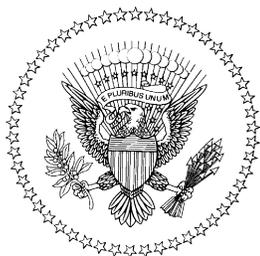


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

- See also* Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Budget Review Board, meeting—331
Missouri, St. Louis
Moline Elementary School—318
Tax family reunion—320
Ohio, roundtable discussion on education in
Columbus—313
Oklahoma, dedication of the National
Memorial Center Museum in Oklahoma
City—312
Radio address—305
Robert Hanssen espionage case—317
Tennessee, Townsend Elementary School in
Townsend—322

Executive Orders

- Notification of Employee Rights Concerning
Payment of Union Dues or Fees—306
Preservation of Open Competition and
Government Neutrality Towards
Government Contractors' Labor Relations
on Federal and Federally Funded
Construction Projects—309
Revocation of Executive Order and
Presidential Memorandum Concerning
Labor-Management Partnerships—311

Executive Orders—Continued

- Revocation of Executive Order on
Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers
Under Certain Contracts—311

Interviews With the News Media

- Exchange with reporters in the Roosevelt
Room—331
News conferences
February 16 (No. 1) with President Fox of
Mexico in San Cristobal, Mexico—299
February 22 (No. 2)—324

Joint Statements

- Joint Statement by President George Bush
and President Vicente Fox Towards a
Partnership for Prosperity: the Guanajuato
Proposal—304

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

- Mexico, President Fox—299, 304

Statements by the President

- Death of Dale Earnhardt—331

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—333
Checklist of White House press releases—333
Digest of other White House
announcements—331
Nominations submitted to the Senate—333

Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on February 23, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, February 23, 2001

**The President's News Conference
With President Vicente Fox in San
Cristobal, Mexico**
February 16, 2001

President Fox. Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Mr. President. This morning I have held very productive and cordial talks with the President of the United States, Mr. George W. Bush. We have agreed on a set of principles and values to provide our relationship as neighbors with more constructive dynamics of more intense cooperation, in order to unfold all the potential of our bilateral relations.

The fact that the President—George Bush's first foreign visit has our country as its destination is a clear message of the interest his administration places on strengthening links with Mexico. At the same time, it is quite a distinction.

This starting point is very encouraging, so that both Mexicans and Americans, together, to inaugurate an era of shared prosperity together. I also acknowledge President Bush's demonstration of friendship by coming to Guanajuato, the cradle of Mexico's independence. And I am particularly grateful for his greeting my mother, Dona Mercedes, as well as for his visit to my house—his house—here in San Cristobal.

Let me tell you, Mr. President, that you will always be welcome in this, your home—or, in your language, President, you know that we consider you a friend of Mexico, a friend of Mexican people, and a friend of mine.

The agreements we have reached today are embodied in the document that we have, and we ratified our commitment to values of democracy and the promotion of human rights, as well as the aim of the fruits of development reach all sectors of our society.

The global and hemispheric agenda, also an important part of our talks, as is fitting in a mature dialog between two prominent

members of the international community. We have identified a renewed will for cooperation to design, together with our Canadian partners, a region guided by the search for shared prosperity.

We, the Presidents of Mexico and the United States, have the favorable circumstance of beginning our respective mandates simultaneously. This enables us to project our common objectives with a long-term vision and to undertake negotiations in areas that require a decisive and systematic impetus from the two governments.

Mr. President Bush, the spirit in which we have conducted this first working meeting marks the beginning of a novel stage in our bilateral relations. I am certain that we will be able to take advantage of the historic opportunity we have today to set out on the way to a century of shared prosperity. We will face this challenge on the basis of mutual trust, with a fresh and creative vision to advance in the topics of our bilateral agenda.

Once again, welcome, and this is your home.

President Bush. *Muchas gracias, amigo, el Presidente de Mexico. Su recepcion tan calida refleja el grande amistad entre nuestros pueblos. Me hace sentir que estoy entre familia.* Thank you very much.

It's a great honor to come to Mexico as this important nation enjoys a new birth of freedom, signaled by President Fox's election. Our meetings today have been a really good opportunity to renew our personal friendship and the friendship between Mexico and the United States.

Mexico is the first foreign country I have visited as President, and I intended it to be that way. Our nations are bound together by ties of history, family, values, commerce, and culture. Today, these ties give us an unprecedented opportunity. We have a chance to build a partnership that will improve the lives of citizens in both countries.

I came here today to seek President Fox's views on how we can go about building on our partnership. We enjoyed a warm and substantive and frank dialog on the many issues that shape the relationship between America and Mexico.

