

never make any real progress on any great challenge unless we go forward together. And I ask you to ask our country to go forward as you have gone forward together here. We need these programs for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and tax incentives. They've long enjoyed the support of business and environmentalists; they should enjoy the support of Congress.

And we also need to stop using legislative gimmicks in Washington to weaken environmental protection. In the Senate, for example, lawmakers have attached to bills that are totally unrelated devices called riders that would cripple our wildlife protection efforts, deny taxpayers a fair return on oil leasing on public lands, allow a \$30 million road through a wildlife refuge in Alaska, the first road ever through a Federal wilderness. We don't need to do this. We need to keep going forward.

Look out at that river and just imagine, just try to imagine what it would be like to be 300 million years old. I'm grateful for our economic prosperity. I'm grateful for the fact that the crime rate is down, and we have the smallest percentage of our people on welfare in 29 years. I'm grateful for these things. But you know and I know that the world is still changing fast, that there are many challenges out there that we're trying to meet right now—the challenge of the problems that our friends in Asia have which could affect the whole world economy, just for example. We're trying to deal with wars of racial and religious and ethnic hatred that could spill into other countries and engage our young people again.

We know that we will have future challenges because in the nature of things, once you solve one set of problems there's always a new set

of challenges coming along. That's one of the gifts that God has given us. So we'll always have new challenges, but you'll always have the New River, too.

For those of us who are old enough to be parents or grandparents, we know when our children and grandchildren are our age the facts of their lives might be a little different. It's kind of heartening to know, isn't it, that the New River will be the same because of what you are doing here today.

This ancient river has flowed through the heart of this land for millions of years—hundreds of millions of years longer than blood has flowed through any human heart. The Cherokee even say that this was the very first river created by the Great Spirit's hand. Who are we, such brief visitors on this Earth, to disturb it? But when we cherish it and save it and hand it on to our children, we have done what we were charged to do, not only in our own Constitution and history but by our Maker.

You should be very, very proud of yourselves today. I thank you for what you have done. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the Severt family farm. In his remarks, he referred to Sheila Morgan, co-owner of the Todd General Store on the New River, who introduced the President; Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., of North Carolina; George Yeats, chairman, Ashe County Commission; Mayor Dale Baldwin of West Jefferson, NC; Mayor Dayna Brown of Lansing, NC; Mayor D.E. Hightower of Jefferson, NC; and Bill and Lula Severt, who hosted the event. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus July 30, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95-384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1 to May 31, 1998. The previous submission covered events during February and March 1998.

My Special Presidential Emissary for Cyprus, Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, accompanied by Special Cyprus Coordinator Ambassador Thomas J. Miller, traveled to Cyprus in early April and held a series of intensive talks with the leaders of both communities. In early May, they returned to the island at the request of both leaders and encouraged them to begin

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serious negotiations toward a bizonal, bicomunal federation. Unfortunately, the Turkish side took the position that talks could not begin unless certain preconditions were satisfied, including recognition of the “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” and the withdrawal of Cyprus’ application to the European Union.

Although progress was not possible during Ambassador Holbrooke’s May visit, he assured

both parties that the United States would remain engaged in the search for a solution.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Remarks at a Reception for Senatorial Candidate John Edwards in Raleigh, North Carolina

July 30, 1998

Thank you very much. Thank you for being here. Thank you for waiting. Thank you for enduring the heat. I’ll tell the Vice President 100 percent of the people in this crowd believe there is global warming now. *[Laughter]* Thank you so much.

I’d like to thank all the young people who provided our music over there. *[Inaudible]*—thank you very much. I’d like to thank the Lieutenant Governor, your Education Commissioner, and the other officials who are here; my old friend Dan Blue; my former Ambassador Jeanette Hyde and Wallace are here. Barbara Allen, your State chair, thank you very much. I saw Sheriff Baker here. I thank him for being here. I think every county ought to have a sheriff that’s 9 feet tall. I wish I could find one everywhere.

I want to thank my good friend Erskine Bowles for coming home to North Carolina with me. You should know that on October 1st, when we have that balanced budget and surplus for the first time in so many years, there is no single person in America more responsible for the first balanced budget in a generation than Erskine Bowles. And it’s a good thing for this country, and I appreciate it.

I thank my great friend Jim Hunt. We’ve been friends for 20 years now, a long time before some of you were born. And we’ve been out here working to try to improve education and move our country forward, move our States forward.

I want to thank Margaret Rose Sanford, Mrs. Terry Sanford, for being here tonight. Thank you for coming. But most of all, I want to thank

John Edwards and his wife and his children for this race for the Senate.

You know, it’s just a commonplace today that you can’t beat a Republican incumbent running for the Senate because they have all the money—and that’s why campaign finance reform never passes, I might add. *[Laughter]* And so times are good; people are happy; your opponent has money, he’s already in; therefore, you can’t win.

And John Edwards said, “I don’t think so. I think we can do better.” And I appreciate and respect that. I also want to thank them for giving up their anniversary dinner to come here and be with us. *[Laughter]* I’m not going to talk that long. It will still be open when we finish tonight. *[Laughter]*

I want to make a couple of brief points. It’s hot, and you’ve heard it all. I feel like the guy that got up to the banquet and said, “Everything that needs to be said has already been said, but not everyone has said it yet, so you all sit tight.” *[Laughter]* I’ll be very brief.

First, I bring you greetings from the Vice President and the First Lady, who wish they could be here tonight. We want to thank the people in North Carolina who have been our friends since 1992, who stayed with us every step of the way, who believed in us when we were often under attack.

Here are the points I want to make, and they all bear on this race for the Senate. Number one: We came to office in 1992 carried by people who believed our country could do better if we had not only new leadership but new ideas. We not only had the right people,