

Q. Mr. President, what more do you need in the way of wiretaps? What about those constitutional bounds?

The President. Well, first of all, we shouldn't do anything that violates the Constitution. I think the question is whether—if you have someone that you have a strong suspicion and strong evidence is involved in terrorism who is moving around all the time and the traditional laws governing wiretaps which tie to residence and place of business don't operate. We'll discuss that, and we'll be able to talk more about it later.

I think we need to start our meeting now. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the Report of the Department of Housing and Urban Development

July 29, 1996

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3536, I transmit herewith the 30th Annual Report of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which covers calendar year 1994.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 29, 1996.

Statement on Signing the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area Act

July 29, 1996

I have today signed into law S. 1899, the "Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area Act". While not everyone had the pleasure of knowing and working with Mollie Beattie, her lifelong dedication to conservation has enriched every American. This legislation names one of Alaska's most imposing wilderness areas in her honor. It ensures that future generations will recall the lasting contributions Mollie made to conserving our Nation's priceless natural heritage.

Mollie stands out in my memory as the person releasing a bald eagle named Hope back into the wild to celebrate the improving condition of our national symbol. I also remember her as one of the people carrying the gray wolf back into the Yellowstone ecosystem in a vital effort to help restore nature's balance. Yet these two events, unforgettable as they are, represent only symbols of Mollie's many achievements as the first female Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Although her tenure as director was tragically cut short, Mollie left an enduring legacy to the American people. She was determined to conserve the world's wild creatures and their habitat, and to do so effectively. As a direct result of her efforts to make the Endangered Species Act work better, Americans everywhere have voluntarily joined in conserving and restoring the landscapes and open spaces that surround them.

Mollie strove throughout her life to help people understand the connections that linked the quality of their daily lives to the health and well-being of America's wildlife. Anyone who ever worked with Mollie recognized that her caring, compassion, and wisdom extended to all living creatures. She truly understood the need to actively engage people in wildlife conservation efforts.

Under this legislation, Mollie Beattie's name will be forever associated with one of the most wild and beautiful places on this planet, the Brooks Range of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It is entirely appropriate that we honor Mollie in this way. She was a passionate defender of our 508 National Wildlife Refuges, the largest system of lands in the world dedicated to wildlife conservation. She saw them as places that must be appreciated and honored, as places where we could begin to fulfill our sacred trust as stewards of God's creation. Mollie worked tirelessly, even as her health was failing, to keep these places wild for the benefit of Americans today and for those who will follow us.

I am deeply grateful to the Alaska delegation for their leadership in introducing this legislation. I appreciate their willingness to

commemorate this wild and beautiful place forever to the memory of Mollie Beattie.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
July 29, 1996.

NOTE: S. 1899, approved July 29, was assigned Public Law No. 104-167.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

July 30, 1996

President Clinton. Good morning.

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the Israeli plan now to build new highways and bridges into the occupied territories, the West Bank and Golan Heights, consolidating their control?

President Clinton. The President just walked in the door, and we're going to start talking, and I think that I'd rather wait to answer those questions until the press conference. We're going to have a press conference after lunch, and we'll—I'll be glad to answer your questions.

Welfare Reform

Q. [*Inaudible*—the welfare reform bill that's coming out of conference, is it something you can sign, Mr. President?

President Clinton. I don't know. I don't know what's going to happen in the conference yet. They're working on the conference now, and I'm going to wait and see what happens, what comes out.

Q. I think you're going to sign it because you have used all the language of the opponents: failed system, broken system.

President Clinton. We have actually done something about it. Keep in mind that 75 percent of the people on welfare today are under welfare-to-work experiments. There are 1.3 million fewer people on welfare today than there were the day I took office. Child support is up 40 percent. There are a lot of things in the bill I'd like to sign. I like the child care money. I like the increased child support enforcement. I like the fact that we get out of the waiver business on a State-by-State basis. But I don't want to see harm

come to the children of this country. And so we'll just wait and see.

Q. Mr. President, the Democrats really want to know, they want some guidance from you about whether you'd accept this from this conference.

President Clinton. Well, we're talking to them all. But I don't want to make comments about a bill I haven't seen yet. Let's see what comes out of the conference. We're working with them, and obviously I hope I can sign a bill. We're working hard, but it depends on what that bill does.

Vice President Gore. Did you get Helen's [Helen Thomas, United Press International] comments down? Did you get those down? [*Laughter*] You'll have to go with her analysis. She's going from questions to making comments now that she's got a microphone.

Ms. Thomas. It's my day in the sun. Where's my crew? [*Laughter*] Anonymity is better.

The President. Oh, I don't know. I think you lost your anonymity a long time ago, Helen.

Ms. Thomas. Hell. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President Clinton, when will see the photo number six of a Middle East treaty signing hang on the wall of the Oval Office, probably the Syrian track?

The President. The next one out there? I hope it won't be too long. We are—the President just arrived, and we're looking forward to a conversation. And of course, we're going to have a press conference afterward, and we'll try to answer all your questions.

Meeting With President Mubarak

Q. What is the agenda of the meeting today, Mr. President?

The President. Excuse me?

Q. What is the agenda of the meeting?

President Clinton. We're going to discuss a whole range of things, our bilateral relationship, issues in the Middle East. I've been very impressed with the leadership that President Mubarak has continued to show in the last several months. And I'm looking forward to listening, asking him a lot of ques-