

## Statement on Senate Inaction on Campaign Finance Reform *September 10, 1998*

I am very disappointed that a minority of the Senate, led by the Republican leadership, has once again voted to preserve the status quo of campaign finance by blocking tough bipartisan campaign finance reform. This comprehensive legislation has been passed by the House, is supported by the majority of the Senate, and is demanded by the American people.

If this minority of Senators continue to block this bill, they must take responsibility for the

current campaign finance system, with its soft money and its inadequate disclosure requirements. And by doing so, they would deny the American people the best opportunity in a generation to pass meaningful, bipartisan campaign finance reform.

In the days to come, I urge the Senate to consider this issue again and give the American people the kind of campaign finance law they deserve.

## Remarks on the Negotiated Agreement To End the Northwest Airlines Pilots' Strike *September 10, 1998*

Good evening. I wanted to take this opportunity to say how delighted I am that Northwest Airlines and its pilots have reached the terms that form the basis of an agreement. The parties are now working on the specific time of getting back to work. The agreement, of course, will have to be approved, but I think this strike is over.

Earlier today, I spoke over the phone to the leaders of both parties: Randy Babbitt of the Air Line Pilots Association; and John Dasburg, the CEO of Northwest Airlines. I told them how important this negotiated agreement is to our country and to our economy, particularly at this time.

I'm pleased that they have worked so hard to make this happen. Getting Northwest planes and pilots back into the air is a victory for the company and for the employees and a victory for all Americans who rely on the airline.

I'd like to say a special word of appreciation to those here in the administration who were involved in this effort: to Secretary Slater; to my Deputy White House Counsel, Bruce Lindsey, who has developed quite an expertise

in this whole area. They both went to Minnesota this week at my request to help to resolve the matter. I'd also like to say a special word of thanks to my labor adviser here in the White House, Karen Tramontano, for her work. All of them helped to spur these talks along. They deserve credit for their determination.

Again, let me say that this is good news for the American people. This is an indication that the collective bargaining process, if entered into in good faith, can actually work in a way that benefits everyone. I know there are a lot of people that depend upon Northwest who are relieved tonight, and again, I just want to thank all the parties, including you, Mr. Secretary.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, prior to his departure for the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Randall J. Babbitt, president, Air Line Pilots Association International, and John H. Dasburg, president and chief executive officer, Northwest Airlines.