

it is today, because I know the whole world will be better off if that is the case. And the third thing I want, that I see as I look at all of you from your different backgrounds, is I want us to be one America.

We're going to become more and more diverse, racially, ethnically, religiously. If we can keep the Democratic culture the values of America, if we can overcome our own prejudices and fears, if we can learn to respect each other's differences and enjoy our own difference but be bound together by what unites us, then in a world that is every day consumed by the problems of the Middle East or Africa or Northern Ireland or Bosnia, America will surely be the light of the world. And the labor movement has always stood for the proposition that anybody that was willing to work hard for a living ought to be given a fair chance to make it in the United States of America, always.

I love being with you. I'm very grateful. I'm glad you reelected me. I'm having a good time, limp and all. [*Laughter*] But remember, you can't stop thinking about what you want it to be like in a generation, because the world is changing in profound and fast ways. And we have to do a good job now and a good job for all these children who are here. I think we're going to do it together.

Thank you. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen P. Yokich, president, and Roy Wyse, secretary treasurer, United Auto Workers.

**Executive Order 13044—Amending Executive Order 12752, Implementation of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as Amended, and the Food for Progress Act of 1985, as Amended**

*April 18, 1997*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to provide for carrying out the provisions of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 101-624

(7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), it is hereby ordered that:

- (1) The first sentence of section 1(a) of Executive Order 12752 be amended by deleting the words "developing countries" and inserting the words "developing countries and private entities" in lieu thereof;
- (2) Sections 4(a) and (c) be deleted; and
- (3) Sections 4(b), (d), (e), (f), and (g) be renumbered as sections 4(a), (b), (c), (d), and (e), respectively.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
April 18, 1997.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., April 21, 1997]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 22.

**Executive Order 13045—Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks**

*April 21, 1997*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.**

1-101. A growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health risks and safety risks. These risks arise because: children's neurological, immunological, digestive, and other bodily systems are still developing; children eat more food, drink more fluids, and breathe more air in proportion to their body weight than adults; children's size and weight may diminish their protection from standard safety features; and children's behavior patterns may make them more susceptible to accidents because they are less able to protect themselves. Therefore, to the extent permitted by law and appropriate, and consistent with the agency's mission, each Federal agency:

- (a) shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks

and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children; and

- (b) shall ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks.

1-102. Each independent regulatory agency is encouraged to participate in the implementation of this order and comply with its provisions.

**Sec. 2. Definitions.** The following definitions shall apply to this order.

2-201. "Federal agency" means any authority of the United States that is an agency under 44 U.S.C. 3502(1) other than those considered to be independent regulatory agencies under 44 U.S.C. 3502(5). For purposes of this order, "military departments," as defined in 5 U.S.C. 102, are covered under the auspices of the Department of Defense.

2-202. "Covered regulatory action" means any substantive action in a rulemaking, initiated after the date of this order or for which a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking is published 1 year after the date of this order, that is likely to result in a rule that may:

- (a) be "economically significant" under Executive Order 12866 (a rulemaking that has an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or would adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities); and
- (b) concern an environmental health risk or safety risk that an agency has reason to believe may disproportionately affect children.

2-203. "Environmental health risks and safety risks" mean risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breathe, the food we eat, the water we drink or use for recreation, the soil we live on, and the products we use or are exposed to).

**Sec. 3. Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.**

3-301. There is hereby established the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children ("Task Force").

3-302. The Task Force will report to the President in consultation with the Domestic Policy Council, the National Science and Technology Council, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

3-303. *Membership.* The Task Force shall be composed of the:

- (a) Secretary of Health and Human Services, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of the Council;
- (b) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of the Council;
- (c) Secretary of Education;
- (d) Secretary of Labor;
- (e) Attorney General;
- (f) Secretary of Energy;
- (g) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;
- (h) Secretary of Agriculture;
- (i) Secretary of Transportation;
- (j) Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (k) Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality;
- (l) Chair of the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- (m) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (n) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy;
- (o) Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (p) Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; and
- (q) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Members of the Task Force may delegate their responsibilities under this order to subordinates.

3-304. *Functions.* The Task Force shall recommend to the President Federal strategies for children's environmental health and safety, within the limits of the Administration's budget, to include the following elements:

- (a) statements of principles, general policy, and targeted annual priorities to guide the Federal approach to achieving the goals of this order;
- (b) a coordinated research agenda for the Federal Government, including steps to implement the review of research databases described in section 4 of this order;
- (c) recommendations for appropriate partnerships among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and the private, academic, and nonprofit sectors;
- (d) proposals to enhance public outreach and communication to assist families in evaluating risks to children and in making informed consumer choices;
- (e) an identification of high-priority initiatives that the Federal Government has undertaken or will undertake in advancing protection of children's environmental health and safety; and
- (f) a statement regarding the desirability of new legislation to fulfill or promote the purposes of this order.

