

East Room History

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Lyndon B. Johnson

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June 22, 1964

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That stroke of his pen was far more than a nation's gesture of gratitude toward those who in the cause of freedom had borne the cost of conflict. It represented America's intention to insure that the war we were going to win would be followed by a peace we were not prepared to lose.

The G.I. bill increased the strength of our Nation by enlarging the opportunities of our people.

The results have been rewarding:

1. Almost 8,000,000 veterans—nearly half of all the men and women who served in World War II—received some training under the bill's provisions.
2. The bill has produced 600,000 engineers and scientists, 360,000 school teachers, and 700,000 business and executive personnel.
3. It spurred the postwar economy and promoted the prosperity of all the people, including those who did not directly benefit from its provisions. One out of every five homes built since World War II, for example, was financed by the bill.
4. More importantly, it reaffirmed America's commitment to develop the resources of her people, thus laying the firmest possible foundation for the building of a free, vital, and progressive society.

On this occasion, let us remember the valor of the men and women for whom the bill was intended—those who led us to victory in war. Let us also recall the vision of those who proposed and passed this legislation.

And, let us also, at this time, renew our own commitment to carry forward the work of peace which they so successfully began.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.801-802

Bill Clinton

Public Papers of the Presidents

Public Papers of the Presidents

September 25, 1996

CITE: 32 Weekly Comp. Pres. Doc. 1853

LENGTH: 5302 words

HEADLINE: Remarks at Robert Morris College in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania

Well, over time, we have developed 70 or more separate specific Federal job training programs that were all

passed for the best of motives. They all really had a good purpose. But now, they're just different programs in

different categories. And for 4 years, I have been trying, and I'm going to keep trying, to get Congress to get

rid of all of these separate categories of programs and create a simple "G.I. bill" for America's workers, and

say to people, if you lose your job and you need new training to get a new job and a better one, or if you're

grossly underemployed and you're eligible because you're underemployed and you're earning very low wages to

go back and get Federal job training help, we'll just send you a certificate, it will be your skills grant. It will be

your "G.I. bill" that says you get \$ 2,500, take it where you want to take it. Take it to Robert Morris, take it

to the community college, take it to the vocational school. You decide. It will help you.

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Radio Address About Veterans Affairs.

March 31, 1974

Good afternoon:

This past Friday marked an important anniversary for the United States. On that day one year ago—March 29, 1973—the last American combat soldier left Vietnam, and a long and painful chapter in our history was brought to an honorable conclusion.

On Friday, we again gave thanks for that peace and paid homage to those whose sacrifices had helped to win it by celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day.

But ceremony and public praise, standing alone, are not enough. Nearly 7 million men and women served America during that war—2 1/2 million of them in Vietnam itself. We owe to them an opportunity to enjoy not only our public blessings but also the real benefits of peace—the education, the jobs, the housing, the medical care, the many other advantages that make America a great nation.

We owe it to them all the more, because giving so much, they ask so little in return. The greatest gift our country gives to all of us is freedom. But freedom to be fully enjoyed must be accompanied by opportunity, the chance to play a full role in the life of our Nation.

The veterans of the late 1960's and the early 1970's too often found that the barriers to a full life were higher when they came home than when they left. The lens [p.329] of the camera and the pen of the journalist had focused so often on those who had deserted America that those who bravely served were sometimes forgotten.

In early 1971, thanks to the success of our Vietnamization program, 1 million **G.I.**'s came home to enter the civilian labor force. However, more than 350,000 of these returning servicemen found themselves unemployed. To meet this challenge, I launched a six-point program in June of 1971 to help returning veterans find training and jobs. By January of 1973, the unemployment rate for Vietnam-era veterans had dropped from 8.1 percent to 5.4 percent, and at the end of February 1974, it stood at 5 percent, which is just below the national average.

Now, this progress is a credit to the Federal agencies that have mobilized job programs and, more especially, to two private groups, the Jobs for Veterans Committee and the National Alliance of Businessmen. With the help of the Government and public-spirited businessmen, more than 2.2 million veterans of the Vietnam era have been placed in jobs in the last 2 1/2 years.

There has also been progress on other fronts. Nearly 3 million veterans of the Vietnam era have financed their educations under the **G.I. bill** since 1969. Education allowances have been increased by 70 percent during this same period. The number of veterans assisted through guaranteed mortgage loans has increased by 46 percent. The Veterans Administration, which operates the largest civilian medical care system in the world, is now undertaking the biggest hospital construction program in its history.

We have added over 25,000 medical personnel to the staffs of the veterans hospitals, and we are seeking to increase spending for veterans benefits and services to \$13.6 billion during the coming fiscal year. That is an increase of more than 75 percent over the expenditures when I took office.

And yet, we must all recognize that the Vietnam-era veteran needs far more help than we are providing. Despite the progress of the veterans in finding jobs, there has been a slight upturn in their unemployment over the last 3 months. There are no doubt several causes—among them the problems relating to energy—but the causes are not what matters. What matters is this: The men who fought on the battlelines in Vietnam must not come back to job lines in America. We must redouble our efforts to help these young men and women find jobs.

Vietnam-era veterans are also faced with staggering increases in the cost of higher education. That is why I have proposed that we increase their education benefits by an additional 8 percent to help them overcome the forces of inflation. This would raise the payments to a single veteran with no dependents to \$240 a month, tax-free.

While there are continuing improvements in the quality of medical care in our veterans hospitals, we must also continue our efforts to ensure that all patients receive full treatment and that the most efficient use is made of their excellent facilities. We should spend whatever money is necessary so that the quality of care in these hospitals will be second to none. To investigate the quality of that care, I have directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs to conduct a thorough investigation of the conditions of our veterans hospitals and clinics, including a [p.330] personal tour of some of those facilities. He is to report to me directly within 60 days.

Some of you may recall that in a recent White House press conference, one of the most spirited reporters in Washington, Sarah McClendon of Texas, asked me why some veterans studying under the **G.I. bill** were not receiving their Government checks or were receiving them long after they were due.

That was a good question, and the next day I asked the Veterans Administration for an answer. I discovered that each month during the school year the Veterans Administration mails out over 1 million checks. Unfortunately, from time to time a fraction of them are delayed or misdirected. Students move to new addresses, computer printouts are slow, the paperwork is detailed.

The reasons for the occasional delays are generally understandable, but they are of very little consolation to the young men and women whose studies and family budgets are disrupted as a result. We owe it to our veterans to be absolutely sure that we are doing the best job possible for them.

And due in large part to Miss McClendon and others who have brought problems to our attention, the Veterans Administration is now engaged in a major effort to improve their operations. To make still further improvements, I have directed the Administrator of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to set up a crack management team which will take a hard look at the services provided by the VA across the board.

Veterans need to know if we can find a better way of delivering checks on time. They need to know if there is a better way of obtaining medical services. They need to know if there is a better way to find training and jobs.

Those are the kinds of questions I want answered from this new look at veterans affairs, and I am asking for those answers within 8 weeks.

Beyond that, we need to develop a more effective and coordinated approach to veterans affairs on a permanent basis. The health and welfare of our veterans is one of the biggest concerns of the Federal Government.

The Veterans Administration is the second largest agency in the Government. It has the third largest budget. There are additional veterans programs in 17 other departments. The Labor Department, for instance, helps veterans with their training and employment needs. ACTION, the agency for volunteer action, has just launched a cooperative program with the Veterans Administration to reach Vietnam-era veterans in communities where they live, to encourage them to take advantage of their **G.I.** benefits.

To ensure that we have policies which pull together the activities of the entire Government and more fully meet the needs of the veterans, I am today creating a new Domestic Council Committee on Veterans Services. It will be chaired by the Administrator of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Donald Johnson. Its membership will include four members of the Cabinet and others.

I personally urge today that all veterans take advantage of the full range of benefits that are now available in this country. Nothing would please me more than to recommend more money for these programs as more veterans participate.

Each of you listening to me can help, too. You can help by employing the veteran. [p.331] We trusted them with our country's honor in Vietnam. They met the test. Now we can trust them in our industries and places of business here at home.

At the close of America's tragic Civil War, Abraham Lincoln described the duty which all of us share as citizens. In his eloquent Second Inaugural Address, he said:

"... let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and [his] orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations."

Today, a year after the end of another long and bitter war—and only 27 months before America's 200th anniversary—let us rededicate ourselves to that goal by paying respect to the men and women who served America at a difficult time. Let us make sure that a grateful Nation remembers them in deeds as well as in words.

Thank you and good afternoon.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 :06 p.m. from his home in Key Biscayne, Fla. The address was broadcast live on nationwide radio. On the same day, the White House released an advance text of the President's address.

On April 4, 1974, the President opened the first meeting of the Domestic Council Committee on Veterans Services in the Cabinet Room at the White House. Present at the meeting with the President and Mr. Johnson were: Peter J. Brennan, Secretary of Labor; Caspar W. Weinberger, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare; Roy L. Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Kenneth R. Cole, Jr., Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs and Executive Director of the Domestic Council; Michael P. Balzano, Jr., Director of ACTION; and William P. Clements, Jr., Deputy Secretary of Defense (representing the Secretary of Defense). Later the same day, the White House released the transcript of a news briefing by Mr. Johnson on the meeting.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Richard Nixon, 1974 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.328-331

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46 Statement on Signing the **G.I. Bill**.

June 22, 1944

This bill, which I have signed today, substantially carries out most of the recommendations made by me in a speech on July 28, 1943, and more specifically in messages to the Congress dated October 27, 1943, and November 23, 1943:

1. It gives servicemen and women the opportunity of resuming their education or technical training after discharge, or of taking a refresher or retrainer course, not only without tuition charge up to \$500 per school year, but with the right to receive a monthly living allowance while pursuing their studies.
2. It makes provision for the guarantee by the Federal Government of not to exceed 50 percent of certain loans made to veterans for the purchase or construction of homes, farms, and business properties.
3. It provides for reasonable unemployment allowances payable each week up to a maximum period of one year, to those veterans who are unable to find a job.
4. It establishes improved machinery for effective job counseling for veterans and for finding jobs for returning soldiers and sailors.
5. It authorizes the construction of all necessary additional hospital facilities.
6. It strengthens the authority of the Veterans Administration to enable it to discharge its existing and added responsibilities with promptness and efficiency.

With the signing of this bill a well-rounded program of special veterans' benefits is nearly completed. It gives emphatic notice to the men and women in our armed forces that the American people do not intend to let them down.

By prior legislation, the Federal Government has already provided for the armed forces of this war: adequate dependency allowances; mustering-out pay; generous hospitalization, medical care, and vocational rehabilitation and training; liberal pensions in case of death or disability in military service; substantial war risk life insurance, and guaranty of premiums on commercial policies during service; protection of civil rights and suspension of enforcement of certain civil liabilities during service; emergency maternal care for wives of enlisted men; and reemployment rights for returning veterans.

This bill therefore and the former legislation provide the special benefits which are due to the members of our armed forces—for they "have been compelled to make greater economic sacrifice and every other kind of sacrifice than the rest of us, and are entitled to definite action to help take care of their special problems." While further study and experience may suggest some changes and improvements, the Congress is to be congratulated on the prompt action it has taken.

There still remains one recommendation which I made on November 23, 1943, which I trust that the Congress will soon adopt—the extension of social security credits under the Federal Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance Law to all servicemen and women for the period of their service.

I trust that the Congress will also soon provide similar opportunities for postwar education and unemployment insurance to the members of the merchant marine, who have risked their lives time and again during this war for the welfare of their country.

But apart from these special benefits which fulfill the special needs of veterans, there is still much to be done.

As I stated in my message to the Congress of November 23, 1943,

"What our servicemen and women want, more than anything else, is the assurance of satisfactory employment upon their return to civil life. The first task after the war is to provide employment for them and for our demobilized workers. . . . The goal after the war should be the maximum utilization of our human and material resources."

As a related problem the Congress has had under consideration the serious problem of economic reconversion and readjustment after the war, so that private industry will be able to provide jobs for the largest possible number. This time we have wisely begun to make plans in advance of the day of peace, in full confidence that our war workers will remain at their essential war jobs as long as necessary until the fighting is over.

The executive branch of the Government has taken, and is taking, whatever steps it can, until legislation is enacted. I am glad to learn that the Congress has agreed on a bill to facilitate the prompt settlement of terminated contracts. I hope that the Congress will also take prompt action, when it reconvenes, on necessary legislation which is now pending to facilitate the development of unified programs for the demobilization of civilian war workers, for their reemployment in peacetime pursuits, and for provision, in cooperation with the States, of appropriate unemployment benefits during the transition from war to peace. I hope also that the Congress, upon its return, will take prompt action on the pending legislation to facilitate the orderly disposition of surplus property.

A sound postwar economy is a major present responsibility.

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt, *The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1944* (New York: Russell & Russell, 1938-1950), Item 46

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Source Documents of East Room Events

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- Signing of the Establishment of the U.N.R.R.A. (1943)
- Reception of Vice President Chen Cheng of China (1961)
- 15th Anniversary of the North Atlantic Treaty (1962)
- Signing of the Tax Bill (1964)
- First Presidential Scholars Awards (1964)] (R)
- Signing of the Civil Rights Bill (1964)
- Signing of the Joint Resolution of the Maintenance of Peace and Security in Southeast Asia (1964)
- Enactment of the Education Bill (1965)] (A)
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- Signing of the Bill Establishing the Assateague Island Seashore National Park (1965)
- Signing of the "Cold War GI Bill" (1966)
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- Signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (1968)
- Enrico Fermi Award Ceremony (1968) ✓
- Signing of the Rural Development Policy Act (1980)
- Signing of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act (1989)

Stories and Events from the East Room:

- The East Room was an empty, "unfinished cavern" for the first 20 years after John Adams moved into the White House.
- It was not called the East Room originally. Jefferson termed it the "Large Unfinished Room."
- The portrait of George Washington in the East Room was rescued from the British by Dolley Madison during the War of 1812: "As the British swooped down upon Washington and the government fled, she found that the portrait was screwed to the wall. So, she ordered the frame broken and the canvas itself pried out and given into 'the hands of two gentleman from New York, for safekeeping.' (Former Madison slave Paul Jennings said, however, that rather than Dolley, it was two White House workers who did the rescuing)."
- The ceiling fell during the Jeffersonian term.
- The first Union officer killed in the Civil War, Ephraim Ellsworth, was taken to the White House to "lie in state" in the home of his friend Abraham Lincoln.
- Lincoln's son Willie also received services in the East Room when he died at age 12. Lincoln himself was later placed in the East Room upon his assassination.
- Teddy Roosevelt set up a roller-skating rink for his children.
- Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice married Nicolas Longworth in the East Room, who was to become Speaker of the House and who the Longworth House Office Building is named after. The daughters of both Ulysses S. Grant and Lyndon B. Johnson were also married in the East Room.
- Teddy Roosevelt held a "Day-After-Christmas" party for young children. 550 children arrived accompanied by mothers or nannies. Once the entertainment schedule ran out, the children, for a period, ran wild in the East Room.
- In 1939, FDR held a reception for King George VI of England with the Washington diplomatic corps, just before the outbreak of WWII.
- FDR passed through the East Room in a coffin, but was not lain in state in accordance with his prior instructions.

70:50

PR: JOSH

→ Research from interviews
might be worth working
into remarks for East Room
events.

~~Jul 29 -~~
~~Presidential~~

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Special Order.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,

Washington, April 18, 1865.

It is hereby ordered that, in honor of the memory of Abraham Lincoln, our lamented Chief Magistrate, the officers and employees of this Department wear crape upon the left arm for the period of six months.

W. DENNISON,

Postmaster-General.

[From official records, Department of the Interior.]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Washington, April 18, 1865.

It is hereby ordered that, in honor of the memory of the late Chief Magistrate of the nation, the officers and employees of this Department wear crape upon the left arm for the period of six months.

J. P. USHER.

Secretary.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PUBLIC.

[From the Daily National Intelligencer, April 17, 1865.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, April 17, 1865.

To the People of the United States:

The undersigned is directed to announce that the funeral ceremonies of the late lamented Chief Magistrate will take place at the Executive Mansion, in this city, at 12 o'clock m. on Wednesday, the 19th instant.

The various religious denominations throughout the country are [p.3494] invited to meet in their respective places of worship at that hour for the purpose of solemnizing the occasion with appropriate ceremonies.

W. HUNTER,

Acting Secretary of State.

OFFICIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUNERAL.

[From official records, War Department.]

*WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 17, 1865.*

The following order of arrangement is directed:

**ORDER OF THE PROCESSION.
FUNERAL ESCORT.
(In column of march.)**

One regiment of cavalry.

Two batteries of artillery.

Battalion of marines.

Two regiments of infantry.

Commander of escort and staff.

Dismounted officers of Marine Corps, Navy, and Army, in the order named. Mounted officers of Marine Corps, Navy, and Army, in the order named. (All military officers to be in uniform, with side arms.)

CIVIC PROCESSION.

Marshal.

Clergy in attendance.

The Surgeon-General of the United States Army and physicians to the deceased.

Hearse.

Pallbearers.

On the part of the Senate: Mr. Foster, of Connecticut; Mr. Morgan, of New York; Mr. Johnson, of Maryland; Mr. Yates, of Illinois; Mr. Wade, of Ohio; Mr. Conness, of California.

On the part of the House: Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts; Mr. Coffroth, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Smith, of Kentucky; Mr. Colfax, of Indiana; Mr. Worthington, of Nevada; Mr. Washburne, of Illinois.

Army: Lieutenant-General U. S. Grant; Major-General H. W. Halleck; Brevet Brigadier-General W. A. Nichols.

Navy: Vice-Admiral D. G. Farragut; Rear-Admiral W. B. Shubrick; Colonel Jacob Zelin, Marine Corps.

Civilians: O.H. Browning, George Ashman, Thomas Corwin, Simon Cameron.

Family
Relatives.

The delegations of the States of Illinois and Kentucky, as mourners.

The President.
The Cabinet ministers.
The diplomatic corps.

Ex-Presidents.

The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Senate of the United States.

Preceded by their officers.

Members of the House of Representatives of the United States.

Governors of the several States and Territories.

Legislatures of the several States and Territories.

The Federal judiciary and the judiciary of the several States and Territories.

The Assistant Secretaries of State, Treasury, War, Navy, Interior, and the Assistant Postmasters-General, and the Assistant Attorney-General.

Officers of the Smithsonian Institution

The members and officers of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions.

Corporate authorities of Washington, Georgetown, and other cities.

Delegations of the several States.

The reverend the clergy of the various denominations.

The clerks and employees of the several Departments and bureaus, preceded by the heads of such bureaus and their respective chief clerks.

Such societies as may wish to join the procession.

Citizens and strangers.

The troops designated to form the escort will assemble in the Avenue, north of the President's house, and form line precisely at 11 o'clock a. m. on Wednesday, the 19th instant, with the left resting on Fifteenth street. The procession will move precisely at 2 o'clock p.m., on the conclusion of the religious services at the Executive Mansion (appointed to commence at 12 o'clock m.), when minute guns will be fired by detachments of artillery stationed near St. John's Church, the City Hall, and at the Capitol. At the same hour the bells of the several churches in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria will be tolled.

At sunrise on Wednesday, the 19th instant, a Federal salute will be fired from the military stations in the vicinity of Washington, minute guns between the hours of 12 and 3 o'clock, and a national salute at the setting of the sun.

The usual badge of mourning will be worn on the left arm and on the hilt of the sword.

By order of the Secretary of War:

W. A. NICHOLS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

The funeral ceremonies took place in the **East Room** of the Executive Mansion at noon on the 19th of April, and the remains were then escorted to the Capitol, where they lay in state in the Rotunda.

