

# One Hundred and Third Congress

Jan. 4, 1993-Dec. 1, 1994

## First Administration of William J. Clinton

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### Historical Background

President William J. Clinton entered office with Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress and what he viewed as a mandate to radically reform the health care system in the United States. President Clinton had campaigned hard on the issue of health care reform throughout the 1992 election campaign. Immediately upon assuming office, the President organized the Task Force on National Health Care Reform to come up with a legislative proposal, chaired by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

However, President Clinton's health care reform effort was plagued with difficulties almost from the moment the work of the task force began. To begin with, the task force worked in an exclusively closed-door manner. Members of Congress from the President's own Democratic Party were prevented from taking part or even being fully informed of the provisions of the bill as it was developed. This created problems when it came time to assure the votes necessary for the bill's passage. Democrats, many of whom had also campaigned heavily on the issue of health care reform, found themselves kept out of the process so instead introduced reform plans of their own. Medical industry groups were concerned over the secrecy of the task force and in February 1993 the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) joined other groups in filing a lawsuit against Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. Moreover, the climate of secrecy around the task force allowed the President's conservative opponents to speculate on the contents of the eventual bill, beginning a scare campaign designed to fill voters with uncertainty as to the necessity for and wisdom of the President's plan.



President William J. Clinton

| House  | Senate*                                     |
|--|---|
| Majority Party:<br>Democrat<br>(258 seats)   | Majority Party:<br>Democrat<br>(57 seats)   |
| Minority Party:<br>Republican<br>(176 seats) | Minority Party:<br>Republican<br>(43 seats) |
| Other Parties:<br>Independent<br>(1 seat)    | Other Parties:<br>none                      |
| Speaker of the House:<br>Newt Gingrich       | Majority Leader:<br>George J. Mitchell      |

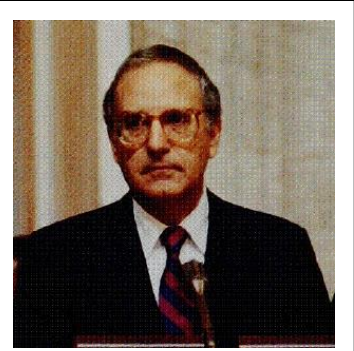
*\*Note that the Senate Party Division changed to 56 Democrats and 44 Republicans after the June 5, 1993 election of Kay B. Hutchison (R-TX)*

The bill was finally introduced in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives as the Health Security Act on November 20, 1993. The 1,000+ page proposal avoided the commonly suggested single-payer health care system in favor of a complex interplay between the Federal government and the private sector in which businesses of a minimum size would be mandated to provide health insurance to their employees and also offered subsidies for those unable to obtain insurance through their employers or by their own means. Although going into the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, a majority of Americans favored the passage of some form of comprehensive health care reform, conservative and insurance industry scare-mongering created widespread opposition to the bill, including within the Democratic Party. The President was ultimately unable to secure enough votes to ensure passage and the bill died. It was a profound defeat for the young Clinton Administration that would impact the remainder of his Presidency.

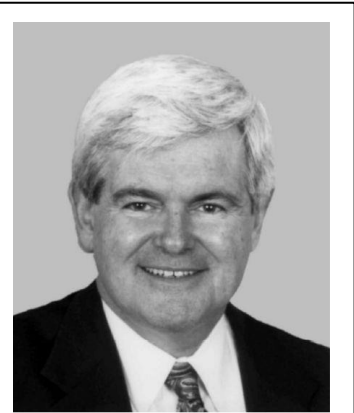
The nascent Clinton Administration faced another trial by fire early in the President's first term when agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) served a search warrant at the Mount Carmel compound of the Branch Davidian Church—a splinter group of the Seventh Day Adventists led by a charismatic preacher who styled himself David Koresh. The search warrant was predicated on suspicion that Koresh had illegally modified firearms to operate in full-automatic mode. Members of the sect were tipped off that a raid was planned, though the ATF agents decided to carry out the raid anyway. The identification of the source of the first shots is in dispute, however, what isn't disputed is that gunfire was heard, and fire was returned by both sides. By the time a cease fire was called, four ATF agents were dead and another 16 were wounded, in addition to five members of the Branch Davidians had been killed.

