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1980, and served on several councils before becoming Minister of Foreign Affairs. In addition to his political experience, Professor Skubiszewski has had a long and distinguished academic career in the field of international law. He is currently on leave from the Institute of Law, Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, and has lectured at universities throughout Europe. He is also the author of a number of international law publications. In announcing the appointment, the Tribunal's Appointing Authority, Charles M.J.A. Moons, emphasized Professor Skubiszewski's ''extensive experience in the management of state affairs and the conduct of international relations,'' in addition to his ''scholarly renown.''

6. As anticipated by the May 13, 1990, agreement settling the claims of U.S. nationals for less than $250,000.00, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission (FCSC) has continued its review of 3,112 claims. As of March 31, 1994, the FCSC has issued decisions in 2,538 claims, for total awards of more than $40 million. The FCSC expects to complete its adjudication of the remaining claims this year.

7. The situation reviewed above continues to implicate important diplomatic, financial, and legal interests of the United States and its nationals and presents an unusual challenge to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The Iranian Assets Control Regulations issued pursuant to Executive Order No. 12170 continue to play an important role in structuring our relationship with Iran and in enabling the United States to implement properly the Algiers Accords. Similarly, the Iranian Transactions Regulations issued pursuant to Executive Order No. 12613 continue to advance important objectives in combatting international terrorism. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to deal with these problems and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
May 14, 1994.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16.

Remarks on the Nomination of Stephen G. Breyer To Be a Supreme Court Associate Justice and an Exchange With Reporters

May 16, 1994

The President. Good afternoon. The distinguished Members of the Congress, Attorney General and other members of the Cabinet, the family and friends of Judge Breyer, ladies and gentlemen, tomorrow is the 40th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in *Brown* v. *Board of Education,* one of the greatest and most important decisions ever rendered by a court of law. We celebrate the *Brown* decision, and as we do, we are reminded of the central and powerful role the United States Supreme Court plays in our national life and in our society, addressing profound questions of law and justice, of liberty and equality.

Today we pay tribute to one Justice who has served the Nation magnificently and we announce the nomination of another who we hope and expect will also grace the Court with greatness. We celebrate the service of Justice Harry Blackmun, a distinguished member of the Court to which we entrust our legal and constitutional rights. He discharged that trust with fortitude, vision, fairness, and enormous courage and passion. After a long season of service, at the start of a new season of fulfillment for him and his family, I offer Justice Blackmun our deepest appreciation for his devotion to duty and to the Supreme Court.

Today we also celebrate the nomination of a jurist who I deeply believe will also take his place as one of our Nation's outstanding Justices. I ask the Senate to consider and to promptly confirm the nomination of Judge Stephen Breyer as the 108th Justice of the Supreme Court.

The case for Judge Breyer's confirmation is clear and compelling: his sheer excellence, his broad understanding of the law, his deep respect for the role of the courts in our life and in protecting our individual rights, and his gift as a consensus builder. In addition to his extraordinary intellectual talents, Judge Breyer will bring to the Court an abiding sense of decency and an unswerving dedication to ensuring liberty and justice for all.

Judge Breyer has devoted his entire life to public service, as a law clerk to Justice Arthur Goldberg, as a young lawyer at the Justice Department, as a teacher opening young minds to the promise and discipline of the law, as a member of the Watergate Special Prosecutors office, as chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, and for 14 years, as an exceptional judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

He has served in all three branches of Government with the heart and head of a reformer, always succeeding at what he has tried to do. His career shows that he understands how Government works and how laws are really made, knowledge that is indispensable for much of the litigation which comes before the Supreme Court. As chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, he won the admiration of Senators of both parties for his fairness and commitment to justice and for his principled advocacy of economic reform.

He also served as a key member of the United States Sentencing Commission. Before the Commission was created, there was law but little order when criminal sentences were applied. His decisive behind-the-scenes work enabled the Commission to give us less disparate and more truthful sentences and a more principled system of justice for the victims and the perpetrators of crime.

In 14 years on the Court of Appeals, his influential decisions have protected the civil rights and individual rights of Americans, even at the cost of making powerful people uncomfortable. His insight and clarity have established him as an unquestioned leader of the judiciary. He has spoken loudly for fairness and justice.

What does it mean to the average man and woman who will read tomorrow or see tonight on the news that Stephen Breyer is a consensus builder? We would do well to recall, on this day especially, that the Supreme Court in *Brown* v. *Board of Education* spoke strongly and clearly in one unanimous voice. That momentous decision was joined by Justices who hailed from all regions of our Nation, by Justices who had been appointed by Presidents of both parties, by Justices who thought they espoused very different philosophies.

