

July 22 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

we chose the right way instead of the easy way. How we respond to this unprecedented moment of prosperity is just as great a test of our values and judgment as how we respond to adversity. Today, the right thing is for Democrats and Republicans to put election politics aside and work together to craft a 21st century budget, a framework for targeted tax cuts, responsible investments, and getting us out of debt.

This surplus comes from the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. We owe it

to them to make the best use of it—for all of them, and for our children's future.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:45 p.m. on July 21 at the Manza Beach Hotel in Okinawa, Japan, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on Proposed Marriage Penalty Tax Relief Legislation

July 22, 2000

While I strongly support targeted marriage penalty relief, the marriage penalty bill promoted by Republicans in Congress is one part of a costly, poorly targeted, and regressive tax plan. This plan would risk our fiscal discipline and continued prosperity while giving more benefits to the top one percent of taxpayers than to the bottom 80 percent of all Americans. At the same time, the Congress has ignored tax

cuts I have proposed for college tuition, long-term care, savings, and child care. This latest bill just passed by the Congress is even more costly than the earlier versions passed by the House and Senate. In the interest of fiscal responsibility, I will veto this and any subsequent legislation that threatens our ability to pay down the debt and strengthen Medicare and Social Security.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of Norman Y. Mineta as Secretary of Commerce

July 22, 2000

I am grateful that the Senate has acted expeditiously to confirm Norman Y. Mineta as Secretary of Commerce, and am pleased that he was sworn in to office today.

As a Member of Congress for 21 years, Mr. Mineta was a leader on trade, technology, and other issues critical to the emerging digital economy. He brings to his new post not only an in-depth understanding of American business and the needs of our high-tech economy but also a deep concern for people—especially those not yet fully participating in this economy. He will play a crucial role in keeping our economic strategy on track, opening trade around the

world, investing in our people, promoting high technology, and bridging the digital divide.

Mr. Mineta also has been a passionate voice for opportunity and justice for all. Stirred by his experiences as a young boy during World War II, when he and his family were relocated to a Japanese-American internment camp, he has fought tirelessly to ensure that others are spared such injustice. I am proud to welcome him as the first Asian-Pacific American ever to hold a post in the President's Cabinet and congratulate him on his confirmation.