On the morning of April 21 the remains were taken from the Capitol and placed in a funeral car, in which they were taken to Springfield, Ill. Halting at the principal cities along the route, that appropriate honors might be paid to the deceased, the funeral cortege arrived on the 3d of May at Springfield, Ill., and the next day the remains were deposited in Oak Ridge Cemetery, near that city.

[p.3496]

GUARD OF HONOR.

[From official records, War Department.]

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 72.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 20, 1865.

The following general officers and guard of honor will accompany the remains of the late President from the city of Washington to Springfield, the capital of the State of Illinois, and continue with them until they are consigned to their final resting place:

Brevet Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Assistant Adjutant-General, to represent the Secretary of War.

Brevet Brigadier-General Charles Thomas, Assistant Quartermaster-General.*

Brigadier-General A. B. Eaton, Commissary-General of Subsistence.

Brevet Major-General J. G. Barnard, Lieutenant-Colonel of Engineers.

Brigadier-General G. D. Ramsay, Ordnance Department.

Brigadier-General A. P. Howe, Chief of Artillery.

Brevet Brigadier-General D.C. McCallum, Superintendent Military Railroads.

Major-General D. Hunter, United States Volunteers.

Brigadier-General J. C. Caldwell, United States Volunteers.

Twenty-five picked men, under a captain.

By order of the Secretary of War:

*Brevet Brigadier-General James A. Ekin, Quartermaster's Department, United States Army, substituted.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[From official records, Navy Department.]

Source: James D. Richardson, ed., A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, Abraham Lincoln (U.S. Bureau of National Literature and Art, 1910), 5:3493-3496

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127 Address on the **Signing** of the Agreement Establishing the U.N.R.R.A. *November 9, 1943*

Gentlemen, on behalf of the host Nations, I welcome you to this historic conference.

Here in the White House seated about a table in the historic **East Room** are representatives of 44 Nations—United Nations and those associated with them.

The people of these 44 Nations include approximately 80 percent of the human race, now united by a common devotion to the cause of civilization and by a common determination to build for the future a world of decency and security, and above all peace.

Representatives of these 44 Nations—you gentlemen who represent them—have just signed an agreement creating the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration commonly known as U.N.R.R.A.

This agency will help to put into practical effect some of the high purposes that were set forth in the declaration of the United Nations on January 1, 1942.

Coming after the Declarations of Moscow recently, this agreement shows that we mean business in this war in a political and humanitarian sense, just as surely as we mean business in a military sense. It is one more strong link joining the United Nations and their associates in facing problems of mutual need and mutual interest.

The agreement which we have all just signed is based on a preamble in which the United Nations declare that they are "... determined that immediately upon the liberation of any area... the population thereof shall receive aid and relief from their sufferings, food, clothing and shelter, aid in the prevention of pestilence and in the recovery of the health of the people, and that preparation and arrangements shall be made for the return of prisoners and exiles to their homes and for assistance in the resumption of urgently needed agricultural and industrial production and the restoration of essential services." That is the preamble of the agreement which has just been signed here today.

All of the United Nations agree to cooperate and share in the work of U.N.R.R.A.—each Nation according to its own individual resources—and to provide relief and help in rehabilitation for the victims of German and Japanese barbarism.

It is hard for us to grasp the magnitude of the needs in occupied countries.

The Germans and the Japanese have carried on their campaigns of plunder and destruction with one purpose in mind: that in the lands they occupy there shall be left only a generation of half-men—undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive to hope—ready, in fact, to be enslaved and used as beasts of burden by the self-styled master races.

The occupied countries have been robbed of their foodstuffs and raw materials, and even of the agricultural and industrial machinery upon which their workers must depend for employment. The Germans have been planning systematically to make the other countries economic vassals, utterly dependent upon, and completely subservient to the Nazi tyrants.

Responsibility for alleviating the suffering and misery occasioned by this so-called New Order must be assumed not by any individual Nation but by all of the united and associated Nations acting together. No one country could—or should, for that matter—attempt to bear the burden of meeting the vast relief needs—either in money or in supplies.

The work confronting U.N.R.R.A. is immediate and urgent. As it now begins its operations, many of the most fertile food regions of the world are either under Axis domination, or have been stripped by the practice of the dictatorships to make themselves self-sustaining on other peoples' lands. Additional regions will almost inevitably be blackened as the German and Japanese forces in their retreat scorch the earth behind them.

So, it will be the task of U.N.R.R.A. to operate in these areas of food shortages until the resumption of peaceful occupations enables the liberated peoples once more to assume the full burden of their own support. It will be for U.N.R.R.A., first to assure a fair distribution of available supplies among all of the liberated peoples, and second, to ward off death by starvation or exposure among these peoples.

It would be supreme irony for us to win a victory, and then to inherit world chaos simply because we were unprepared to meet what we know we shall have to meet. We know the human wants that will follow liberation. Many ruthlessly shattered cities and villages in Russia, China, and Italy provide horrible evidence of what the defeated retreating Germans and Japanese will leave behind.

It is not only humane and charitable for the United Nations to supply medicine and food and other necessities to the peoples freed from Axis control; it is a clear matter of enlightened self-interest- and of military strategic necessity. This was apparent to us even before the Germans were ousted from any of the territories under their control.

But we need not any longer speculate. We have had nearly a year of experience in French Africa- and later experience in Sicily and in Italy.

In French North Africa, the United Nations have given assistance in the form of seeds, agricultural supplies, and agricultural equipment, and have made it possible for the people there to increase their harvest.

After years of looting by the Germans, the people of French Africa are now able to supply virtually all of their own food needs. And that in just one year. Besides, they are meeting important needs of the Allied armed forces in French Africa, in Sicily, and Italy, and giving much of the civilian labor which assists our armed forces there in loading and unloading ships.

The assistance rendered to the liberated peoples of French Africa was a joint venture of Great Britain and the United States.

The next step, as in the case of other joint operations of the United Nations, is to handle the problems of supply for the liberated areas on a United Nations basis- rather than on the cooperation of only two Nations.

We have shown that while the war lasts, whenever we help the liberated peoples with essential supplies and services, we hasten the day of the defeat of the Axis powers.

When victory comes there can certainly be no secure peace until there is a return of law and order in the oppressed countries, until the peoples of these countries have been restored to a normal, healthy, and self-sustaining existence. This means that the more quickly and effectually we apply measures of relief and rehabilitation, the more quickly will our own boys overseas be able to come home.

We have acted together with the other United Nations in harnessing our raw materials, our production, and our other resources to defeat the common enemy. We have worked together with the United Nations in full agreement and action in the fighting on land, and on the sea and in the air. We are now about to take an additional step in the combined actions that are necessary to win the war and to build the foundation for a secure peace.

The sufferings of the little men and women who have been ground under the Axis heel can be relieved only if we utilize the production of all the world to balance the want of all the world. In U.N.R.R.A. we have devised a mechanism, based on the processes of true democracy, a mechanism that can go far toward accomplishment of such an objective in the days and months of desperate emergency that will follow the overthrow of the Axis.

As in most of the difficult and complex things in life, Nations will learn to work together only by actually working together. Why not? We Nations have common objectives. It is, therefore, with a lift of hope, that we look on the **signing** of this agreement by all of the United Nations as a means of joining them together still more firmly.

Such is the spirit and such is the positive action of the United Nations and their associates at the time when our military power is becoming predominant, when our enemies are being pushed back- all over the world.

In defeat or in victory, the United Nations have never deviated from adherence to the basic principles of freedom, tolerance, independence, and security.

Tomorrow at Atlantic City, the U.N.R.R.A. begins its first formal conference—and makes the first bold steps toward the practicable, workable realization of a thing called freedom from want. The forces of the United Nations are marching forward, and the peoples of the United Nations march with them.

So, my friends, on this historic occasion, I wish you all the success in the world.

Source: Franklin D. Roosevelt, The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1943 (New York: Russell & Russell, 1938-1950), Item 127

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Toasts of the President and Vice President Chen Cheng of the Republic of China.

July 31, 1961

I WANT to express our great pleasure at being honored by the visit of the Vice President of the Republic of China and his wife, the Foreign Minister, and the members of his party who are here with our good friend, their Ambassador and his wife.

We are delighted to have him for several reasons. First, because he represents a distinguished country, a leader with whom this country of ours is most intimately associated in very difficult times and also because in his own right, his own character, his own [p.543] qualities of leadership in good times and bad in his country's fortunes have won him the admiration and respect of all of my countrymen who have seen him. His own military leadership on the mainland, the efforts he has made to maintain the life of his country during recent years, the great contribution which he has made, which was described to me by our Vice President on his recent trip there to rebuild the economy of the island, all these things have won for him a special position in the minds and hearts of all of us.

So we are glad to have him for what he is himself, and we are glad to have him also because he represents and has the complete confidence of the President of his country.

His country and ours are intimately associated. I believe that the visit of the Vice President can do much to make sure that both his country and ours move on parallel lines in the difficult days and months and years ahead. So for every reason, Mr. Vice President, we are very proud to have you here. You are surrounded by friends. Some Members of the Congress had to leave, though they are coming back. But they left to vote for a cause in which all of us are committed, and therefore they serve us better on the Hill than they would here.

The Vice President informed me that Congressman Judd came from a part China which is known for its tight hold on the dollar, where some of the most famous financiers of China come from, which illuminates the scene you have here today.

So we are glad to have you, Mr. Vice President, and I know that all the people here today are devoted to you and your country. You have also sent to us three of your children who have come before you who are, I think, the most obvious indication of your regard for us.

I know that you will all join 'with me in drinking a toast to the President of the Republic of China who has sent us this fine emissary.

NOTE: The President proposed the toast at a state luncheon in the **East Room** at the White House. Vice President Chen Cheng responded (through an interpreter) as follows:

"Mr. President, it is my great honor to be invited to visit the United States. This is the high point in my personal life, especially this morning in the conversation with Your Excellency, that left me with a very deep impression that this will be a great contribution to our national policy so determined to fight against international communism.

"I am very much impressed by the remarks you made, but I would like to say at this time that whatever progress the Republic of China, my country, has achieved, an important factor is the encouragement and the aid given by the Government and the people of the United States.

"With our two countries together, we can march toward our common goal, and with your leadership over the entire free world, Mr. President, I am sure that the future of the world will be greatly benefited.

"All actions taken by our country will be coordinated with the leadership of you, Mr. President.

"Last May, Mr. President, when you sent the able Vice President to Asia, it was a very important and lasting **event** in Asia, because it not only constituted a stabilizing force so far as Asia was concerned, but it gave tremendous encouragement to the people of Asia.

"I would like to propose a toast at this time to your health, and to the continued prosperity of the United States of America."

In his opening remarks the President referred to Shen Chang-Huan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of China, and George K. C. Yeh, the Chinese Ambassador.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy, 1961 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.542-543

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Remarks to Participants in the Signing of Equal Opportunity Agreements.

June 22, 1962

Mr. Secretary, Mr. Vice President:

I want to express my thanks to all of you. Looking down this list of companies we have some of the most important companies in the United States. I think the fact that you have been willing to sign up in the Plans for Progress will carry a good deal of weight with other companies which we hope to influence.

I know that you do this because you are as convinced as we are that all of us as Americans have a very definite obligation to secure adequate employment opportunities for all of our citizens. The whole essence of our country is the idea that the competition for talent and those that have it, those who have ability, those who are highly motivated, those who work hard, will have a chance to [p.506] advance whether it is on a company basis or an individual basis, and that therefore the matter of color or racial origin, religion, and all the rest of it, should not be involved in a society based on the principles which ours is.

Now this requires an effort by all of us. There is no use in the Federal Government merely putting out an order and assuming that that is enough. There is no use all of you doing it voluntarily and, even though that is important symbolically, and then letting it go at that.

This requires, like every useful project, work by all of us. It requires work in the Federal Government. You may be familiar with one of our experiences in attempting to secure some Negroes in one of our service academies. We had to go out and find them, interest them, inform them of the opportunities, encourage them to come in. Now we are bringing them into the Coast Guard for, I think, probably the first time. But it is not easy. It requires a good deal of effort by all of us. A good many of the people who would be helpful to you in your company work may not feel that they have an opportunity. They may not have had a chance in the past; they may not expect it. So it requires not merely your setting up in your company standards and waiting for it to happen. We have to go out and make it happen. And therefore I want to first express my thanks to you, all of you, for signing up. I want to urge you to put someone in your companies, as has been well explained, who will follow it up and who can really show after 6 months that in this program, which represents a cooperative effort by all of us to try to achieve a great national objective, that this can be done, each company working on its own, so that when we get our semiannual report, we can really say that the number of people working in the various levels represent a genuine effort by the companies to secure the best talent available and also to make opportunities available for the best talent.

We have been working on this in the federal Government, but I don't think we have done enough here. It requires constant stimulus. If you look at it statistically at the lower level, I am sure that Bob Troutman probably went through these figures, we have an awful lot of people working in the Federal Government who are members of minority groups, but as you go up higher, it becomes more difficult. We have to go find them. We have to tell them about Government service. We have to insist that they be given a chance. We have to stimulate them and motivate them to come to work for the Government.

I think you will have to do the same or otherwise we will end up the year with a handful of changes. I think it is worth your effort; it is worth your time. We cannot have, as we are in danger of having, important segments of our population who are out in the cold, while opportunities are given to those who are in, based on what we would consider extraneous conditions.

This is only one phase of the whole challenge which is very serious. The number of school dropouts, the lack of skills—this is a real problem, the amount of people who are talented who can do these jobs. Because they don't have the education and the motivation they don't have the talents for the kind of work that might be available. You may have a good many jobs that you would be glad to give to members of minority groups, but you can't find the people who have the skill. You can't find the people who have the skills because they have not had the training and that starts away back before they might have come into your sphere of interest. So this is a very long job requiring the efforts of not only the companies, but the local communities, the school boards, all of us in the National Government, in an attempt to focus national attention on this matter.

I want to tell you that we appreciate your effort. And I hope that it will be possible for people to be assigned to each of the companies who have the responsibility, that the companies themselves will take pride in going to work on this matter. It will not be [p.507] merely a question of acquiescing, but will be enthusiastically pursued with the feeling that you are helping advance a great national cause and of giving people a fair chance. So that is what this program is in the best sense. It is your doing it in coming in and signing up, on your own, and that is the way we want to keep it. And I think if we keep that spirit we can do an extraordinary amount.

I want you to know that we will continue to try to support this effort, support your efforts, and that what you are doing is very much worth your attention.

I want to express my thanks to the Vice President, who has been particularly active as the chairman of this, and the Secretary of Labor, Mr. Troutman, and others, who have been working very hard on this program, and particularly to all of you who have come down here—and I am very glad that this ceremony is held in this very historic room—and engaged in a great national enterprise.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House at a ceremony attended by representatives of 33 major defense contractors. His opening words "Mr. Secretary, Mr. Vice President" referred to Secretary of Labor Arthur I. Goldberg, Vice Chairman of the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity, and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Chairman of the Committee. The President later referred to Robert Troutman, a member of the Committee.

With the signing of the agreements by the 33 contractors present, the number of "Plans for Progress" in effect among the Nation's largest employers reached 85.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, John F. Kennedy, 1962 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1966-), pp.505-507

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Remarks on the 15th Anniversary of the Signing of the North Atlantic Treaty.

April 3, 1964

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a very great pleasure for Mrs. Johnson and me to welcome you to the White House on this very special occasion.

We have with us today the distinguished representatives of the NATO family: the ambassadors and the charges from our 14 North Atlantic Treaty Organizations, the members of the North Atlantic military committee, and an attaché from each of the NATO nations.

Behind our own efforts in NATO are some most distinguished Members of our Senate and our House of Representatives: the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the chairman and the ranking minority member of several of the committees, all of them strong and determined supporters of the United States role in this most important alliance.

We have two or three of the former commanders of the military side of NATO: the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, General Gruenther, General Ridgway, General Norstad, also General Bradley, who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when NATO was founded. And from Norfolk today, Admiral Smith, who is the Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, and his deputy, Vice Admiral Beloe of the Royal Navy.

All of you are most welcome to this 15th anniversary ceremony. I am sure that many of us wondered when the treaty was signed 15 years ago, just as I wondered, whether or [p.434] not this step forward in collective security for the Atlantic Community would ever really last. I know that we can all agree today that it has not only lasted, but it has progressed from its first concept of a military alliance to a true political entity.

I am glad that you could be here with us to express our mutual appreciation and our common interest in this alliance. And thank you again, to those of you in the audience, for coming to the **East Room** of the White House today to hear this broadcast on this notable occasion to the American people.

[Beginning at this point the President's remarks were broadcast over television.]

Fifteen years ago tomorrow, here in Washington, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed. Less than 5 months later, after due constitutional process in all the signing countries, the treaty entered into force. From that time to this, the treaty has served the peace of the world.

This short treaty commits its parties to meet an armed attack on any of them in Europe or North America as "an attack against all of them." for 15 years it has prevented any such attack. Created in response to Stalin's Iron Curtain and the loss of Czechoslovakian freedom, this treaty has lived through war in Korea, the threat of war over Berlin, and a crisis without precedent in Cuba. Each great event has tested NATO, and from each test we have gained increased strength.

We began as 12 countries; today we are 15. Those we have gained are among our most determined partners: Greece, Turkey, and the federal Republic of Germany.

What began as a treaty soon became a Command, and then a great international organization. The number of ready divisions, including 6 from the United States, has multiplied by 5. The number of modern aircraft has multiplied by 10—all more effective by far than any were in 1949. So the alliance is real. Its forces operate. Its strength is known. Its weapons cover the full range of power, from small arms to nuclear missiles of the most modern design.

From the beginning, this treaty has aimed not simply at defense, but has aimed at the cooperative progress of all of its members. On the day of signing, back there 15 years ago, President Truman described it as a "bulwark which will permit us to get on with the real business of government and society, the business of achieving a full and happier life for all of our citizens." This treaty, in fact, came 2 years after we and other friends had begun our historic enterprise of economic recovery under the Marshall plan. Our "real business" was already pretty well advanced.

The 15 years since 1949 have seen the longest upward surge of economic growth that our Atlantic world has ever known. Our production and trade have more than doubled; our population has grown by more than a hundred million; the income of the average man has grown by more than 50 percent. Our inward peace and our outward confidence have grown steadily more secure. The internal threat of communism has shriveled in repeated failure. A new generation, strong and free and healthy, walks our streets—and rides in our cars. Yes, we have done well.

Danger has receded, but it has not disappeared. The task of building our defenses is never really done. The temptation to relax must always be resisted. Our own Atlantic agenda has changed, but it is not short.

Our first common task, therefore, is to move onward to that closer partnership [p.435] which is so plainly in our common interest. The United States, for one, has learned much from 15 years of danger and achievement. In 1949 the solemn commitment of this treaty was for us a historic departure from isolation, and we have many great men, some among us and some away today, to thank for their leadership.

Now it is a tested and recognized foundation stone of America's foreign policy. What Robert Schuman said for France in 1949 I repeat for my country today: "Nations are more and more convinced that their fates are closely bound together; their salvation and their welfare can no longer be based upon an egotistical and aggressive nationalism, but must rest upon the progressive application of human solidarity."

The ways of our growing partnership are not easy. Though the union of Europe is her manifest destiny, the building of that unity is a long, hard job. But we, for our part, will never turn back to separated insecurity. We welcome the new strength of our trans-Atlantic allies. We find no contradiction between national self-respect and interdependent mutual reliance. We are eager to share with the new Europe at every level of power and at every level of responsibility. We aim to share the lead in the search for new and stronger patterns of cooperation.

We believe in the alliance because in our own interest we must, because in the common interest it works, and because in the world's interest it is right.

