

come is acceptable for maintaining the economic prosperity of the American people.

Therefore, I have determined that my proposal for a total civilian raise of 2.8 percent remains appropriate. This raise matches the 2.8 percent basic pay increase that I proposed for military members in my fiscal 1998 Budget, and that the Congress will likely include in the 1998 defense authorization bill.

Because many Federal civilian employees do not receive locality pay, I will put the bulk of the 2.8 percent adjustment into the general increase under section 5303, thus giving all employees a meaningful raise. I will apply the remainder to increasing the locality-based comparability payments under section 5304.

Accordingly, I have determined that:

- (1) Under the authority of section 5303(b) of title 5, United States Code, the pay rates for each statutory pay system shall be increased by 2.3 percent, effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1998.
- (2) Under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments in the amounts set forth on the attached table shall be effective on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 1998. When compared with the payments now in effect, these comparability payments will increase the General Schedule payroll by about 0.5 percent.

Finally, the law requires that I include in this report an assessment of the impact of my decisions on the Government's ability to recruit and retain well-qualified employees. While I regret that our fiscal situation does not permit granting Federal employees a larger pay increase, I do not believe that it will materially affect our ability to continue to attract and retain a quality Federal work force.

Due to our continuing efforts to reinvent Government, creating a Government that works better and costs less, the number of Federal employees continues to fall; consequently, hiring and attrition are low. In addition, should the need arise, the Govern-

ment has many tools, such as recruitment bonuses, retention allowances, and special salary rates, to maintain the high quality work force that serves our Nation so very well.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

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.

August 25

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on June 28 and continuing through July 27.

August 26

The President named Audrey Tayse Haynes as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Office for Women's Initiatives and Outreach.

August 27

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles N. Jeffress as Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott E. Thomas as a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Deputy Secretary of Defense John J. Hamre as a member of the Steering Committee of the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

August 28

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Dodd to be Ambassador to Costa Rica.

August 29

The President announced his intention to nominate Eva M. Plaza to be Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin G. Chavers to be Director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gail W. Laster to be General Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert Michael Walker to be the Under Secretary of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Roger Majak to serve as Assistant Secretary for Export Administration at the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia W. Lattimore to serve as Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Al Borrego to serve as Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Katherine Milner Anderson to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victor Marrero to be U.S. Representative to the Organization of American States at the State Department, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Clyburn, Jr., to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Nicholas Burns to be Ambassador to Greece.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas S. Foley to be Ambassador to Japan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph A. Presel to be Ambassador to Uzbekistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark Robert Parris to be Ambassador to Turkey.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brenda Brown Schoonover to be Ambassador to Togo.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lange Schermerhorn to be Ambassador to Djibouti.

The President announced his intention to nominate Johnny Young to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alexander R. Vershbow to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

The President announced his intention to nominate Duncan T. Moore to be the Associate Director for Technology in the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 25

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Barry Toiv

Released August 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Barry Toiv

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Donald K. Bandler as Special