

Texas; President Fidel Castro of Cuba; President Vojislav Kostunica of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro); and Presi-

dent Vicente Fox and former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Statement on Signing Proclamations for the Vermilion Cliffs and the Craters of the Moon National Monuments

November 9, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign proclamations extending greater protection to two irreplaceable pieces of America's natural and cultural heritage, the Vermilion Cliffs in northern Arizona and the Craters of the Moon in central Idaho. With this action, nearly one million acres of unique natural and historic resources already in public ownership are fully protected.

The Vermilion Cliffs monument covers 293,000 acres of Federal land on the Colorado Plateau in northern Arizona. Humans have explored and lived on this geologic treasure since the earliest known hunters and gatherers crossed the area 12,000 or more years ago. California condors, desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, mountain lion, and other mammals roam the canyons and plateaus.

The expansion of the Craters of the Moon monument, originally created by President Coolidge in 1924, adds 661,000 acres of volcanic craters, cones, lava flows, caves, and fissures of the 65-mile-long Great Rift, a geological feature that is comparable to the great rift zones of Iceland and Hawaii.

With these proclamations, this administration continues its commitment to preserving and restoring America's natural treasures, from the Florida Everglades to the California redwoods, for this and future generations.

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

Statement on the Dedication of the National Japanese-American Memorial

November 9, 2000

Earlier today America honored the patriotism of Japanese-Americans during World War II with the dedication of the National Japanese-American Memorial in the Nation's Capital. Attorney General Janet Reno and Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta joined distinguished members of the Japanese-American community and Americans of all ancestries in reminding us of a time when this country lost sight of the very foundations of democracy it was defending abroad.

This Nation must never forget the difficult lessons of the Japanese-American internment camps during World War II and the inspirational lessons of patriotism in the face of that injustice.

Today I have directed the Secretary of the Interior to develop recommendations to preserve

existing internment sites and provide for their public interpretation. In addition, I am signing legislation designating the United States Federal Courthouse for the Western District of Washington in Seattle, Washington, as the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse. William Nakamura was a student at the University of Washington when he and 120,000 other Japanese-Americans were removed from their communities and forced into internment camps. Despite the injustice of his internment, William Kenzo Nakamura volunteered for the U.S. Army and died fighting for this country in Italy on July 4, 1944. In June of this year, I posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor in recognition of his courage and heroism.

As the Nation prepares to honor its veterans, it is my hope that the unique contribution of

Nov. 9 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 2000

Japanese-Americans to preserving this Nation's freedom and democracy remains a vital part of America's history.

NOTE: H.R. 5302, to designate the "William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse," approved November 9, was assigned Public Law No. 106-478.

Memorandum on Preservation of Japanese-American Internment Sites November 9, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Preservation of Japanese American Internment Sites

The internment of Japanese Americans was a tragic episode in American history. The recent publication of the National Park Service report on the condition of the former internment camp sites, coupled with our Fiscal Year 2001 budget initiative, will help focus attention and resources on preserving the historical values of these sites.

The National Park Service report, entitled "Confinement and Ethnicity: an Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites," describes the current condition of the internment camps and other relocation sites. To follow up on this report, I direct you to develop recommendations to preserve the existing Japa-

nese American internment sites and to provide more opportunities for the public to learn about the internment. These recommendations should be developed within the next 60 days in consultation with other Federal agencies, as appropriate.

I also direct you to consult with Members of Congress, States, tribes, local officials, and other interested parties as you develop these recommendations. You should also consider expanding partnerships with private organizations and landowners and explore the creation of an interagency team to coordinate the work of Federal agencies. Your recommendations should include proposals for administrative and legislative action to help preserve these sites, within existing budget resources.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Statement on Signing the Energy Act of 2000 November 9, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign the "Energy Act of 2000," which contains a number of measures to strengthen America's energy security that I have repeatedly urged Congress to act on this year. This legislation reauthorizes the operation of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a critical line of defense against the threat of energy shortages, and guarantees that a full range of tools will be available to secure America's energy supplies. In addition, this legislation establishes an appropriate trigger for the use of the 2 million barrel Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve

that I directed my administration to establish earlier this year. This will help provide an insurance policy against supply shortages and price spikes in winters and assist consumers who rely on heating oil to heat their homes. The act also makes changes in the Weatherization Assistance Program to reduce State costs and better serve low-income Americans.

NOTE: H.R. 2884, approved November 9, was assigned Public Law No. 106-469.