

and we ought to be able to do it and permit the day-to-day work of the United States and the American people to go forward.

So from my point of view, this is a very good thing, and a good and somewhat unexpected development on this Sunday evening.

Budget Compromise

Q. Are there any winners or losers in this, Mr. President—

The President. Yes.

Q. —in the sense that you—you may be interpreted as a loser to the extent on the binding 7 years?

The President. But nothing is binding unless everything is binding. And if you read the whole agreement, both paragraphs and the way it's written, essentially we agree to do something that I said we ought to agree to a long time ago. We ought to both say, we'll try to balance the budget; there's no magic to the timetable, but if we can do it, you know, as quickly—we ought to do it as quickly as we can, consistent with economic growth and the values of the American people that hold us together.

So I would say that the real winners tonight are the American people. The American people have won in two ways: Number one, the Government will go back to work tomorrow, and the good Federal employees are real winners, too. And the real winners tonight are the American people because now we can have an open, honest, straight-forward discussion about how best to balance the budget. So the victors tonight are the people that sent us all up here and that pay our salaries.

Q. Mr. President, how optimistic are you you can reach a compromise by December 15th?

The President. I don't know. All I know is that I can go to work. But you know what my—you know what my standards are, and you know what I'll do if we meet them and what I'll do if we won't. So we'll just go to work tomorrow and see if we can do it.

NOTE: This President spoke at 7:33 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Executive Order 12980—Further Amendment to Executive Order 12852, as Amended

November 17, 1995

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to add four more members to the President's Council on Sustainable Development, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order No. 12852, as amended, is further amended by deleting the number "25" in section 1 of the order and inserting the number "29" in lieu thereof.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 17, 1995.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:48 a.m., November 20, 1995]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

Statement on Signing the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996

November 20, 1995

Last night I signed into law H.R. 2020, the "Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1996."

The Act provides a total of \$11.3 billion in discretionary budget authority for various programs in the Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Postal Service, the General Services Administration, the Office of Personnel Management, the Executive Office of the President, and several smaller agencies. With this legislation enacted into law, over 140,000 furloughed employees were able to go back to work.

I am pleased that a provision contained in an earlier version of the bill, which would have limited the political advocacy rights of non-profit organizations that receive Federal funding, was removed from the bill. This unacceptable provision would have presented