

to punish them.” We had a different crime policy. We said we ought to take—put more police on the street and take guns out of the hands of criminals.

But the most important thing we did was to say, “We’ve got a different philosophy. We don’t want to divide the American people anymore. We believe everybody counts; everybody should have a chance; we’ll all do better individually if we try to help each other do better together.”

So if someone came to me tonight and said, “I am the angel sent from the good Lord, and even though you’re having a good time being President, you can’t finish your term. This is your last day, but I’ll be a genie, you can have one wish,” it would not be for all the things I talked to you about. It would be to create one America. It would be to create a climate in America where we genuinely respected one another, where we were genuinely committed to giving one another a chance.

I see our former attorney general, Mr. Morales, back there. Is there life after politics, Dan? [Laughter] I hope that in my lifetime we will see a Hispanic-American Governor of Texas, President of the United States, on the Supreme Court, doing all these things. I hope that will be true of all the ethnic groups that are coming into our country and enriching us.

But more important than that, even, I hope that all of our children will have a chance to define and live their dreams, whatever they are. Your Congressman is an unbelievably effective public servant. And it’s not just because he can worry me to death until I finally say yes; it’s because he proceeds from the right philosophy. Everybody counts. Everybody should have a chance. We’ll all do better when we help each other. It’s worked pretty well for America.

I just want to ask you from the bottom of my heart—you know how I feel about Vice President Gore, you know what he’s done here in the empowerment zone and other things—but the main thing I want you to think about, for all of us, what happens to us individually is not as important as the direction the country takes. And I have fought very, very hard to keep the poison and the division and the animosity and the Washington political games to a minimum in terms of their ability to impact you and interfere with what we were all trying to do together.

Now it’s up to you again. And all these elections, from the Presidency to the Senate and Congress races, the governorships, all these elections, they’re like giant job interviews. And you have to decide not only who to hire but what are they going to do. And just remember, as they used to tell me when I was a kid growing up in Arkansas: When you see a turtle on a fencepost, chances are it didn’t get there by accident. [Laughter]

Here we are. It didn’t happen by accident. And we will never forgive ourselves if we blow this opportunity. So instead of relaxing, we should bear down and lift our sights and open our hearts and hands and make this election a time when we seize our deepest, fondest hopes and our biggest dreams for our children.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Hinojosa’s wife, Martha Lopez Hinojosa, and their daughter Karen; luncheon hosts Zeke and Livia Reyna and Alonzo and Yoli Cantu; Texas State Senator Carlos Truan; and former Texas State Attorney General Dan Morales.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Albania

February 9, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Albania. The report indicates continued Albanian compliance with U.S. and inter-

national standards in the area of emigration. In fact, Albania has imposed no emigration restrictions, including exit visa requirements, on its population since 1991.

On December 5, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Albania was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) of that Act. That action allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations (NTR) status for Albania and certain other activities without the

requirement of an annual waiver. This semi-annual report is submitted as required by law pursuant to the determination of December 5, 1997.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
February 9, 2000.

Message to the Congress Reporting Budget Rescissions and Deferrals *February 9, 2000*

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I herewith report three rescissions of budget authority, totaling \$128 million, and two deferrals of budget authority, totaling \$1.6 million.

The proposed rescissions affect the programs of the Department of Energy and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The proposed deferrals affect programs of the De-

partment of State and International Assistance Programs.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
February 9, 2000.

NOTE: The report detailing the rescissions and deferrals was published in the *Federal Register* on February 23.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade *February 9, 2000*

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, with Annexes, done at Rotterdam, September 10, 1998. The report of the Department of State is enclosed for the information of the Senate.

The Convention, which was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Program and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, with the active participation of the United States, provides a significant and valuable international tool to promote sound risk-based decisionmaking in the trade of certain hazardous chemicals. Building on a successful voluntary procedure, the Convention requires Parties to exchange information about these

chemicals, to communicate national decisions about their import, and to require that exports from their territories comply with the import decisions of other Parties.

The United States, with the assistance and cooperation of industry and nongovernmental organization, plays an important international leadership role in the safe management of hazardous chemicals and pesticides. This Convention, which assists developing countries in evaluating risks and enforcing their regulatory decisions regarding trade in such chemicals, advances and promotes U.S. objectives in this regard. All relevant Federal agencies support early ratification of the Convention for this reason, and we understand that the affected industries and interest groups share this view.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Convention and