

you achieve one-half of your goal, and I also said to her that you, when I suggested it in that note—and it is true, I sent that note that he wash his face and wear a clean shirt—that he took half of my advice tonight. [Laughter] He never took it off. [Laughter]

I must say to you that I think we each have strengths and weaknesses, and one of my strengths has been my ability to recognize my weaknesses—[laughter]—and one of the things I've always been able to do is take what I was doing seriously, but not myself too seriously. But tonight I think I'm beginning to lose that capacity. I began to get disturbed about myself when just before I came up here, my mind was wandering a bit, and even though the President was speaking, I leaned over and said to Helen, "You know, Helen, I think that what Brezhnev said to Senator Percy that hasn't yet been reported was, 'Be sure and give my regards to Bob Strauss.'" [Laughter] You know, that's pretty good for just the last 2 or 3 minutes. [Laughter]

It's getting late, and let me conclude more seriously if I can for a moment by saying to you first, Mrs. Johnson, how proud that Helen and I are and the members of our family are that our names will be associated with the school. I think the former President would be very pleased at that, and we are very proud of that association.

Let me also say that in all seriousness that I was thinking tonight as I sat there, what a truly magnificent Nation this is. You think of Afghanistan, and you think of Poland, and one can't avoid thinking of the Middle East, and we even think of what happens in a stable society like Great Britain when the government changes with dramatic shifts. And here we are with a change of government, with a transition, and here we are in this room

that's truly a montage of America—corporate leaders, politicians, young and old, some jaded and some just beginning—but all of us, all of us, absolutely convinced that this process can work and all of us tonight in this joyous, happy, positive room knowing that we are participating right at the halfway point of a change of government, and things go on with stability and with soundness.

And my friend Abe Ribicoff just returned a couple of days ago from Europe, and he said, "The one thing I thought of as Casey and I flew home, Bob, was all I heard about just before I left this Nation was what was wrong with America. But all I heard about in Europe where they saw us from afar was how they could become a part of this great Nation, how they could bring their companies here, how they could bring their families here, how they could bring their security here, all wanting to be a part of this great Nation."

And so, it is tonight that I would conclude by briefly saying to you that this process serves us well. This evening, I think, is a moment of reminder, a pause at midpoint in the transition to say that it works. God bless it and preserve it, and each of you.

Thank you so much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:38 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980

Remarks on Signing H.R. 6410 Into Law.
December 11, 1980

THE PRESIDENT. This is the kind of bill when at least everybody in the room is

smiling. [Laughter] who are not with this legislation important to

I'm very Chiles and C Horton, and on this legislation the bill I'd like comment.

This legislation Paperwork Reduction Act latest and one steps that wasteful and work and all Federal regulations that I had in Cabinet, I directed the Cabinet to cut down on that the Federal the American and unnecessary because of the amount of time Federal paperwork also created some positive decision any further burden. The Budget was g

We began, budget, the first ever seen, which to justify to and Budget increase in the arrived from American free-enter be approved approval was a Federal money

We set up the of Management in order to c

smiling. [Laughter] And a lot of people who are not here are not very pleased with this legislation, but I think it's very important to our country.

I'm very delighted to have Senator Chiles and Chairman Jack Brooks, Frank Horton, and others who've worked so hard on this legislation, and after I've signed the bill I'd like to ask them to make a comment.

This legislation, which is known as the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, is the latest and one of the most important steps that we have taken to eliminate wasteful and unnecessary Federal paperwork and also to eliminate unnecessary Federal regulations. In the first meeting that I had in this room in 1977 with my Cabinet, I directed all of the members of the Cabinet and major agency leaders to cut down on the amount of paperwork that the Federal Government placed upon the American people as an extraordinary and unnecessary burden. Two years later, because of that effort, we had cut the amount of time that Americans spend on Federal paperwork by 15 percent and had also created some new tools in the executive decision alone which could restrict any further increase in the paperwork burden. The Office of Management and Budget was given this responsibility.

We began, for instance, a paperwork budget, the first one that our Nation had ever seen, which meant that an agency had to justify to the Office of Management and Budget and to me as President any increase in the information that they derived from American citizens or the American free-enterprise members. This had to be approved ahead of time, just as approval was achieved for the expenditure of Federal moneys.

We set up this new budget in the Office of Management and Budget, this new unit, in order to cut paperwork again and to

continue to eliminate unnecessary regulations. Last year, in order to establish this procedure firmly into the laws of our Nation as an extension to an Executive order, and also to expand it and to make it more effective, we asked the Congress to strengthen the Federal Reports Act by requiring that all Federal agencies clear their paperwork requirements with the Office of Management and Budget. We found ready support on the Hill, particularly among those who will speak after I'm finished.

The act I'm signing today will not only regulate the regulators, but it will also allow the President, through the Office of Management and Budget, to gain better control over the Federal Government's appetite for information from the public. For the first time it allows OMB to have the final word on many of the regulations issued by our Government. It also ensures that the public need not fill out forms nor keep records which are not previously approved by OMB.

This legislation is another important step in our efforts to trim waste from the Federal Government and to see to it that the Government operates more efficiently for all our citizens. In scope, it stands with the civil service reform and the deregulation of trucking and rails and airlines and other industries. And in spirit, it stands with the designation of the Inspectors General to attack waste and with the requirement that agencies write their rules in understandable English and study the impact of these regulations on small businesses.

We have made a great deal of progress through executive action over a 4-year period. This new action, embedding my own philosophy and the philosophy of those behind me into the laws of our Nation, will perpetuate this progress and will

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enhance the progress even further in the future.