We talked about strengthening our trade relationship, which offers hope and opportunity on both sides of our border. We talked about how our two nations can work together to meet our current and future energy needs. We exchanged ideas about safe and orderly migration, a policy that respects individuals on both sides of the border. We talked about expanding educational opportunities. We talked about what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

We also talked about what we can do together to extend the benefits of freedom and prosperity throughout the entire hemisphere. I told President Fox that building a hemisphere of freedom will be a fundamental commitment of my administration. We both look forward to discussing these ideas with other hemispheric leaders in Quebec in April at the Summit of the Americas.

We are welcoming a new day in the relationship between America and Mexico. Each nation has a new President and a new perspective. Geography has made us neighbors. Cooperation and respect will make us partners. And the promise of the partnership was renewed and reinvigorated today.

Thank you very much.

President Fox. If I understood correctly, we're going to take questions in Spanish for the Mexican press, and some questions in English for the American press. So we'll go first to the women first, and here we'll take the Spanish question first.

Immigration Policy/Situation in Iraq

Q. I have two questions, one for the President of Mexico. We've spoken about new agreements and a new path on migration issues. What has been the advancements on the two topics as you—your campaign to open the border for the free transit of people and to have the free trade agreement in the same way that the European community has done it?

You talked to President Bush about the amnesty, about the illegal aliens in the United States. I have a question for President Bush. What is the message that you want to send right now? What does the United States want to send to the world as a message with the new bombing of Iraq? And above all, why, Mr. Bush, at this point, when you are establishing a dialog with the President of Mexico—why? Is this a beginning of a new war?

President Fox. Actually, we discussed amply the migration issues that we have. But this is not the meeting in which decisions or details are going to be reached, because they do not belong in the power of—the executive power, as such, because they have to have the participation of other groups.

We have spoken on migration from the viewpoint of our countrymen that are in the United States, and we have spoken about the possibilities of working on agreements of temporary legal work and employment. We have spoken on the firm idea that we have of fighting violence against immigrants and to work based on the law and to see how the "coyotes" and all the people that will be taking these people—or the *polleros* taking our illegal workers into U.S. territory.

We have spoken of a long-term vision and approach and constructive approach on this topic. And perhaps here, the most important thing will be presented by President Bush later on. But certainly there is a new attitude; there is a new way of approaching things, much more positive approach to things on this issue of migration.

The conclusion has been to create a commission at the highest level, as it was read in the Guanajuato Proposal, to begin and to discuss and to advance on this topic on very concrete steps. I believe this is a great advancement on what we had before.

President Bush. In answer to part B of your question, the United States is engaged in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. We will remain so. Since 1991, our country has been enforcing what's called a no-fly zone. A routine mission was conducted to enforce the no-fly zone, and it is a mission about which

I was informed and I authorized. But I repeat, it is a routine mission, and we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone until the world is told otherwise.

Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Q. Sir, as you say, this is the first military action you've taken as President of the United States. I'm wondering whether it signals a hardening of the U.S. position towards Iraq. And specifically, is it your goal to drive Saddam Hussein from power? And secondly, are you putting Saddam on notice today that American military action will be more frequent or more forceful than it was before you became President?

President Bush. Mr. Fournier, Saddam Hussein has got to understand that we expect him to conform to the agreement that he signed after Desert Storm. We will enforce the no-fly zone, both south and north. Our intention is to make sure that the world is as peaceful as possible. And we're going to watch very carefully as to whether or not he develops weapons of mass destruction, and if we catch him doing so, we'll take the appropriate action.

President Fox/Drug Certification

Q. Mr. President, President Bush, welcome to Mexico. We will be waiting for you in Cancun. The question is on globalization; the question, support to Mexico. And another question, certification in Mexico, will it continue? Will it disappear forever? Would you trust our friend, Fox?

President Bush. The question is on drug certification and really about our relations with President Fox. I trust your President. He's the kind of man you can look in the eye and know he's shooting straight with you. I appreciate the fact that he was a one-time Governor. I've got kind of partiality to Governors.

We need to work together on the drug issue. One of the reasons why drugs are shipped—the main reason why drugs are shipped through Mexico to the United States is because United States citizens use drugs. And our Nation must do a better job of educating our citizenry about the dangers and evils of drug use.

Secondly, I believe there is a movement in the country to review all the certification process. I'm certainly going to take the message back to the Members of Congress that I firmly believe that President Fox will do everything in his power to root out the drug lords and to halt drug trafficking as best as he possibly can.

As you know, he made some very bold and courageous statements about extradition. He showed unique leadership on that issue. It certainly caught my attention. And I believe when the American people and the Members of Congress hear this bold action that he's willing to take, they will understand what I know, that he is committed to battling the drug trade.

