

move along towards wanting to reach an agreement? Or is it hurting things?

The President. Well, in the short run, it's hurting them, because they can't do anything on the peace process until people stop dying and the violence stops. But when the smoke clears here, it might actually be a spur to both sides as a sober reminder to what the alternative to peace could be. So we have to hope and pray that will be the result.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. M.G. (Pat) Robertson, president, Christian Coalition; Rabbi David Saperstein, director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; musician Bono; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Representative Kasich, Representative Pelosi, and Archbishop McCarrick.

Statement on Energy and Water Development Appropriations Legislation *October 2, 2000*

Today Congress passed a deeply flawed energy/water appropriations bill that threatens major environmental harm by blocking our efforts to modernize operations on the Missouri River. An anti-environmental rider attached to the bill would not only jeopardize the survival of three threatened and endangered species but would also establish a dangerous precedent aimed at barring a Federal agency from obeying one of our Nation's landmark environmental statutes. Accordingly, I will veto this bill when it reaches my desk.

While this bill funds scores of special projects for special interests, it fails to provide sufficient funding for priorities in the national interest,

including environmental restoration of the Florida Everglades and the California Bay-Delta and our strategy to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest. It also fails to fund efforts to research and develop nonpolluting sources of energy through solar and renewable technologies that are vital to America's energy security.

I urge Congress to resolve these issues in an environmentally sound manner and to quickly produce an energy/water bill I can sign. While we are now in the first week of the new fiscal year, Congress still has sent me only 2 of the 13 appropriations bills. Congress should complete its work without delay.

Statement on Caribbean Basin Initiative and African Growth and Opportunity Act Beneficiary Countries *October 2, 2000*

I am pleased to release today a list of countries eligible for trade benefits under the Caribbean Basin Initiative and African Growth and Opportunity Act, legislation enacted last spring. By expanding our trade relationship with 34 sub-Saharan African countries and 24 Caribbean Basin countries, we will help promote economic development, alleviate global poverty, and create new economic opportunities for American workers and businesses. This action truly marks a

new era of stronger relations between the United States and our friends in the Caribbean, Central America, and Africa.

NOTE: The proclamations are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at a Reception for Montana Gubernatorial Running Mates

Mark O'Keefe and Carol Williams

October 2, 2000

Thank you very much. Well, first of all, thank you for your warm welcome, and thank you for being here for Carol and for Mark O'Keefe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for making the trip from Montana. Thank you, Senator Baucus, for your friendship and support and wise counsel to me over these last 8 years. Thank you, Pat Williams, for casting that deciding vote, putting your own neck on the line, and giving America a lifeline. I want to thank the other Members of Congress and former Members who are here, including Bob Matsui and his wife, Doris. And thank you, Bruce Morrison, for being here. I know your wife runs this joint. [Laughter] Nancy, thank you very much.

Carol, thank you for running. And I want to say a little more about this wonderful house in a moment. Thank you, Maggie O'Keefe, for coming out here from Montana and for being a teenager involved in public life. I think that's a good thing. And I want to thank Carol and Pat for something else. I want to thank you for your wonderful daughter, Whitney, who's been so great to Hillary and me these last several years, who is here.

You know, I love Montana. I think that the vacation that Hillary and Chelsea and I had in Montana when Ted Schwinden was Governor and took us around and up in a little helicopter at dawn over the Missouri River, in 1985, was one of the best family vacations we ever had. I still have a vivid memory of every part of it. Chelsea had the opportunity to work there last summer—the summer before last, now—for a few weeks on a ranch, for which I am very grateful.

And I had the opportunity to campaign there and to meet, among other things, with a large number of tribal leaders. I never will forget the experience I had there in 1992, which was one of the seminal events for me in steeling my determination to try to do something to get the relationship between the United States Government and our tribal governments right, and to try to do more to empower the Native American population to be part of our prosperity and part of our national life. And I think that's one of the important parts of our administration's

legacy. I've worked very hard on it, and I thank the Indian leaders who are here.

I think it's quite appropriate that Carol came here tonight to represent the ticket and to let me know that Pat and I are going to be part of an imminent spouses club here in the next few months. [Laughter] Actually, I kind of like it. The only thing I do not like about it is that—Hillary used to tell me how nervous she was when I would go into a debate and how she actually hated to sit in the audience because she would claw at the side of chairs. And at least if she watched it on television, she could scream and yell and beat the table, you know?

So I watched her debate on television the other night, and I was absolutely a nervous wreck. [Laughter] And my mother-in-law was so upset, she actually went in another room to watch it on another television. I said, "You can misbehave in front of me. I'm going to." She said, "No, I want to do this all by myself when I'm pounding the table." [Laughter] So I finally know now what she and you, Carol, have been through all these years. But except for those moments, I kind of like being a spouse.

It's appropriate that we're meeting here at this beautiful place. The Sewell-Belmont House, I believe, is the oldest house in Washington, DC, outside Georgetown. And someone told me tonight that I might be the first President to come here since Thomas Jefferson. When you go back through, just imagine that Thomas Jefferson was here. This does have one of the largest collections of suffragist memorabilia in the United States, and it was one of the first places designated as one of America's treasures by my wife and her millennium commission when they were going around the country trying to identify the places that were profoundly important to our past.

I say all that because I think it is obvious to anybody who even goes to the Jefferson Memorial and reads what Mr. Jefferson had to say about slavery, that when he wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Founders wrote the Constitution, they knew good and well that they were setting out perfect ideals that we were