

Nov. 17 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

Statement on the Election of Representative James E. Clyburn To Chair the Congressional Black Caucus

November 17, 1998

I am pleased that Representative Jim Clyburn was elected by his colleagues to chair the Congressional Black Caucus. In January Representative Clyburn will begin his fourth term representing the people of the Sixth District of South Carolina. Throughout his career, he has been a tireless advocate for his constituents, and he has been a national leader on issues including

rural economic development and affirmative action.

I commend outgoing CBC Chairwoman Maxine Waters for her outstanding leadership of the caucus, and I am confident that Representative Clyburn will be a most able successor. I look forward to working with Chairman Clyburn and the entire Congressional Black Caucus during the 106th Congress.

Statement on the Election of Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard To Chair the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

November 17, 1998

I am pleased that today the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) elected Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard as their new chair for the 106th Congress. Representative Roybal-Allard has already established a record of distinction, serving her constituents in the 33d District of California and as a national leader in the areas of education, financial services, homeownership, and women's and children's rights.

I commend outgoing CHC Chair Xavier Becerra for his outstanding leadership of the caucus, and I am confident that Representative Roybal-Allard will be an excellent advocate for the caucus and the entire Latino community. I look forward to working with Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and the entire Congressional Hispanic Caucus during the 106th Congress.

Remarks on Departure for Tokyo, Japan

November 18, 1998

Good morning. I wanted to say a few words before I depart about the goals for our trip to Japan and Korea. From the time our administration took office in 1993, we have believed it vital to the future of the United States to look not only to the west but, as a Pacific power, to the east as well and to forge a strong Asia-Pacific community for the 21st century. Central to that effort are the APEC leaders forum, which has just concluded, and the strengthening of our bonds with Japan and Korea, two of our strongest allies for promoting democracy, securing peace, building prosperity.

Our domestic economy remains very strong. Our strategy of fiscal discipline, investments in

education and technology, and opening markets abroad has produced unprecedented gains for America's families. But our long-term prosperity requires a healthy global economy. American exports create jobs, and those jobs pay, on average, about 15 percent above normal other jobs in our economy.

If people overseas lose their jobs, therefore, they can't afford American products and our workers and farmers pay the price. We see that in the slight decline in our exports so far this year due to the global financial crisis in general and the problems in Asia in particular.

Clearly, in order to sustain progress at home, therefore, we have to exercise leadership abroad.