Jim—Steve, [Steve Holland, Reuters] sorry. You are? [Laughter] We've got you out of order—I know you're Steve. *Stefan, hombre muy bueno.*

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Sir, now that Republicans have told you there are not enough votes for your tax plan in the Senate, how do you proceed from here? And do you consider cutting the size of it?

President Bush. His question was about our tax plan. I don't agree with that assessment, that there are not enough votes in the Senate. I believe when it's all said and done, we're going to get a tax bill out of the House and the Senate that will be at the level I think it ought to be. I know there is a lot of speculation about Members, but it's early—it's early in the process.

Washington, Mr. President, has got a unique way of asking Presidents to negotiate with themselves. And that's not what is going to happen in this administration. We'll get a tax package because it's the right thing for the American people.

Ours, Mr. President, is getting ready to submit a budget that will set priorities: Education will be a priority; health care for our citizens will be a priority; setting aside Social Security—all the payroll taxes for Social Security will be a priority. We've still got money left over, and I want to pass some of it back to the people who pay the bills, in order to make sure our economy does not drag.

And the President and I talked about economic growth. He knows exactly what I know, that if our economy were to slow significantly, it would affect our abilities to see the benefits of free trade; it would affect the Mexican economy.

And so I want to assure our friends from Mexico that we will put fiscal and monetary—I have nothing to do with monetary policy, of course—but fiscal policy in place that will affect economic growth, because it is beneficial not only for our people but for the Mexican people.

Look, to answer your question directly, we are going to get a good tax cut through, and I think it is going to be the size I'm suggesting.

Situation in Iraq

Q. To President Fox, since you two are working together on several actions that you want to undertake together in a short future and also in the long-term future, do you support the military actions like the ones like the United States is doing, bombing Iraq? Thank you.

President Fox. I do not have a position or a statement on that topic, specifically because this will be done through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the future.

It's your turn.

President Bush. Short answer, Mr. President. [Laughter]

Campbell Brown [NBC News].

President's Visit to Mexico

Q. Much has been made of you choosing Mexico as your first foreign trip. But it is also causing consternation among the European allies and Canada that you are going to put a greater emphasis here at the expense of those countries. What do you say to that, please?

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that question. First, I met with Prime Minister Chretien and assured him that a vision of—a foreign policy that understands good policy starts in the neighborhood is a vision that goes both north and south.

I would hope that nations around the world, and leaders, would understand the logic behind saying that good foreign policy, good relations must be firm on our borders.

I can't think of anything more logical and more commonsensical than to understand our hemisphere, which can be and will be bound by freedom and free markets and free trade is in the interests of our people.

We'll have a foreign policy as one that engages the world. I've rejected isolationism, as you know, and protectionism. Ours is going to be an active foreign policy. It's going to be consistent and firm, one that starts, though, by building friendships, in this case, renewing a friendship. And it should send a strong signal to all nations who watch that if you're our friend, we'll be your friend. And Mexico is our friend and will remain our friend.

Situation in Iraq and President's Visit

Q. Thank you very much, Presidents. A question for President Fox: Do you think that it is not an improper gesture in this for a visit that the recent bombing of Iraq is one that is attracting the attention, and would put a shade or a shadow on this meeting here in Guanajuato?

President Fox. I see no reason why we should connect one event with the other one. Here we are in the process of building up and constructing a strategy to foster the economic and human development of a complete region that is formed by three countries that have been associated under a free trade agreement, and the direct relationship between the United States and Mexico that has proven already that has made advancements, very constructively.

The levels of trade that we have had are really fantastic, and they are the envy of many people—many people have never thought that in the year of 2001 with a trade balance of \$250 billion. This has meant development for the United States. It has meant employment in the United States. It has meant development and employment in Mexico, as well.

This is what has allowed us to reduce substantially the level of poverty in Mexico. In the last 4 years, more than 4 million poor people have gone beyond extreme poverty levels. This is what we have invested on, to take these people above this level. And all the time that we have invested, discussing these strategic points, allow us to see that

there is a possibility of going ahead to get more benefits from good relationships and to be true partners toward prosperity and to be true friends and to be true neighbors.

And this purpose is something that has been clearly stated today, and we're very pleased with it. And we are full of confidence that we can see the future with a more optimistic approach as of today's meeting.

Situation in Iraq

Q. Apologies to you, Presidente Fox, for not asking a question about the U.S. and Mexico. But President Bush, if I may, another question about Iraq. As we understand it, this was in response to violations that have happened over several weeks, perhaps several months. What prompted you to take this decision at this time?

President Bush. The commanders on the ground, rightly, make the decision as to how to enforce the no-fly zone. I want to assure those who don't understand U.S. policy that this is a routine mission. Some of the missions require the Commander in Chief to be informed. This was such a mission. It is not the first time it has happened, regrettably so.

