

*Oct. 1 / Administration of Ronald Reagan, 1986*

ended.

*Q.* Now that you're back, what do you really think of Jimmy Carter?

*Note:* The exchange began at 4:03 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Fol-

lowing the exchange, the President met with Mr. Daniloff and his family in the Oval Office. Mr. Daniloff, of *U.S. News & World Report*, had recently been released by the Soviets after being detained in Moscow on charges of espionage.

## Statement on Signing the Bill Reauthorizing the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984

*October 1, 1986*

I am pleased to sign into law enrolled bill H.R. 3358, which extends the authorization of appropriations contained in the Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act of 1984 and makes certain other changes to that act. This law will continue the effective Federal enforcement of efforts designed to protect and conserve the stock of Atlantic striped bass. In signing this legislation, I note that section 2 preserves in full the discretion of the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior to determine whether a State is in compliance with the interstate fisheries management plan and, therefore, whether a moratorium should be imposed. While the statute provides that the Secretaries shall carefully consider the comments of the At-

lantic States Fisheries Commission, the actual determination is theirs to make.

Any interpretation of the statute that would vest the Atlantic States Fisheries Commission, a body composed of State officials, with the authority to limit the exercise of enforcement discretion under Federal law by executive branch officials would raise a serious constitutional question. I sign this bill with the understanding that it grants no such authority and that if it were interpreted in such a restrictive fashion it would contravene the Constitution.

*Note:* H.R. 3358, approved October 1, was assigned Public Law No. 99-432.

## Statement on Signing the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986

*October 1, 1986*

I have today signed H.R. 3622, the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. This legislation is the product of a 4-year effort led by the House and Senate Armed Services Committees. It is a milestone in the long evolution of defense organization since our national security establishment was created in 1947. Our thanks go to Senators Barry Goldwater and Sam Nunn, Representatives Bill Nichols, Ike Skelton, John Kasich, and Larry Hopkins, Secretary Weinberger, David Packard, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and many others for their patience and perseverance

in this effort.

After long and intense debate, we have set a responsible course of action by taking another important step forward, building on improvements underway since 1981, and affirming the basic wisdom of those who came before us—the Forrestals, Bradleys, Radfords, and Eisenhowers—advancing their legacy in the light of our own experience.

*Note:* H.R. 3622, approved October 1, was assigned Public Law No. 99-433.

Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Ronald Reagan, Book II--June 28 to December 31, 1986. Washington, D.C.: Federal Register Division, GSA, 1989. P. 1312.