

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES



Published by the
Office of the Federal Register
National Archives and Records Administration

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Foreword

As my term drew to a close, I was optimistic about the future of our country and grateful for the good fortune of this productive and historic time.

Never before had our nation enjoyed so much prosperity and social progress with no deep domestic crisis or overwhelming foreign threat to darken the prospect of progress. A spirit of possibility pervaded the Washington atmosphere and brought significant legislative accomplishments, which was remarkable in an election season.

The Congress passed our Lands Legacy initiative to provide long term funding to purchase precious lands from wilderness areas to urban greenspaces; increased funding for childcare and breast and cervical cancer treatment; doubled support for after-school programs, enough to serve 1.6 million children; enacted the largest increase in Head Start ever and the funds necessary to hire 35,000 new teachers; and passed the New Markets legislation, the last major bill I signed, designed to give Americans the same financial incentives to invest in poor neighborhoods and rural and Native American communities as they have to invest in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

Congress also passed our plans to increase trade with Africa and our Caribbean neighbors; extended normal trade relations with China, paving the way for its entry into the World Trade Organization; enacted the historic Debt Relief Initiative, to forgive the foreign debts of the world's poorest nations, but only if they invest all the savings in education, health care, and economic development; and provided funding for Plan Colombia, to help Latin America's oldest democracy and her neighbors fight drug trafficking.

The Administration took a number of groundbreaking executive actions, including setting aside over 40 million roadless acres in our national forests, a decision characterized by the Audubon Society as the most important conservation move in forty years; establishing several more national monuments in environmentally sensitive areas; raising the standards for arsenic in water; providing \$300 million to feed 9 million poor children in the poorest nations if they come to school to get the meal; concluding trade agreements with Vietnam and Jordan, with the Jordanian agreement being the first ever to include environmental and labor standards; and laying the foundation for ending North Korea's dangerous missile program.

Of course, there were disappointments. I was unsuccessful in persuading Congress to pass a meaningful Patient's Bill of Rights; prescription drug coverage under the Medicare program for senior citizens; and a Hate Crimes bill, making a federal offense of violent crimes motivated by the victim's gender, disability, or sexual orientation. I am optimistic that all these bills will eventually pass.

My greatest disappointment was our failure to make a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East, notwithstanding arduous talks at Camp David and afterward in the region. I believe if a peace agreement is ever reached it will have to include the essential elements in the last American proposal, which brought the parties so close to peace at Taba.

I was honored to be the first President in forty years to visit Okinawa for the G-8 Summit and to make a second trip to Africa, this time to Tanzania, to work with President Mandela on the Burundi Peace Talks, and to Nigeria to support President Obasanjo's effort to reform Africa's largest nation and to intensify the struggle against AIDS.

In September I joined more than 160 heads of government at the United Nations Millennium Summit to discuss the great challenges facing us at the dawn of the new century: the fights against poverty, infectious diseases, lack of education, global warming, terrorism, and weapons of mass destruction.

We have traveled a long good road these last eight years, with 22.5 million jobs and the largest economic expansion in history; a thirty-two-year low in welfare rolls, a twenty-six-year low in crime, and a twenty-year low in poverty; a cleaner environment; and over 200,000 young citizens having given at least a year of their lives in community service through Americorps. Most importantly, we are closer to truly becoming One America, a society in which we embrace our diversity, respect our differences, and unite around our common humanity and our shared dreams and values.

Bill Clinton

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 42d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period October 12, 2000–January 20, 2001. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwen H. Estep, Chief. The Chief Editors of this book were Karen Howard Ashlin and Brad Brooks, assisted by Stephen J. Frattini, Christopher Gushman, Margaret A. Hemmig, Maxine Hill, Alfred Jones, Jennifer S. Mangum, Michael J. Sullivan, and Karen A. Thornton.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office and by the Clinton Presidential Materials Project, National Archives and Records Administration. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

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Archivist of the United States

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Secretary of Transportation	Rodney E. Slater
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Secretary of Education	Richard W. Riley
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United States Trade Representative	Charlene Barshefsky

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Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency	James Lee Witt

Administration of William J. Clinton

2000–2001