We will continue to enforce the no-fly zones. The no-fly zones are enforced on a daily basis. It is a part of a strategy, and until that strategy is changed, if it is changed at all, we will continue to enforce the no-fly zone.

But anyway, the decision is made on the ground, Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

Energy Policy

Q. I would like to ask you whether there was a petition from the U.S. Government as far as oil is concerned, or any requests for support on electricity and oil?

President Fox. No, not specifically. We spoke about the California problems, by itself, and, yes, we are speaking about the possibility of creating an energy policy that will be common to all the northern part of the country and into Canada, the United States, and Mexico and part of Central America, to try to create a synergy or a synergism so that each one of the countries would benefit from all these policies, because there is energy that we need to import in Mexico that we do not have enough, and at this moment

we know in some part of the U.S. territory, this is happening, too. And the same could happen to the Central American countries.

Here, what is important is to have a common policy whereby no one takes advantage of the other. But the other way around it, and it's a win-win situation for everyone, that everyone would be benefited from the organization of an energy plan for the benefit of all the continent of, in this case, the northern part of the Americas.

We also spoke about water problems at the border zones. These are common problems that we have, and if we administer and manage these common problems in a timely manner, in a positive and optimistic way, we could mutually be benefited in the water problems that we have at the border. And this is something that obviously we discussed here.

I believe this is the foundation that we laid down for our project today. And we are trying with good will to remove all the obstacles and to take advantage of all the opportunities that we have. And certainly, today we saw more opportunities than obstacles. And therefore, I do ratify that this makes us see the near future with much more optimism than before.

Q. Mr. President, when you met with President Fox in August in Dallas, you talked about the possibility of finding ways to share energy resources. With the current climate in America—energy prices high, supplies low—can you tell me how you pushed that issue today—

President Bush. Yes, I appreciate that.

Q. —and what's in progress—

President Bush. The question was about energy policy. First of all, good energy policy is one that encompasses not only Mexico but Canada. We must think about energy shortages and energy demands in regards to our hemisphere.

Secondly, the President and I did discuss how best to share resources to the benefit of both countries. We talked about the possibility of exploration in Canada and the United States and Mexico. A cubic foot of gas imported into Mexico is one, obviously, less able to burn in the United States. It is a hemispheric issue, and it needs to be elevated to the Presidential level.

We did talk about power, the generation of power; the possibility as to whether or not in Baja, for example, more power could be added to the western grid. It's an obvious opportunity, if possible. Now, there are some bottlenecks, and one of the things we need to do is address those bottlenecks, one of which is the ability to transmit power from south to north.

Now, there is pipeline availability. And we're going to need to—so when we talk about an energy policy at home, it is also in the context of Mexico and Canada. This is an issue where we need to continue the dialog. It's an issue that is going to affect the people of Mexico and the people of the United States if we don't recognize that we need more supply.

We can conserve better. There's no question about it. But demand is far outstripping supply, which is creating a real problem for the working people of our respective countries. And so this subject, rightly so, took quite a bit of time in our meeting and is going to take more time down the road.

We have a great opportunity to come together and have a strategy that honors Mexico and honors its sovereignty and, at the same time, recognizes that people are what matters most. And we've got to make sure our people have got the energy necessary to be able to find jobs and find work.

President Fox. We are finished.

Thank you very much for coming to the press conference. Good luck, and thank you.

President Bush. They just want to get in the picture.

NOTE: The President's first news conference began at 2:37 p.m. at Rancho San Cristobal. President Fox and the Mexican journalists spoke in Spanish, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Joint Statement by President George Bush and President Vicente Fox Towards a Partnership for Prosperity: the Guanajuato Proposal
February 16, 2001

We met today at Rancho San Cristobal, in Guanajuato, in a dialogue of friends and neighbors to agree on important goals and principles that will govern relations between our two countries.

We are united, as never before, by values and interests that cover the entire span of our rich and broad relationship. That relationship is grounded in our respect for democracy and human rights, not just for ourselves but for all people in every nation. We share a fundamental commitment to free trade as an engine of economic growth and development that leaves nobody behind. And, we are committed to ensuring the rule of law, the framework on which our people's freedom and prosperity depends. This common outlook is the basis for a full, mature, and equitable partnership for prosperity.

Among our highest priorities is unfettering the economic potential of every citizen, so each may contribute fully to narrowing the economic gaps between and within our societies. We acknowledge the dynamism achieved through NAFTA, which has ushered in dramatic increases in trade that have transformed our economic relationship. After consultation with our Canadian partners, we will strive to consolidate a North American economic community whose benefits reach the lesser-developed areas of the region and extend to the most vulnerable social groups in our countries. To this end, we support policies that result in sound fiscal accounts, low inflation, and strong financial systems.

Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We believe that Mexico should make the most of the skills and productivity of their workers at home, and we agree there

should be an orderly framework for migration which ensures humane treatment, legal security, and dignified labor conditions. For this purpose, we are instructing our Governments to engage, at the earliest opportunity, in formal high-level negotiations aimed at achieving short and long-term agreements that will allow us to constructively address migration and labor issues between our two countries. This effort will be chaired by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General of the U.S. and the Secretary of Foreign Relations and the Secretary of the Interior of Mexico.

We attach the utmost importance to issues affecting the quality of life along our common border. We shall work for the economic and social development of our border communities, fight violence and strive to create a safe and orderly environment. We will form a new high-level working group under the auspices of the Binational Commission to identify specific steps each country can take to improve the efficiency of border operations. We will begin immediate discussions to implement the NAFTA panel decision on trucking.

Drug trafficking, drug abuse, and organized crime are major threats to the well-being of our societies. To combat this threat, we must strengthen our respective law enforcement strategies and institutions, as well as develop closer and more trusting bilateral and multilateral cooperation. We want to reduce the demand for drugs and eliminate narco-trafficking organizations. To this end, we will undertake immediate steps to review law enforcement policies and coordination efforts in accordance with each country's national jurisdiction. We will consult with our NAFTA partner Canada regarding development of a North American approach to the important issue of energy resources. Building on the strength of our respective cultures, we will seek to expand our partnership broadly in ways that help secure a better future for our people. Education is a key to that future; we will increase exchanges and internships that help develop human capital and promote respect for each other's rich cultural heritage. We will seek new cooperation in science, technology, and the environment, on which much of our economic

progress and our people's well-being will depend. Beyond the bilateral agenda, our two Governments are also ready to discuss regional and hemispheric issues important to both our nations. The Summit of the Americas, to be held in April in Quebec City, will provide a valuable forum in which the hemisphere's democracies can address and advance shared goals of strengthening democratic institutions and stimulating economic prosperity through free trade and education. We reaffirm our support for the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas as soon as possible.

We believe our two nations can now build an authentic partnership for prosperity, based on shared democratic values and open dialogue that bring great benefits to our people. We want to move beyond the limitations of the past and boldly seize the unprecedented opportunity before us. In order to achieve these goals and follow up on the commitments we made today, we have agreed to meet frequently, as necessary, over the course of our respective terms of office. We will do so as friends, in a spirit of mutual trust and respect.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address *February 17, 2001*

Good morning. As you listen to me today, I'm in Texas after a visit to Mexico, where I had a very good meeting with President Vicente Fox. Members of Congress this holiday weekend are in their States and districts. Soon, we'll all head back to Washington with a lot of work ahead of us.

The work begins with a responsible budget. In Washington, people deal with trillions of dollars and sometimes can forget that every bit of it is someone's earnings. My job is to make sure no one forgets. We must be good stewards of your tax dollars.

My budget will fund our priorities from education to defense to protecting Social Security and Medicare. It will pay down our national debt. And when we have done all

that, we will still have some money left over. I strongly believe we should return that money, the leftover money, to you, the American people, in the form of tax relief. It is, after all, your money.

My tax relief plan is a fair one, lowering the rate for all taxpayers. The typical family of four with two children will get \$1,600 in tax relief. And the greatest benefits, the largest percentage reductions, will go to those who need them most. My plan is pro-growth. It gives our economy a jump-start by leaving more money in the hands of those who have earned it.

My proposal to cut income taxes across the board is now in the hands of Congress. Amid growing concern over the economy and high energy costs, we're seeing a good deal of bipartisan agreement that now is the time to reduce the tax burden and slow the growth of Government spending. In 10 days I'll be taking this case in person to a joint session of Congress.

In addition to debt reduction and tax relief, we have some other important priorities, including a bold proposal to reform American education. Money isn't the whole answer. High standards and accountability matter most. But if we're serious about reforms, like early reading and teacher training, testing on reading and math in every school, the Federal budget must reflect these commitments.

School districts don't need more vague mandates from Washington. They do need clear goals and real support. So my budget for the Department of Education will have a higher percentage increase than any other Federal department. We'll pay for new testing programs and new reading and intervention programs and new choices for parents with children in failing schools. We will spend more on our public schools, but we're going to expect more in return, and this will improve the lives of countless children.

Not long ago, agreement on debt reduction, tax relief, and education reform seemed impossible. But today, people in both parties are impatient with the status quo—with high debt, high tax bills, high energy bills, and falling education standards. This is our chance to act, and we cannot let it pass.

If you happen to see your Congressman or Senator home in your neighborhood this holiday weekend, I hope you'll take time to thank him for working with me to reform public schools and to give tax relief to everyone who pays taxes.

