

plorer who first set foot on North America nearly a thousand years ago. At the same time, we also celebrate the enduring ties between America and the Nordic countries and take note of the outstanding contributions that Nordic Americans have made to the United States. In a sense, the bonds that Leif Erikson—son of Iceland, grandson of Norway—forged continue unbroken today. We maintain an impressive exchange of people and ideas with the Nordic countries.

The early settlers inherited an adventurous spirit that had led their ancestors from Scandinavia to much of Europe and into the Atlantic. In addition, these adventurers started from lands that were already halfway points between the Old World and the New. Even today, the Nordic countries, which possess a commitment to open, democratic societies and to peaceful relations among nations, serve as links between Europe and the rest of the world.

At a time when the relations between Europe and America are being redefined, the Nordic countries retain their important role in fostering democracy, transatlantic cooperation, and an open trading system. Their many contributions to international diplomacy, humanitarian assistance, and peace-keeping in the world's trouble spots set a high standard that the rest of the world greatly admires. Americans who trace their roots to the Nordic countries—Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden—not only continue to enrich their new homeland, but also play a key part in providing a link across the Atlantic, just as their ancestors did a thousand years ago.

In honor of Leif Erikson and of our Nordic-American heritage, the Congress, by joint resolution approved on September 2, 1964 (Public Law 88-566), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim October 9 of each year as "Leif Erikson Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 9, 1993, as Leif Erikson Day. I also encourage the people of the United States to observe this occasion by learning more about our rich Nordic-American heritage and the early history of our continent.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, 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 eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:35 p.m., October 12, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Proclamation 6608—Columbus Day, 1993

October 8, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During 1993 the world has embarked on new trails to expand humanity's horizons and to promote the betterment of the human condition. As we look with hope to the future, we also pay homage to our past and to those who have helped shape our Nation and continent. It is therefore fitting that the voyages of Christopher Columbus be remembered. I welcome this opportunity to salute this man of great courage, who, in defiance of popular myth and hardship, had the vision to explore the unknown.

Even though the Quincentennial celebrations of Columbus' landfall are past, it is still our duty to promote understanding between the old and new worlds. It is important to commemorate the mutual discovery of Europeans and Native Americans and the transformations, through toil and pain, that gave birth to brave new hopes for a better future.

For the United States, it is especially significant that we recognize the daring voyages of Christopher Columbus. As a people whose land was founded on dreams, we proceed today, just as Columbus did, with courage to overcome obstacles and search for new paths to lead us into an unknown, but promising, future.

Many people in the United States have special reason to remember and celebrate

the histories of the old and new worlds. America, a Nation of diverse peoples, has been enriched by the blending of many heritages. Americans of international descent, along with Native Americans, have contributed mightily to molding the framework of our great land, united by our allegiance to the principles of equality, democracy, and freedom. We all take justifiable pride in our accomplishments and dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of our dreams.

In tribute to Columbus' achievement, the Congress of the United States by joint resolution of April 30, 1934 (48 Stat. 657), and an Act of June 28, 1968 (82 Stat. 250), has requested the President to proclaim the second Monday in October of each year as "Columbus Day."

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 1993, as Columbus Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of Christopher Columbus.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, 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 eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 3:36 p.m., October 12, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 14.

Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture

October 8, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate Fred Slabach as Assistant Secretary of Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Fred Slabach knows how important the Agriculture Department is to rural Americans. I know he will represent their concerns

fairly in Washington, with this administration and with Congress," the President said.

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

October 3

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the 41st annual Red Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral with members of the Supreme Court. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Sacramento, CA. Later that evening, he went to San Francisco, CA, where he remained overnight.

October 4

In the afternoon, the President went to Los Angeles, CA. Later in the evening, he attended the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

The White House announced the President appointed two officials to the Department of Commerce: Michael J. Copps as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Basic Industries and Rolland Schmitten as Assistant Administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

October 5

In the evening, following his return from Los Angeles, CA, to Washington, DC, the President attended the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

October 6

In the morning, the President met with Members of Congress on NAFTA.