the color of their skin, or the way they choose to worship but by their spirit, skill, and strength.

As we cheer today's game between American and Iranian athletes, I hope it can be another step toward ending the estrangement between our nations. I am pleased that over the last year, President Khatami and I have both worked

to encourage more people-to-people exchanges and to help our citizens develop a better understanding of each other's rich civilizations.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 11 a.m. in the Cabinet Room on June 18 for broadcast on Univision on June 21, and the partial transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 18. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Action To Cut Teen Drug Use

June 18, 1998

Today's PRIDE survey shows that American families can influence adolescents' attitudes and behaviors when it comes to drugs. This is a small step in the right direction. But we must all continue to warn our youth that drugs are wrong; that drugs are dangerous; and that drugs can kill you. That is why in the coming months,

we will take our antidrug media campaign nationwide, fund more community antidrug coalitions, and work to enact our long-term drug strategy. These and other steps will help us to reach our ultimate goal—cutting teen drug use in half.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Compliance With the Chemical Weapons Convention

June 18, 1998

Dear _____:

In accordance with Condition 10(C) of the resolution of advice and consent to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24,

1997, enclosed is the report to Congress on CWC Compliance.

The report is provided in both a classified and unclassified form.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Benjamin A. Gilman, chairman, and Lee H. Ham-

ilton, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Economic Team and an Exchange With Reporters

June 19, 1998

The President. First of all, let me say good morning, and as you can see, I am about to meet with my economic team to discuss the present state of the American economy, the developments in the world, and how we can keep our economy growing. We're going to talk about the importance of promoting stability in Asia and meeting our obligations to the IMF, the importance of preserving the surplus until we resolve the issue of saving Social Security for the 21st century, the importance of not destabilizing our economy with gimmicks like getting rid of the Tax Code before we know what will replace it, and the importance of continuing our strategy of long-term investments to grow the American economy through education and technology.

Tobacco Legislation

Let me also make a few brief remarks on another obligation that we face, that I am still determined to see through, and that is our obligation to the public health of our children and to protect them from the dangers of tobacco. We have a chance, as all the surveys show, to save about a million lives a year if we do the right thing on reducing childhood smoking. For 6 months we have worked hard and in good faith to meet all legitimate objections to the legislation and to join together the priorities of both parties.

Let me just be clear about this: Every Senator who voted to kill this bill not only voted against the provisions which will help to prevent teen smoking, which will help to put more research into cancer research, into other public health problems, and help to promote smoking cessation programs; they also voted against fixing the marriage penalty and giving a tax break for working families with incomes under \$50,000; they voted against new measures to crack down

on drugs; they voted against life-saving research; they also voted not to implement a program that can save a million lives a year. It was a vote against our children and for the tobacco lobby. It's as simple as that; it is not complicated.

Now, some have suggested that Congress should now just get in line and do what the tobacco lobby wants them to do. That's the new suggestion: Well, let's just do what the tobacco companies will let us do, and appear to be passing a bill that will reduce teen smoking, that everybody knows will not have very much influence, if any, on the problem.

I'm going to stick with the public health servants of this country. I'm going to stick with the people who know what it takes to do the job. And most importantly, we're going to stick with the children and their future. And I hope, therefore, that we can still stay in here and keep working, get a bill that will increase the price of cigarettes enough to deter smoking, that will have strong advertising restrictions, that will have strong access restrictions, that will invest in public health and do something honorable for the tobacco farmers.

Now, the Republican majority may want the tobacco companies to run the Congress on this issue. I don't. I think we ought to do this for the people. I think we ought to vote like parents, not politicians, and I still hope we can do that.

Q. Mr. President, did both Democrats and Republicans get a little too greedy, put too much on this bill? That's certainly been suggested.

The President. Well, let me just remind you that this bill passed the committee 19 to 1. This was almost unanimously voted out of a committee that had a Republican majority. You have people voting against this bill who voted