Thank you very much for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:50 p.m. on February 15 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Executive Order 13201— Notification of Employee Rights Concerning Payment of Union Dues or Fees

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*, and in order to ensure the economical and efficient administration and completion of Government contracts, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. (a) This order is designed to promote economy and efficiency in Government procurement. When workers are better informed of their rights, including their rights under the Federal labor laws, their productivity is enhanced. The availability of such a workforce from which the United States may draw facilitates the efficient and economical completion of its procurement contracts.

(b) The Secretary of Labor (Secretary) shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this order. The Secretary shall adopt such rules and regulations and issue such orders as are deemed necessary and appropriate to achieve the purposes of this order.

Sec. 2. (a) Except in contracts exempted in accordance with section 3 of this order, all Government contracting departments and agencies shall, to the extent consistent with law, include the following provisions in every Government contract, other than collective bargaining agreements as defined in 5 U.S.C.

7103(a)(8) and purchases under the “Simplified Acquisition Threshold” as defined in the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 403).

“1. During the term of this contract, the contractor agrees to post a notice, of such size and in such form as the Secretary of Labor shall prescribe, in conspicuous places in and about its plants and offices, including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. The notice shall include the following information (except that the last sentence shall not be included in notices posted in the plants or offices of carriers subject to the Railway Labor Act, as amended (45 U.S.C. 151–188)):

“NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES

Under Federal law, employees cannot be required to join a union or maintain membership in a union in order to retain their jobs. Under certain conditions, the law permits a union and an employer to enter into a union-security agreement requiring employees to pay uniform periodic dues and initiation fees. However, employees who are not union members can object to the use of their payments for certain purposes and can only be required to pay their share of union costs relating to collective bargaining, contract administration, and grievance adjustment.

“If you do not want to pay that portion of dues or fees used to support activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration, or grievance adjustment, you are entitled to an appropriate reduction in your payment. If you believe that you have been required to pay dues or fees used in part to support activities not related to collective bargaining, contract administration, or grievance adjustment, you may be entitled to a refund and to an appropriate reduction in future payments.

“For further information concerning your rights, you may wish to contact the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) either at one of its Regional offices or at the following address:

National Labor Relations Board
Division of Information
1099 14th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20570

“To locate the nearest NLRB office, see NLRB’s website at www.nlr.gov.”

“2. The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, and related rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor.

“3. In the event that the contractor does not comply with any of the requirements set forth in paragraphs (1) or (2) above, this contract may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part, and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in or adopted pursuant to Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001. Such other sanctions or remedies may be imposed as are provided in Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as are otherwise provided by law.

“4. The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (3) herein in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in connection with this contract unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 3 of Executive Order 13201 of February 17, 2001, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as may be directed by the Secretary of Labor as a means of enforcing such provisions, including the imposition of sanctions for non compliance: Provided, however, that if the contractor becomes involved in litigation with a subcontractor or vendor, or is threatened with such involvement, as a result of such direction, the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.”

(b) Whenever, through Acts of Congress or through clarification of existing law by the courts or otherwise, it appears that contractual provisions other than, or in addition to, those set out in subsection (a) of this section are needed to inform employees fully and accurately of their rights with respect to union dues, union-security agreements, or the like, the Secretary shall promptly issue such rules, regulations, or orders as are needed to cause the substitution or addition of

appropriate contractual provisions in Government contracts thereafter entered into.

Sec. 3. (a) The Secretary may, if the Secretary finds that special circumstances require an exemption in order to serve the national interest, exempt a contracting department or agency from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of section 2 of this order with respect to a particular contract, subcontract, or purchase order.

(b) The Secretary may, by rule, regulation, or order, exempt from the provisions of section 2 of this order certain classes of contracts to the extent that they involve (i) work outside the United States and do not involve the recruitment or employment of workers within the United States; (ii) work in jurisdictions where State law forbids enforcement of union-security agreements; (iii) work at sites where the notice to employees described in section 2(a) of this order would be unnecessary because the employees are not represented by a union; (iv) numbers of workers below appropriate thresholds set by the Secretary; or (v) subcontracts below an appropriate tier set by the Secretary.

(c) The Secretary may provide, by rule, regulation, or order, for the exemption of facilities of a contractor, subcontractor, or vendor that are in all respects separate and distinct from activities related to the performance of the contract: Provided, that such exemption will not interfere with or impede the effectuation of the purposes of this order: And provided further, that in the absence of such an exemption all facilities shall be covered by the provisions of this order.

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary may investigate any Government contractor, subcontractor, or vendor to determine whether the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order have been violated. Such investigations shall be conducted in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary.