We have other duties and opportunities. Our trade with one another and the world is not yet free and not yet broad enough to serve both us and others as it should. Our monetary systems have grown stronger, but they still too often limit us when they should be, instead, a source of energy and growth.

In ever growing measure we have set ourselves and others free from the burden of colonialism. We have also set new precedents of generous concern for those that are less prosperous than we. But our connection to the less developed nations is not yet what it should be, and must be. This is not a one-way street, but we must work to do our full part to make it straight and to make it broad.

We remain vigilant in defending our liberties, but we must be alert to any hope of stable settlement with those who have made vigilance necessary and essential. In particular we must be alive to the new spirit of diversity that is now abroad in Eastern Europe. We did not make the Iron Curtain. We did not build the Wall. Gaps in the Curtain are welcome, and so are holes in the Wall, whenever they are not hedged by traps. We continue to believe that the peace of all Europe requires the reunification of the German people in freedom. We will be firm, but we will always be fair. Our guard is up, but our hand is out.

We must build on our tradition of determined support for the great United Nations. We are pledged to this purpose by the very articles of our treaty, and we have kept our pledge. The members of NATO provide most of the resources of the United Nations, and most of its ability to help in keeping peace. When we began we promised that our treaty was consistent with the charter. Today we know that the charter and the treaty are indispensable to one another. Neither can keep the peace alone. We need them both, in full effectiveness, for as many years ahead as any of us can see.

The Atlantic peoples have a magnificent history, but they have known too much war. It is the splendor of this great alliance that in keeping peace with its opponents, it has [p.436] kept the road clear for a worldwide upward march toward the good life for free people. Proven in danger, strengthened in freedom, and resolute in purpose, we will go on, with God's help, to serve not only our own people, but to serve the bright future of all mankind.

[At this point the broadcasting of the President's remarks was concluded.]

Thank you for coming.

If I may impose upon you a moment before I leave—we have in our presence one of the great men of our time, who was perhaps more responsible for the Marshall plan and NATO and many of the good things that we now find in our foreign policy: I would like to ask him to come forward and just say a brief word to all of those who respect him and admire him so much—the beloved former Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Acheson.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. The text of Mr. Acheson's remarks was not released.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.433-436

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Radio and Television Remarks Upon Signing the Tax Bill. *February 26, 1964*

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Leadership, Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

Today I have signed into law an \$11.5 billion reduction in federal income taxes, the largest in the history of the United States.

It is the single most important step that we have taken to strengthen our economy since World War II.

This legislation was inspired and proposed by our late, beloved President John f. Kennedy and passed this week with the support of both Republicans and Democrats in the Congress.

I want to congratulate Secretary Dillon and all the members of the Treasury staff for their diligence and work on this measure through the 13 months that it was pending in the Congress. I especially want to [p.312] congratulate tonight Congressman Wilbur Mills from the great State of Arkansas for his leadership in the House Ways and Means Committee in piloting the bill through the House of Representatives. I want to especially congratulate Senator Russell Long of Louisiana for his able leadership in the Senate. I also want to thank Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia who, though he was very much against the bill, cooperated to the fullest extent and he saw to it that the majority was allowed to work its will and this bill got a fair hearing and a prompt hearing in his committee.

I would like to explain tonight what this tax cut means to you and why we believe that it will strengthen our economy and why we believe it will bring a better way of life for all of our citizens.

The tax cut will have two far-reaching effects:

First, it will immediately increase the income of millions of our citizens and most of our businesses by reducing the amount of taxes that you must pay.

Secondly, by releasing millions of dollars into the private economy it will encourage the growth and the prosperity of this land that we love.

The new act will cut personal income taxes by nearly 20 percent, or \$9.2 billion a year. Nearly \$8 billion of that will flow directly into pay envelopes this year. This will begin immediately. The amount to be withheld from your pay will be reduced beginning 8 days from today.

If you are a family of four, here are examples of how this new tax cut will affect you when it is fully effective.

If you earn less than \$3,000 a year, you will no longer pay federal income taxes.

If you receive wages of \$5,200 a year, your taxes will be reduced by \$135 a year, nearly one-third of what you are now paying. Your take-home pay will go up around \$10 a month.

If you and your wife both should be working and your combined earnings are \$10,000 a year, your taxes will be reduced by \$258 a year or a 20-percent cut.

If your income is \$20,000 a year, you are paying approximately \$4,100 in federal income taxes today. Your taxes will be reduced now to about \$3,400.

Business, as well as individuals, benefit by this tax cut. And small business benefits the most. For example, if you own a small incorporated business, your tax will drop to 27 percent. Your machine shop or your small printing plant with profits of \$20,000 a year will pay \$4,400 instead of the \$6,000 that you would pay under the old bill. ,

On larger corporations the rate will drop from 52 percent to 48 percent. Companies can now pay more of their earnings to those who own their stock and they can increase their investments, which in turn will benefit the whole economy.

These are only a few examples. The real important point is that this bill that we have just signed means increasing income for almost every taxpayer and every business in America; and those earning the least, I am glad to say, will receive the most.

These are the direct, immediate results of this bill. But our long-term objective is to raise the entire level of our American economy. The dollars that you no longer pay in taxes will do this.

The first effect of the cut will be to put more than \$25 million per day into the hands of the American consumer. This money at the grocers or in the department store, the store owners in turn will spend it for their own needs and, in this fashion, the money will circulate through the economy raising the demand for goods several times the amount of the tax cut.

The same is true of the more than \$2 billion which businesses will no longer pay in taxes. They will use much of this money to buy new machinery, for new construction, for goods of all kinds and, most importantly, for the creation of new jobs.

This afternoon in New York a leading industrial economist, Mr. Pierre Renfrett, estimated that the tax reduction will materially stimulate a boom of capital goods expenditures in the year 1964 and 1965. Mr. Renfrett predicts that capital expenditures in 1964 alone will be 20 percent higher than last year.

And one of New York's leading corporation executives told me by phone about 4 o'clock that his company that now invests about \$100 million a year in new capital investment plans to increase their capital investments, when this bill is signed, by an additional 15 percent.

One of the largest employers in America was in the White House last week and he told me that when this bill went into effect that they would make capital expenditures in their company that would provide 18,000 new jobs for new employees.

So this response and this responsibility is what makes the American system work. This is a bold approach to the problems of the American economy. We could have chosen to stimulate the economy through a higher level of Government spending. We doubted the wisdom of following that course. Instead we chose tax reduction and at the same time we made conscientious and earnest attempts to reduce Government expenditures and we are constantly looking at those expenditures.

I am requesting reports from each independent agency and each Cabinet officer each quarter of the year on how they can reduce employees under the number provided in their budget. I am glad to say to the Congress that within the next few days we will send supplemental estimates that will provide for a reduction, not many jobs but 7500 under those that we estimated we would need in January when we sent the budget to the Congress and it will provide a reduction in appropriations that we have requested of \$30 million.

From time to time we are going to carefully study each department and agency and try to bring those expenditures down further. We have been encouraged in that move by the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the Chairman of the finance Committee; they have proven their faith in us by passing this tax bill, and we are trying to—going to keep faith with them by cutting expenditures. By taking this course we have made this bill an expression of faith in our system of free enterprise.

The ability of this tax bill greatly to improve the vigor of our economy rests in your hands as individual consumers and as businessmen. If America responds to this new opportunity with increased investment and expansion, with new production and new products, with the creation of new jobs which we anticipate, then the tax cut will bring greater abundance to all America-then the federal Government will not have to do for the economy what the economy should do for itself.

But abundance is only the visible evidence of the benefits of a healthy economy, more important is what a strong United States economy means to the preservation of freedom in this world in which we live. There is no asset more precious to freedom, there is no guarantee more vital to liberty than a robust American economy. No one can bury us or bluff us or beat us so long as our economy remains strong.

No economic system anywhere has ever [p.314] had the success of the American economy. By placing maximum reliance on the initiative and the creative energies of individual businessmen and workers, we have created here in our land the most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

With your help and the help of this legislation let us unite, let us close ranks, and let us continue to build a nation whose strength lies in our program for prosperity and our passion for peace. This is the kind of a country, the kind of a land, the kind of a nation that offers a better life for you and your family. And it is the kind of a land that we want to preserve and protect.

Again to those of you who served on the tax committees, from the business community to the Members of the Congress present here tonight, I want to say on behalf of the American people, thank you.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke from the **East Room** at the White House. His opening words "Mr. Speaker" referred to Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, Speaker of the House. Later he referred to Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon, Representative Wilbur D. Mills, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, Senator Russell B. Long of the Senate finance Committee, and Senator Harry flood Byrd, Chairman of the Senate finance Committee.

The tax bill (Revenue Act of 1964) as enacted is Public Law 88-272 (78 Stat. 19).

On March 2 the White House released the following table showing the estimated distribution by States of the reduction in withholding tax payments for individuals during 1964 as a result of the new act:

WITHHOLDING TAX PAYMENTS: ESTIMATES OF STATE DISTRIBUTION OF \$8 BILLION
DECREASE IN 1964 RESULTING FROM THE REVENUE ACT OF 1964
[Dollar amounts in millions]

		Decrease in withholding tax payments in 1964 ¹
States		
United States		\$8,000
Alabama		96
Alaska		16
Arizona	56	
Arkansas	40	
California	904	
Colorado	80	

Connecticut	152
Delaware	24
District of Columbia	47
Florida	184
Georgia	136
Hawaii	32
Idaho	24
Illinois	536
Indiana	208
Iowa	88
Kansas	80
Kentucky	88
Louisiana	104
Maine	32
Maryland	161
Massachusetts	264
Michigan	368
Minnesota	136
Mississippi	48
Missouri	184
Montana	24
Nebraska	48
Nevada	24
New Hampshire	24
New Jersey	352
New Mexico	32
New York	936
North Carolina	144
North Dakota	24
Ohio	456
Oklahoma	80
Oregon	72
Pennsylvania	504
Rhode Island	40
South Carolina	72
South Dakota	16
Tennessee	112
Texas	360
Utah	40
Vermont	16
Virginia	168
Washington	136
West Virginia	56
Wisconsin	168
Wyoming	16

¹ State estimates based on State distribution of 1961 wages and salaries. The \$8 billion increase in take-home pay from present levels results from lowering withholding rate from 18 percent to 14 percent for last 10 months of 1964.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.311-314

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Remarks Upon Presenting the First Presidential Scholars Awards. *June 10, 1964*

Mr. Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen:

I cannot say that I am unaccustomed to public speaking. But I do speak before this audience with some trepidation—as a parent who has not yet come close to mastering the "New Math."

Up against your impressive scores and your scholastic records, I can find comfort for myself only in remembering that Thomas Jefferson once said, "Nobody can conceive that nature ever intended to throw away a Newton upon the occupation of a crown."

If there are no aspiring future Presidents here today, I imagine there are some Newtons, some Franklins, some Edisons, some Whitmans, some Hemingways, and, I would hope, a Robert Frost or a Carl Sandburg.

I am very proud to welcome you to the White House as the first "Presidential Scholars." I congratulate you, and I congratulate your parents and your teachers for their part in producing your talents for our times.

You are not here today because you are typical, nor because you are representative, of your generation or of your graduating class. You are here because of what you have accomplished, in your own right, and what you have the capacity to accomplish in the future in your own right.

You have excelled in the scholarship of your class of 1964. You have the potential to excel even more in the citizenship of your country of 1974 or 1984 or 1994.

I have congratulated you. I want now to challenge you—to challenge you to develop and apply that quality of excellence which is within you.

Demagogues and dictators believed of your parents' generation that American youth would prove soft—would love luxury more than they loved liberty—would choose comfort in preference to courage.

Your parents proved that that calculation was wrong.

Today the cynics and the doubters believe of your generation that you will be too content with the average to take on the arduous, you will be too concerned with conformity to be creative, too cool to be committed, and too callous to be caring.

You will prove this calculation wrong, too.

Your destiny will not be a faceless and thoughtless existence in a dull and dreary society. I believe the destiny of your generation, and your Nation, is a rendezvous with excellence.

Early in this century, William James answered those who complained that our democracy had an instinct for the inferior by saying: "... The best of us are filled with the contrary vision of a democracy stumbling through every error till its institutions glow in justice and its customs shine with beauty. Our better men shall show the way—and we shall follow them."

Today—as really never before—we must look to our better minds to show the way toward our society's greatest day. That is your challenge and that is your duty.

You are exceptional members of an exceptional generation. You have been born [p.766] to man's most exceptional opportunity.

You are younger than most of the earth's quarrels, and you are older than most of the earth's governments. You are younger than most of man's ignorance, and older than much of his knowledge.

Since you were born, man has developed both the capacity to destroy human life and the capacity to make life worthwhile for all the human race.

A decade ago, many young people made fear and fatalism fashionable in the fifties. In these sixties and seventies, you have a much broader choice than the alternatives of terror and triviality. You are challenged not to serve the mediocre and the mundane, but to work toward the great and toward the grand.

In our cities and in our countrysides, you will participate in the building of the second America—just as you will also be partners in building the first world of universal peace and justice and freedom.

Today's vote terminating debate in the United States Senate on the civil rights bill is an historic event. Today's action demonstrates that the national will manifests itself in congressional action.

One year ago tomorrow, President Kennedy in a radio and television report to the American people, declared, "A great change is at hand and our task and our obligation is to make that revolution, that change, peaceful and constructive for all."

Today's action by the United States Senate is a major contribution to meeting this national responsibility.

That is your challenge—to give your talents and your time in our land and in all lands to cleaning away the blight, to sweeping away the shoddiness, to wiping away the injustices and the inequities of the past so that all men may live together in a great world community of decency and of excellence.

What you accomplish as individuals-what all of us accomplish as a Nation—depends upon the goals and the values by which we challenge ourselves. The average and the adequate are too low as goals for Americans. Doing slightly more, slightly better year by year, is too slow.

Our aim must be higher; our reach must be farther; our pace must be faster. Our society and its members must aim for, and reach toward, the goals and the values of excellence.

By the standards that you set, by the services that you render, you will show the world that when the doors of equal opportunity are kept open in our democracy young men and young women will respond with an instinct for excellence such as history has never known.

I congratulate you, each of you, for what you have achieved. I am so proud of you.

I honor you for what I know you, and your generation, will achieve in the years to come.

It is good to have you here in the White House today. This will be a memorable occasion for all of us. I am so glad that your work distinguished you so that you could come and be a part of this ceremony.

If I may now be indulged personally for a moment, I would like for you to know Mrs. Johnson and my daughter Lynda Bird.

Thank you.

NOTE: The ceremony was held in the late afternoon in the **East Room** at the White House. The President's opening words "Mr. Commissioner" referred to Francis Keppel, U.S. Commissioner of Education.

The Presidential Scholars Program honoring outstanding students graduating from secondary schools was announced by the President on April 16. It was established by Executive Order 11155 (29 F.R. 6909; 3 CFR 1964 Supp.). The order provided for a Commission on Presidential Scholars which [p.767] would choose, each year, one boy and one girl from each State, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, with additional scholars chosen from overseas areas and 15 designated at large.

The names of the 121 Presidential Scholars, selected by the Commission on the basis of intellectual achievement and potential, were made public by the White House on June 2.

The members of the Commission, headed by Milton S. Eisenhower, president of Johns Hopkins University, were listed in a White House release dated April 28. The release also announced that Jacques Lipchitz, noted sculptor, would design the medallion to be presented to the scholars.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.765-767

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Radio and Television Remarks Upon Signing the Civil Rights Bill. *July 2, 1964*

[Broadcast from the **East Room** at the White House at 6:45 p.m.]

My fellow Americans:

I am about to sign into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964. I want to take this occasion to talk to you about what that law means to every American.

One hundred and eighty-eight years ago this week a small band of valiant men began a long struggle for freedom. They pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor not only to found a nation, but to forge an ideal of freedom—not only for political independence, but for personal liberty—not only to eliminate foreign rule, but to establish the rule of justice in the affairs of men.

That struggle was a turning point in our history. Today in far corners of distant continents, the ideals of those American patriots still shape the struggles of men who hunger for freedom.

This is a proud triumph. Yet those who founded our country knew that freedom would be secure only if each generation fought to renew and enlarge its meaning. From the minutemen at Concord to the soldiers in Viet-Nam, each generation has been equal to that trust.

Americans of every race and color have died in battle to protect our freedom. Americans of every race and color have worked to build a nation of widening opportunities. Now our generation of Americans has been called on to continue the unending search for justice within our own borders.

We believe that all men are created equal. Yet many are denied equal treatment.

We believe that all men have certain unalienable rights. Yet many Americans do not enjoy those rights.

We believe that all men are entitled to the blessings of liberty. Yet millions are being deprived of those blessings—not because of their own failures, but because of the color of their skin.

The reasons are deeply imbedded in history and tradition and the nature of man. We can understand—without rancor or hatred—how this all happened.

But it cannot continue. Our Constitution, [p.843] the foundation of our Republic, forbids it. The principles of our freedom forbid it. Morality forbids it. And the law I will sign tonight forbids it.

That law is the product of months of the most careful debate and discussion. It was proposed more than one year ago by our late and beloved President John F. Kennedy. It received the bipartisan support of more than two-thirds of the Members of both the House and the Senate. An overwhelming majority of Republicans as well as Democrats voted for it.

It has received the thoughtful support of tens of thousands of civic and religious leaders in all parts of this Nation. And it is supported by the great majority of the American people.

The purpose of the law is simple.

It does not restrict the freedom of any American, so long as he respects the rights of others.

It does not give special treatment to any citizen.

It does say the only limit to a man's hope for happiness, and for the future of his children, shall be his own ability.

It does say that there are those who are equal before God shall now also be equal in the polling booths, in the classrooms, in the factories, and in hotels, restaurants, movie theaters, and other places that provide service to the public.

I am taking steps to implement the law under my constitutional obligation to "take care that the laws are faithfully executed."

First, I will send to the Senate my nomination of LeRoy Collins to be Director of the Community Relations Service. Governor Collins will bring the experience of a long career of distinguished public service to the task of helping communities solve problems of human relations through reason and commonsense.

Second, I shall appoint an advisory committee of distinguished Americans to assist Governor Collins in his assignment.

Third, I am sending Congress a request for supplemental appropriations to pay for necessary costs of implementing the law, and asking for immediate action.

Fourth, already today in a meeting of my Cabinet this afternoon I directed the agencies of this Government to fully discharge the new responsibilities imposed upon them by the law and to do it without delay, and to keep me personally informed of their progress.

Fifth, I am asking appropriate officials to meet with representative groups to promote greater understanding of the law and to achieve a spirit of compliance.

We must not approach the observance and enforcement of this law in a vengeful spirit. Its purpose is not to punish. Its purpose is not to divide, but to end divisions—divisions which have all lasted too long. Its purpose is national, not regional.

Its purpose is to promote a more abiding commitment to freedom, a more constant pursuit of justice, and a deeper respect for human dignity.

We will achieve these goals because most Americans are law-abiding citizens who want to do what is right.

This is why the Civil Rights Act relies first on voluntary compliance, then on the efforts of local communities and States to secure the rights of citizens. It provides for the national authority to step in only when others cannot or will not do the job.

This Civil Rights Act is a challenge to all of us to go to work in our communities and our States, in our homes and in our hearts, to eliminate the last vestiges of injustice in our beloved country.

So tonight I urge every public official, every religious leader, every business and [p.844] professional man, every workingman, every housewife—I urge every American—to join in this effort to bring justice and hope to all our people—and to bring peace to our land.

My fellow citizens, we have come now to a time of testing. We must not fail.

Let us close the springs of racial poison. Let us pray for wise and understanding hearts. Let us lay aside irrelevant differences and make our Nation whole. Let us hasten that day when our unmeasured strength and our unbounded spirit will be free to do the great works ordained for this Nation by the just and wise God who is the Father of us all.

