

*July 1 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000*

The American people have no earthly idea who Citizens for Better Medicare is, who is paying for the ads. The bill I just signed lifts the curtain. It makes groups like this reveal the sources of all future funding. Of course, in a case like this, the damage may already be done. The special interest money is already in the bank. The attack ads are already on the air.

So in the spirit of this law which I have signed, which clearly has broad bipartisan support, I think that Citizens for Better Medicare ought to respect the legislation, open their books, and disclose the sources of the funds which have paid for these ads. Let the American people judge if this organization truly is for better Medicare.

This law will make a difference, but it's just a step, not a substitute, for comprehensive campaign finance reform. Again, I ask Congress to pass the bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senators McCain and Feingold and Representatives Shays and Meehan, to limit spending, end soft money, and give candidates free or reduced rate TV air time.

As we celebrate this first Independence Day of the 21st century, let's do more to strengthen

our majority. I ask Congress to join the Vice President and me to build on today's progress, to put public interest over special interests, and pass real campaign finance reform.

But let me say, this is a good day, and this is a good law, and I thank everyone for voting for it. And I wish you a happy Fourth of July weekend.

#### *Arkansas Supreme Court*

Q. Mr. President, what is your reaction to the Arkansas Supreme Court?

*The President.* I'm sorry, but I've got to go back; I've got an important phone call, and I can't delay it.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to his departure for Camp David, MD. H.R. 4762, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require 527 organizations to disclose their political activities, approved July 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-230.

## Statement on the Verdicts in an Iranian Espionage Trial *July 1, 2000*

I am deeply disturbed by the verdicts handed down in the trial of the 13 Jewish Iranians accused of espionage. International human rights organizations, the Special Rapporteur on Iran for the United Nations Human Rights Commission, the United States, and many other nations have denounced the seriously flawed judicial process by which these sentences were determined. The proceedings have been rightly criticized around the world for their failure to accord due process of law to the defendants.

We have raised our concerns time and again, when the Iranian Government has treated intellectuals, journalists, Muslim clerics, and mem-

bers of the Baha'i community with the same fundamental unfairness. We are deeply disappointed that the Iranian Government has again failed to act as a society based on the rule of law, to which the Iranian people aspire.

We call upon the Government of Iran to remedy the failings of these procedures immediately and overturn these unjust sentences. We will continue to engage with other interested governments and organizations as part of our broader concern for the treatment of minority groups and human rights in Iran.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Extension of Normal Trade Relations Status for Certain Former Eastern Bloc States *June 30, 2000*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

On September 21, 1994, I determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection of the 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, I determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and I made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations status for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

## Statement on the Election of Vicente Fox as President of Mexico *July 3, 2000*

I called President-elect Vicente Fox today to offer my congratulations and those of the American people on his historic victory in Mexico's national elections yesterday. I also spoke to President Zedillo to express my admiration for his extraordinary contributions to Mexico, including his efforts in working with other Mexican leaders to strengthen and deepen democracy. Mexicans should be proud of the extraordinary steps they have taken during the last 6 years to strengthen and consolidate democratic

institutions and set Mexico on a course of economic growth and prosperity.

Mexico is our neighbor and friend. Mexico's national elections, the freest and fairest in the nation's history, stand as a vivid testimony to the depth of the democratic commitment of the Mexican people. I reiterated both to President-elect Fox and President Zedillo that the United States stands ready to work to enhance the close cooperation that characterizes our bilateral relationship.

## Remarks Aboard the U.S.S. *Hue City* in New York City *July 4, 2000*

*[The President's remarks are joined in progress.]*

*The President.* —make this day possible. To all the rest of you, I can't imagine a better way to greet the dawn of Independence Day

than on this remarkable ship, with its outstanding crew.

I do want to say I learned this morning that one of your sailors, Petty Officer Sims, has been