

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

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Foreword

The last half of 1998 was a time of great challenge in Washington, but of even greater prosperity and progress for our Nation. Rising personal incomes, the lowest unemployment in 28 years, and the first Federal budget surplus in 29 years, all served to validate the success of our 6-year-old economic strategy of fiscal discipline, expanded trade, and greater investment in our people. In October, I signed a budget reaffirming that strategy with vital new investments, including a down payment to hire 100,000 new, highly trained teachers to bring class sizes down to an average of 18 in the early grades. To maintain fiscal discipline, I rejected proposals from the congressional majority to spend the surplus before we had a plan in place to save Social Security. To build a bipartisan consensus for such a plan, I hosted the first-ever White House conference on the future of Social Security. To advance my goal of reinventing the Federal Government to better serve the American people, I signed landmark bills reforming the Internal Revenue Service and Federal job training programs.

During this period, challenges to peace and prosperity arose around the world, testing the mettle of American leadership. When terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden bombed U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, America struck back at his terrorist network. When Saddam Hussein refused to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors, American and British forces struck hard at Iraq's capacity to build weapons of mass destruction and threaten its neighbors militarily. When financial turmoil in Asia spread to Russia and Brazil, dampening U.S. exports and putting the entire global financial system at risk, America led efforts that stemmed the threat. We helped strengthen the International Monetary Fund's ability to combat financial contagion, and in October, I set out a six-point plan to dampen the cycle of boom and bust in world financial markets.

And when the Middle East peace process was in danger of collapsing, I invited Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel and Chairman Arafat of the Palestine Liberation Organization to join me at the Wye River Plantation in Maryland. For 9 exhausting days we helped these two leaders make difficult decisions for peace, aided by the appearance of my friend, the late King Hussein of Jordan.

The agreement they signed not only put this holy and tortured land back on a path toward peace, but also reaffirmed my belief that it is often at the moment of greatest challenge that we are capable of making the greatest progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "W" and "C".

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 42d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period July 1–December 31, 1998. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwen H. Estep, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Karen Howard Ashlin, assisted by Brad Brooks, Anna Glover, Margaret A. Hemmig, Maxine Hill, Michael Hoover, Alfred Jones, Jennifer S. Mangum, Melanie L. Marcec, Michael J. Sullivan, and Karen A. Thornton.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

John W. Carlin
Archivist of the United States

Contents

Foreword . . . v

Preface . . . vii

Cabinet . . . xi

Public Papers of William J. Clinton,
July 1–December 31, 1998 . . . 1149

Appendix A

Digest of Other White House Announcements . . . 2221

Appendix B

Nominations Submitted to the Senate . . . 2237

Appendix C

Checklist of White House Press Releases . . . 2245

Appendix D

Presidential Documents Published in the Federal Register . . . 2255

Subject Index . . . A-1

Name Index . . . B-1

Document Categories List . . . C-1

Cabinet

Secretary of State	Madeleine K. Albright
Secretary of the Treasury	Robert E. Rubin
Secretary of Defense	William S. Cohen
Attorney General	Janet Reno
Secretary of the Interior	Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of Agriculture	Dan Glickman
Secretary of Commerce	William M. Daley
Secretary of Labor	Alexis M. Herman
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Andrew M. Cuomo
Secretary of Transportation	Rodney E. Slater
Secretary of Energy	Elizabeth A. Moler, Acting Bill Richardson (effective September 11)
Secretary of Education	Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Togo D. West, Jr.
United States Representative to the United Nations	Bill Richardson
Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency	Carol M. Browner
United States Trade Representative	Charlene Barshefsky

Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Jacob J. Lew
Chief of Staff	Ersine B. Bowles John D. Podesta (effective November 1)
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Janet Yellen
Director of National Drug Control Policy	Barry R. McCaffrey
Administrator of the Small Business Administration	Aida Alvarez
Director of Central Intelligence	George J. Tenet
Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency	James Lee Witt

Administration of William J. Clinton

1998