After the disastrous raid on the compound, the Branch Davidians and David Koresh remained inside Mount Carmel, which was now under siege by numerous Federal law enforcement agencies. For the next 51 days, FBI hostage negotiators kept up their efforts to talk Koresh into surrendering. President Clinton's newly confirmed Attorney General Janet Reno was eager to bring the standoff to a close and approved an FBI plan to launch an assault on the compound. On the morning April 19, military assault vehicles rammed the building, breaching the walls, through which canisters of tear gas were shot into the compound. Shortly thereafter, smoke began to pour from several places in the compound and within minutes, the entire compound went up in flames. In all, 76 Branch Davidians, including leader David Koresh and two dozen children died. The disastrous end of the siege was a difficult challenge for Attorney General Janet Reno, who would be accused of approving a needlessly violent assault plan against a fringe religious group. The incident would also serve, along with the case of the Ruby Ridge incident in Idaho, as a rallying cry for right-wing anti-government militia movements in coming years.

In his Feb. 23, 1993 address to Congress, President Clinton presented a comprehensive plan to set the nation on a new course. He called on Congress



Senate Majority Leader  
George J. Mitchell



Speaker of the House  
Newt Gingrich

to enact a job creation package, promised to cut spending and raise taxes, and stressed the need for health care reform and deficit reduction.

In his State of the Union Address in 1994, President Clinton announced that \$255 billion had been cut from Federal spending, the Federal bureaucracy had been trimmed, taxes had been raised for the wealthiest 1.2 percent of Americans, and the deficit was predicted to be 40 percent lower than previously predicted. President Clinton asked Congress to reform the Federal unemployment system and the welfare system to encourage work and support family life. He again stressed the importance of health care reform.

Sources:

Clinton, William J. [\*"New Direction," Address to Joint Session of Congress, Message from the President, House\*](#), Feb. 17, 1993. 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H. Doc. 103-1. ProQuest Congressional, 14169 H.doc.1

Clinton, William Jefferson. [\*State of the Union Message, Message from the President, House\*](#), Jan. 25, 1994. 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, H. Doc. 103-177. ProQuest Congressional, 14231 H.doc.177

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## **War or Peace?**

### **Domestic Terrorism – 1993 WTC Bombing**

Early in the afternoon of February 26, 1993, an explosion rocked the underground parking garage for the World Trade Center (WTC) in lower Manhattan. The cause was a massive, 600-kilogram explosive device hidden in a truck parked in the garage. The bomb was part of a conspiracy hatched by Islamists inspired by the blind Egyptian cleric Omar Abdel-Rahman and including Ramzi Yousef, nephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, who would become the architect of the attacks of September 11, 2001. The bomb was intended to bring WTC Tower 1 down into Tower 2, bringing down both structures and killing thousands. Fortunately, the placement of the truck in the garage prevented that from happening. However, the damage was still extensive, six people were killed and over a thousand injured.

Investigators combing through the rubble located components from the truck used to house the bomb, including the vehicle identification number (VIN), which led them to a Ryder truck location, which confirmed the truck had been rented by Mohammed A. Salameh. When Salameh, who had reported the truck stolen, returned to the Ryder truck location to claim his deposit, he was arrested by the FBI. In all, six conspirators were convicted for their roles in the bombing.

### **Monitoring Saddam Hussein's Iraq**

After the 1991 Gulf War that expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait, the United States was involved in monitoring the two no-fly zones, one in the northern

part of Iraq, the other in the south, that had been created to protect the Kurds in the north and Shia Muslim Arabs in the south from government reprisals. In October 1994, the government of Saddam Hussein in Baghdad, frustrated by the sanctions imposed on the country in the aftermath of the invasion of Kuwait, began massing tens of thousands of Iraqi troops along the border with Kuwait. In response, on October 7, the United States deployed the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mechanized Infantry along the border in Kuwait along with air support from Dhahran Air Base in Saudi Arabia in an operation dubbed Operation Vigilant Warrior. Intelligence compiled subsequent to the crisis indicates that Saddam Hussein intended to invade Kuwait a second time to draw attention to the country's plight under sanctions but that the quick response of the U.S. military forestalled the invasion.

### **Crises in Africa**

During the waning days of the Presidency of George H.W. Bush, the United States became involved in a series of humanitarian missions in Somalia designed to forestall the effects of famine and facilitate the delivery of aid to the civil war-torn country. In March 1993, a Conference on National Reconciliation in Somalia was convened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in order to bring the rival factions to the table and begin a process leading to a new constitution and government to Somalia. Though the conference was a success and produced an agreement signed by all of the major factions, it soon became clear that the faction led by Mohammed Farah Aidid was not going to cooperate with implementing the agreement. When Aidid discovered that the UN planned to raid a radio station he'd been using to broadcast propaganda, he ordered an attack on a Pakistani force set to carry out the raid, killing 24. The UN responded with Resolution 837 authorizing the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the attack.

On July 12, the United States led an operation in the Somali capital of Mogadishu against what was believed to be a safe house used by Aidid. The operation on the safe house failed to get Aidid, but it did unite Somalis in opposition to the U.S. mission in the country. On September 25, supporters of Aidid shot down a U.S. Black Hawk helicopter. On October 3, U.S. Task Force Ranger began an operation against the leadership of Aidid's clan in central Mogadishu. Militia in the city shot down two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters in the early hours of the mission. Early the next morning a mission was launched to rescue the survivors. Though the crew of one helicopter was rescued, mobs of outraged Somalis overpowered the other crew, killing them. Overall, 18 U.S. soldiers were killed during the Battle of Mogadishu, which was at the time the bloodiest U.S. military operation since the Vietnam War. Perhaps more importantly, the images of U.S. soldiers being targeted in a country most Americans knew nothing about prompted outrage at home and a withdrawal of the U.S. presence in Somalia. Moreover, it altered the view of U.S. policymakers as to the wisdom of using U.S. troops to police hotspots around the world.

On April 6, 1994, a plane carrying Rwandan President Juvénal Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira exploded as it prepared to

land in the Rwandan capital Kigali, having been targeted by a shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missile. While the responsibility and motivation of the attack are disputed, the assassination ignited ethnic tensions between the dominant Hutu and the minority Tutsis groups, helping to set in motion the Rwandan genocide. By Rwandan law in the event of the president's death, the prime minister was next in line for the presidency. Within hours, radio stations allied with the Hutu Power movement began exhorting listeners to attack Tutsi leaders as well as any other Tutsis or Hutus who prevented the attacks. Gangs of Hutus armed with machetes proceeded over the coming months to meticulously assassinate Tutsis and their Hutu allies around the country.

As reports of the slaughter began to emerge there was pressure in the international community to act. In the United States, while there was awareness of the scale of the killing, the U.S. deaths in Somalia were still fresh resulting in little political will to act beyond condemning the violence. According to Rwandan government figures, by the time Paul Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front arrived in Kigali and put an end to the slaughter, over a million Rwandans had been killed—the first 800,000 of whom were killed in the first six weeks. Worse, the genocide spawned a refugee crisis that led to a series of wars centered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire) that have not fully resolved as of 2018.

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## **Economic Trends and Conditions**

While at the beginning of 1993 the U.S. faced numerous short and long-term economic challenges, it remained the largest, richest, and most productive economy in the world. With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. produced about a quarter of the world's total output of goods and services and was the world's leading exporter. On the negative side, the recession of 1991 was followed by a recovery that was not as strong as expected. In fact, it was the slowest recovery since World War II. Job creation was insufficient to prevent unemployment from rising even after the recovery began.

The fundamental challenge facing the U.S. economy was viewed as the slowdown in the rate of productivity growth. International tests indicated that American elementary and secondary students did not stack up well, which indicated that the U.S. education system was not doing enough to provide the workforce of the future with the knowledge and skills that would be needed. Economists argued that as a nation, the U.S. saved and invested too little, while tax, regulatory, and legal systems posed obstacles to more efficient capital formation. Moreover, new barriers to the expansion of international trade barriers were beginning to emerge. Economic growth by itself was not thought to be sufficient to make major inroads into the poverty rate or provide the most disadvantaged Americans with the ability and incentives to improve their standard of living. Another major economic problem was the health care system which was felt to cost too much and failed to insure too many Americans.

At the beginning of 1994 the deficit problem looked less threatening than it had the year before, and Congress had begun to fund the President's investment agenda, including infrastructure, human capital, technology, and environmental preservation. Trade negotiations had been successfully concluded. It was anticipated that debate on health care reform would continue.

During the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress the private sector created more than 5 million new manufacturing jobs and manufacturing employment grew during each month of 1994. The unemployment rate fell to 5.4%. The deficit in fiscal year 1994 was \$50 billion lower than it had been the previous year. Federal discretionary spending as a percentage of gross domestic product hit a 30-year low. Inflation remained modest and stable. The core rate of consumer price inflation registered its smallest increase in 28 years.

Despite the economic strengths of 1994, long-term economic challenges continued, including the projected growth in entitlement spending, the increase in the number of Americans without health insurance, the decline in real compensation for many groups, and the overall increase in income inequality.

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## Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

*Commissioner v. Soliman*, upholding an IRS ruling which disallowed a tax deduction for home office business expenses [506 U.S. 168](#) (1993)

*Nixon v. United States*, holding that Senate Rule XI violates the Impeachment Trial Clause is nonjusticiable, [506 U.S. 224](#) (1993)

*Bray v. Alexandria Women's Health Clinic*, holding that the protesters had not violated section 1985(3) by obstructing access to abortion clinics, [506 U.S. 263](#) (1993)

*Herrera v. Collins*, holding that the Constitution does not require courts to review new evidence that could prove the innocence of persons who were legally convicted and sentenced to death [506 U.S. 390](#) (1993)

*City of Cincinnati v. Discovery Network, Inc.*, holding that the city's selective and categorical ban on the distribution, of "commercial handbills" is not consistent with the dictates of the First Amendment, [507 U.S. 410](#) (1993)

*Edenfield v. Fane*, holding that Florida's prohibition is inconsistent with the free speech guarantees of the First and Fourteenth Amendments, [507 U.S. 761](#) (1993)

*Mertens v. Hewitt Associates*, holding that monetary damages may not be assessed under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) against non-fiduciary service providers, such as actuaries, who knowingly participate with pension plan sponsors in a breach of fiduciary duties which results in a loss of benefits to plan participants, [508 U.S. 248](#) (1993)

*Sullivan v. Louisiana*, holding that a constitutionally deficient reasonable-doubt instruction cannot be harmless error, [508 U.S. 275](#) (1993)

*Lamb's Chapel and John Steigerwald v. Center Moriches Union Free School District*, holding that denying the Church access to school premises to exhibit the film series violates the Freedom of Speech Clause, [508 U.S. 384](#) (1993)

*Wisconsin v. Mitchell*, holding that Mitchell's First Amendment rights were not violated by the application of the penalty-enhancement provision in sentencing him, [508 U.S. 476](#) (1993)

*Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah*, holding that the ordinances targeted religious behavior and singled out the activities of the Santeria faith, suppressing more religious conduct than was necessary, [508 U.S. 520](#) (1993)

*Northeastern Florida Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America v. City of Jacksonville*, holding that the petitioner had standing to sue the city because the association members' possible lack of fair opportunity as a consequence of the ordinance would have constituted injury, [508 U.S. 656](#) (1993)

*United States v. Padilla*, held that alleged participation in criminal conspiracy did not entitle conspirators to expectations of privacy for purposes of standing to challenge search and seizure under the Fourth Amendment, 508 U.S. 77 (1993)

*Zobrest v. Catalina Foothills School District*, holding that a school district may decline to provide a deaf student with an interpreter based on the Establishment Clause because there is no financial incentive for parents to choose a sectarian school, so the presence of an interpreter is not linked to the state and is the result of the private decision of the individual's parents, [509 U.S. 1](#) (1993)

*Heller v. Doe*, holding that Kentucky's procedures for involuntarily committing mentally retarded persons did not violate the Equal Protection Clause, [509 U.S. 312](#) (1993)

*TXO Production Corporation v. Alliance Responses Corporation*, held that excessive and disproportionate damages awarded violated TXO's due process rights, [509 U.S. 443](#) (1993)

*Alexander v. United States*, vacated and held that the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act's forfeiture provisions did not violate the First Amendment, but forfeiture of a business as punishment for the sale of obscene media did merit Eighth Amendment review, [509 U.S. 544](#) (1993)

*Shaw v. Reno*, finding unconstitutional a North Carolina majority-black Congressional district created through redistricting in 1990, [509 U.S. 630](#) (1993)

*United States v. James Daniel Good Real Property*, holding that the seizure of Good's real property violated due process because real property under 881(a)(7) is not one of those extraordinary instances that justify the postponement of notice and hearing; unless exigent circumstances are present, the Due Process Clause requires the Government to afford notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard before seizing real property subject to civil forfeiture, 510 U.S. 43 (1994)

*Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.*, holding that a parody of a copyrighted work falls under the fair use exception, [510 U.S. 569](#) (1994)

*J. E. B. v. Alabama ex rel. T. B.*, holding that jury strikes eliminating jurors based on gender alone was a violation of the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, [511 U.S. 127](#) (1994)



*C&A Carbone v. Town of Clarkstown*, holding that a local ordinance requiring trash haulers to use a designated disposal facility was unconstitutional, [511 U.S. 383](#) (1994)

*Associated Industries of Missouri v. Lohman*, holding that Missouri's use tax scheme impermissibly discriminates against interstate commerce in those localities where the use tax exceeds the sales tax, [511 U.S. 641](#) (1994)

*Waters v. Churchill*, vacated and held that government workers cannot be dismissed or otherwise punished for their words unless the employer has a reasonable basis for believing the speech was disruptive or involved a matter of purely private concern, outside the scope of the First Amendment's protection, [511 U.S. 661](#) (1994)

*Oregon Waste Systems, Inc. v. Department of Environmental Quality of State of Oregon*, holding that Oregon's surcharge is facially invalid under the negative Commerce Clause, [511 U.S. 93](#) (1994)

*West Lynne Creamery, Inc. v. Healy*, holding that the pricing order unconstitutionally discriminates against interstate commerce, [512 U.S. 186](#) (1994)

*Barclays Bank PLC v. Franchise Tax Board of California*, holding that the Constitution does not impede application of California's tax to Barclays and Colgate, [512 U.S. 298](#) (1994)

*Dolan v. City of Tigard*, holding that the city's dedication requirements constitute an uncompensated taking of property, [512 U.S. 374](#) (1994)

*Honda Motor Company, Ltd. v. Oberg*, holding that Oregon's denial of review of the size of punitive damages awards violates the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause, [512 U.S. 415](#) (1994)

*City of Ladue v. Gilleo*, holding that the ordinance violates a Ladue resident's right to free speech, [512 U.S. 43](#) (1994)

*Board of Education of Kiryas Joel Village School District v. Grumet*, holding that the statute's purpose was to exclude all but those who lived in and practiced the village enclave's extreme form of Judaism. The exclusionary intent failed to respect the Establishment Clause's requirement that states maintain a neutral position with respect to religion, [512 U.S. 687](#) (1994)

*Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, holding that Congress "has an independent interest in preserving a multiplicity of broadcasters," and thus has a right to judge what approach would best insure a competitive communications marketplace, [520 U.S. 180](#) (1994)

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## 1993 Events

- **Feb. 26:** [A van parked outside the World Trade Center explodes and injures more than 1,000 people](#)
- **Feb. 28:** [ATF agents attempt to serve a Federal search warrant for illegal firearms at compound of Branch Davidian cult in Waco, Tex., and to arrest cult leader David Koresh](#)
- **Mar. 12:** [Janet Reno becomes the first female Attorney General](#)
- **Apr. 19:** [FBI uses combat vehicles to fire tear gas into the Branch Davidian compound; three hours later, fires break out at the compound and 75 Branch Davidians are later found dead](#)
- **May-Oct.:** [The Great Mississippi and Missouri Rivers Flood of 1993: Due to heavy and continuous rainfall, the mid-west is flooded for 200 days in some places](#)
- **May 1:** An outbreak of Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome occurs in the U.S.
- **June 4:** [UN Security Council widens the mandate of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia to include protection of six Bosnian safe areas](#)
- **June 23:** [Lorena Bobbitt cuts off her husband's penis](#)
- **June 27:** [President Clinton orders an attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in retaliation for the assassination attempt on former President Bush](#)
- **Aug. 1:** [The Mississippi River crests at nearly 50 feet in St. Louis](#)
- **Sept. 13:** [Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Mahmoud Abbas sign an agreement on a declaration of principles on interim self-government for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; agreement was signed in Washington, D.C. in the presence of President Clinton, PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin](#)
- **Oct. 3-4:** [U.S. forces and local militia clash in an overnight standoff resulting in the Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia](#)
- **Nov. 30:** [President Clinton signs the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act, mandating background checks and a waiting period on firearms sales](#)
- **Dec. 11:** [Soviet space program items are sold at auction, fetching nearly \\$7 million](#)

## 1994 Events

- **Jan. 6:** [Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan is assaulted by a pipe wielding villain](#)
- **Jan. 14:** [Clinton and Yeltsin sign the Kremlin Accords, aimed at dismantling a nuclear arsenal in Ukraine and agreeing to stop preprogramming nuclear missile targets](#)
- **Feb. 21:** [CIA employee Aldrich Ames arrested by the FBI on suspicion of spying for the Soviet Union and Russia](#)
- **Mar. 16:** [Tonya Harding is banned from figure skating due to her involvement in the attack on Nancy Kerrigan](#)