Thank you and good night.

NOTE: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 is Public Law 88-352 (78 Stat. 241).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.842-844

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Remarks Upon Signing Joint Resolution of the Maintenance of Peace and Security in Southeast Asia.

August 10, 1964

My fellow Americans:

One week ago, half a world away, our Nation was faced by the challenge of deliberate and unprovoked acts of aggression in southeast Asia.

The cause of peace clearly required that we respond with a prompt and unmistakable reply.

As Commander in Chief the responsibility was mine—and mine alone. I gave the orders for that reply, and it has been given.

But, as President, there rested upon me still another responsibility—the responsibility of submitting our course to the representatives of the people, for them to verify it or veto it.

I directed that to be done last Tuesday.

Within 24 hours the resolution before me now had been placed before each House of Congress. In each House the resolution was promptly examined in committee and reported for action.

In each House there followed free and serious debate.

In each House the resolution was passed on Friday last—with a total of 502 votes in support and 2 opposed.

Thus, today, our course is clearly known in every land.

There can be no mistake—no miscalculation—of where America stands or what this generation of Americans stand for.

The unanimity of the Congress reflects the unanimity of the country.

The resolution is short. It is straightforward. I hope that it will be read around the world.

The position of the United States is stated plainly. To any armed attack upon our forces, we shall reply.

To any in southeast Asia who ask our help in defending their freedom, we shall give it.

In that region there is nothing we covet, nothing we seek—no territory, no military position, no political ambition.

Our one desire—our one determination—is that the people of southeast Asia be left in peace to work out their own destinies in their own way.

This resolution stands squarely within the four corners of the Constitution of the United States. It is clearly consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

This is another new page in the outstanding record of accomplishments the 88th Congress is writing.

Americans of all parties and philosophies can be justly proud—and justly grateful. Proud that democracy has once again demonstrated its capacity to act swiftly and decisively against aggressors. Grateful that there is in our National Government understanding, accord, and unity between the executive and legislative branches—without regard to partisanship.

This is a great strength that we must always preserve.

This resolution confirms and reinforces powers of the Presidency. I pledge to all Americans to use those powers with all the wisdom and judgment God grants to me.

It is everlastingly right that we should be resolute in reply to aggression and steadfast in support of our friends.

But it is everlastingly necessary that our actions should be careful and should be measured.

We are the most powerful of all nations—we must strive also to be the most responsible of nations.

So, in this spirit, and with this pledge, I now sign this resolution.

NOTE: The President spoke in the **East Room** at the White House. The joint resolution is Public Law 88-408 (78 Stat. 384).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963-1964 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.946-947

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Remarks to Members of Congress at a Reception Marking the Enactment of the Education Bill.

April 13, 1965

Ladies and gentlemen:

Last Sunday I signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act into law. I did that on Sunday because I did not want a single day's delay in placing this landmark legislation on the statute books of this country. But the celebration of this **event** could not be complete until I met and thanked each of you who fought the good fight.

I wish President Kennedy, my predecessor, could be here today to see his dream come true, of an education bill for all the people of this country—and also, that Senator Robert Taft, who introduced a bill many years ago, back in the forties, in the educational field, and who said to us in the Senate the day he introduced the bill, "The obligation of the Federal Government is to help build a basic floor under public education in America."

Well, for 18 years we were frustrated as we tried to do just that. We failed because we talked instead of doing. We spoke instead of acting. We concentrated on issues that divided us, instead of the one overriding issue that unites us all. And that issue is the need to help each child in America get all the education that he can take.

Well, now Congress has acted and we are here in this historic room in the White House this afternoon to celebrate that action. You acted overwhelmingly by a vote of 263 to 153 in the House of Representatives. And as much as I love the House, long as I served in the House, and with all the differences I have with Wayne Morse on Viet-Nam, we don't differ on education. And I am so proud of Mike Mansfield, and Wayne Morse, Lister Hill, Ralph Yarborough, Senator Kennedy, and all of the other who are here this afternoon who passed this bill 73 to 18 in the United States Senate.

I think Congress has passed the most significant education bill in the history of the Congress. We have made a new commitment to quality and to equality in the education of our young people. "Better built schoolrooms for 'the boys,' "Eliza Cook once warned, "than cells and gibbets for 'the man.'" And that is what we are trying to do.

I know those of you who sat in on the hearings have heard this many, many times but I hope the people of America can realize that we now spend about \$1,800 a year to keep a delinquent youth in the detention home; we spend \$2,500 for a family on relief; we spend \$3,500 for a criminal in a State prison—1,800, 3,500, 3,500—but we [p.416] only spend \$450 a year per child in our public schools.

Well, we are going to change that.

The men and women of the Congress who supported this legislation—and I want to emphasize that they are members of both parties, most of the members of both parties voted for it, a few members of each party voted against it, it's not partisan—but those who voted for this bill, in my judgment, will be remembered as pioneers of a new day of greatness in America. And as long as your name is called your ancestors and your descendants are going to be proud of it. You mark that prediction.

I look back on my father's service in the Texas Legislature many years ago, and they say he was one of 45. Well, that was a minority. But think of being one of 73 who voted for this bill in the Senate, and one of 253 that voted for it in the House. And your children and your grandchildren are going to be proud to point to your picture and say, "That's what my granddaddy did." And those of you who did not vote for it, they are going to be proud of you just because you served with them!

You ought to strike that. That was not in the text.

Now, I want to say something to you leaders of education, and the church, and other groups who are willing to submerge your differences for the moment to work for the passage of this bill. I think you are going to share in that glory. And when the picture of this day is taken, in the words of one of our United States Senators of many years ago, I am going to paint a picture of this group, and over those who sit in this room now I am going to hang the roll of honor on each of you who participated. You have done your job.

And now the responsibility is ours—the executive department. We must carry on and we must administer it. And I have a very keen sense of that obligation to each of you, and a keen sense to the children of America, to make certain that the program is carried out swiftly and efficiently. And these folks talk about fiesta without waste.

So I am asking Secretary Celebrezze and Commissioner Keppel to move immediately to prepare the Office of Education for the big job that it has to do, just as soon as the funds are appropriated. Upon their recommendation, I am notifying the Secretary now that later I am going to appoint a task force to carry out his recommendation to assist him in the next 60 days on organizational and personnel problems in this area to administer this bill.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget, the Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and others will personally help and make available their best experts for this task, because we want excellence in administration. Now that we have reached a point where we can have excellence in legislation we don't want you to get ahead of us.

Health is important. So is beautification, civil fights, agriculture, defense posture, but all of these are nothing if we do not have education.

I will never do anything in my entire life, now or in the future, that excites me more, or benefits the Nation I serve more, or makes the land and all of its people better and wiser and stronger, or anything that I think means more to freedom and justice in the world than what we have done with this education bill.

Now, whatever else they may say about me, I did not talk to any Senators or Congressmen about this bill, except the leadership—Senator Mansfield and Senator Morse—although I heard my name mentioned out on the fringes several times while [p.417] it was being considered. But you take it from me, I worked harder and longer on this measure than on any measure I have ever worked on since I came to Washington in 1931—and I am proud of it.

How to find the right formula. Mr. Gardner is here today and we had a task force work 6 months on that even when I didn't know I was going to be President; I was just running for President. We had a task force working on trying to find an area of agreement, how to give this bill endurance and life and make its urgency come alive to the Congress and the American people. These were the questions that kept me awake at night. And when we would get a group all hitched up and pulling together and the traces tight, moving down the road, why some male or female would come along and just scatter it in all directions. We'd have to put the whole thing back together again.

Now it is done, it has been acted upon by the Congress, it has been exulted in by the American people and we are ready now to put it into action for this generation and countless yet unborn.

I was never prouder than I am right now. I was never prouder of the Congress, the leadership, both Houses. I could spell them out but it would take me an hour—Speaker McCormack, Carl Albert, Hale Boggs, Mike Mansfield and George Smathers, Russell Long, Hubert Humphrey, our Vice President, and Wayne Morse, Adam Clayton Powell, Lister Hill, Carl Perkins, and all who have worked in this field. Some of them had hearings, some of them expedited hearings, some of them fought off the amendments, some voted for the bills and helped beat them, some offered them. But in the end this is the final product in the American way.

Now this is just the beginning of America's first education bill. I want all of you to know that, Republicans and Democrats, this is passed while I happened to be President. There will be others passed when other men are President—Republicans and Democrats. It is the beginning, though, of new hope in America. But while we are here I am going to call a conference this year, this summer, when teachers can come to it.

I had my teacher Sunday who taught me when I was 4 years old. She is now up in her seventies and she is still as young and pretty as a daisy. And she came back from California where they wouldn't even recognize a Texas teacher's certificate until we got into the war and they needed teachers and they let her teach out there. Of course they didn't know who she had taught when they recognized it—done a bad job. But when I was 4 years old—they wouldn't let us enter until 6, but she broke the rule and held me on one knee and held another little friend of mine named Hugo Kline on the other knee. We located Hugo the other day—he is a barber up in Fredericksburg—and we brought him down to the ceremony. We are both too big to get on her knee now but we put our arms around her.

I told her we are going to have a White House conference on education. And I want you people to go out to the States—we are going to bring the Governors in here, maybe 5 or 7, whatever Secretary Celebrezze and Frank Keppel say, maybe the outstanding 10 Governors who have made the finest record in education in their States, and have them come in here and tell us how they did it. We want to bring in the outstanding teachers, principals, superintendents, college teachers.

My first teaching job was \$55 a month and it was in a college and didn't pay much, so I decided I'd better get down to the lower [p.418] level. Then I taught in a high school. I taught commercial arithmetic and geography in high school and that didn't pay much more. And I finally got down to where I had it made. I became principal of a Mexican school and they paid me \$265 a month—and that is when I left and came to Washington.

But we want to have all these educational people from all groups, the State superintendents, the State leaders in the field, the State leaders and their organizations.

During that period I had my first lobbying job. I became a lobbyist for the Houston Teachers Association. I went to Austin and had to deal with that Texas Legislature—and that will try a man's soul, won't it? But I got them to put on a cigarette tax to help raise teachers' salaries.

We're going to have a White House educational conference this year out here on the lawn and ask all the people to come here and spend the day talking and planning, and preparing for how we are going to improve this bill next year and how we are going to extend the rim a little wider and how we are going to have the other education bills.

I am not going to commit myself to the Yarborough bill right now, but he is smiling and I am going to quit talking about the other education bill until I get out of here. Then we are going to have a health conference here and get the leading health administrators and specialists in the Nation so that we can, when we get—I guess Mike will wait until we get back to pass the health bill, but if he doesn't pass it before we leave he will pass it right after we get back, after Easter. We'll have a health conference, then we are going to have the outstanding people who have led the way in the health field, cancer, heart, stroke, and these things. And then when we get through with that we are going to have a beautification conference and have all of the leaders in that field out in the States—how they made their cities prettier, their highways prettier, and their States prettier, and beautified them.

We are going to have a civil rights conference where we can see the people who have taken the leadership in this field in helping people to have the benefits of education and to share and share equally in the rights that all Americans should have and in voters' rights and in compliance with the Civil Rights Act. We are going to call in leaders to talk on that. We are going to have a so much better and more enjoyable and productive summer this summer than we had last summer if you men get your job done in Congress in time for us to do it! And if not we will do it in the early fall.

But in the meantime I want to thank each of you for coming here. I have spoken longer than I wanted to—I hope you will pardon me for taking this time. But back when I was majority leader I said after having voted for all the educational bills that came before the Congress during that period of time—I had three in the House and five in the Senate while I was there; four were educational bills and the fifth was a vocational educational bill—I said as leader that there is nothing that I think is as vital to America, not even its defense posture, nothing as vital as the passage of educational legislation.

I have longed to see this day come and now it is here. I am going to enjoy it and I am going to celebrate it and I am going to quit now by pointing out what the Secretary of Labor said to the Cabinet the other day: We have 1 million youngsters who dropped out of school this year who could go on to complete their education, and their increased earning power over their life would contribute \$4 billion to Federal income [p.419] taxes.

Well, I am interested in the glories of art and architecture and the finer things of life and education, but I am also interested in income taxes, because that is what we use to pay for these things. And just by the dropouts that we now have we could bring \$4 billion into this Treasury. I think your estimates run a billion, two something, so it is a good financial investment and so as economists and moneymakers you are not bad.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:42 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. During his remarks he referred to, among others, John W. Gardner, chairman of the President's 1964 task force on education, and to Mrs. Kate Deadrich Loney, his first schoolteacher, and Hugo Kline, one of his first classmates, both of whom were present on the previous Sunday at the ceremony for the signing of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Item 181).

The President's father, Sam Ealy Johnson, Jr., served in the Texas State Legislature from 1905 to 1909 and from 1917 to 1925.

Source: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.415-419

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Remarks on the 55th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. *February 8, 1965*

Mr. Watson and members of the Scouts:

I want to welcome you here this morning. It is a particular privilege to have you come and visit this house.

Yesterday, sometime Sunday afternoon, someone around here suggested that this meeting should be postponed—on the grounds that we might not have much time this morning.

I vetoed that suggestion in a hurry. I said we might delay it but we wouldn't postpone it, because whatever comes to this house for decision and action, our first concern always is for the young men and young women of America. For every American President the number one priority and the number one interest has been, and I think always will be, the young people of our land.

I am very glad this morning that we can be together on this 55th anniversary of the beginning of the Boy Scouts of America.

Over nearly the full span of this century, scouting has served our Nation well and served it faithfully. Today there are more than 5-1/2 million members, from 4 million homes, that are dedicated to the goals of helping each boy to become a man of character, a responsible citizen, with a strong and vigorous body, physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

I congratulate all of you Scouts and adult leaders alike. I am especially pleased by your plans for a breakthrough in 1965—to extend scouting to all neighborhoods: rich and poor, educated or not, for all boys of all races and all religions.

Your new program will mean much for scouting, but it is going to mean a lot more for your country—the beloved America that is ours.

You, and all your contemporaries, are members of a challenging generation. You shall be challenged as none before us to keep the flame of freedom burning, to keep the hope of peace from being extinguished. But you will be challenged even more to find for yourselves—and to help others find with you—a new meaning for life on this earth. If the life you know has many comforts—as I hope it will—your life will also have many trials and tests. I believe and I hope that you will be ready for them.

Over the years of this century, men abroad—and some at home—have made great mistakes in miscalculating the character and the strength and the fortitude of the young people of America.

I hope that none today, anywhere, will repeat that miscalculation about our youth or about our Nation.

We love peace. We shall do all that we can in honor to preserve it—for ourselves and for all mankind. But we love liberty more and we shall take up any challenge, we shall answer any threat, we shall pay any price to make certain that freedom shall not perish from this earth.

I know that this is the spirit in your hearts.

Last night I read the winning essays in your Nathan Hale contest. I was impressed by the papers—but there was one I especially liked.

I don't know Cub Scout Jim Karkheck of Durham, N.Y.—but he is a young American and I would love to meet him. He wrote on "Why I Love America," and this is his paper, in full.

"I have three turtles. They have a beautiful terrarium with rather low sides. They [p.167] have everything they could want except one thing—freedom. Every chance they have, they climb out.

"People in many countries in this world lack the same thing. "Not in America.

"In America we have freedom of speech, freedom to go wherever we please, freedom of the press, freedom to worship God as we wish, freedom to choose people to govern us.

"A boy like myself can grow up to be whatever he dreams of being. "That is why I love America."

So, my young friends, the Boy Scouts, I can only add one thing this morning. I hope all we are doing now—at home and throughout the world—all the things we are doing I hope will some day make it possible for all young men and young women to grow up and, as Jim said, be whatever they dream of being.

I want to thank you for coming here and I want to wish you well in the years ahead.

I will take great pride in watching your development as we go down the road together.
Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:07 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Thomas J. Watson, Jr., president of the National Council, Boy Scouts of America. The group of 12 outstanding Scouts and Explorers, representing the 5,585,700 members of the Boy Scouts of America, were selected to present their official "Report to the Nation" to government, business, and industrial leaders in Washington and New York City.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.166-167

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Remarks at the Signing of a Bill Establishing the Assateague Island Seashore National Park.

September 21, 1965

Mr. Secretary of the Interior, Senator Jackson, Chairman Aspinall, Governor Tawes, Members of Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

We are living in the century of change.

But if future generations are to remember us more with gratitude than with sorrow, we must achieve more than just the miracles of technology. We must also leave them a glimpse of the world as God really made it, not just as it looked when we got through with it.

Thanks to this bill that I will sign this morning, we can now do that with Assateague Island. It stretches some 33 miles along the Maryland and Virginia coastline. This is the last undeveloped seashore between Massachusetts and North Carolina.

One-fifth of all the people in our Nation live within an easy day's drive of Assateague. And now as the result of your labors—you, the farsighted Members of Congress—these wide sandy beaches will be the people's to enjoy forever.

They were almost lost. The National Park Service, as Secretary Udall will testify, first recommended an Assateague National Seashore 30 years ago, back in 1935. Many Congressmen and Senators have come and gone since that time. Many bills were introduced in the Congress. Many proposals were made. But few proposals were acted upon and it took us 30 years to make this dream a reality.

Sometimes I think we must learn to move faster. Our population is growing every year, but our shoreline is not. Of the more than 3,700 miles of shoreline along our Atlantic and gulf coasts, only 105 miles—really less than 3 percent—are available to us today for the public to use.

What the Good Lord once gave in greatest abundance have now become rare and very precious possessions. Clear water, warm sandy beaches are a nation's real treasure.

For the rest of this century, the shoreline within reach of the major cities of this country just must be preserved and must be maintained primarily for the recreation of our people. This cannot be done by the Federal Government alone. Conservationists, [p.1007] State governments led by men like Governor Tawes, municipalities led by my good friend Mayor McKeldin and others, the States and the cities working with the Federal Government—all of us must put the bit in our teeth and act, and we must begin to act now if this basic heritage is to be preserved for future generations.

We have already accomplished much. Last year we acquired Fire Island National Seashore in New York—and it is within easy reach of one out of every four Americans in this country. Like Assateague, which we acquire today, Fire Island symbolizes the new philosophy we have in this country of conservation. We are going to acquire our places of recreation where they will do the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

The year I was born, 57 years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt held a great conference on conservation here in the White House. He was a member of another party. He is remembered as the conservation President, and he and the other great conservationist, Gifford Pinchot, rescued millions of acres of Western wilderness from commercial exploitation.

Well, I grew up in that West. I know what that heritage means. And I pledge you that so long as I am your President, I mean to preserve and I mean to extend that heritage for all of our people, East as well as West, North as well as South. I intend to seek out what can still be saved, and with your help, will try to preserve it for unborn generations. I intend to find those oases of natural beauty which should never have been lost in the first place, and to reclaim them for all the people of this country.

Conservation has been in eclipse in this country ever since Theodore Roosevelt's day. Members of the House will listen with care because conservation had barely gotten off the ground when Uncle Joe Cannon, the Speaker of the House in those days, issued one of his many ultimatums, and he said: "Not one cent for scenery."

Well, those days are gone and forgotten, and we are going to start repealing Cannon's law here today. We are declaring a new doctrine of conservation. And I hope—before my allotted time has run out—I hope to see the best and the fairest regions of America a matter of daily concern among the leaders of both parties and among the representatives of all this Government.

I hope to see the preservation—or the reclamation—of those areas become an annual concern of the Congress.

I hope that we will be here several times each session, adding to our treasure and to our national assets. I want to see our unrivaled power to create matched by America's equal power to conserve.

We have already gone far in that direction. We have almost doubled the portion of our precious shoreline in our national park system. And every Member of the Congress that has had a part in that can take great pride this morning. Almost 320,000 acres of sand dunes and beaches are now a perpetual possession of all our people.

