

Text of Statements by Clinton and Wood

The New York Times

February 6, 1993, Saturday, Late Edition - Final

Copyright 1993 The New York Times Company

Distribution: National Desk

Section: Section 1;; Section 1; Page 8; Column 2; National Desk; Column 2;; Text

Length: 503 words

Byline: Reuters

Body

*Following are statements by Judge Kimba M. **Wood** of Federal District Court in New York, who withdrew her name yesterday from consideration for the post of United States Attorney General, and by President Clinton:*

Wood's Statement

After consultation with the White House, I have decided to withdraw my name from consideration by the President for nomination to the post of Attorney General. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

On January 29, I met with the President at the White House to discuss the possibility of my appointment. In the course of a wide-ranging discussion of policy issues, I was asked if I had a "Zoe Baird" problem. I said I did not, and I do not.

First, since I hired my babysitter in March 1986, I have submitted all required forms and paid all required taxes on her behalf. Second, I complied fully with all immigration laws and made all filings and disclosures that should be made in compliance with the immigration laws. My hiring of my babysitter was legal in March 1986 (prior to the Fall 1986 enactment of the Immigration Reform and Control ("IRCA") which rendered hiring illegal aliens unlawful if they were hired after IRCA's passage), and my employment of her continued to be legal after the passage of IRCA, because IRCA explicitly excluded from its provisions employers whose employees were hired prior to its passage.

In March 1986, it was lawful to openly employ aliens who were in the country, like my babysitter, on an expired visa, as long as the required taxes and forms were filed. However, although all of these acts were lawful, my babysitter, like anyone pursuing legalization, was not legally in this country from 1980 until she obtained legal residency in December 1987 through the IRCA amnesty program.

I maintained and provided seven years of records with respect to my babysitter and other household help. These records included my federal social security, FUTA and W-2 filings and payments, and my State unemployment compensation, disability insurance and workers' compensation filings and payments, as well as the files I kept relating to my babysitter's immigration status, including my Application for Labor Certification and her application for federal amnesty pursuant to IRCA.

In sum, I maintained appropriate records and made all required filings and payments for the seven years that my babysitter has been in my employ.

Text of Statements by Clinton and Wood

Thus, I have fulfilled every legal requirement with respect to the employment of our babysitter. Nevertheless, and after further consultations, I have concluded that in the current political environment, proceeding further with the possibility of my nomination would be inappropriate.

Clinton's Statement

I understand and respect Judge Wood's decision not to proceed further with the possibility of being nominated as Attorney General.

I was greatly impressed with her as a lawyer, a judge and a person. I respect her legal talents, judicial record and integrity. I wish her well.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (90%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); US PRESIDENTS (90%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (90%); TAXES & TAXATION (90%); JUDGES (89%); LAWYERS (89%); FOREIGN LABOR (88%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (78%); TALKS & MEETINGS (77%); SOCIAL SECURITY (73%); WORKERS COMPENSATION (69%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (68%); UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (65%); AMNESTY (62%)

Company: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Organization: JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Industry: LAWYERS (89%); UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (65%); DISABILITY INSURANCE (50%)

Person: BILL CLINTON (73%)

Geographic: NEW YORK, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (79%)

Load-Date: February 6, 1993