(b) The Secretary shall receive and investigate complaints by employees of a Government contractor, subcontractor, or vendor where such complaints allege a failure to perform or a violation of the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. (a) The Secretary, or any agency or officer in the executive branch of the Government designated by rule, regulation, or

order of the Secretary, may hold such hearings, public or private, regarding compliance with this order as the Secretary may deem advisable.

(b) The Secretary may hold hearings, or cause hearings to be held, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section prior to imposing, ordering, or recommending the imposition of sanctions under this order. Neither an order for debarment of any contractor from further Government contracts under section 6(b) of this order nor the inclusion of a contractor on a published list of noncomplying contractors under section 6(c) of this order shall be carried out without affording the contractor an opportunity for a hearing.

Sec. 6. In accordance with such rules, regulations, or orders as the Secretary may issue or adopt, the Secretary may:

(a) after consulting with the contracting department or agency, direct that department or agency to cancel, terminate, suspend, or cause to be cancelled, terminated, or suspended, any contract, or any portion or portions thereof, for failure of the contractor to comply with the contractual provisions required by section 2 of this order; contracts may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended absolutely, or continuance of contracts may be conditioned upon future compliance: Provided, that before issuing a directive under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide the head of the contracting department or agency an opportunity to offer written objections to the issuance of such a directive, which objections shall include a complete statement of reasons for the objections, among which reasons shall be a finding that completion of the contract is essential to the agency's mission: And provided further, that no directive shall be issued by the Secretary under this subsection so long as the head of the contracting department or agency continues personally to object to the issuance of such directive;

(b) after consulting with each affected contracting department or agency, provide that one or more contracting departments or agencies shall refrain from entering into further contracts, or extensions or other modifications of existing contracts, with any noncomplying contractor, until such contractor

has satisfied the Secretary that such contractor has complied with and will carry out the provisions of this order: Provided, that before issuing a directive under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide the head of each contracting department or agency an opportunity to offer written objections to the issuance of such a directive, which objections shall include a complete statement of reasons for the objections, among which reasons shall be a finding that further contracts or extensions or other modifications of existing contracts with the noncomplying contractor are essential to the agency's mission: And provided further, that no directive shall be issued by the Secretary under this subsection so long as the head of a contracting department or agency continues personally to object to the issuance of such directive; and

(c) publish, or cause to be published, the names of contractors that have, in the judgment of the Secretary, failed to comply with the provisions of this order or of related rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary.

Sec. 7. Whenever the Secretary invokes section 6(a) or 6(b) of this order, the contracting department or agency shall report the results of the action it has taken to the Secretary within such time as the Secretary shall specify.

Sec. 8. Each contracting department and agency shall cooperate with the Secretary and provide such information and assistance as the Secretary may require in the performance of the Secretary's functions under this order.

Sec. 9. The Secretary may delegate any function or duty of the Secretary under this order to any officer in the Department of Labor or to any other officer in the executive branch of the Government, with the consent of the head of the department or agency in which that officer serves.

Sec. 10. The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council (FAR Council) shall take whatever action is required to implement in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) the provisions of this order and of any related rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary that were issued to implement this Executive Order. The FAR Council shall amend the FAR to require each solicitation of offers for

a contract to include a provision that implements section 2 of this order.

Sec. 11. As it relates to notification of employee rights concerning payment of union dues or fees, Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, which, among other things, revoked Executive Order 12800 of April 13, 1992, is revoked.

Sec. 12. The heads of executive departments and agencies shall revoke expeditiously any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, as it relates to notification of employee rights concerning payment of union dues or fees, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 13. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, nor does it, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any right, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 14. The provisions of this order shall apply to contracts resulting from solicitations issued on or after the effective date of this order.

Sec. 15. This order shall become effective 60 days after the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
11:15 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the
Federal Register on February 22.

**Executive Order 13202—
Preservation of Open Competition
and Government Neutrality Towards
Government Contractors' Labor
Relations on Federal and Federally
Funded Construction Projects**

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President
by the Constitution and laws of the United
States of America, including the Federal

Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq.*, and in order to (1) promote and ensure open competition on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (2) maintain Government neutrality towards Government contractors' labor relations on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (3) reduce construction costs to the Federal Government and to the taxpayers; (4) expand job opportunities, especially for small and disadvantaged businesses; and (5) prevent discrimination against Government contractors or their employees based upon labor affiliation or lack thereof; thereby promoting the economical, nondiscriminatory, and efficient administration and completion of Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. To the extent permitted by law, any executive agency awarding any construction contract after the date of this order, or obligating funds pursuant to such a contract, shall ensure that neither the awarding Government authority nor any construction manager acting on behalf of the Government shall, in its bid specifications, project agreements, or other controlling documents:

(a) Require or prohibit bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors to enter into or adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other related construction project(s); or

(b) Otherwise discriminate against bidders, offerors, contractors, or subcontractors for becoming or refusing to become or remain signatories or otherwise to adhere to agreements with one or more labor organizations, on the same or other related construction project(s).

