

I am also pleased that Title VIII of this legislation codifies the recommendations of the National Parks Overflights Working Group on regulating air tours over national parks. These provisions represent a consensus approach to minimizing the impact of commercial air tours on the natural and cultural resources in national parks.

As proposed by my Administration, substantial changes are included in H.R. 1000 to increase airline competition. Certainly one of the most significant is an end to the “slots” rules that restrict access to O’Hare, LaGuardia, and John F. Kennedy International airports. The restrictions will be eased almost immediately, and then ended completely in 2002 in Chicago and in 2007 in New York City. This Act also substantially achieves a second Administration proposal to enhance competition. We proposed allowing a \$2 increase in the current \$3-per-segment Passenger Facility Charge, with a condition that a “dominated hub” airport provide a competition plan that lays out how new entrants and other

competing carriers can be included in the airport facility plans. This bill includes the requirement for a competition plan and a \$1.50 increase. Because effective competition has not worked as well on lightly traveled routes (with resulting high fares), we endorsed the Senate’s rural air service pilot program that is substantially adopted in this Act.

This legislation provides benefits to passengers and the aviation community, and represents a first step toward our long-term objectives for modernization and stability of FAA’s critical air traffic control services. I thank the Members of Congress who led the 3-year effort to enact this bill, and I am pleased to sign it into law.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
April 5, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 1000, approved April 5, was assigned Public Law No. 106–181.

Statement on the Conclusion of the Independent Counsel’s Investigation of Alexis Herman

April 5, 2000

I am very pleased to learn that Independent Counsel Ralph Lancaster has concluded his investigation. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman has for many years served our Nation with selfless dedication and extraordinary talent. She did not deserve what she has had to endure over the past many months. As I said at the start of this inquiry, nearly 2 years ago, Secretary

Herman did nothing wrong. But throughout it all, she was never deterred from her mission: making life better for America’s working families. I am proud to call her my friend, and I am honored that she has been willing to work in this administration on behalf of working people everywhere.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Hazardous Materials Transportation

April 5, 2000

To the Congress of the United States:

I herewith transmit the Department of Transportation’s Biennial Report on Hazardous Materials Transportation for Calendar Years 1996–1997. The report has been prepared in accord-

ance with the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5121(e).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON