

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING AND THERAPY SYSTEMS—TRADE BALANCE—CALENDAR YEAR 1992—Continued
[In U.S. dollars]

Country	Exports	Percent share	Imports	Percent share	Balance
Japan	264,670,735	13.12	585,495,403	32.97	(320,824,668)
Canada	167,714,703	8.31	22,832,903	1.29	144,881,800
Netherlands	143,067,845	7.09	168,253,096	9.47	(25,185,251)
France	139,053,469	6.89	123,562,901	6.96	15,490,568
United Kingdom	112,547,658	5.58	75,174,628	4.23	37,373,030
Italy	90,432,792	4.48	25,967,958	1.46	64,464,834
Australia	68,713,260	3.41	3,955,211	0.22	64,758,049
China	65,697,608	3.26	230,093	0.01	65,467,515
Brazil	59,351,337	2.94	6,928	0.00	59,344,409
Mexico	58,427,919	2.90	3,873,607	0.22	54,554,312
South Korea	52,492,524	2.60	3,653,817	0.21	48,838,707
Hong Kong	38,993,025	1.93	12,000,784	0.68	26,992,241
Belgium	35,464,619	1.76	22,388,550	1.26	13,076,069
Switzerland	34,039,311	1.69	15,763,755	0.89	18,275,556
Taiwan	29,607,240	1.47	2,268,816	0.13	27,338,424
Spain	29,148,523	1.45	9,970,803	0.56	19,177,720
Sweden	26,178,428	1.50	23,025,472	1.30	5,152,956
Argentina	24,046,114	1.19	10,100	0.00	24,036,014
Austria	20,289,187	1.01	7,862,878	0.44	12,426,309

Data Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

SUNDRY MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sundry messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

□ 1630

THE FAMILIES FIRST AGENDA AND A FURTHER DISCUSSION ON SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHAW). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about the families first agenda of the Democrats, recently announced. Of course we have between now and November to really get to understand and fully digest what this agenda is all about, but I am very excited about it because it does crystallize and place in one package some of the very important points that I have been trying to get across for the last 18 months.

I think the families first agenda is a good statement as to what is most important that is going on here in Washington at this point. It talks about what is happening with working families and workers in the workplace and what we need to do to deal with guaranteeing that we place families first by seeing to it that working families have an opportunity to survive with dignity and that people in the workplace have a fair chance to make a living. That is one very important part of it. Another part of the families first agenda, of course, deals with education. Nothing is more important than education at this particular point in the history of this Nation.

We are in a critical transition period. This is a period where high tech know-how has taken over. It is a period where skills that were relevant and useful and could command a great price in the marketplace 30, 40 years ago are no longer able to command that price. For that reason we have a

great gap in our income structure, and more and more people are sinking to lower and lower levels in terms of their income while the country is really prospering and a handful of people are getting richer and richer. The families first agenda was developed by the Democratic Caucus under the leadership of Minority Leader GEPHARDT. I think he did a great job, and we certainly would expect from Democrats that kind of agenda.

I want to start by indicating that there is an editorial that appeared in the Atlanta Constitution that was not developed by Democrats, was not developed by the Democratic Caucus. In fact I do not think you could ever accuse the Atlanta Constitution of being a group of wild-eyed liberals. This editorial, I think, could very well be an introduction to the families first agenda. The families first agenda could benefit greatly from this editorial, which is labeled the "Shrinking Middle Class." It appeared in the Atlanta Constitution of Friday, June 21. I am going to talk about this editorial and then move into the families first agenda.

Before I do that, I did want to make a few comments about the topic that I discussed just before we adjourned for the July 4th holiday. I got a lot of comments as a result of my last 60-minute presentation. I talked at that time about another subject which was close to education, educating children. I used the situation with respect to Clarence Thomas, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas who has been the focus of a controversy in Prince George's County. There were some board members of the local school board who objected to Justice Thomas addressing a group of youngsters who were receiving awards.

Prince George's County and this particular school in particular is predominantly black, overwhelmingly black. The board member, Mr. Kenneth Johnson, had raised the issue of considering the kinds of positions that Justice Thomas has taken, which have hurt black people so much, have hurt the African-Americans in this country so very much, should he be allowed to come to a school of predominantly black children and not have a situation where he could be questioned or there

could be a discussion. Should he be allowed to come in and serve as a role model without anybody making any effort to see to it that youngsters understand that there is a controversy surrounding Mr. Thomas which definitely impacts on their lives and that you ought to have some different kind of format.

I praised Mr. Johnson's action, and he was not trying to deny Supreme Court Justice Thomas the right to speak. He wanted a different format. I think it was most appropriate.

I got a lot of criticism for that. A lot of people called in. One lady called in teary-eyed, saying that she never thought she would see the day where a black Congressman would sit on the floor of the House and criticize a black Supreme Court Justice. My answer to that is it is very difficult, I assure you, but these are very difficult times. These are very complex times. The world is not simple anymore with respect to civil rights. The fact is that everybody who fought in the civil rights struggle had a common goal and you had clear objectives, people were being denied the right to drink at water fountains. They were being denied hotel accommodations. They were being denied the right to take a job even when they were qualified for the job. They were openly discriminated against.

It was all very obvious, very blatant, and we were all marching to the tune of one drum against these insults and against the disadvantages that they posed. It was much clearer. Now, you have a situation where people who are the beneficiaries of affirmative action, like Supreme Court Justice Thomas, have attacked the same affirmative action that he was a beneficiary of. Supreme Court Justice Thomas has begun to help turn back the clock on many of the progressive steps that were taken and made by African-Americans in this country.

So, if he is handing down decisions which attack the Voting Rights Act, decisions which attack affirmative action, decisions which make new law and that law is very much to the disadvantage and the detriment of black people in general and certainly black