Nearly 27 million acres of the most beautiful land in America have been set aside for the joy and the pleasure of present and future generations. I have asked the conservation and park and seashore people to put under the microscope every acre that has been declared surplus by our great Defense Department to see if somehow, somewhere the little people of America might not be able to enjoy this in the few hours of relaxation that is theirs on a weekend.

Most of this would have been impossible except for a conservation-minded Congress led by competent, able, and thorough men. And that is the kind of Congress that we [p.1008] have. The 88th Congress passed more than 30 major conservation bills. And I salute the Senate and the House, and the Secretary of Interior for his leadership in that field. The 89th Congress is already adding magnificently to that record. And we haven't finished it yet.

These, yes, have been memorable years in the history of conservation. But the work is unfinished. We have shown what can be done. And if we can continue the same superb record which we have already begun, then the day will soon come when we can say to our people, "Your heritage is secure."

It was over a hundred years ago that Henry David Thoreau looked out upon the beauty of America and wrote: "It is a noble country where we dwell, fit for a stalwart race to summer in."

So it remains for us, who live in the summer of our greatness as a Nation, to preserve both the vision and the beauty which gave it rise.

And I hope the picture of those of you who have made this possible, who are gathered here for this **event** this morning, will be hung in prominent places in this land where those who come after you can see the wisdom of your vision and your efforts.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall, Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, Representative Wayne N. Aspinall of Colorado, Chairman of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, and Governor J. Millard Tawes of Maryland.

During his remarks the President referred to, among others, Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin of Baltimore and Joseph G. Cannon, Representative from Illinois 1873-1891, 1893-1913, and 1915-1923, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives 1903-1911.

As enacted, the bill (S. 20) is Public Law 89-195 (79 Stat. 824).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1006-1008

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Remarks Upon Signing the "Cold War GI Bill" (Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966).

March 3, 1966

Members of the Cabinet, distinguished Members of the Congress, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen:

During World War II when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first Veterans' Readjustment Act, he stated on the occasion of that signing, "This law gives emphatic notice to the men and women of our Armed Forces that the American people never intend to let them down."

That first GI bill, and later the Korean GI bill, brought, out of the hardship of war, hope for all of our American service people. They returned home to find not just gratitude, but concrete help in getting a fresh start: with educational assistance, with medical care, with guarantees that permitted them to buy homes to live in.

They found opportunity which they used to enrich themselves and to enrich the Nation.

As we meet here today in this historic **East Room** and look around and see our friends gathered, we see the results of that first legislation.

One hundred and sixteen Members of the House of Representatives, in our Congress, received training under the GI bills, as did 11 United States Senators, 12 of the Governors of our States, 3 members of the President's Cabinet, 1 Justice of the Supreme Court, 6 of our astronauts, and 5 of the President's Special Assistants here in the White House.

The first two GI bills cost \$21 billion. Our economists now estimate that they resulted in a return of some \$60 billion in Federal taxes for that \$21 billion invested.

The educational level of World War II and Korean war veterans averages about 2 years above the level of nonveterans. This difference exists primarily because of what the GI bills were able to do.

We made the most promising investment that a nation can make, an investment in the talent and the ambition of our citizens. The return on that investment has doubled and has redoubled ever since.

Today we come here in a time of new testing. Today, by signing a new Veterans' Readjustment Act—that was authored in the Senate by my colleague and friend of many years, Senator Yarborough, and reported in the House by Chairman Teague, with the unanimous support of his committee—we are reaffirming President Roosevelt's pledge of 22 years ago. We are saying to the brave Americans who serve us in uniform, in camps and bases, in villages and jungles, that your country is behind you; that we support you; that you serve us in time of danger.

To say this does not mean that all Americans agree on everything that is done or on every policy or on every commitment. But it does mean that once that policy is established, once that commitment is made, once that pledge is given, we support fully the young men who are the spearhead of that policy.

The Congress has passed this legislation. It passed it without a single dissenting vote. In doing so, it said: We will support these men who are defending our freedom to debate, who are joining in a most historic protest for their country—a protest against tyranny, a protest against aggression, and a protest against misery.

The budget I sent to Congress this year resulted from a very careful study of the Nation's resources. My Cabinet officers brought to my home in Texas, where I was recuperating from an operation, budget requests that they had gone over very carefully that amounted to \$130 billion. They felt that they could not reduce beyond this amount. It was my sad duty to bring those requests in line with what I thought our resources were and what I thought the Congress would approve. And we got them down to a little under \$113 billion.

Of that \$113 billion, over \$10 billion—\$10.2 billion to be exact—will go this year to education and training. When I became President in fiscal year 1964, we were spending \$4,750 million. Although I have been in the Presidency but a little over 2 years, we have more than doubled the amount that we are spending for education and training—from \$4.75 billion to \$10.2 billion—from fiscal 1964 to fiscal 1967.

Education gets more money in this budget than any other items except interest on the public debt, some \$12 billion, and the Defense Department, which, as you know, exceeds \$50 billion.

Well, I must be frank. I had felt that we [p.265] could start the new GI program, and that we should, by providing special funds for soldiers who served in combat areas. Others could be provided opportunity grants through the Higher Education Act. In that way, I was hopeful that we would not ask for more than we could get, or bite off more than we could chew in educational costs.

The Congress considered these measures, and in their judgment, as I say, passed this by a unanimous vote. They felt that we should go far in excess of what I asked for this year. The bill before me this morning exceeds my budget request by more than \$245 million for fiscal year 1967, and by more than \$1,800 million over the next 5 years.

Because it is for education, I am going to sign this bill, even though it provides hundreds of millions of dollars more than I thought it advisable to recommend or to ask for this year.

This is the first major measure enacted in this session of Congress, and a President just must not ignore the unanimous vote of both Houses of the Congress, the two Texas chairmen, Yarborough and Teague, and some 5 million men who will be the beneficiaries who have worn the uniform.

I want to call attention, however, and make a most solemn warning about future legislation. Unless we can balance our requests with prudence, and our concern with caution, then we are likely to get our figures back to that \$130 billion that came over from the departments.

I am going to sign this measure this morning notwithstanding the fact that it goes further than I was willing to ask for this year, because, paraphrasing what Secretary Rusk said the other day in response to a question from Congress, he said, "Well, Senator, could it be that they could perhaps be wrong?" And it just could be that the President was wrong when he made his original request.

I supported this legislation when I was a Member of the Senate, and sometimes you look at things a little differently from one end of the Avenue than you do from the other.

I have tried to take into consideration all of the factors that should be weighed. I have heard the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, and every commander—General Walt this week, General Westmoreland a couple of weeks ago—tell me about the dedication of our fighting men. I am convinced that these brave Americans who serve us on many fronts today, particularly in Vietnam and the Dominican Republic, and others, are the very best men that our country has ever produced. They are great soldiers.

I am going to resolve this doubt in behalf of the Congress, which has spent more hours considering this than I have, and sign this legislation in the hope that when the peace is won, we can provide the means of making great civilians in time of peace out of these great soldiers who served us in time of need.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. During his remarks he referred to Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas, Representative Olin E. Teague of Texas, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense, Lt. Gen. Lewis W. Walt, Commanding General of the III Marine Amphibious Force in Vietnam, and Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

As enacted, the Veterans' Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 is Public Law 89-358 (80 Stat. 12).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.263-265

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Remarks at a Meeting With Medical and Hospital Leaders To Prepare for the Launching of Medicare.

June 15, 1966

Mr. Vice President, Secretary Gardner, my good friend Senator Anderson, ladies and gentlemen:

Not many weeks ago Secretary Gardner briefed me and subsequently I asked him to bring to the Cabinet meeting a briefing on what preparations we had made in connection with the very significant **event** in the lives of all of us—namely, the launching of a new program called Medicare in this country.

I was so deeply impressed with that briefing that I decided to call together at the White House America's most respected and most responsible health and hospital leaders to continue the discussion we began that day. Now, all of you may not be respected and all of you may not be responsible—we will have to see, after you have left town!—but that was our judgment. And we do not claim that all of the respected and responsible are here either, but we do feel that you are a very good cross section and rather representative. That is why you have been asked to come here.

We have started the countdown for medical care in this country. In 15 days from now, we will begin the greatest contribution to the well-being of older citizens since social security was launched 30 years ago. We so much want this program to be a success. I believe that every good American wants it to be a success. I believe that each of you share that hope.

So I want to welcome you to this meeting that we have called, for what I believe to be a very noble purpose, and that noble purpose is to improve the life of our people.

A little later on I will elaborate on some of my thinking in the last few weeks about calling together the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the directors of the nine individual institutes, as well as the Surgeon General, and asking them to commune with the leaders in respective fields in this country, so that in the days ahead we can put as much effort into prolonging the prime of man's life as we are in extending our knowledge of outer space. They both have good purposes. I am not sure they have equal effort and equal funds.

Now never before, except in mobilizing for war, I think, has any government made such extensive preparations for any undertaking as we have made in connection with medical care.

I have one stenographer just assigned to me to write letters to Gardner and ask him if he has thought of this or that. Because I know that out of 200 million people in this country there are still left a few "I told you so's"—even in my own party.

And these people take peculiar delight in saying, "Why didn't they do so-and-so?" [p.606] And these cynics say, "If they had only done so-and-so," and "Why couldn't they have anticipated this?" The fellow that does not have the responsibility always has the suggestions as to how it could have been done better.

So we are trying to anticipate those things and trying to plan for them—trying to get everyone cooperating and working together, to see if we can't do as efficient a job as a voluntary society and a democratic society Can do.

In the past year, through a massive program, we have tried to reach virtually every American over 65 years of age with the news about medical care. Now we may not have reached every one of them—we have tried to, I said. But more than 90 percent of them—between 17 and 18 million—have signed up for elective medical benefits.

Now, to do this we have sent thousands of workers out in the country, into the field, to consult and exchange views with hospital authorities. We have held more than 2,000 meetings with members of the health profession—to say nothing about the hours that we spent testifying before Senator Anderson and Congressman King and the other committees.

We have opened around-the-clock medical care information posts to handle questions about this new venture. We have earnestly, genuinely, sought the advice and the cooperation of the people who could be constructive and who could be helpful—the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and the various high professional groups in this country.

And this morning I want to publicly pay them tribute for their response and for their patriotism and for their public spirit.

Now in these last 15 days we are coming around the bend and we do not want to let up. We are going to try to be in contact with every hospital. We will be available to every doctor and to every hospital officer in this Nation to deal with any problem that may arise.

I have asked that the Governors be specially briefed. I have asked that the Congressmen and the States be specially briefed. I have asked that we send field people to the areas where they need further information and where there is still work to do. And that is being done this week.

But the work on today's agenda is for you to decide. What we asked you to come here for is to help us by giving us advice on how we can best help you to prepare, at the community level, for as smooth and as successful an operation as can be had in this kind of a venture.

Then it will be your job to get action-action at the community level—to solve the problems which could hamper this program.

Now we know there are going to be problems.

One of them arises from compliance with the laws of the land, specifically the Civil Rights Act. In some communities older people may be deprived of medical care because their hospitals fail to give equal treatment to all citizens and they have discrimination practices.

Well, we believe the answer to that problem is a simple one and that Congress has given it in the law itself. We ask every citizen to obey the law.

A majority of hospitals—we think more now than 80 percent—have already assured us that they will. And I am hopeful that most of the others—when it is understood and when it is explained—will make an attempt to come into compliance. But we cannot rest easy as long as any of our older citizens lose their rights because of hospital defiance or because of delay.

Now we are going to hear about these [p.607] cases. Mr. Rayburn, who served here 50 years, used to say that it is typical of the American people to give more recognition to a donkey that will kick a barn down than to a carpenter who will build one.

That applies to all of our people. And to those who still stand outside the gates I want to say this: Please comply. If you discriminate against some older citizens in your community, then you make it very difficult for the whole program.

The Federal Government is not going to retreat from its clear responsibility and what the Members of Congress have written into the law. And I hope that you will not retreat either.

So you are here today to help us make this reality clear to your communities. Because there is always a last minute hope that we can "fudge it" a little bit and we can prolong it and "it won't be necessary." Now that is one problem and it is a serious problem for the 20 percent group, as you can see.

Another problem will face some communities, and that is, their hospitals are always crowded and Medicare is going to add to the patient load. And if the hospital is already crowded, why, we just make present bad matters worse. Now, we do not think this is a national problem—in every State in the Union and in every community. It arises only in certain localities. We have identified those particular localities where we think the problem is most severe.

Eighty-eight counties have serious overcrowding now and we think that is where our problems are going to be. This affects about 3 percent of the Nation's population. And you are going to have ample coverage of that, ample pictures of it, and ample articles about it. I want to prepare you in advance. They are going to broadcast it good. It is going to affect, we think, about 3 percent, and we want to minimize it as much as we can.

In each of these communities your leadership can be helpful and, we think, will be necessary to try to insure the efficient use of hospital beds and efficient use of medical manpower, and to work out wise programs for handling the patient load.

We all know from our experiences in other programs—it may be a local box supper or a local football game on Thanksgiving—we know there are those who abuse their privileges.

And there will be some abuse from all these millions of people under Medicare—because we are all human beings. There will be some who will demand unnecessary treatment. There will be some who want to "fix it under the table," who want a special privilege. There will be some who make unusual requests for hospital care.

Now when these demands arise we want to appeal to you, and through you as leaders down to the very bottom of the grass roots, to try to help us stand firm against these abuses.

Washington is no place to patrol matters in 50 States. The farther you get away from the community, the less efficient you are and the more expensive you are. So we hope that at the local level this can be done. Now we think that these abuses—that you can watch after them better than anyone else; and we want to help you in any way that you think we can help.

There is another problem which deserves attention, and one that we are watching closely. With the start of medical care there may be growing pressure toward higher prices for hospital and medical services.

There is something about full employment: We work for years to try to get jobs for all of us; we work for years to try to get to where we can buy certain things; and as [p.608] soon as we do, although we sell a lot more of them, people like to raise their price a little bit so they can raise their profits a little bit. That is human nature.

We must try to be concerned with these higher prices for hospital medical service or we can undo a lot of the good that we have done. So we ask the responsible medical societies and professional leaders to take the lead in trying to help us prevent unreasonable costs for health services. And the best prevention is intelligent self-restraint by doctors and hospital officials.

Now I hope your discussion of these and other problems today in your own meetings will be bold and frank and thorough. I hope, too, that you will enter into these discussions knowing that you are a very select group in which great trust is placed and which bears great responsibility, and that in my judgment the little program that you will have at your meeting and your participation here in this meeting will make history that your descendants will be proud of.

We still talk about Abigail Adams hanging out her washing here in the **East Room**. Now you are not going to hang out any washing here today, but you are doing something much more significant and much more enduring—and something that your descendants are going to take great pride in.

In a little more than a fortnight, for the first time in the history of America, every senior American will be able to receive hospital care—not as a ward of the State, not as a charity case, but as an insured patient.

I am not 65 yet, but I have known a good many people in my lifetime that were 65; and they have been mighty dose to me. And I have seen the skim over their eyes when they looked at me, wondering whether they were going to be welcome in their sister-in-law's home, or whether their brother-in-law would be happy when they are all there using the one bath, or how they were going to pay the doctors or for the medical services—and how grateful they were for the consideration that the preacher and the women of their church had extended to them in times of illness, and how they loved the doctor that could come anytime in the night, who gave his whole life, even away from his own family, and waited to have his bills paid year after year after year, in drought or insects or too much rain or too little!

And I know that those people over 65 know that this is really heaven itself that they no longer have to wonder how their son-in-law or their brother-in-law or their sister-in-law is going to feel, that they have some little hope that they can get into a nursing home, or if the pain gets in the right place they can go to a hospital where they can get some care—not with a tin cup in their hand saying, "Please, ma'am," but because their Government has provided for it as it has social security.

One of the most memorable events in my life was standing in the Speaker's office in this Capitol, and hearing a man talk about the socialism of social security—how dangerous it was. He was close to me, he was such a good man—and so genuinely believed that it would destroy this country. And I pled with him: Please, please, please go and support that measure; and he finally did. And as I recall, less than a dozen voted against it on final passage.

I look back 30 years now and see how far we have come. No longer would an enlightened, constructive man feel that way about social security. There is not 1 out of 100 who would think of repealing it.

And I think in due time you will feel this way.

I heard Mrs. Johnson say to Secretary Gardner the other day: "Your life must be [p.609] an interesting and exciting one. Tell me about some of the things that you are doing that excite you the most."

And he said, "I think the thing that gives me the greatest sense of achievement and the greatest satisfaction is reading the letters, and hearing the stories, and participating in the work, and doing the planning, and staying up around the clock to see that this burden, this yoke, this 'sack of cement' that these old people have been carrying on their shoulders, is removed—and they now can see the sight of the Promised Land when finally with their card they can go in and have some medical treatment as a result of their Government's planning, and their own planning, and the hospital planning, and the medical planning."

So this is a great accomplishment, a great achievement. It is not just an image or an appearance. It is not something we are just talking about. We are right in sight of the Promised Land—and we do want it to be successful.

Now there are going to be doubters and there are going to be detractors. There always will be. They complain about the consequences. I want to-for their benefit, although I do not want to give them over-recognition, but I want to anticipate it and I want you to anticipate it because you will see it serialized—I want to recall the words of Bernard Shaw and he said, "Nothing is worth doing—unless the consequences may be serious."

I remember a very controversial man in our community. One time when I went to him and asked what he thought about a doubter and detractor who appeared on my horizon very often, he said, "Very little harm; very little good." And there're people that—that really leave little behind them. Very little harm, very little good. You don't have to doubt them, you don't have to detract them, you don't have to pay much attention to them, because what they do is not very controversial. Now we believe-in this country, in the Congress, in the Nation, in the White House—that this job is worth doing. And with your help we think we can do it.

And I am calling, very shortly, a meeting (I want to serve notice on Secretary Gardner publicly because I don't want to give him a chance to object privately) of the Director of the National Institutes of Health and the directors of the nine individual institutes, as well as the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service. I am asking them to come here to meet with me for the purpose of hearing what plans, if any, they have for reducing deaths and for reducing disabilities and for extending research in that direction.

I firmly believe that if we can pull together these men and if we can hold such a meeting and follow it up with having them have meetings with other experts in the 50 States in these particular fields, and then come back and meet with me 3 months later—when I take that checksheet and see just what they have, like when you take a car in to get it filled with—the tires filled and the radiator checked and all those things—we will go down their checklist and we will see what specific efforts they are going to make to reduce deaths among the leading killers, especially arteriosclerosis of the heart and the brain, and various forms of cancer, and to reduce disabilities such as arthritis and severe mental and neurological diseases or illness.

You know it is only since 1945 that death from tuberculosis has ceased to be considered the will of God. And it is only since the early fifties and the development of the Salk vaccine that polio is no longer striking terror in the heart of every mother, every parent, in this country.

Now actually a great deal of basic research has been done. I have been participating in the appropriations for years in this field. But I think the time has now come to zero in on the targets by trying to get this knowledge fully applied. There are hundreds of millions of dollars that have been spent on laboratory research that may be made useful to human beings here if large-scale trials on patients are initiated in promising areas. Now Presidents, in my judgment, need to show more interest in what the specific results of medical research are during their lifetime, during their administration. I am going to show an interest in the results. Whether we get any or not I am going to show an interest in them.

And I hope that meeting with the head of the NIH and the individual institute directors might energize—or make a contribution, I guess, is a better way to put it, to plans for specific results. And that is, specific results in the decline in deaths and disabilities.