3-305. The Task Force shall prepare a biennial report on research, data, or other information that would enhance our ability to understand, analyze, and respond to environmental health risks and safety risks to children. For purposes of this report, cabinet agencies and other agencies identified by the Task Force shall identify and specifically describe for the Task Force key data needs related to environmental health risks and safety risks to children that have arisen in the course of the agency's programs and activities. The Task Force shall incorporate agency submissions into its report and ensure that this report is publicly available and widely disseminated. The Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Science and Technology Council shall ensure that this report is fully considered in establishing research priorities.

3-306. The Task Force shall exist for a period of 4 years from the first meeting. At least 6 months prior to the expiration of that period, the member agencies shall assess the need for continuation of the Task Force or its functions, and make appropriate recommendations to the President.

**Sec. 4. Research Coordination and Integration.**

4-401. Within 6 months of the date of this order, the Task Force shall develop or direct to be developed a review of existing and planned data resources and a proposed plan for ensuring that researchers and Federal research agencies have access to information on all research conducted or funded by the Federal Government that is related to adverse health risks in children resulting from exposure to environmental health risks or safety risks. The National Science and Technology Council shall review the plan.

4-402. The plan shall promote the sharing of information on academic and private research. It shall include recommendations to encourage that such data, to the extent permitted by law, is available to the public, the scientific and academic communities, and all Federal agencies.

**Sec. 5. Agency Environmental Health Risk or Safety Risk Regulations.**

5-501. For each covered regulatory action submitted to OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) for review pursuant to Executive Order 12866, the issuing agency shall provide to OIRA the following information developed as part of the agency's decisionmaking process, unless prohibited by law:

- (a) an evaluation of the environmental health or safety effects of the planned regulation on children; and
- (b) an explanation of why the planned regulation is preferable to other potentially effective and reasonably feasible alternatives considered by the agency.

5-502. In emergency situations, or when an agency is obligated by law to act more quickly than normal review procedures allow, the agency shall comply with the provisions of this section to the extent practicable. For those covered regulatory actions that are governed by a court-imposed or statutory deadline, the agency shall, to the extent practicable, schedule any rulemaking proceedings so as to permit sufficient time for completing the analysis required by this section.

5-503. The analysis required by this section may be included as part of any other required analysis, and shall be made part of

the administrative record for the covered regulatory action or otherwise made available to the public, to the extent permitted by law.

**Sec. 6. Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.**

6-601. The Director of the OMB ("Director") shall convene an Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics ("Forum"), which will include representatives from the appropriate Federal statistics and research agencies. The Forum shall produce an annual compendium ("Report") of the most important indicators of the well-being of the Nation's children.

6-602. The Forum shall determine the indicators to be included in each Report and identify the sources of data to be used for each indicator. The Forum shall provide an ongoing review of Federal collection and dissemination of data on children and families, and shall make recommendations to improve the coverage and coordination of data collection and to reduce duplication and overlap.

6-603. The Report shall be published by the Forum in collaboration with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The Forum shall present the first annual Report to the President, through the Director, by July 31, 1997. The Report shall be submitted annually thereafter, using the most recently available data.

**Sec. 7. General Provisions.**

7-701. This order is intended only for internal management of the executive branch. This order is not intended, and should not be construed to create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or its employees. This order shall not be construed to create any right to judicial review involving the compliance or non-compliance with this order by the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any other person.

7-702. Executive Order 12606 of September 2, 1987 is revoked.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
April 21, 1997.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:49 a.m., April 22, 1997]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 23.

**Message on the Observance of  
Passover, 1997**

*April 21, 1997*

Warm greetings to everyone observing Passover.

Commemorating God's liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, Passover is the story of a people who, sustained by their faith in God and strengthened by their own courage and determination, broke free from oppression to seek a new life in a new land. Their journey was long and full of peril, and their resolve sometimes shaken by doubt; but ultimately the Jewish people reached the Promised Land, where they could live and worship and raise their children in the sweet air of freedom.

The ageless festival of Passover holds profound meaning for Americans. We began our nation's journey to freedom more than two hundred years ago, a journey that is still not complete. Now we look forward to a new century and a new millennium, strengthened by the knowledge that we, too, have been blessed by God with the vision of a land of great promise set aside for those who cherish freedom.

As we mark the observance of another Passover, let us renew our commitment to America's promise. Let us continue our journey to a land where all our people are free to pursue our common dreams—to live in peace, to provide for our families, and to give our children the opportunity for a better life.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a joyous Passover celebration.

**Bill Clinton**

**Remarks on Departure for North  
Dakota and an Exchange With  
Reporters**

*April 22, 1997*

**Earth Day and Community Right-To-  
Know Law**

**The President.** Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President. Good morning, ladies and