

## Statement on Assistance to Small Business Exporters and Dislocated Workers

*October 6, 2000*

I am pleased to sign an Executive order today creating a small business exports task force to help small businesses, especially those in underserved communities, participate fully in the benefits of the new trading arrangements Congress approved this year with China, Africa, and the Caribbean Basin. This order will also expand the Federal Government's outreach to workers and communities eligible for dislocated-worker assistance, helping them to learn about and take advantage of these benefits more rapidly. I

thank Representative Sheila Jackson Lee for working so closely with my administration in developing this Executive order and for championing efforts to translate our expanding trade and dynamic, new economy into opportunities for small businesses and workers all across America.

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Statement on Increasing Opportunities and Access for Disadvantaged Businesses

*October 6, 2000*

I am pleased today to sign an Executive order strengthening our efforts to increase contracting opportunities between the Federal Government and disadvantaged businesses—in particular, small disadvantaged businesses, 8(a) businesses, and minority business enterprises. These businesses play a vital role in our Nation's economy but historically have been underutilized and at times shut out of Federal procurement opportunities. Accordingly, this Executive order directs Federal departments and agencies with procurement authority to take aggressive and specific affirmative actions to ensure inclusion of disadvantaged businesses in Federal contracting.

I want to thank Representatives Kilpatrick, Menendez, Velazquez, and Wynn, and the many others who have worked with us to ensure that the private sector recognizes the importance and utility of contracting with disadvantaged businesses. I particularly commend those members of the advertising community who are working to increase the representation of minorities within advertising—both on the creative end and in transmission to the public. It is critical that the private sector help lead this effort and take advantage of the diverse and creative views that underrepresented groups will bring to the advertising process. I want to commend the American Advertising Federation (AAF) for responding to

the Vice President's challenge and working with interested parties to develop the principles for effective advertising in the American multicultural marketplace, a strategic plan for boosting minority representation in the advertising industry.

Certainly, the Federal Government must play a leading role as well. Advertising and the broader information technology industries play an increasingly expansive role in our society. Therefore, in this Executive order, I am directing each Federal department and agency to ensure that all creation, placement, and transmission of Federal advertising is fully reflective of the Nation's diversity. Further, this Executive order directs each Federal department and agency to take clearly defined and aggressive steps to ensure small and disadvantaged business participation in procurement of information technology and telecommunications contracts.

This Executive order will ensure that Federal departments and agencies are held accountable on these issues. It does so by clearly listing the responsibilities and obligations of each agency to expand opportunities for disadvantaged businesses and requires the agencies to report to me within 90 days of the issuance of this order the steps they plan to take to increase

contracting with disadvantaged businesses. Subsequently, the agencies will be required to submit annual reports on their ongoing efforts in this area to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to ensure at the highest levels the executive branch will sustain on un-

flagging and aggressive efforts to achieve this important goal.

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 2000 *October 6, 2000*

Warm greetings to all those observing Yom Kippur.

This Day of Atonement, the most solemn of all the days of the Jewish calendar, is a time for intense prayer, fasting, and reflection. For the duration of Yom Kippur, Jews across America and around the world separate themselves from the comforts and distractions of everyday life to focus on repairing their relationship with God. It is a time to look back on the failures and transgressions of the past year, to make amends, and to seek God's forgiveness.

In neighborhoods across our nation, as Jewish families gather for Yom Kippur services, they

offer people of all faiths an extraordinary witness. They remind us of the power of faith that changes lives, the love of family that strengthens spirits, and the blessing of God's forgiveness that allows us to repent of our sins and begin anew.

At this difficult time for all of us who have worked for peace, let us pray for an end to the violence and for a new beginning in the Middle East. Hillary joins me in extending best wishes to all for a meaningful Yom Kippur.

BILL CLINTON

## Remarks at an AFL-CIO Reception *October 6, 2000*

Thank you. Well, first of all, madam, I want to thank you for letting all these fairly scruffy characters come in your home. *[Laughter]* Many of us are well-accompanied, though. *[Laughter]*

You know, I was thinking. We had Morty and Linda and John and I up here talking. This is an introduction that looks like America. We span these vast ethnic gaps. We had an Irish-Catholic and Irish-Protestant at the end. *[Laughter]* Thank you, Morty, and thank you for having us here, and thank you for being such good friends to me.

You know, I really believe in this issue. John and I worked very hard together to beat that initiative in California a couple of years ago. And we raised money, and you all spent it very well—*[laughter]*—and intelligently. I mean that, intelligently. And you won, and I think you'll win again.

But I just wanted to say a couple of things about the environment in which this debate will take place. One is I will never be able to thank you enough for the support that you've given to me and the Vice President, Hillary, our whole crowd these last 8 years. It's been a joy.

One of my objectives when I became President was to take away the ability of our friends in the other party to demonize us just for being what we are, for being the progressive party. And I was determined I would take away the budget issue; I would take away the crime issue; I would take away the welfare issue; I would take away the foreign policy issue; and I would do it in a responsible, progressive way, but that we would not be vulnerable on these things anymore.

And I was determined that, if we could turn this economy around, the Republicans would