At present, a very small percentage of research money is spent on clinical research to test new drugs and treatments on human beings. And until we do this, we won't have any major new ways of reducing deaths and disabilities. But after I have heard plans which may not be specific today, I will then ask these men to return to me to give me more concrete proposals and recommendations that they have received from you and from their own knowledge, say, in 3 months. And then I would hope that for whatever time is allotted me in the White House, that about every 6 months we could come back and see what progress we are making. Because these men are now responsible for over a billion dollars of research and training money. And I want them to be sure that they have the best defined programs and goals that can be originated in this country.

To do what? To prolong the prime of life for all of our people. Now, if I can hold two or three such meetings, I feel that with the deep sympathy and interest and leadership of the President, we will be able to get more results for the survival of our people than anyone else has ever done in the history of mankind. Think about what a laudable objective that is!

I would like to start children to school earlier. I would like to keep them there longer. I would like for them to be prepared better. And I would like to lose fewer of them when they discover America, and keep all those that discover America living as long as possible—and living in a wholesome and constructive and happy atmosphere as long as possible.

It gives me great satisfaction to walk into a home where a person that is 93 years old can go into his shower in his wheelchair and turn it on by himself, or where a crippled lady who is 84 does not have to bend over to open the refrigerator because it is on a platform especially designed for her.

So I want to see us use all the knowledge we can—to better prepare our children so they are better prepared as our adults, and their eyes are tested, and their teeth tested, and that their mental retardation problems are detected early, so that we can save at least a part of this great waste.

Do you know we are taking in in the neighborhood of \$10 billion more this year than I thought we would take in a few months ago? (I said in the neighborhood; that gives me flexibility, I hope, because we really don't know until we get the income tax payments calculated. But we are going to take in several billion more.)

That is a wonderful feeling—to have that much more coming in. Now why is it coming in? Because more people are working. They are being paid more money. [p.611] And as this unemployment is reduced, as their skills are developed, as they are upgraded, as they are promoted, as they earn more—then we get more. And that gives you more to do this research to prolong life and to better educate people.

And what we are doing in this country is contagious. It is spreading to other areas of the world. I can't imagine any field of endeavor, unless it is preaching or teaching or public life, that can be as satisfying as healing the sick and ministering to their needs—and seeing that in this country.

Look at the problem we have in Vietnam. They earn \$65 a year and they die at 35. That is their average life expectancy. But because of the leadership of you and your profession and your group, our life expectancy, because we're Americans, is more than doubled.

We can't be satisfied with that. We are going on and do a better job. And the first job we are going to get on with is medical care, July 1. And then there are going to be other and equally important developments down the road.

Thank you so much for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House before a meeting attended by approximately 300 representatives of the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, and State medical and hospital associations. In his opening words he referred to Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare John W. Gardner, and Senator Clinton P. Anderson of New Mexico.

During his remarks the President referred to Representative Cecil R. King of California, who along with Senator Anderson sponsored the Medicare bill in Congress, Sam Rayburn, Representative from Texas 1913-1961, who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives 1940-1947, 1949-1953, 1955-1961, and Dr. Jonas Salk of New York City who developed the first effective vaccine against poliomyelitis.

The meeting of medical leaders was announced by the White House on June 3, 1966. The release stated that the June 15 meeting would be the last of a series of consultations with the health community held over the past year. During the past year, the White House added, Government officials had participated in conferences with more than 2,000 local medical organizations and had held hundreds of working sessions with medical, hospital, and other groups to develop guidelines for the program.

The release noted that the 1-day working session would include panel discussions of problems which might arise in certain communities with high proportions of older persons. The release also announced that the President had asked the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to establish a special around-the-clock Medicare information service at Social Security headquarters in Baltimore to deal with any problems arising under the Medicare program, and that Social Security district offices would be prepared to respond to inquiries from any beneficiary, physician, hospital administrator, or other individual (2 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 730).

For the President's statement following a meeting with health officials, see Item 293.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.605-611

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Remarks of Welcome in the **East Room** to President Senghor of Senegal.

September 28, 1966

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

For me this is a very special occasion this morning—a time to repay hospitality that is long overdue.

I deeply regret Mr. President, that we could not offer you better weather, but what we have lost in the weather we will try to make up in the warmth and friendship of our people.

Five years ago I visited Senegal to attend your inauguration as first President and to celebrate the first anniversary of your nation's independence. It was a trip I shall never forget.

I remember the excitement of your people as they began their journey toward nationhood. I remember the enthusiasm they expressed toward the poet-statesman who serves as their great leader.

I did not remain only in your great capital [p.1083] of Dakar. I explored your country, just as I hope you will be able to explore ours.

I remember the many faces of your wonderful people. We traveled the countryside to the small village area of Kayar and I met the village chief there, a man whose tremendous strength and dignity spoke through our separations of language.

Mr. President, I believe that we understand each other. I came away from your country with a profound respect for you and for your deep commitment to your people and to your country. We are quite delighted that you are giving us this chance to know you better, to meet our people, and to show you our Nation.

In your official capacity, Mr. President, we welcome you as the head of a very friendly and vigorous African nation. Of course, we know the hardships you have endured. We admire the progress that you have made and we share with you a partnership in this noble venture of free men.

We can have no illusions about the difficulties of the road ahead. To wage a peaceful war against hunger, disease, and illiteracy will take all the strength and imagination that all of us can muster. The United States of America intends, Mr. President, to be a good friend and to be your strong ally in this effort that we will make together.

Mr. President, your presence among us today is a most happy **event**, not only for all of those who are present here this morning, but to those eyes in the Nation which will follow your visit, recognizing an old friend who has come to share with us his warmth, his humor, and his very wise counsel.

So I should like you to know that you are among friends. We bid you a most cordial welcome. And we trust that your visit to our country will be a pleasant one and that you will enjoy your stay among us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. A formal welcome with full military honors had been scheduled to be held on the South Lawn. Because of rain, President Johnson greeted President Senghor on the North Portico and proceeded to the **East Room** for the welcoming ceremony. President Senghor responded as follows:

Mr. President, I am very sensitive to your welcome. I am very happy and very honored to be your guest today here in Washington, because, first, you were our guest, the guest of the Senegalese people in 1961 on the occasion of our first independence day.

I am honored to be your guest, secondly, because you are at the head of the United States of America, the most powerful nation in the world.

Indeed, I admire your material power, but I much more admire your spiritual power, the power of your democracy, of your creativity.

Since you were elected, we are very aware of your policy and we know that you have made much for all Americans for white and for Negro—on the road to the Great Society.

Long live the United States of America. Long live the friendship between the U.S.A. and Senegal.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1082-1083

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Remarks Upon Signing the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967. *November 7, 1967*

Secretary Gardner, Senator Pastore, Chairman Staggers, Members of the Congress, Cabinet, ladies and gentlemen:

It was in 1844 that Congress authorized \$30,000 for the first telegraph line between Washington and Baltimore. Soon afterward, Samuel Morse sent a stream of dots and dashes over that line to a friend who was waiting. His message was brief and prophetic and it read: "What hath God wrought?"

Every one of us should feel the same awe and wonderment here today.

For today, miracles in communication are our daily routine. Every minute, billions of telegraph messages chatter around the world. Some are intercepted on ships. They interrupt law enforcement conferences and discussions of morality. Billions of signals rush over the ocean floor and fly above the clouds. Radio and television fill the air with sound. Satellites hurl messages thousands of miles in a matter of seconds.

Today our problem is not making miracles—but managing miracles. We might well ponder a different question: What hath man wrought—and how will man use his inventions?

The law that I will sign shortly offers one answer to that question.

It announces to the world that our Nation wants more than just material wealth; our Nation wants more than a "chicken in every pot." We in America have an appetite for excellence, too.

While we work every day to produce new goods and to create new wealth, we want most of all to enrich man's spirit. That is the purpose of this act.

It will give a wider and, I think, stronger voice to educational radio and television by providing new funds for broadcast facilities.

It will launch a major study of television's use in the Nation's classrooms and their potential use throughout the world.

Finally—and most important—it builds a new institution: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

This Corporation will assist stations and producers who aim for the best in broadcasting good music, in broadcasting exciting plays, and in broadcasting reports on the whole fascinating range of human activity. It will try to prove that what educates can also be exciting.

It will get part of its support from our Government. But it will be carefully guarded from Government or from party control. It will be free, and it will be independent—and it will belong to all of our people.

Television is still a young invention. But we have learned already that it has immense—even revolutionary—power to change, to change our lives.

I hope that those who lead the Corporation will direct that power toward the great and not the trivial purposes.

At its best, public television would help make our Nation a replica of the old Greek marketplace, where public affairs took place in view of all the citizens.

But in weak or even in irresponsible hands, it could generate controversy without understanding; it could mislead as well as teach; it could appeal to passions rather than to reason.

If public television is to fulfill our hopes, then the Corporation must be representative, it must be responsible—and it must be long on enlightened leadership.

I intend to search this Nation to find men that I can nominate, men and women of outstanding ability, to this board of directors.

As a beginning, this morning I have called on Dr. Milton Eisenhower from the Johns Hopkins University and Dr. James Killian of MIT to serve as members of this board.

Dr. Eisenhower, as you will remember, was chairman of the first citizens committee which sought allocation of airwaves for educational purposes.

Dr. Killian served as chairman of the Carnegie Commission which proposed the act that we are signing today.

What hath man wrought? And how will man use his miracles?

The answer just begins with public broadcasting.

In 1862, the Morrill Act set aside lands in every State—lands which belonged to the people—and it set them aside in order to build the land-grant colleges of the Nation.

So today we rededicate a part of the airwaves—which belong to all the people—and we dedicate them for the enlightenment of all the people.

I believe the time has come to stake another claim in the name of all the people, stake a claim based upon the combined resources of communications. I believe the time has come to enlist the computer and the satellite, as well as television and radio, and to enlist them in the cause of education.

If we are up to the obligations of the next century and if we are to be proud of the next century as we are of the past two centuries, we have got to quit talking so much about what has happened in the past two centuries and start talking about what is going to happen in the next century beginning in 1976.

So I think we must consider new ways to build a great network for knowledge—not just a broadcast system, but one that employs every means of sending and of storing information that the individual can rise.

Think of the lives that this would change:

—the student in a small college could tap the resources of a great university.

Dr. Killian has just given me an exciting report of his contacts in Latin America as a result of some of the declarations of the Presidents at Punta del Este that he has followed through on and how these Presidents are now envisioning the day when they [p.997] can dedicate 20 or 25 or a larger percent of their total resources for one thing alone—education and knowledge.

Yes, the student in a small college tapping the resources of the greatest university in the hemisphere.

—the country doctor getting help from a distant laboratory or a teaching hospital;

—a scholar in Atlanta might draw instantly on a library in New York;

—a famous teacher could reach with ideas and inspirations into some far-off classroom, so that no child need be neglected. Eventually, I think this electronic knowledge bank could be as valuable as the Federal Reserve Bank.

And such a system could involve other nations, too—it could involve them in a partnership to share knowledge and to thus enrich all mankind.

A wild and visionary idea? Not at all. Yesterday's strangest dreams are today's headlines and change is getting swifter every moment.

I have already asked my advisers to begin to explore the possibility of a network for knowledge—and then to draw up a suggested blueprint for it.

In 1844, when Henry Thoreau heard about Mr. Morse's telegraph, he made his sour comment about the race for faster communication. "Perchance," he warned, "the first news which will leak through into the broad, flapping American ear will be that the Princess Adelaide has the whooping cough."

We do have skeptic comments on occasions. But I don't want you to be that skeptic. I do believe that we have important things to say to one another—and we have the wisdom to match our technical genius.

In that spirit this morning, I have asked you to come here and be participants with me in this great movement for the next century, the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.

This act has a host of fathers. Many years ago when I was a Member of the Senate I had a bill prepared—Mr. Siegel drafted it for me—on public television. I had difficulty getting it introduced.

I asked Senator Magnuson to introduce it. He did. I am sorry he can't be here today. But he called me before I came over here and explained to me how happy he was that this **event** was taking place.

I don't want to single out any one person, because there are so many who have worked so long to bring this bill into where it is this morning to be signed.

I do want to recognize, though, in addition to Senator Magnuson, Senator Pastore, the Chairman of the subcommittee who has spent many days, weeks, and years in this effort, Senator Cotton, the ranking member of that committee, Chairman Staggers, Congressman Macdonald, Congressman Springer, all of whom have been part of the team that has brought this measure to the White House to make it the law of our land.

I should like to send a very special word of greeting to Mr. William Harley and the National Association of Educational Broadcasters who are gathered out in Denver today and who are participating in this ceremony by remote control.

As I mentioned before, we are honored to have Dr. James Killian here this morning. We are grateful to him and other members of the Carnegie Commission who provided the ideas and inspiration some of which are incorporated in this legislation.

I think I should add that John Gardner came to me in the early days when he was head of the Carnegie Commission, before we brought him in here, and suggested this Commission and asked me to help participate in forming it and making suggestions.

We are indebted to Dr. Gardner for this as we are to many things that he has done to provide leadership in the field of what is really important in the world—the education of our people.

At this time I am going to call on Dr. Alan Pifer who is president of the Carnegie Corporation who has a statement that I hope will be of interest to all of you.

Dr. Pifer.

[At this point Dr. Pifer spoke briefly. The text of his remarks is printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 3, P. 1532). The President then resumed speaking.]

If there are any other distinguished and generous people, I will be glad to recognize them. If not, I want to express my personal appreciation to Mr. Douglass Cater of the White House staff for the many months that he has followed this legislation and worked on it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:33 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare John W. Gardner, Senator John O. Pastore of Rhode Island, and Representative Harley O. Staggers of West Virginia, Chairman of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. During his remarks he referred to, among others, Seymour N. Siegel, director of radio communications in New York City and a member of the broadcasters advisory council to the President.

As enacted, the bill (S. 1160) is Public Law 90129 (81 Stat. 365).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.995-998

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Remarks Upon Signing Bill Establishing the National Commission on Product Safety.

November 20, 1967

Secretary Trowbridge, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, ladies and gentlemen:

We have come here this morning to sign a bill that will help everyone in this room and, I think, everyone in our country. This is a bill not just for the rich, not just for the poor, but for all 200 million Americans.

We just counted the 200 millionth over at Secretary Trowbridge's department a few moments ago.

Actually, some time ago I appointed a commission to try to discover when that 200 millionth child was born and from the report that appears to have been leaked, he was born on June 21st in Seaton Hospital in Austin, Texas.

As those of you who are here this morning know, technology has brought us many blessings in this country. But many of them are booby-trapped. Far too many of them cause us great tragedy and present great hazards to us in this 20th century.

The homes that we live in can really be more dangerous than a booby-trapped mine field in the battle area.

One hundred and twenty-five thousand Americans are injured by faulty heating devices each year. Many of these victims of the faulty heating devices are the very young who cannot protect themselves, and the very old who are sometimes helpless.

I just wonder about the marvels of this age when I recognize that 94 percent of our people have TV's, and I see how many are occasionally injured on the highway, and I see how many are occasionally wounded on the battlefield—although they didn't even stop to be hospitalized—that is presented to us on the screen.

I wonder if it wouldn't be good to remind ourselves of the 125,000 each year who are injured by faulty heating devices; or

—the 100,000 who are hurt and maimed each year by faulty power mowers or faulty washing machines; or

—the 100,000 each year, mostly little children, who have their limbs crushed by the automatic clothes wringers; or

—the 40,000 each year who are gashed when they fall through a glass door; or

—the 30,000 who are shocked and burned by defective wall sockets and extension cords.

—And there are just so many other dozens of thousands that we don't know anything about because they either didn't know what did it or it wasn't reported.

So this summarizes the fact that we live each day and each hour surrounded by a great many hazards that we know nothing about. The most innocent product can sometimes bring great injury. The electric knife, for instance, that is going to carve our Thanksgiving turkey could injure a member of our family this Thanksgiving. The Christmas tree could flame and kill a whole family.

This adds up to saying that we have lived too dangerously too long. So we have come here this morning to try to accentuate and stress that we are going to put safety first.

We have acted to stop tragedy before that [p.1061] tragedy strikes. We are establishing a National Commission on Product Safety. That is the first commission of this type to ever be established in this country.

This Commission has primarily three vital jobs to do:

—First, to tell us which products are dangerous so we will know how to be on guard and how to protect ourselves.

—Second, to tell us how good our present laws are—if they are good, or how bad they are—Federal, State, and local laws.

—Third, to tell us what steps we should and what steps we must take to protect our children and our families from the hazards that occur in the home.

I want this Commission to come up and make recommendations that are solid, that are solutions. I don't want just another statistical study group.

I want it to act in the national interest in the name of American consumers—in the name of American business, because business is threatened, too, by the hazard of unfair competition from unsafe products.

Now, this happens to be the first major consumer law that I have signed this year. I don't want to blame anybody—and I am not going to call anybody's name—but it ought to be the 12th consumer law. I hope that in due time we will be signing all 12 of them.

We have been here almost 12 months. We have observed all of our holidays. We worked hard on a lot of other legislation. But this is the first major consumer law that the Congress has passed this year, and that the President has signed. We need many others. And we need them now. We ought to have had them already.

We need the strongest possible meat inspection bill. Nobody in this country ought to ever take a chance on eating filthy meat from filthy packinghouses—it doesn't make any difference how powerful the meat lobby is.

We need legislation to insure pipeline safety for people living in the areas where natural gas pipelines run. We don't want gas-filled pipes bursting in our homes and our streets, causing a major tragedy, before we wake up and pass a law that will protect us from that.

Now, I know it is natural that the gas pipelines have some reservations in that field. But they will be the first ones begging after a terrible tragedy explodes upon them. So we ought to take the time now and pass that kind of legislation.

We need a truth-in-lending bill. It passed the Senate some time ago. Interest rates are going up every day. They will be going up more as a result of the financial crisis that has come about through the devaluation of the pound.

Although the Senate acted, and acted promptly, that legislation is still in committee. It ought to be reported and ought to be passed, because people in this country are paying usurious rates of interest, and the poor people pay the highest rates, usually. The poorer you are, the higher your money costs are.

We need to protect our families against fabrics that flame—burst into flames—without any warning—and without the family having any knowledge.

We need to crack down on the con man, the gyp who preys on the aged and who preys on the defenseless. Some of our parents save up all of their lives to buy a little home for retirement. Then some swindler comes along and gets hold of them. They wind up in a useless swamp with a piece of no-good land, or they wind up in a worthless shack.

We are producing the best social security [p.1062] bills that this Nation has ever seen—the Senate is considering one now; I hope Congress passes the Senate bill; I hope it passes it today or tomorrow. I hope the conferees will get together and let no holidays or anything else come between us, so we can put that social security bill, as we recommended it and as the Senate has reported it, on the books.

There are millions of old people in this country sitting, waiting, and wondering what is going to happen. So I hope we can do this. All of these bills we need. We need them badly. I hope some time I can ask you to come back here to attend another signing ceremony. We don't raid the Treasury with any of them. Most of them cost very little and save very much. There is no field in this country that needs legislation more today than this one.

I am happy and proud that Miss Betty Furness and the women of this country are becoming aroused, and the Congress is awakening to its responsibility, and the executive branch of the Government is trying to provide some leadership to give us desirable consumer legislation.

I think the delay of this legislation is bad. But we can pass it and we ought to. It is urgent. It is a magnificent opportunity now for responsible men and women of this country to look at these various measures and try to get behind them.

The legislation costs the taxpayers practically nothing, but the blessings will bring us safety of life, safety of limb, peace of mind, peace of heart. These are possessions beyond price for every family in this land. They await our answer. We are going to be graded on how well we do the job.

In a few months or a few years our people are going to look back at our meat inspection, our truth-in-lending, our gas safety, our flammable fabrics, and all of these things that are crying now for attention. They are going to take out a check card and say, "Where were we? How did we stand? What did we do?"

