

Jan. 8 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1999

And so when we call for a spirit of reconciliation and unity and community and mutual respect in America, we ought to think about Nelson Mandela. If it was good for him, it would sure be good for us.

Thank you, and bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:48 p.m. at the Cobo Conference Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit;

Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara; former Governor and former Ambassador to Canada James J. Blanchard; Representative John D. Dingell's wife, Debbie; Representative John Conyers, Jr.'s son, John Conyers III; Representative Sander M. Levin's wife, Vicki; Representative Bart J. Stupak's wife, Laurie; civil rights leader Jesse Jackson; President Jiang Zemin of China; and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia.

Statement on the Decision of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew M. Cuomo Not To Seek Election to the Senate

January 8, 1999

Earlier today Secretary Cuomo announced that he would not run for the United States Senate. I told Secretary Cuomo that I would support his decision either way, but on a personal level, I am glad that he is staying to build on HUD's new empowerment agenda. New

Yorkers should be proud of the job he is doing. Andrew believes that his job at HUD is not finished. Therefore, he has chosen to continue his public service at the Department, and I applaud his decision.

The President's Radio Address

January 9, 1999

Good morning. I'm speaking to you today from Solidarity House in Detroit, Michigan, where for more than half a century the members of the United Auto Workers have led the fight to improve the lives of America's working families. I've come to America's industrial heartland to talk about what we must do to strengthen our workers and manufacturers for the 21st century.

Over the past 6 years, we've created the longest peacetime economic expansion in American history, with 17.7 million new jobs, the lowest combined unemployment and inflation rate in more than 30 years, the highest homeownership ever. Wages are going up at all income levels, and finally, the rising tide of our economy is lifting all boats.

But today and in the years to come, America's prosperity depends upon the world's prosperity. In our new global economy, a financial crisis half a world away can be felt on factory floors here at home. For more than a year, a recession

in other countries has forced them to cut imports of our goods, from cars to computers to jumbo jets, and to boost exports of their own products to our shores. After years of double-digit growth, U.S. manufacturing exports have slowed, and that's led to thousands of layoffs. These developments cause no small amount of concern.

With millions of American jobs depending on foreign exports, we must help manufacturers find new markets and attract new customers for our goods overseas. That's why my next balanced budget will include a \$108 million initiative to spur nearly \$2 billion in additional U.S. exports, which will sustain or create 16,000 high-wage American manufacturing jobs.

We'll begin by boosting our support for our Import-Export Bank, which currently finances 10 percent of all U.S. capital equipment exports. For every dollar it spends, the bank generates some \$16 in American exports. By expanding credit, we can foster billions of dollars in exports