

Republican Party in giving more power to the States. I'm proud of the fact that we have waived more Federal rules in more areas in 5 years than they did in 12 years. I'm proud of all that because I trust—[*applause*—I trust the concept of the States as laboratories of democracy. But the more responsibilities the Governors get, the more it matters who the Governor is.

And I want you to think about that. And when you go home tonight, I want you to ask yourself if you agree with my definition of what it means to be an American and to meet our challenges and to do the right thing at every moment of challenge and change. This is a big change time. This is huge.

You know, the other night after the State of the Union Address, our Web page had 400,000 hits on the Internet. One Web page. And, of course, there are millions upon millions of Web pages. You know how many places there were on the Web when I was elected President? Fifty—50—5 years ago. And they all belonged to physicists. [*Laughter*] So if you could have gotten in, most of you would have been like me and you wouldn't have understood it. [*Laughter*] That is just a metaphor for how the world is changing. Knowledge, the whole volume of knowledge, doubling every 5 years.

Hillary came up with this idea that we should honor the end of our service here after 2 terms with a gift to the millennium entitled "Remembering the Past and Imagining the Future." We want to save Old Glory and the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, those four things—and get communities all over America to do the same. And we want to have the biggest investment in the future in medical and other research in the history of America to look toward the future.

But in the end, all this newfangled stuff and all this change will only work to make us a happier, healthier, stronger people if we end where we started. That great line from T.S. Eliot, "the end is in our beginning"—we have to end where we started. You be proud when you leave here tonight, because you belong to a party that is fighting to expand and deepen the meaning of freedom and to widen the circle of opportunity and to make this a stronger United States of

America. I'm proud, and I'm proud of you for being here.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:07 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Democratic Governors' Association chairman Gov. Pedro Rossello of Puerto Rico and his wife, Maga; vice chairman Gov. Frank O'Bannon of Indiana and his wife, Judy; and executive director Katie Whelan.

Executive Order 13075—Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents

February 19, 1998

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. (a) There is hereby established the Special Oversight Board for Department of Defense Investigations of Gulf War Chemical and Biological Incidents ("Special Oversight Board"). The Special Oversight Board shall be composed of not more than seven members appointed by the President. The members of the Special Oversight Board shall have expertise relevant to the functions of the Special Oversight Board and shall not be full-time officials or employees of the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(b) The President shall designate a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Special Oversight Board.

Sec. 2. Functions. (a) The Special Oversight Board shall report to the President through the Secretary of Defense.

(b) The Special Oversight Board shall provide advice and recommendations based on its review of Department of Defense investigations into possible detections of, and exposures to, chemical or biological weapons agents and environmental and other factors that may have contributed to Gulf War illnesses.

(c) It shall not be a function of the Special Oversight Board to conduct scientific research.

(d) It shall not be a function of the Special Oversight Board to provide advice or recommendations on any legal liability of the Federal Government for any claims or potential claims against the Federal Government.

(e) The Special Oversight Board shall submit an interim report within 9 months of its first meeting and a final report within 18 months of its first meeting, unless otherwise directed by the President.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Special Oversight Board with such information as it may require for purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) Special Oversight Board members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, to the extent permitted by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707). The administrative staff for the Special Oversight Board shall be compensated in accordance with Federal law.

(c) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Defense shall provide the Special Oversight Board with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of its functions.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that are applicable to the Special Oversight Board, except that of reporting annually to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary of Defense, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Special Oversight Board shall terminate 30 days after submitting its final report.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended, and shall not be construed, to create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party

against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
February 19, 1998.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 23, 1998]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 24.

Remarks to the National Council of Jewish Women

February 24, 1998

The President. Thank you very much. Nan did such a good job I could resort to that old parliamentary device—I can say I associate myself with the previous speaker's remarks and sit down. [*Laughter*]

I thank all of you for making me feel welcome. I'm delighted to be here with a number of members of our administration today, including my Director of Communications, Ann Lewis; my Director of Public Liaison, Maria Echaveste, and her aide, Debbie Mohile, and Lynn Cutler, who is known to many of you I know; and our HHS Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, Oliva Golden. I thank all of them for coming with me.

This has been a very busy week in Washington, and I think that there are a couple of issues I ought to make a remark or two about before I begin what I came here to visit with you about. First, let me say a few words about Iraq. As you know, yesterday the Government of Iraq agreed to give the United Nations inspectors immediate, unrestricted, and unconditional access to any site they suspect may be hiding weapons of mass destruction or the means to make or deliver them. If fully implemented, this means that, finally, and for the first time in 7 years, all of Iraq will be open to U.N. inspections, including many sites previously declared off limits. This would be an important step forward.