

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting with Congressional Leaders January 26, 1993

Q. Mr. President, are you going to have a policy statement on gays in the military by the end of the week?

The President. I'm going to talk to the leadership of Congress about our legislative agenda.

Q. How do you feel your meeting with the Joint Chiefs went yesterday, Mr. President?

The President. It was a very good meeting. I was very impressed by them. The country's well served.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:38 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Nomination for Ambassador to Russia January 26, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Thomas R. Pickering as Ambassador of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

In making this announcement, President Clinton said, "It is essential that we continue to expand and develop our relationship with Russia. I want to do everything I can to support democratic and economic reform there and want an

experienced and dedicated Ambassador to represent our Nation in Moscow. Ambassador Pickering has demonstrated throughout his career that he has the ability and wisdom to carry out this important assignment. I have full confidence in him."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Director of the Office of Personnel Management January 26, 1993

The President today announced that he intends to nominate Jim King as Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

"Jim King will bring invaluable expertise, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the Office of Personnel Management," said President Clinton.

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

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Q. Mr. President, would you consider backing down on your lifting the ban on gays in the military because of the opposition?

The President. We're not here to discuss that. We're here to discuss the economy, which is all I discussed yesterday with congressional leadership, contrary to—

Q. But would you consider—

The President. We're here to discuss the economy.

Q. Have you decided on a consumption tax yet?

The President. No—

Q. Are you closer to a decision—