

to restore fairness to the Tax Code. We will raise taxes on the wealthiest individuals and companies in our society. That will be one of their contributions to create the high-skill, high-wage economy that we seek. And I will say to the drug companies, the insurance companies, and the others who profit from the status quo, they must join our cause to make comprehensive reforms in our medical care system. The time has come for all Americans to have affordable health care, a real chance at a healthy life.

In return for these contributions, we are determined to create long-term, good-paying private sector jobs. We will encourage the development of new technologies and find markets for them all across America and around the world. We will provide special incentives to new businesses and small businesses to create the jobs of the future. We will lower their costs of capital so they can expand and succeed. We will upgrade the skills of the long-term unemployed and the rest of our work force. And when military cutbacks hurt our enterprises, we'll help defense workers to find new careers and to continue productive lives.

That's what my plan is all about: a leaner, more efficient, more responsive Government; a ladder of contribution that demands the most from those who have the most; investment incentives to help businesses build for the future and create jobs for all Americans; education and training to prepare workers and students for new jobs in a new economy; a reformed medical system that restores peace of mind to family life; an America where every citizen has a right to a prosperous economy and a shared patriotic stake in the work to make it grow.

That is a program for economic change you have justly demanded. Now it's time for all Americans to join the cause and embrace the change. It is time to restore the American dream.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:06 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Proclamation 6528—American Heart Month, 1993

February 14, 1993

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Approximately every 34 seconds, someone in the United States dies of some form of heart and blood vessel disease. Heart attack, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases kill nearly one million Americans every year.

Heart diseases and stroke exact an incalculable toll in human pain and suffering. More than 70 million Americans, young and old, currently suffer from one or more forms of cardiovascular disease. Stroke is the leading cause of serious disability and the third leading cause of death in the United States. Heart diseases and stroke also cost our Nation more than \$117 billion in terms of health care expenses and lost productivity.

The Federal Government, through the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, and the American Heart Association have spent millions of dollars on research into cardiovascular diseases and educational programs. That investment was greatly enhanced by the dedicated efforts of the Association's 3.7 million volunteers.

We know how important it is to educate people, particularly young people, about the use of tobacco products. We also know that controlling blood pressure, eating a diet low in fat and cholesterol, and exercising regularly are all prudent ways of reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Advances in both the treatment and the prevention of heart and blood vessel diseases have resulted in great progress. From 1980 to 1990 age-adjusted death rates from heart attack declined 32.6 percent and during the same years the death rate from stroke dropped 32.4 percent.

Although significant progress has been made in the struggle to overcome cardiovascular diseases, we must not become complacent. We must strengthen and renew our commitment to winning this battle.

In recognition of the need for all Americans to become involved in the ongoing fight against cardiovascular diseases, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 169b), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the month of February 1993 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combatting cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventeenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:11 a.m., February 16, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 15, and was published in the Federal Register on February 17.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 15, 1993

Economic Program Presentation

Q. Are you going to appear before Congress, Mr. President, in parliamentary-style Q&A?

The President. That hasn't been resolved yet. I'm interested, but we haven't finalized—

Q. What would determine it?

The President. We just haven't resolved it yet. We'll probably know by the end of the day.

Q. Is Wednesday night's speech shaping up as the most important of your life?

The President. Well, I don't [*inaudible*]. In the sense that every one—the ones that are ahead are more important than the ones that are behind. [*Laughter*]

I think tonight is important. I think Wednesday night is important. But you know, we're trying to change a direction of 12 years and take a new course. I'm going to offer a program that will create half a million or more jobs in the short run; that is highly progressive; that is very well balanced; that is faithful to the great middle class of this country and good for the things that we care about, jobs and education and health care. But I think it's going to be very important that I sell it to the Congress and to the American people and that we have a partnership here. So yes, [*inaudible*].

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:22 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders

February 15, 1993

Energy Tax

Q. Mr. President, if I could ask a specific question. What is—

The President. —I thought specific— [*laughter*].

Q. You don't have to get into too much detail, but from your perspective what's more progressive, a broad-based energy tax based on BTU's or an ad valorem-type of energy tax? What would be more progressive for the middle class?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, it's hard to—you can't evaluate one of these things without seeing the whole package. But I think a BTU tax is, because an ad valorem tax reinforces price changes. In other words, if you have an ad valorem tax and the price of one fuel goes up, then the tax rate goes up. So, it would aggravate whatever price changes are out there in the market, and that would hurt the consumers more.