

Statement on the National Economy
October 3, 1997

Today the Labor Department announced more good news for America's workers and their families. Real wages are rising, the American economy has created 13.2 million new jobs since the beginning of my administration, and for the first time in 24 years, the unemployment rate has remained at or below 5 percent for 6 consecutive months. We have the most solid American economy in a generation, with strong investment, low unemployment, and low inflation.

While the economy is strong, we still have more to do to keep the American jobs machine on the move and ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to benefit from our growing economy. We must continue our three-part economic strategy that is helping move America forward. We must ensure fiscal responsibility for future generations. We must continue to invest and expect the most of our people through initiatives such as national education test standards. And Congress must provide traditional trade negotiating authority so we can reach fair trade agreements with other countries, breaking down trade barriers to American goods, and creating high-paying jobs for American workers.

Proclamation 7032—Fire Prevention Week, 1997

October 3, 1997

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Of all the disasters that confront Americans every year, few cause more loss of life and property than fire. Across the country each day, fire threatens our communities, our livelihoods, and our lives. Last year alone, almost 5,000 men, women, and children perished in fires, and nearly 80 percent of these deaths occurred in homes. This tragic statistic is a call to action for all of us, not only to remain vigilant in our efforts to prevent fires, but also to learn how to react quickly and sensibly when fires occur.

Many people do not understand the speed at which fire can spread, the intensity of its heat, or the toxic power of its smoke. Because a quick, decisive response often means the difference between life and death, it is important to learn about fire, to recognize how deadly a threat it is, and to react to it immediately. The National Fire Protection Association, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and our Nation's fire services, has selected "Know When to Go! React Fast To Fire!" as the theme of this year's Fire Prevention Week. This theme reinforces a simple but essential element of fire safety: escape planning.

Because approximately 80 percent of last year's fatal fires occurred in the home, every family should develop a home escape plan. If a smoke or fire alarm sounds, everyone must react quickly. When away from home, we need to make it a habit to locate the nearest exit in any building we occupy. Most important, we must never reenter a burning building.

By following these basic safety rules, we can save lives and reduce the risks to our Nation's firefighters. Every 16 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the United States. Last year, thousands of firefighters were injured, and 92 made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Our Nation will acknowledge the extraordinary dedication of these valiant men and women by paying tribute to America's career and volunteer firefighters on Sunday, October 5, 1997, at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

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 October 5 through October 11, 1997, as Fire Prevention Week. I encourage the people of the United States to take an active role in fire prevention not only during this week, but throughout the year. I also call upon all Americans to honor the courageous members of our Nation's fire and emergency services by learning about the dangers posed by fire and by preparing their friends and family members to react immediately and safely to fires when they occur.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

William J. Clinton

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NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 8.

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.

September 26¹

The President announced his intention to nominate William H. Twaddell to be Ambassador to Nigeria.

The President announced the appointment of Susan Blumenthal, M.D., as Senior Adviser to the President for Women's Health, effective November 1.

September 27

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton traveled from Little Rock, AR, to Hot Springs, AR. In the afternoon, they returned to Little Rock.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended a University of Arkansas football game at War Memorial Stadium.

September 28

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton returned to Washington, DC.

September 29

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathryn Linda Haydock Proffitt to be Ambassador to Malta.

¹ These releases were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

The President announced the nomination of Alphonso Maldon, Jr., to be Deputy Secretary at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

September 30

In the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and he returned to Washington, DC, in the afternoon.

October 1

In the morning, the President met with Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan in the Oval Office. Later, he met with Members of Congress in the Diplomatic Reception Room to discuss tobacco issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Phyllis Elliott Oakley to be Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research at the State Department.

The President announced the appointment of Virginia M. Apuzzo as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration at the White House.

October 2

In the evening, the President met with automobile industry executives in the Cabinet Room.

The White House announced that the President will participate in the White House Conference on Climate Change on October 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joan Dempsey to be Deputy Director for Community Management at the Central Intelligence Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janice R. Lachance to serve as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph Thompson to be Under Secretary for Benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Harriet C. Babbitt to be Deputy Administrator at the Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Miller for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Special Coordinator for Cyprus.