- **Apr. 6:** [President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryimire of Burundi die when their plane is shot down as it approaches Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Shortly afterwards the Rwandan military and allied ethnic Hutu militias begin to massacre the ethnic Tutsi population and moderate Hutu opposition leaders](#)
- **Apr. 22:** [Former President Richard M. Nixon dies](#)
- **May 19:** [Former First Lady and style icon Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis dies of cancer](#)
- **June 12:** [Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman are murdered outside her home in Los Angeles](#)
- **Sept. 13:** [Passage of the Violence Against Women Act](#)
- **Oct. 9:** [In response to Iraqi troop movements, President Clinton augments U.S. military personnel in the Persian Gulf with additional troops and equipment](#)
- **Oct. 15:** [Democratically-elected President Jean-Baptiste Aristide of Haiti returned to office under the protection of U.S. troops](#)
- **Oct. 21:** [U.S. and North Korea sign an accord intended to resolve a prolonged confrontation over North Korea's suspended nuclear weapons program](#)

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Committee on Public Works and Transportation. House. [Midwest Floods of 1993: Flood Control and Floodplain Policy and Proposals.](#) Oct. 27, 1993. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, Committee on

Public Works and Transportation Serial No. 103-57 (Y4.P96/11:103-57). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1993-PWT-0044

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Committee on the Judiciary. House. [World Trade Center Bombing: Terror Hits Home](#). Mar. 9, 1993. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, Committee on the Judiciary Serial No. 28 (Y4.J89/1:103/28). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1993-HJH-0021

Committee on the Judiciary. Senate. [Implementation of the Violence Against Women Act](#). Sept. 29, 1994. 103rd Congress, 2nd Session, Committee on the Judiciary Serial No. J-103-73 (Y4.J89/2:S.HRG.103-1084). ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1994-SJS-0029

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## Major Acts

**Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.** Entitles eligible private sector and government employees to up to 12 weeks of unpaid medical leave for a serious health condition, and up to 12 weeks of unpaid family leaves of absence for childbirth, adoption, and care of infants or seriously ill children, spouses, or parents. Approved Feb. 5, 1993. ([107 Stat. 6; PL103-3](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**National Voter Registration Act of 1993.** Establishes national voter registration procedures for Federal elections. Approved May 20, 1993. ([107 Stat. 77; PL103-31](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993.** Amends the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 and numerous other acts to reduce outlays and increase revenues to meet FY94-FY98 deficit reduction levels established under H. Con. Res. 64; includes provisions raising tax rates on the top 1.2% of taxpayers. Approved Aug. 10, 1993. ([107 Stat. 312; PL103-66](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Handgun Control, Multiple Firearm Purchases, and Federal Firearms License Reform.** Establishes a waiting period before the purchase of a handgun, and provides for the establishment of a national instant criminal background check system to be contacted by firearms dealers before the transfer of any firearm. Approved Nov. 30, 1993. ([107 Stat. 1536; PL103-159](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.** Approves the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), entered into Dec. 17, 1992, with Canada and Mexico. Approved Dec. 8, 1993. ([107 Stat. 2057; PL103-182](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Goals 2000: Educate America Act.** Amends the Department of Education Organization Act and numerous other acts to establish voluntary national education standards and promote efforts to improve the public education system. Approved Mar. 31, 1994. ([108 Stat. 125; PL103-227](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994.** Prohibits the use of force, threats, or physical obstruction that injures, intimidates, or interferes with persons obtaining or providing reproductive health services or counseling, or seeking to exercise the right to religious freedom. Approved May 26, 1994. ([108 Stat. 694; PL103-259](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.** Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and numerous other acts to establish and revise programs for crime prevention, prisons, gun control, victims' rights, and law enforcement. Approved Sept. 13, 1994. ([108 Stat. 1796; PL103-322](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.** Reduces administrative requirements for insured depository institutions to the extent consistent with safe and sound banking practices, to facilitate the establishment of community development financial institutions, and for other purposes. Approved Sept. 23, 1994. ([108 Stat. 2160; PL103-325](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

**Riegle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994.** Amends the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and numerous other acts to permit interstate banking and branching on a nationwide basis. Approved Sept. 29, 1994. ([108 Stat. 2328; PL103-328](#)) ([Regulatory History](#))

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