

If you want to keep the prosperity going, if you want to extend it to people left behind, if you want to take more children out of poverty and give more children a world-class education, if you want our seniors to have a Medicare drug program, if you want people in managed care programs to be protected, if you want to know that everybody will get fair consideration and everybody can be represented on our courts and other parts of our national life, we really can build one America. It's a big deal who you send to the Senate, and I hope you'll send Ron Klink.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Warwick Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee; Mayor John F. Street of Philadelphia; Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas; family nurse practitioner Doug Bouldin; and judicial nominees Ronnie L. White of Missouri and Enrique Moreno of Texas. Representative Klink was a candidate for U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania.

Remarks on the Middle East Peace Summit and an Exchange With Reporters

July 11, 2000

The President. Good morning. As all of you know, I am now leaving for Camp David to join Prime Minister Barak and Chairman Arafat in their effort to reach agreement on the core issues that have divided Israelis and Palestinians for half a century now.

The two leaders face profound and wrenching questions, and there can be no success without principled compromise. The road to peace, as always, is a two-way street. Both leaders feel the weight of history, but both, I believe, recognize this is a moment in history which they can seize. We have an opportunity to bring about a just and enduring end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. That is the key to lasting peace in the entire Middle East. Of course, there is no guarantee of success, but not to try is to guarantee failure.

The path ahead builds on the journey already taken from the first Camp David summit to Madrid to Oslo to the first handshake on the lawn between Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat to the peace between Israel and Jordan and the agreement at Wye River. The parties have proven that peace is possible when they are determined to make it.

In the process, they have passed the point of no return. The only way forward now is forward. Both sides must find a way to resolve competing claims, to give their children the gift of peace. It will take patience and creativity and courage. But Prime Minister Barak and

Chairman Arafat have those qualities, or they would not have come this far. They will also have the unstinting and unequivocal support of the United States.

I'll do everything I can over the coming days to see that this moment of promise is fulfilled. And I hope that those leaders will have the thoughts and prayers and support of all Americans.

Thank you very much.

Israeli Knesset Vote

Q. Mr. President, having barely survived the no confidence vote, does Prime Minister Barak come here with a handicap? Can he negotiate with the full weight of the Knesset and the Israeli people behind him?

The President. First of all, I'll say what I said yesterday. The polls show, in Israel, that well over half the people support his coming here and believe he ought to work for peace. Secondly, he has promised to put whatever agreement is reached here, if an agreement is reached, to a vote of the people. So they have nothing to lose. They'll have final say anyway. There ought to be 100 percent support for his coming here, because the people will be the ultimate deciders on the question. So I think that that is fine. And yes, he had an eight-vote margin yesterday; I would remind you that on most of the days when Yitzhak Rabin came here, he had a one-vote margin in the Knesset.

So I think we're in as good a shape as we're ever going to get, and we might as well just go to work.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House prior to depar-

ture for Camp David, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority and Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel at Camp David, Maryland

July 11, 2000

Middle East Peace Summit

Q. Mr. President, how is it going? Mr. President?

Q. How long is it going to take, Mr. President?

The President. We pledged to each other we would answer no questions and offer no comment, and I'd like to set a good example. [Laughter]

Q. Can you resist us, sir?

The President. It's difficult to resist, but I will make it—today, at least.

Q. Is that the only agreement you have reached so far? [Laughter]

The President. That would be answering a question. [Laughter]

Thank you.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:25 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Environmental Protection Agency Action To Strengthen Water Quality Protections

July 11, 2000

Today's action by the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen water quality protections nationwide is a critical, commonsense step to ensure clean, safe water for all Americans. While we have made tremendous progress over the past quarter-century, too many of our rivers,

lakes, and bays are still too polluted for fishing or swimming. With the new strategy we launch today, we will work in close partnership with States and communities to tackle our remaining pollution threats and complete the job of cleaning up America's precious waterways.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Haiti

July 11, 2000

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to section 559(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000 (Public Law

106-113), I hereby transmit to you a report concerning the status of Haiti's progress.

The report contains eight subsections, that provide information required by section 559(b)