We can't use the argument that they cost too much because there is very little cost involved.

It gives me great pride to say to the Congress and to say to the people who sponsored this legislation, who helped bring it about, that I welcome it this morning and I will welcome the other 12 measures just as soon as we can get them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:37 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Secretary of Commerce Alexander B. Trowbridge.

As enacted, the bill (S.J. Res. 33) is Public Law 90-146 (81 Stat. 466).

For remarks by the President upon signing other consumer legislation, see Items 520, 539, 541. For consumer bills referred to by the President but not enacted during the first session of the 90th Congress, see note to Item 575.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1060-1062

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Remarks Upon Signing the Mental Retardation Amendments of 1967.

December 4, 1967

Mrs. Humphrey, Secretary Gardner, distinguished Members of the Senate and the House, Senator Hill, Chairman Staggers, and other very able Members of the Congress and members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, ladies and gentlemen:

We are very happy this morning, Mrs. Johnson and I, to welcome all of you here to the **East Room** of the White House. This is the poor man's wedding chapel.

That is one of the fringe benefits of the Presidency. You can have a wedding here in the house and no one in the country really thinks it is cheap. Actually, we decided to have the wedding here because of one of my most recent experiences in a church.

For the information of any who recognize this as a political year, I want it on the record in advance that we are still, Mrs. Johnson and I, personally paying for Luci's wedding. However, that is no excuse for deficit financing, after all, and there is no truth whatever in the story that George Woods resigned because I asked him for a small wedding loan for Lynda's wedding.

Of course, I do feel a little better that I have a real, warm friend over at the World Bank these days.

After spending all day yesterday babysitting and tasting the wedding cake and giving some very high fashion counsel about bridesmaids' gowns and hairdos, I hope that all of you understand that I feel relieved to come here again this morning and to turn back to the Nation's business, particularly to sign some very vital legislation.

The Mental Retardation Act of 1963 was passed under the leadership and guidance and strong support of President Kennedy.

Not many years ago mental retardation was a subject that no one really wanted to talk about. It was shrouded in fear and shame and ignorance. Then a very small handful of very courageous women like Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, Mrs. Sargent Shriver, and Mrs. Hubert Humphrey took up the cudgels to see if they couldn't ask the American people to help them search for the [p.1087] understanding of the cause of mental retardation, and what the American people could do about it.

Slowly, the idea grew that with encouragement and with training, mentally retarded children could be brought around to leading rather useful lives.

The National Government was then primarily interested and started a movement to try to stir all the people of America to action in this very important field.

I think we have made considerable progress since 1963. Yet I think we should know that there still are a million and a half retarded Americans who are without any community support whatever. There are many millions more who need care who don't get it.

Three-fourths of the retarded in this country who do receive residential care receive that residential care in old, dilapidated buildings, buildings that are more than 50 years old. That is where three-fourths of the children are taken care of.

The waiting lines for residential care are expanding year after year. They are growing longer and longer. Some children today must wait as long as 5 or 6 years to be received.

We have less than half the specialists that we really need to provide care and to provide training.

Although we have come a long way toward dispelling the medieval mystery that surrounded mental retardation, we still care for thousands in facilities that are really not much better than medieval.

We have asked some of our ablest citizens, the medical men and the laymen, to probe the causes of retardation, to tell us what can be done to prevent it, to guide us in caring for those who have been afflicted.

At this point, I want to pay a special tribute to the members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. I doubt if there has ever been a Presidential commission that has approached the subject with more dedication, and I hope that we shall be able to say, when their labors have been concluded, that there has never been one that was more effective.

But the fact is, we are still very far behind. We are tragically behind in developing clinics and schools that could help. This bill that Congress has brought to me today will help us get just a part of the facilities that we need. Thousands of seriously retarded children will benefit from it. It will mean the difference between darkness and just a ray of light.

This bill, I think, is an achievement for the Nation. It is a signal of hope for millions of Americans and it is addressed to at least 2 million seriously retarded children. In great part, these Americans have not been crippled by the errors of nature; they have been stunted, rather, by the errors of man. Their minds suffer from the culture of poverty, physical or spiritual poverty, into which they were all born.

Members of the President's Committee have told me about millions of children who are born with normal capacities who emerge from impoverished homes and schools and these experts have shown me maps I wish each Member of the Congress could see, each member of the chambers of commerce and the labor organizations could see. These maps show each case of mental retardation and they locate it with a green pin.

In the suburbs the pins are quite scattered. You see one here, and then another one over there. Downtown the pins are in a clump. They are much closer together. In the inner city and the teeming ghettos, the pins cluster to form a solid green mass.

On these maps that I have seen, the ghetto areas are where the green pins are—are completely green. They look like a good pasture [p.1088] in the springtime when we have had a lot of rain. These areas need attention. These clusters of green pins signify the mental inadequacy of these poor, unfortunate people who need our help.

Retardation may afflict a child not only before he is born, but afterwards. It may be a blow of nature or it may be the result of countless human blows. In either **event**, the Nation suffers as the child suffers and, of course, as his family bears an unbearable burden. In either **event**, I think it is clearly the obligation of the Nation to act to relieve this suffering. It is our obligation to do more than we are doing.

That is the point I want to make. We are not doing enough. We must do more. We are going to do more.

So, today we have come here to begin an effort to care for some of those who have suffered most grievously. Our goal is a society where children born with a chance for a full life shall truly have it. This is another step in that platform that we are building.

For what all of you have done—and no one invited himself to this meeting—those who have been active in this effort and who have shown a conscience and a leadership are here this morning, and to those, my friends, who have inspired these efforts, have provided this leadership, on behalf of the 200 million people of this Nation, I say for what you have done, well done; for what you are going to do, I am extremely curious and very anxious. I will be waiting and I will be helping in any way I can.

Thank each and every one of you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey, wife of the Vice President of the United States, John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Senator Lister Hill of Alabama, and Representative Harley O. Staggers of West Virginia, Chairman of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. During his remarks the President referred to his daughters Mrs. Patrick J. (Luci) Nugent and Lynda Bird Johnson, who was soon to be married (see Item 529), George D. Woods, outgoing President of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy, mother of President John F. Kennedy, and her daughter Mrs. R. Sargent Shriver, wife of the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

As enacted, the bill is Public Law 90-170 (81 Stat. 527). The bill amended the Mental Retardation Facilities and Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act of 1963, approved Oct. 31, 1963 (see "Public Papers of the Presidents, John F. Kennedy, 1963," Item 447).

Source: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1967 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1086-1088

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Remarks Upon Signing the Consumer Credit Protection Act. *May 29, 1968*

Mr. Vice President, Members of the Cabinet, Members of the Congress, my beloved friend Senator Douglas, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I ask your indulgence for being late. We had a rather extended briefing on a subject that means more to all of us than any other subject, and that is how we can get peace in the world.

I have been talking to Mr. Vance since before 8 o'clock this morning, reviewing all the developments of the past 2 weeks. He is preparing to return to Paris. He has been briefing our Cabinet and evaluating for us the developments there.

I assume it is not inappropriate here to observe that back last August we searched our minds and our hearts and our principles and laid down a program which was subsequently announced in San Antonio that we were hopeful would lead to the peace table.

That program was rejected outright and we searched many other avenues and many other conferences.

On March 31st, I reached a decision that if we would take the unusual step of exercising great restraint on our own part by eliminating our offensive efforts over 90 percent of the population in North Vietnam and 78 percent of the territory, if we did that unilaterally, without expecting anything from them or asking anything from them, that might lead to the talk table where we could discuss this matter. If we could talk, that might lead to some agreement sometime.

It was an adventure. There were no guarantees involved about what it would do. But we thought it offered enough hope. I didn't feel that it was a matter that could be involved in partisan-year politics or personal ambition. So for that reason, I said that we will do this to try to get to the table; and to convince not only everyone abroad, but everyone at home that it is no election year gimmick, I made the additional decision not to seek reelection.

We have gone part of the way. We are at the table. It took us a month to get there. Some people were not helpful to us in getting there but we are there, thank goodness. The next question is: "What do we do [p.661] there?" We hope we make progress. We don't know. We have not made much up to date. We can't see the future, but we are going to try. That is why we have been delayed. Thank you very much for your understanding.

Today is a day that most Americans have been waiting for for 8 long years. With this bill, the Consumer Credit Protection Act, we are entering a new era of honesty in the marketplace.

At long last the consumer will receive the treatment he deserves when he borrows money. The buyer will be allowed to know what the seller has always known—that is, how much interest he will have to pay on a credit purchase.

This bill, I think, is an example of government working at its best—government responding to the growing and the changing needs of the people. Good government does respond to change.

Here is just one example of how those needs have grown: In 1946, one year after the end of the war, consumer credit amounted to \$8 billion.

This year the figure will be not \$8 billion, but well over \$100 billion.

Yet all during those 22 years of great growth, our laws did not grow. They have not changed at all to meet these new demands.

The old argument was that telling a man exactly how much interest he would be called upon to pay would confuse him.

Well, today we know better. We know that our consumers should be able to shop for credit as knowledgeably as they shop for groceries or merchandise.

When our parents have to borrow for their children's education or to pay medical bills, they should be told not just how much a month they will be paying, but the total debt that they are pledging themselves to sign up for.

When a housewife opens a charge account at a department store, she will not have to compute how much 1 1/2 percent a month comes to. She will be told that the annual rate is 18 percent, and exactly how much of her total bill goes to finance charges.

When a man takes out a personal loan to pay for a new car, the finance company won't be able to say simply "\$5 down and \$25 a month." The buyer must be told how many months he will be paying, how much of his money pays interest and other carrying charges.

If a man falls into debt, he will not be punished by unreasonable garnishment of his salary. He will not be deprived of food for his family or money for his rent. He will not be fired out of hand.

If a householder or a small businessman falls prey to loan sharks, his body and his property will be protected from extortionists by stiff Federal penalties.

As President, I know of no single piece of legislation which is of more pressing or more personal concern to more of our consumers than this bill. This bill is truly a triumph for truth.

We are establishing today a National Commission on Consumer Finance to continue to study these problems and to make sure we don't again let our actions fall behind our needs.

I don't think any of you know how pleased I am and how happy I am to see Senator Paul Douglas, our old friend, here with us in the **East Room** today. He is a battle-scarred warrior with many victories and many defeats under his belt. But this is one of his proudest victories. This is his bill. He has been championing it for 8 years.

This bill also belongs to many other people. It belongs to our good lady friend, that able Congresswoman from Missouri, Congresswoman [p.662] Sullivan. She fought—and I say "fought"—for a strong and an effective bill when others would have settled for less. She was supported by her colleagues in the House, particularly her Chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee, Congressman Patman, whom I am glad to welcome here today.

It is Senator Proxmire's bill, too. He recognized the needs of this Nation and he saw to it that those needs were met.

But most of all, this bill belongs to all 200 million of us—alert, aware, and demanding consumers that we are.

I want to particularly thank every Member of Congress, House and Senate, for what you may have done to make this occasion possible.

I particularly want to single out one person in the executive department, one of our much overlooked individuals, the career public servant, Mr. Cedric W. Kroll of the Treasury Department. Mr. Kroll is the Government's actuary. He is a veteran of more than 25 years of Federal service.

He and his colleagues in the Treasury's Office of Public Debt Analysis had a tough job to do before we could even begin to get a truth-in-lending bill. The lenders had argued that any bill was unworkable because of the variety of credit transactions involved. They said the requirements were just too complicated to be calculated with accuracy.

Well, Mr. Kroll and his associates didn't buy those arguments. They put their heads together and came up with a set of interest rate tables and schedules that make disclosure of the many varieties of credit transactions relatively simple. They cracked this tough, impossible, big, technical problem that had stalled a truth-in-lending bill for years.

These few men, these quiet, effective men, whom the Government is filled with—men and women like them—are called bureaucrats sometimes in the heat of debate in the Congress. I call them real patriots. They were working backstage and they proved that this bill could be made to work. These men, and thousands like them, are living proof of how our Government works for the people.

We owe this bill and other good bills to our career civil servants who are always working behind the scenes to better our lives and usually doing the things for which we take the credit.

I am proud today to speak for not only our consumers and for all of our people in recognizing our debt and paying our thanks to the public servants who go unheralded, unknown, and unsung, and who make our prosperity and our security better by their careers.

But I want to again pay my compliments and salute the selflessness of Miss Betty Furness, who came here to undertake consumer leadership and who has not only undertaken it, she has provided plenty of it. Thank you very much.

This is unusual, and I don't want to take much more of your time, but we do have another man who has given 8 or 9 years of his life to Federal service in many capacities—in the legislative branch of the Government, in the military branch of the Government, in the diplomatic branch of the Government—and he is one of the great public servants of our time. I want him to take the next few minutes of your time on the thing that is most in your heart—peace in the world. Cy Vance.

AMBASSADOR VANCE. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:

As a result of the President's speech of March 31st, and the actions announced therein, we are now at the conference table in Paris.

It took us a month to get to the conference table. How long it will take us to achieve a [p.663] just and honorable peace at the conference table, we do not know.

The road ahead, I believe, will probably be long and difficult. However, we will persevere in our search for a just and honorable peace so that peace and prosperity may be brought to Southeast Asia and to the world.

Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Hubert H. Humphrey, Vice President of the United States, and Paul H. Douglas, Senator from Illinois 1949-1967. During his remarks he referred to, among others, Ambassador Cyrus R. Vance, U.S. negotiator at the Paris peace talks with North Vietnam, Leonor K. (Mrs. John B.) Sullivan, Representative from Missouri, Wright Patman, Representative from Texas, William Proxmire, Senator from Wisconsin, and Betty Furness, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

As enacted, the Consumer Credit Protection Act (S. 5) is Public Law 90-321 (82 Stat. 146).

On January 20, 1969, President Johnson announced his three appointments to the National Commission on Consumer Finance (5 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., p. 137).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1968-1969 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.660-663

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Remarks at the Signing of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. *July 1, 1968*

Secretary Rusk, Your Excellencies, honored Members of Congress, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a very reassuring and hopeful moment in the relations among nations.

We have come here today to the **East Room** of the White House to sign a treaty which limits the spread of nuclear weapons.

More than 55 nations are here in Washington this morning to commit their governments to this treaty. Their representatives are also signing today in Moscow and in London. We hope and expect that virtually all the nations will move in the weeks and months ahead to accept this treaty which was commended to the world by the overwhelming [p.764] majority of the members of the United Nations General Assembly.

The treaty's purposes are very simple:

- to commit the nations of the world which do not now have nuclear weapons not to produce or receive them in the future;
- to assure equally that such nations have the full peaceful benefits of the atom; and
- to commit the nuclear powers to move forward toward effective measures of arms control and disarmament. It was just a year ago that Chairman Kossygin and I agreed at Glassboro that we would work intensively in the time ahead to try to achieve this result.

After nearly a quarter century of danger and fear—reason and sanity have prevailed to reduce the danger and to greatly lessen the fear. Thus, all mankind is reassured.

As the moment is reassuring, so it is, even more, hopeful and heartening. For this treaty is evidence that amid the tensions, the strife, the struggle, and the sorrow of these years, men of many nations have not lost the way-or have not lost the will—toward peace. The conclusion of this treaty encourages the hope that other steps may be taken toward a peaceful world.

It is for these reasons—and in this perspective—that I have described this treaty as the most important international agreement since the beginning of the nuclear age.

It enhances the security of all nations by significantly reducing the danger of nuclear war among nations.

It encourages the peaceful use of nuclear energy by assuring safeguards against its destructive use.

But, perhaps most significantly, the signing of this treaty keeps alive and keeps active the impulse toward a safer world.

We are inclined to neglect and to overlook what that impulse has brought about in recent years. These have been fruitful times for the quiet works of diplomacy. After long seasons of patient and painstaking negotiation, we have concluded, just within the past 5 years:

- the Limited Test Ban Treaty,
- the Outer Space Treaty, and
- the treaty creating a nuclear-free zone in Latin America.

The march of mankind is toward the summit—not the chasm. We must not, we shall not, allow that march to be interrupted.

This treaty, like the treaties it follows, is not the work, as Secretary Rusk said, of any one particular nation. It is the accomplishment of nations which seek to exercise their responsibilities for maintaining peace and maintaining a stable world order. It is my hope—and the common will of mankind—that all nations will agree that this treaty affords them some added protection. We hope they will accept the treaty and thereby contribute further to international peace and security.

As one of the nations having nuclear weapons, the United States—all through these years—has borne an awesome responsibility. This treaty increases that rest for we have pledged that we shall use our weapons only in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

Furthermore, we have made clear to United Nations Security Council what would like to repeat today: If a state has accepted this treaty does not have weapons and is a victim of aggression, or is subject to a threat of aggression, involving nuclear weapons, the United States shall prepared to ask immediate Security Council action to provide assistance in accordance with the Charter.

In welcoming the treaty that prevents the spread of nuclear weapons, I should like to [p.765] repeat the United States commitment to honor all our obligations under existing treaties of mutual security. Such agreements have added greatly, we think, to the security of our Nation and the nations with which such agreements exist. They have created a degree of stability in a sometimes unstable world.

This treaty is a very important security measure. But it also lays an indispensable foundation:

- for expanded cooperation in the peaceful application of nuclear energy;
- for additional measures to halt the nuclear arms race.

We will cooperate fully to bring the treaty safeguards into being. We shall thus help provide the basis of confidence that is necessary for increased cooperation in the peaceful nuclear field. After the treaty has come into force we will permit the International Atomic Energy Agency to apply its safeguards to all nuclear activities in the United States—excluding only those with direct national security significance. Thus, the United States is not asking any country to accept any safeguards that we are not willing to accept ourselves.

As the treaty requires, we shall also engage in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, materials, and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The needs of the developing nations will be given especially particular attention.

We shall make readily available to the nonnuclear treaty partners the benefits of nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes. And we shall do so without delay and under the treaty's provisions.

Now at this moment of achievement and great hope, I am gratified to be able to report and announce to the world a significant agreement—an agreement that we have actively sought and worked for since January 1964:

Agreement has been reached between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States to enter in the nearest future into discussions on the limitation and the reduction of both offensive strategic nuclear weapons delivery systems and systems of defense against ballistic missiles.

Discussion of this most complex subject will not be easy. We have no illusions that it will be. I know the stubborn, patient persistence that it has required to come this far. We do not underestimate the difficulties that may lie ahead. I know the fears, the suspicions, and the anxieties that we shall have to overcome. But we do believe that the same spirit of accommodation that is reflected in the negotiation of the present treaty can bring us to a good and fruitful result.

Man can still shape his destiny in the nuclear age—and learn to live as brothers.

Toward that goal—the day when the world moves out of the night of war into the light of sanity and security—I solemnly pledge the resources, the resolve, and the unrelenting efforts of the people of the United States and their Government.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:45 a.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. Remarks by Secretary of State Dean Rusk, British Ambassador Sir Patrick Dean, and Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin, preceding those of the President, are printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 4, p. 1045).

A list of plenipotentiaries, representing most of the 56 nations who presented their authorizations to sign the treaty in Washington, was released by the White House on the same day.

On July 9 the President transmitted the treaty to the Senate (see Item 378). It was favorably considered by the Senate on March 13, 1969. The text is printed in Senate Executive H (90th Cong, 2d sess.) and in the Department of State Bulletin (vol. 59, p. 85).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1968-1969 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.763-765

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Remarks at the Enrico Fermi Award Ceremony. *December 2, 1968*

Chairman Seaborg, Dr. Hornig, distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

Twenty-nine years ago, a scientific paper was published which bore a very simple title: "The Mechanism of Nuclear Fission." That paper became the cornerstone for all the later understanding in this field, and its publication was a step toward unlocking the fantastic secrets of the nuclear age.

