

cost shifting away from such important items as education to fund rising medical costs are, of course, driving all of our States.

We all realize that it is a difficult program and, quite frankly, that it probably cannot be solved in short order. But we're willing to roll up our sleeves and go to work with you and try to find those answers. We recognize the need to get the small employers into a position that they have access to groups and lower cost insurance for their employees. We recognize the need to go into preventive care. We know that there is a problem with the preventive care aspect in that the liability costs and the cost of doing this in the private sector are, in fact, prohibitive.

I would think that after our discussion, the opportunity may exist for us to look at the immunization side of preventive care from a joint national framework in order to meet some of these needs, much as we would do if we did a crash program for any country that was in need that we were aiding, doing it for ourselves.

I believe that working together we can, in fact, find some answers. We know that there has to be competition. We believe in managed competition. We also believe that there has to be a structure that lets people have access to primary care physicians instead of just the emergency rooms for their care because of the cost factor, as well as the fact that it's not a preventive type of program.

So we, as members of the National Governors' Association, look forward to continuing this work with you and continuing to work with Hillary and her task force, because we think that working together that we will find answers.

And in closing, let me just add my thanks to your willingness to expedite the waiver process and to deal with some of the problems that have been so vexing for us as Governors as we've tried to deal with this overall problem. We appreciate it.

The President. That's our statement. I know a lot of you here want to take pictures of your Governors, so have at it.

Governor King, of all of the people of America, they know you from behind as well as from the front, but turn around. I think you ought to turn around. How about giving them a profile, at least, that sort of tough western profile? *[Laughter]*

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Statement on Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Contracting

February 1, 1993

Today I am taking two actions to restore a needed balance in America's workplace. I believe that these steps, by reducing unnecessary Federal Government intrusion into workplace relations, ultimately will promote the shared goals of American workers and management and strengthen the ability of this country's businesses and industry to compete in the world economy.

First, I am revoking Executive Order No. 12818. This order, issued on October 23, 1992 by President Bush, prohibits contractors that have entered into project agreements with unions from bidding on Federal construction contracts. American taxpayers and the Federal Government are not well-served by this restriction. Such agreements establish labor standards for work early in the process. They reduce instances of cost overruns by permitting contract bidders to make more reliable cost estimates before bidding. They promote completion of projects in a timely manner by assuring a stable supply of skilled workers. And they promote safe working conditions. By revoking Executive Order No. 12818 today, such project agreements will again be allowed in Federal construction contracts.

Second, I am revoking Executive Order No. 12800, issued on April 13, 1992. This order required unionized Federal contractors to post a notice in the workplace that

workers are not required to join or support a union and threatened sanctions against contractors who did not comply. The effect of this order was distinctly antiunion as it did not require contractors to notify workers of any of their other rights protected by the National Labor Relations Act, such as the right to organize and bargain collectively. By revoking this order, I today end the Government's role in promoting this one-sided version of workplace rights.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 1, 1993.

Executive Order 12836—Revocation of Certain Executive Orders Concerning Federal Contracting

February 1, 1993

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to eliminate Executive orders that do not serve the public interest, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Executive Order No. 12818 of October 23, 1992 (prohibiting the use of project agreements on Federal construction contracts), and Executive Order No. 12800 of April 13, 1992 (requiring Federal contractors to post a notice that workers are not required to join unions), are revoked.

Sec. 2. The heads of executive agencies shall promptly revoke any orders, rules, or regulations implementing Executive Order No. 12818 of October 23, 1992, or Executive Order No. 12800 of April 13, 1992, to the extent consistent with law.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 1, 1993.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:29 a.m., February 2, 1993]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the Federal Register on February 3.

Message on National African-American History Month

February 1, 1993

This February we rediscover, celebrate, and honor the history and achievements of African-Americans during National African-American History Month.

In 1993, I am proud to recognize that more African-Americans serve in the President's Cabinet than ever before in the history of our country. We are nearing the day when we will have built a new home for America, a home where all Americans will have a place at the table.

Understanding our past makes us aware of how far we have come and how far we have to go. Last month, for the first time in many years, our National Archives displayed for the public the Emancipation Proclamation. That document, signed by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, launched the beginning of a life of freedom for millions of African-American people.

For several months last year, individuals and groups of citizens had been writing to the National Archives to inquire whether the historic document would be exhibited over the new year holiday in honor of its anniversary. After considering the matter, the National Archives decided to arrange an exhibit.

The fragile document was shown in our Nation's Capital for five days adjacent to the original Charters of Freedom—the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights. The exhibit reminded America of how liberty had once been denied to a particular segment of our population. The diverse backgrounds of the people in those lines each day, however, showed how the history of African-Americans touches all of us.

The public response was overwhelming. People came from all walks of life, with their children or their friends, from every corner of our country, to see for themselves the pieces of paper that meant for millions the difference between slavery and freedom. Each night at closing time, the National Archives had to extend the visiting hours to accommodate people who had waited in line for nearly three hours. Indeed, the efforts of the few citizens that gave birth to the ex-