

ing human rights, and striving to help move people from poverty to prosperity.

We in the United States must continue our efforts to help the United Nations rise to the challenges of our time. Thanks to an ongoing reform process, we have seen substantial improvements in management, administrative accountability, and the setting of priorities by the U.N. This progress has set the stage for broader efforts to ensure that the United Nations is fully prepared to continue to pursue the goals laid down in its Charter.

As we observe United Nations Day this year, let us remember all those whose foresight and determination created this great international institution, and let us thank all those who, with courage and conviction, continue to fulfill its vital missions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 24, 1997, as United Nations Day. I encourage all Americans to acquaint themselves with the activities and accomplishments of the United Nations, and to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities furthering the goal of international cooperation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7045 of October 24, 1997

National Consumers Week, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans have always had a passion for fairness. It imbues the great charters on which our Nation is founded, and it is the cornerstone of our legal system. Fairness must also form the foundation of the American economy, an economy in which consumers rightly expect a “fair shake”: honest transactions and safe, dependable goods and services.

Our economy has changed enormously during the past 200 years, developing from the agrarian system of the 18th century through the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century to the information revolution of our own era. Today, technological innovation is rapidly transforming our relationships with the marketplace and the goods and services we buy. However, despite these dramatic changes, basic consumer values remain the same. Consumers still expect quality and service for their money; they still place great importance on the safety and reliability of the products they buy; and they still want to know that businesses will meet these expectations.

In the days of Adam Smith, when products were less complicated and their quality more easily discerned, *caveat emptor* was the ruling principle of

the marketplace. In today's economy, where the microchip has dramatically altered what we buy and how and where we buy it, products and services are much more complex, and consumers need better information and greater protection to ensure that the marketplace continues to treat them fairly.

The Consumer Bill of Rights, first articulated in President Kennedy's 1962 Special Message to Congress on Protecting the Consumer Interest, has evolved with our economy to meet the changing needs of the American people. Consumers today have the right to safety, the right to information, the right to choice, the right to be heard, the right to consumer education, and the right to service. They also deserve security for any personal information provided during the conduct of a transaction, whether in person or on the Internet. As we observe National Consumer Week, I urge the American people to learn more about their rights as responsible consumers and to reward those businesses that continue to give them a fair shake.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 25 through October 31, 1997, as National Consumers Week. I call upon government officials, industry leaders, and the American people to recognize the vital relationship between our economy and our citizenry, and to join me in reaffirming our commitment to fairness in the marketplace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of October, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Proclamation 7046 of October 30, 1997

National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 1997

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As we approach this century's end, many of the blocs and barriers that divided the world for 50 years largely have fallen away. All around the world, with America's help, nations are moving from conflict to cooperation. However, we still face challenges that have taken on new and dangerous dimensions: ethnic and religious violence, aggression by outlaw states, the illegal drug trade, and threats from international terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The National Guard and Reserve play a vital role in the response of America's Armed Forces to this broad spectrum of challenges to our national security, and they are an indispensable part of the effort to promote peace and democratic values.

While most Americans understand and deeply appreciate the strategic and military value of our National Guard and Reserve forces, too often we fail to recognize or acknowledge the important contributions of their civilian employees. When called upon to share their greatest resource—employees