Today, we have come here to the historic **East Room** of the White House to honor the man who, with Niels Bohr, wrote that historic paper—Dr. John A. Wheeler of Princeton University: scientist, teacher, innovator, pioneer of modern physics, man of thought and man of action.

To the average layman, merely to read the list of Dr. Wheeler's achievements is to realize how incredibly complicated this world in which we live has become. Most of us are not so surefooted as you are, Dr. Wheeler, in the complex world and in the difficult vocabulary of the nuclear scientist.

But there is one thing that all of us—laymen and scientists alike—can understand: It is the idea that the human mind must be free to range as far and as freely as it can—unfettered and unconstrained. You are one who has chosen, like Ulysses:

"To follow knowledge like a sinking star, Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."

Our hope is to sustain and to support you in that voyage.

Today, we honor a great scientist with the Enrico Fermi Award of the Atomic Energy Commission. In receiving this award, he joins such explorers of the scientific frontier as Dr. John von Neumann, Dr. Eugene Wigner, and that great and that good and that talented public servant, than whom there is no better, Dr. Glenn Seaborg, and Dr. Robert Oppenheimer.

But in honoring him, we honor in addition and also the idea of excellence, and we honor all who make the pursuit of knowledge their vocation.

Dr. Wheeler, it is a very great pleasure to me to welcome you and Mrs. Wheeler—and three other generations of Wheelers—here at the White House today. You do us honor by your visit. And you give your country great satisfaction and assurance.

Dr. Seaborg—this may be the last ceremony that he and I will be in together. It may even be a last appearance unless he comes in as he usually does at the budget. I will let you in on a little secret. I think he is the most difficult man in the government to say "No" to, because he is so pure, so conscientious, and such a great public servant.

Dr. Seaborg, this is an award for Dr. Wheeler, but I want to also give you one [p.1160] before I leave.

DR. SEABORG. Thank you. I can't resist the opportunity to say that perhaps I will take advantage of what seems like almost an invitation.

THE PRESIDENT. We should know that as modest as he is, he doesn't require an invitation.

DR. SEABORG. Mr. President, I would like to read the wording of the Enrico Fermi Award to John A. Wheeler and it says:

This award is for his pioneering contributions to understanding nuclear fission and to developing the technology of plutonium production reactors and his continuing broad contributions to nuclear science. And I might say, ladies and gentlemen, this award is signed Lyndon B. Johnson, the President of the United States and, also, incidentally by the five Atomic Energy Commissioners.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:45 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his opening words he referred to Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, and Dr. Donald F. Hornig, Special Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology.

During his remarks the President referred to Niels Bohr, Danish physicist, who developed the hypothesis of nuclear fission, Dr. John von Neumann, adviser to the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos, N. Mex., which developed the atomic bomb, and former member of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Eugene Paul Wigner, physicist and developer of preliminary nuclear research in the United States, director of research at Clinton Laboratory, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and former member of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission, and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the Manhattan Project and former Chairman of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Following the presentation of the award, Dr. Wheeler spoke briefly. His remarks are printed in the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents (vol. 4, p. 1657).

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, 1968-1969 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1159-1160

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Rural Development Policy Act of 1980

Remarks on **Signing** S. 670 Into Law.

September 24, 1980

THE PRESIDENT. Senator Leahy and Congressman Wes Watkins, Congressman Nolan and others who are assembled here, ladies and gentlemen who are interested in the future of rural America—future of America:

This event brings back very special memories to me. In 1972 when I was a Governor, I was privileged to appear in Tifton before Senator Talmadge and Senator Hubert Humphrey, who were having hearings then on the Rural Development Act of that year.

It was an exciting thing for me to meet with these two leaders and to see the enthusiasm with which the people of south Georgia, the rural area of my State, welcomed an opportunity to spell out their own needs to the Congress of the United States with a hope that some of their ideals and some of their dreams could be realized. That landmark bill, as you know, expanded the rural development mission of the Farmers Home Administration and gave the Secretary of Agriculture responsibility for developing and coordinating rural development activities throughout the Federal Government.

Many of you here were involved in the evolution of that legislation. Unfortunately, the opportunity which was presented for the Rural Development Act of 1972 and what it offered to those who supported it has never been fully realized, and its full impact has never been grasped. The basic reason was a lack of commitment to creating a comprehensive rural policy throughout the executive branch of Government and a lack of vision to see the tremendous potential for our entire Nation—not just for rural communities—and for the land and the urban communities of this country.

When I took office with this memory fresh in my mind, I took action to correct this defect in our societal life, to establish consistent and overall approaches to the needs of both our cities and our rural areas. No one in contemporary America articulated the need for this balanced approach more eloquently nor more fervently than did the late Senator Hubert Humphrey. And I appointed men and women to my own administration, including the Vice President and certainly the Secretary of Agriculture, who shared Senator Humphrey's sense of the interdependence between urban America on the one hand, and rural America on the other.

The pride which all of us feel today in what we have accomplished is not only well-justified but is also deeply personal for many in this room. This is a bright prospect for our country. I know how important this gathering is because I know how important rural America is to our country. As a farmboy myself, as an organizer and administrator for a number of years of a seven-county rural development planning commission, as a State senator representing a rural district, and also as a Governor representing a predominantly rural State and, of course, as President, I believe I know rural America very well.

I know its greatness, I know its beauty, and I know its strength. I know its resilience in time of trouble and trial and testing, and I know the character of the people who live in rural America and the critically important role they play in the production of food and fiber, of energy, of wood and minerals.

I've just finished a trip to some of the key States of our Nation—to Illinois, to [p.1917] California, to Oregon, to Washington—and everywhere I went I saw vividly displayed the contribution to our Nation's strategic strength of our agricultural production, particularly with the exports to foreign countries which are rising so rapidly.

I understand the ultimate strategic value of our land and what it means now and what it can mean in the future as a force for peace, for extending the beneficent influence of our country in a constructive and a peaceful way throughout the other nations of the world.

I also know the problems of rural America: the relatively low quality of housing for many who are poverty-stricken; the isolation of a rural family; the absence of any sort of public transportation; and the deprivation of services that most of us take for granted; the very high incidence of some kinds of disease; the lack of adequate medical care for those who suffer; the lack of facilities for the aged; and the fragmentation of families, because of poverty, with shrinking landholdings and very high requirements for investment in farm machinery to stay economically viable. The rapid changes taking place in rural America, some of it uncontrollable, some of those changes not adequately assuaged in the lives of people most directly affected, the hardships and deprivations are vivid memories in my mind.

Some of you have heard me say that the greatest single event in my life was not being elected President, but when the lights were turned on in our house by the REA. Our life was transformed; a family that had been burdened down with literally 16 or 18 hours of hard work per day, with little opportunity for outside interest except to go to school and to go to church, was certainly broadened with some leisure time and some responsibility, on a national basis, to protect that vital program which had been so hard in being born.

This kind of advance has also been important to me, and just as we counted on the Rural Electrification Administration to light up rural America 40 years ago, so today we're counting on that same agency and hundreds of rural electric cooperatives across this Nation to help us achieve a future of energy independence.

Those rural electric co-ops, with the intimate involvement of the customers who comprise them, can be on the cutting edge of advances so important to us in energy conservation and, therefore, increasing the security of our country. You might be interested in knowing that 44 percent of all the rural electric loans ever made by REA have been made during the last 3 1/2 years since I've been President.

I also know, personally, the tremendous help that the Farm Security Administration and its successor, the Farmers Home Administration, have been in providing credit to buy land, to plant crops, and to modernize equipment.

Today, the Farmers Home Administration is assisting rural families both on and off the farm to build or to rehabilitate their homes, to build water and sewer systems, and to obtain the necessary credit to own and to operate job-producing businesses, primarily on the farm; in some cases, through cooperative efforts off the farm.

The Farmers Home Administration, in cooperating with other Federal and State agencies, is financing the building of clinics to make health care more accessible and affordable for isolated rural residents, the building and rehabilitation of transportation systems, and the construction of gasohol plants—I visited one in Springfield, Illinois, this week—and other energy facilities. To help it undertake these new and expanded ventures, [p.1918] while still meeting its traditional mandate to serve family farmers, we provided resources to the Farmers Home Administration equal to half of all the loans and grants ever made during its 44-year history.

This deep commitment on the part of my administration, with the good assistance of the Congressmen here and others with them, is an indication of the importance that we attach to the REA and its various programs and the Farmers Home Administration. The rural resources of the Economic Development Administration have nearly doubled during the last 3 1/2 years.

But most important of all, this administration has forged the Nation's first comprehensive small community and rural development policy. We've already made significant strides in accomplishing many of the initiatives—such as those I've described in energy, health, housing, transportation, and services for the elderly—called for in that policy hammered out, not by us in an isolated environment of the White House or the Congress, but hammered out with full consultations among rural leaders from throughout this country, who have assembled in their own regions and who came to the Cabinet Room or the Oval Office and met with the congressional leaders on the Hill. This is indeed a rural program of comprehensive development, initiated and controlled and forged at the grassroots level.

We've entered into a close partnership with the Nation's Governors and with local officials and with private leaders to make sure that the success of this program is guaranteed. Today I am pleased to sign the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980, which places into law many of the reforms that were developed by this rural policy. It also creates the position of Under Secretary of Agriculture for Small Community and Rural Development.

This legislation will enable the Farmers Home Administration to assist small communities in establishing circuit-rider programs, to provide assistance in economic and community development. I'm today directing the Farmers Home Administration to act promptly to make funding immediately available for these circuit riders, who will go into a community, assess what can be done, that the initiative be from the local people, but provide counsel and assistance as necessary.

This bill also extends our authority to conduct rural development research and extension activities. While we've made good progress in identifying our objectives and charting our course, all of us know that much remains to be done. With the tools provided in this bill and with the continued support and dedication and hard work of all of you and the people whom you represent in the small towns and communities in the countryside of rural America, we'll make even more progress in the future.

After I sign this bill, in the next few minutes, I would then like to call on Senator Leahy, one of the sponsors of this measure and a champion of rural development in Congress to say a few words. And substituting for Tom Foley, the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I'd like to call on Congressman Wes Watkins, who's the Chairman of the Rural Caucus to say a few words, outlining from their points of view how important this legislation is to rural America, all those who live there, and what their contribution is to our great country. Thank you very much.

SENATOR LEAHY. Thank you very much, Mr. President. You know, as a Vermonter, I naturally feel a great thrill any time to come to the White House. [p.1919] Quite frankly, sir, the two most thrilling times that I've felt were last December when you and I talked about the rural policy statement and today, actually see it signed into law.

I think that of all the many things that you can be proud of, and there are so many, that for all of us who live in rural America, whether it's in Vermont or Georgia or anywhere else in the country, you can be most proud of this. Everybody looks for a way to reduce Federal waste, to cut redtape, to improve program efficiency, to expand services to the needy, without causing large increases in the Federal budget. But in this, not only have we done that, not only have we removed a great deal of bureaucracy, but what we have done far more, Mr. President, is that we've moved on to help those 4 million rural households without running water for sewage facilities, the 20,000 small towns with no public transportation system, the 26 million rural Americans living in medically underserved areas. What we've done really, no less than to say to one-third—one-third of the people of our great country—that they are indeed part of our great country. And, Mr. President, we all owe you a great deal of thanks for this.

REPRESENTATIVE WATKINS. I would like to express my thanks to President Jimmy Carter, my colleagues, and many of you who've supported this particular piece of legislation. And I think it's only fitting that a chapter secretary of the Plains, Georgia, FFA signed into law a major piece of legislation for this country.

I'd like to make a point. I hope this is not missed by the media here—the significance of this bill as far as this particular Congressman goes.

How many of you read the book by John Steinbeck, "The Grapes of Wrath"? Well, some of you may not have read between the lines, but this movement that occurred at that time, Mr. President, was the largest movement of people ever recorded in history, the largest migration of people, the largest uprooting of families ever recorded in the history of our country.

At the same time this was occurring on up in the forties there, our country saw fit to write the Marshall plan, to rebuild the economic base of Europe. Twenty years later, during the riots of the sixties, Mr. President, our country—and probably rightly so, where many of our loved ones had gone—saw fit to write a massive urban renewal program. But, Mr. President, our country has never seen fit to write a program to rebuild rural America. And I think this is the significance of this particular piece of legislation.

This is a piece of legislation that will grant us, for the first time, a voice in Federal Government—to speak out for equity and fairness in the programs. And we've got a lot to do, when only 17 percent of the money from community development bloc grants goes to communities of less than 50,000 while only 25 percent of UDAG moneys go to people in communities of less than 50,000; where only 7 percent of the money for handicapped children in education goes to rural America, and our children are handicapped also out there.

So, Mr. President, I want to say thank you for a beginning, for a step forward, and we look forward to working with you for 5 more years in doing the job.

THE PRESIDENT. I know all of you appreciate these two excellent statements, obviously from the bottom of the hearts of those who made them. And I agree with Wes Watkins that this is a long delayed step in the right direction toward giving equality of treatment to the millions of families who live in rural America, whose voice has not always been as strong [p. 1920] as it might have been where the organizational cohesiveness has deprived them of an adequate voice and influence.

But I believe, in the future, that what we do for these families and for these communities will pay rich dividends for our country. And as Pat Leahy pointed out, this is not an additional bureaucratic structure, not a massive allotment of new Federal funds, not a very costly program. It will be an additional burden for the taxpayers of this Nation, but a coordination of programs as they presently exist and an establishment of a degree of equity and fairness that is indeed long overdue.

An ancillary part of this bill which I've just signed will provide good water resource supplies for South Dakota. It just happens that these two issues have been brought together, and Congressman Daschle and Senator McGovern deserve a lot of credit for that, to make sure that water resources money is spent wisely and effectively, so that the ill-advised project is being phased out, and a very badly needed project in that State is being approved.

Again, let me express my deep thanks to the Members of Congress who've been so instrumental in making this progress possible, and particularly to thank all of you who helped to forge this project and whose success will depend upon how well you perform your jobs in the future.

I don't have any doubt about the success. It's a good day for rural America, indeed, for America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1: 48 p.m. at the **signing** ceremony in the **East Room** at the White House.

Following the President's departure from the **East Room**, Assistant to the President Jack H. Watson, Jr., and Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Jim Williams addressed the audience. The remarks of Mr. Watson and Deputy Secretary Williams are included in the White House press release.

Source: Federal Register Division. National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, Jimmy Carter, 1980-1981 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.1916-1920

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Remarks on Signing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission Extension Act

May 17, 1989

Mrs. King. President Bush, Vice President Quayle, Members of the Cabinet and the Congress, and to all of my friends and supporters, ladies and gentlemen, this is a great occasion for those of us who have struggled to make a reality the dream of Martin Luther King, Jr., and this is a continuing effort in that direction to institutionalize his teachings and his great legacy. It is a great honor to join with you on this historic occasion in this ceremony today.

First, I want to thank Congressman John Conyers on the House side and Senator Sam Nunn on the Senate side for all of their outstanding leadership as sponsors of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Legislation Extension Act, and all of the congressional cosponsors from both sides of the aisle who helped to pass this legislation extending the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday Commission. I can say that it was genuinely a great bipartisan victory in the spirit of President Bush's Inaugural Address, and I want to thank all of the Members who have cooperated so beautifully. With pride and the highest hopes for the future, it gives me greatest pleasure to thank our President for his outstanding leadership in helping to make our newest national holiday all that it should be, all that it must be if we are to fulfill the promise of democracy.

The observance of this holiday is both an important learning experience and a call to action to address injustice anywhere. Through the holiday, we can learn about the values and responsibilities of our democracy. We can learn about how a great vision and a great nation began to confront and nonviolently challenge institutional racism. We can honor our obligation to protest evil and injustice as one of the highest traditions of our American heritage. We can learn about the values of tolerance and compassion and develop a greater sense of responsibility to the poor and suffering, and even to each other. We can learn about the values of brotherhood and sisterhood, love, peace, reconciliation, community service, honesty, courage, freedom, and self-discipline. These values transcend politics, ideology, and national boundaries; for they speak to the essence of the human soul in a way that can only be universally uplifting and challenging.

May the Almighty God bless this occasion and all that it represents. May He enable us to apply the gifts and talents He has given us in the service to others. May His grace strengthen us to work with order and patience, with forgiveness, gratitude, and joy, as we seek to make this a better nation and world so that generations yet unborn will continue to sing with pride: America, God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood and sisterhood from sea [p.573] to shining sea.

The President. Coretta, thank you for those inspiring words. I know I speak for everybody in paying tribute to you for your steadfast support of this most worthwhile Commission. I planned on welcoming you all to the tropical rain forest— [laughter] -that we call the Rose Garden. But the **East Room** has an advantage: leakproof—if anything in the White House can be leakproof. [Laughter] At least it's dry. And we're delighted that Coretta Scott King and Dexter and so many others are here.

I want to welcome the members of the Commission, the King Federal Holiday Commission; the Members of Congress that are here, the leadership in the Senate and in the House. And I'm just delighted that you all are here, and thank you for your important role in all of this. I salute the **party** leaders that are here. I see Lee and others—Lee Atwater—and everybody joining in a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his ideals.

The bill that I'll be signing shortly underscores the importance of honoring the memory and the shining ideals of a great American hero, Martin Luther King, Jr. And all of us know his creed of faith, centered firmly in the great heritage of American ideals. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, Dr. King issued his challenge in the words of Thomas Jefferson: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." And he was a reformer and a crusader. His mission was to move America closer to the ideal, to bring the promise of equality and liberty and justice for all within the reach of all.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission plays a central role in preserving a great national treasure. And over the past 5 years, the Commission's done a great deal to make observance of the King holiday a national and international event. And our agenda for the next 5 years must be to build on that beginning, to see to it that the third Monday of every January becomes a day of hope, renewal, and rededication to the ideals of Dr. King, those that he upheld—a day dedicated to the memory, if you will, of a man who campaigned for peaceful change; of a man who stood for human dignity and certainly the fulfillment of individual excellence; of a man determined, committed, mind and heart, to march, to live, and to die for those—America's ideals.

So, Reverend King once wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And simple words expressing a great truth: Justice is indivisible. And all of us must draw on the best in ourselves to make justice for all our cause. We've made great progress. But the memory of all that Dr. King stood for reminds us that our work is not done. So, let's continue his work towards a society that treats all men and women, whatever their origin, whatever the color of their skin, with dignity and respect. Let's ensure that our communities, where our children can learn, live, and grow, are free from the fear of violence and, yes, the lure of drugs. And let's work together towards a society that extends great opportunities and awakens hope to build a better America for all of us. And let's pass the King legacy on to our children, whose ideals and attitudes will shape our society into the next century.

I want to share with you a few words from the prizewinning essay on Martin Luther King, written by a young man—in this case, a fifth-grader—in Seattle. He writes: "I am only 11 years old, so I cannot really stop the racism. But I can control what happens in my heart and what I do with my life." That kid may only be 11, but there's wisdom in those words for all of us: A truly free society is within reach if, in our hearts, we abolish bias and bigotry and discrimination. And so, let's make that society, one with freedom and equality for all, our living memorial to a great man and a great American.

And now, Coretta, Mrs. King, if you will join me, I will sign this bill formally reauthorizing the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday Commission.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:31 p.m. in the **East Room** at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dexter King, son of Martin Luther King, Jr., and president of the King Center in Atlanta, GA, and H. Lee Atwater, chairman of the Republican National Committee. H.R. 1385, approved May 17, was assigned Public Law No. 101-30.

Source: Federal Register Division, National Archives and Records Service, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States, George Bush, 1989 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1956-), pp.572-573

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Greeting guests at the 50th birthday party reception for Micky Mouse in the **East Room**, November
17



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After taking the oath of office in the **East Room** at the White House, August 9, 1974.



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