

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:16 a.m. in St. George's Hall in the Kremlin. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Nomination for Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Department of Labor

January 13, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Shirley J. Wilcher as Director of the Labor Department's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP).

"Throughout her career, Shirley Wilcher has dedicated her efforts to preventing discrimination in America's workplace and educational institutions," the President said. "I am pleased she has agreed to accept this important position."

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

Nomination for Regional Posts in the Department of Education

January 13, 1994

The President today announced the appointment of Loni Hancock, Janet L. Paschal, Stan Williams, Judy W. Harwood, and Stephanie J. Jones to serve as Regional and Deputy Regional Representatives for the U.S. Department of Education in San Francisco, Boston, Atlanta, Chicago, and Kansas City.

"I am pleased to name these hardworking individuals to serve as Regional and Deputy Regional Representatives for the Department of Education," said the President. "Each has demonstrated their commitment to improving education and will serve our country's schools and students well."

NOTE: Biographies of the following nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary: Loni Hancock, Regional Representative, Region IX; Janet L. Paschal, Deputy Regional Representative, Region I; Stan Williams, Regional Representative, Region IV; Judy W. Harwood, Deputy Regional Representative, Region IV;

Stephanie J. Jones, Regional Representative, Region V; and Sandra V. Walker, Regional Representative, Region VIII.

Nomination for an Assistant Secretary of Commerce

January 13, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate William W. Ginsberg as Assistant Secretary for Economic Development at the Department of Commerce.

"William Ginsberg's experience and commitment to economic development will serve him well in this new post. I am pleased to name him to our team," the President said.

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

Proclamation 6645—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 1994

January 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King, Jr., was born, destined to make our world a greater and more noble one. Growing up in a landscape disfigured with "Colored Only" and "White Only" signs and a society rife with other demeaning racial barriers and distinctions, Martin Luther King, Jr., sadly learned that the Constitution's guarantee of equality was denied to most black Americans. He dedicated his life to ending the injustice of racism, gracing the world with his vision of a land guided by love instead of hatred and by acceptance instead of intolerance.

Three decades ago, Dr. King described his goals most eloquently in his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the historic Civil Rights March on Washington. The impassioned plea that rose from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial that summer day stirred the entire Nation, awakening people everywhere to turn from the scourge of racism to embrace the promise of opportunity and democracy for all. He prophetically described a future in which our children are judged "not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their

character.” His unparalleled commitment to justice and nonviolence challenged us to look deeply within ourselves to find the roots of racism.

Throughout his all too brief life, Martin Luther King, Jr., often confronted powerful and even violent opposition, sacrificing his liberty, his personal safety, and, ultimately, his life for the cause of freedom. Though an assassin’s bullet silenced him forever at the young age of 39, Dr. King’s words and deeds continue to live on within each of us. We, the inheritors of the fundamental rights he helped to secure, are forever grateful for his legacy.

Today, we live in a nation that is stronger because of Dr. King’s work. Unfortunately, there is still much division in this great land. Even though the signs that once segregated our communities have been removed, we are still far from achieving the world for which Dr. King struggled, toiled, and bled. He did not live and die to create a world in which people kill each other with reckless abandon. He did not live and die to see families destroyed, to see communities abandoned, and to see hope disappear. If we are to be faithful to Dr. King’s vision, we must each seize responsibility for realizing the goals he worked so tirelessly to fulfill. Dr. King’s valiant struggle for true equality will be won, not by the fleeting passion of eloquent words, but by the quiet persistence of individual acts of decency, justice, and human kindness. We must carry the power of his wisdom with us, not only by celebrating his birthday, but also by inscribing its meaning upon our hearts, teaching our children the value and significance of every human being.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Monday, January 17, 1994, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I call upon the people of the United States to observe the occasion with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-four, 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, 11:26 a.m., January 14, 1994]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

Proclamation 6646—Religious Freedom Day, 1994

January 14, 1994

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This past year, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 was enacted, reaffirming our solemn commitment to protect the first guarantee of our Bill of Rights. In the great tradition of our Nation’s founders, this legislation embraces the abiding principle that our laws and institutions must neither impede nor hinder, but rather preserve and promote, religious liberty. As it is inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the words of Leviticus ring out, “Proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.” Our government did not create this liberty, but it cannot be too vigilant in securing its blessings.

It is no accident of authorship that the right to free exercise of religion is the first freedom granted by our Bill of Rights. The framers of the Constitution well recognized the awesome power of religious liberty, not only to unite the citizenry in common cause, but also to empower us to question age-old beliefs and lift this Nation toward enlightenment. Today, as we face a crisis of conscience in our families and communities, as children murder children in our schools, as neighbor turns away from neighbor on frightening city streets—today, more than ever, we see the fundamental wisdom of our country’s forefathers. For at the heart of this most precious right is a challenge to use the spiritual freedom we have been afforded to examine the values, the soul, and the true essence of human nature.