Judge Breyer will bring to the Court a well-recognized and impressive ability to build bridges in pursuit of fairness and justice. In the generations ahead, the Supreme Court will face questions of overriding national importance, many of which we cannot today even imagine. That is why it is so important to appoint someone whom we can predict will be a Justice who seeks to ensure that the Court speaks in a clear voice, as unified a voice as it is possible to speak in furthering the goals of liberty and equality under the law.

We are honored that Judge Breyer could share this day with his family, his wife, Joanna—a clinical psychologist who relieves the pain of children undergoing cancer treatment—and his children, Chloe, Nell, and Michael. We welcome them to the White House as we acclaim Judge Breyer's supreme, superb qualifications for the Supreme Court.

Ladies and gentlemen, Judge Stephen Breyer.

[*At this point, Judge Breyer expressed his appreciation to the President and discussed the importance of the justice system in America.*]

Q. Mr. President, Judge Breyer talked about the selection process. We're wondering why——

The President. Well, first of all, the Constitution—let me give you a general answer—the Constitution requires the President to seek not only the consent but the advice of the United States Senate, and I did that. And when people made suggestions to me, I discussed it with the folks who work around here. And the more advice you seek, the more leaks you have in here. [*Laughter*] And I might say that at least—far more than half of those that I've read concerning this appointment have been downright wrong, absolutely wrong, factually wrong. But nonetheless, if you seek advice, you will have leaks. I decided that I would pay the price of the leaks, even the wrong ones, to follow the duty of the Constitution.

I think that when you do consult broadly and you think about it and you're personally involved in it, as I've tried to be, you tend

to make the right decision. I think everybody around here today thinks I made the right decision. I think that's all that really counts.

Q. If I could ask the Judge a question. There are many liberal Democrats who have been hoping someone would be named who would serve as a strong counterpoint to Justice Scalia. Do you envisage yourself as someone who can stand up to his more conservative principles and argue the merits of the sort of liberal case effectively and move that Court to a different direction?

Judge Breyer. If I'm confirmed, I envisage myself as a person who will do the best possible job I'm capable of as a Justice of the Supreme Court.

The President. I wish I could answer questions like that. His constitutional privilege is my burden. [*Laughter*]

Q. [*Inaudible*]

Judge Breyer. I believe at some time in the near future, there will be confirmation hearings at which I expect to have lots of questions and difficult ones, too, on matters of substance. And I think that I'll reserve questions and answers of substance for that time.

Q. Mr. President, Judge Breyer said over the weekend that he saw the role of Judge in the Court as making life better for ordinary citizens, something to which he alluded to here as well. What do you mean by that, sir? Do you have a goal or a special agenda that——

Judge Breyer. No, no. Well, what I think of in respect to that is if you think of law in general, there's the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, dozens of guarantees for people, laws and statutes, regulations, rules, common law. There's a whole mass of material that somehow, sometimes, in some way is supposed to fit together. And what is it supposed to do, seen as a whole? What it's supposed to do seen as a whole is allow all people, all people, to live together in a society where they have so many different views, so many different needs, but to live together in a way that is more harmonious, that is better so that they can work productively together. That's a very general statement, but that is a very general purpose, I think, of law.

The President. It's hard to be better than that.

Thank you. We're adjourned.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I think we should let him speak for himself. I think we let him speak for himself. I don't think—if we do it right, there's not necessarily a dichotomy. We can't be free individually unless we're a responsible society. And I think he'll do very well on that.

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about the critics over the weekend who said you caved into pressure from Senator Hatch?

The President. That's just not right.

Q. ——said you're not willing to fight for someone you believe in, like Bruce Babbitt.

The President. That's just not right. I believe in this guy.

Q. Were you surprised by the Western Senators?

The President. No, we—[*inaudible*]—we could confirm all three of them. It was not an issue. I'll say again, that was not an issue. I realize these process things can—more than half the stories I read about this were wrong, and that's one of them.

Q. Which ones were wrong?

The President. ——we could have confirmed them all.

Q. What about the stories you saw on TV? [*Laughter*]

The President. They're always right. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:49 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks in a Video Conference Call on Health Care Reform

May 16, 1994

The President. Hello, Roger.

Deputy Secretary Roger Altman. Hello, Mr. President. Good afternoon.

The President. Good afternoon.

[*Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Roger Altman discussed the technological advancements that are being made in video conferencing. He then introduced Norman Gott, chairman and chief executive of PictureTel, a company that provides health care coverage to all its employees.*]