I'm very delighted now to sign this legislation, following which I would like to ask Chairman Jack Brooks to make a few remarks, if he's willing to do so.

[The President signed the bill as Representative Brooks spoke.]

REPRESENTATIVE BROOKS. I'd be honored, Mr. President, and to say first that certainly you ought to be commended for your courage in presenting this program—in working on it, in encouraging it, and in signing it in spite of solid opposition from the usual bureaucrats who are against—[laughter]—any management proposals. In 1965, with the ADP proposition on computers, that has saved the Government billions of dollars, we had the same pressure from some of the same bureaucrats just fighting President Johnson—and they've fought you. But you had the courage to do it, because you know that this bill is a landmark of your administration and will help to get a handle on 10 to 15 percent of the Federal budget that we spend on information and paper processing.

It is the most important legislation that you have passed and that we have been able to work on. It will help this Government run the information upon which decisions are made that cost billions of dollars a year.

Thank you, sir.

THE PRESIDENT. Lawton Chiles.

SENATOR CHILES. Mr. President, you mentioned that this was one of the first things that you talked about in your Cabinet meeting. It was also one of the things that you talked about on the stump all over the country when you were campaigning. I think this is certainly a promise fulfilled, and I'm delighted to have had a chance to participate in that.

Frank Horton and Tom McIntyre

headed up a Paperwork Commission, and this was the cornerstone of the recommendations from the Paperwork Commission. Elmer Staats in the GAO has been tremendous support to us as we fought some of those bureaucrats, Senator Danforth, working with me on our House side, and I also want to compliment the staffs of Jack Brooks and my staff and all the staffs that worked on this, because they did a yeoman's task too. And I'm delighted to participate with Jack Brooks. When you get him working on something, you know he's going to take care of his side. You've just got to worry about your side. [Laughter]

I think we've got a good bill, and I think what now we have is the framework that is there for an administration to really implement it, and really do something about paperwork.

THE PRESIDENT. I'll always remember the day that Frank Horton and Tom McIntyre and Elmer Staats and others brought the paperwork report into my office, which was a very good and reassuring report and one that's been a basis of this legislation. Frank, I'd like to ask you to say a word.

REPRESENTATIVE HORTON. Mr. President, this is an honor for me to participate in this ceremony, and as one of the original authors of the bill it's a great pleasure to be here and to see you sign your name to this very important piece of legislation, which as you point out is going to be a very landmark piece of legislation in your administration.

It is true that in October of 1977 as the Chairman of the Paperwork Commission, I presented to you the report of the Paperwork Commission. Many of those people are here. Tom McIntyre, as you pointed out, was a member of the Commission from the Senate. Senator Bill Brock was also a member, and then when he left the Senate, Senator Hatfield was a

member. On was a great s the Commis not here. I th but he's just too.

Mr. Staats Commission, now worked might say p mission that in existence destruct in t ber 1975. It and further million that been approp Bert Lance successor, J course, with this legislati law.

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member. On the House side, Tom Steed was a great support and was a member of the Commission also, and I'm sorry he's not here. I think he did have an invitation but he's just not here, but he did a lot too.

Mr. Staats and other members of the Commission, people who are in this room now worked with the Commission, and I might say parenthetically, it's one Commission that self-destructed. It was to be in existence for 2 years. It did self-destruct in those 2 years. It started October 1975. It went out of existence in 1977, and furthermore, we turned back \$1.4 million that we didn't spend that had been appropriated. But from the outset, Bert Lance as your OMB Director, his successor, Jim McIntyre, and then of course, with your tremendous support, this legislation has been now signed into law.

We said in 1977 that the cost of paperwork was \$100 billion a year to the Federal Government and business, small business and large business, and this is the culmination, really, of the work of the Paperwork Commission—is this legislation which is going to put in place an office which can carry on the thing that you've started, namely to try to cut back on this tremendous amount of paperwork. And, Mr. President, in this you have completely succeeded, and I want to congratulate you and thank you for your leadership in this field.

THE PRESIDENT. With you as partners, there's no way I could have failed. Thank you very much. As you say, we've addressed the bureaucrats, and we've won, right? *[Laughter]*

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at the signing ceremony in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

As enacted, H.R. 6410 is Public Law 96-511, approved December 11.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980

Remarks on Signing H.R. 7020 Into Law.
December 11, 1980

THE PRESIDENT. Although it's impossible to single out all of the people who've been responsible for this legislation, I would like particularly to thank the ones who were responsible for its drafting and later call on a few to say a word after I finish with the signing ceremony.

Congressman Jim Florio, Senator Jennings Randolph, Senator Bob Stafford, and many others worked on this important bill in its drafting phase, and those others that I'll mention later on worked in a very concerted and effective way in getting the legislation through the Congress.

I would like to express my thanks to Howard Baker, to John Rhodes, on both sides of the Hill, of the Capitol, for making this a bipartisan project, succeeding in their effort even after the election of this year. And if I had time I would thank all eight committees who were responsible for the legislation—*[laughter]*—three committees in the Senate and five committees in the House who had direct responsibility over terms of this legislation itself. And, of course, Senator Bill Bradley and Congressman Mario Biaggi, Congressman Biz Johnson, although I stole him from the Senate later on, former Senator Ed Muskie, Congressman Gore, and in the public sector I would like particularly to thank Irving Shapiro, who, on behalf of the leaders of the free enterprise system of our country, were instrumental in pushing this bill to a final conclusion. This directly affects the chemical industry, and the enlightened attitude of the executives of that industry was a very constructive element.

Almost 1½ years ago I sent to the Congress the original proposal for this land-