

Fifteen months ago I promised the American people that I would complete this investigation promptly and responsibly. Today I fulfill that promise.

President Clinton has acknowledged responsibility for his actions. He has admitted that he knowingly gave evasive and misleading answers to questions in the *Jones* deposition and that his conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice; he has acknowledged that some of his answers were false; he has agreed to a five year suspension of his Arkansas bar license; and he has agreed not to seek attorneys' fees in connection with this matter.

The nation's interests have been served. And therefore, I decline prosecution.

In doing so, I have tried to heed Justice Robert Jackson's wisdom: "The citizen's safety lies in the prosecutor who tempers zeal with human kindness, who seeks truth and not victims, who serves the law and not factional purposes, and who approaches his task with humility."

I trust that the decision made today meets the expectations of the American people, who deserve a resolution that acknowledges the President's conduct, respects America's institutions, and demonstrates sensitivity to our constitutional system of government.

This matter is now concluded. May history and the American people judge that it has been concluded justly.

Televised Statement of
Independent Counsel Robert W. Ray

Friday, January 19, 2001