(c) Nothing in this section shall prohibit contractors or subcontractors from voluntarily entering into agreements described in subsection (a).

Sec. 2. Contracts awarded before the date of this order, and subcontracts awarded pursuant to such contracts, whenever awarded, shall not be governed by this order.

Sec. 3. To the extent permitted by law, any executive agency issuing grants, providing financial assistance, or entering into cooperative agreements for construction projects, shall ensure that neither the bid

specifications, project agreements, nor other controlling documents for construction contracts awarded after the date of this order by recipients of grants or financial assistance or by parties to cooperative agreements, nor those of any construction manager acting on their behalf, shall contain any of the requirements or prohibitions set forth in section 1(a) or (b) of this order.

Sec. 4. In the event that an awarding authority, a recipient of grants or financial assistance, a party to a cooperative agreement, or a construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing, performs in a manner contrary to the provisions of sections 1 or 3 of this order, the executive agency awarding the contract, grant, or assistance shall take such action, consistent with law and regulation, as the agency determines may be appropriate.

Sec. 5. (a) The head of an executive agency may exempt a particular project, contract, subcontract, grant, or cooperative agreement from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this order, if the agency head finds that special circumstances require an exemption in order to avert an imminent threat to public health or safety or to serve the national security.

(b) A finding of "special circumstances" under section 5(a) may not be based on the possibility or presence of a labor dispute concerning the use of contractors or subcontractors who are nonsignatories to, or otherwise do not adhere to, agreements with one or more labor organizations, or concerning employees on the project who are not members of or affiliated with a labor organization.

Sec. 6. (a) The term "construction contract" as used in this order means any contract for the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, or repair of buildings, highways, or other improvements to real property.

(b) The term "executive agency" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in 5 U.S.C. 105, excluding the General Accounting Office.

(c) The term "labor organization" as used in this order shall have the same meaning it has in 42 U.S.C. 2000e(d).

Sec. 7. With respect to Federal contracts, within 60 days of the issuance of this order, the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council

shall take whatever action is required to amend the Federal Acquisition Regulation in order to implement the provisions of this order.

Sec. 8. As it relates to project agreements, Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, which, among other things, revoked Executive Order 12818 of October 23, 1992, is revoked.

Sec. 9. The Presidential Memorandum of June 5, 1997, entitled “Use of Project Labor Agreements for Federal Construction Projects” (the “Memorandum”), is also revoked.

Sec. 10. The heads of executive departments and agencies shall revoke expeditiously any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing the Memorandum or Executive Order 12836 of February 1, 1993, as it relates to project agreements, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 11. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, nor does it, create any right to administrative or judicial review, or any right, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable by any party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Executive Order 13203—Revocation of Executive Order and Presidential Memorandum Concerning Labor-Management Partnerships

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, as amended by Executive Or-

ders 12983 and 13156, which established the National Partnership Council and requires Federal agencies to form labor-management partnerships for management purposes, is revoked. Among other things, therefore, the National Partnership Council is immediately dissolved.

Sec. 2. The Presidential Memorandum of October 28, 1999, entitled “Reaffirmation of Executive Order 12871—Labor-Management Partnerships” (the “Memorandum”), which reaffirms and expands upon the requirements of Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, is also revoked.

Sec. 3. The Director of the Office of Personnel Management and heads of executive agencies shall promptly move to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12871 of October 1, 1993, or the Memorandum, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this order shall abrogate any collective bargaining agreements in effect on the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:16 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Executive Order 13204—Revocation of Executive Order on Nondisplacement of Qualified Workers Under Certain Contracts

February 17, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994, which requires, with respect to contracts for public buildings, that successive contractors offer a right of first refusal of employment to employees of the prior contractor, is revoked.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Labor (Secretary), the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, and heads of executive agencies shall promptly move to rescind any orders, rules, regulations, guidelines, or policies implementing or enforcing Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994, to the extent consistent with law.

Sec. 3. The Secretary shall terminate, effective today, any investigations or other compliance actions based on Executive Order 12933 of October 20, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:17 a.m., February 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 22.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National Memorial Center Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

February 19, 2001

Thank you, Senator, for your kind words. Thank you all very much. Thank you very much. Mr. Governor, thank you very much. The picture was a better picture. [*Laughter*]

Laura and I are honored to be here. I want to thank the choirs for their beautiful music. I want to thank the congressional delegation for your hospitality. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much. It's good to see you again, sir.

I appreciate so very much the tour of the Memorial Center we just took. It is a really well-done place. It's powerful. Bob Johnson, you and your board deserve a lot of credit.

I particularly want to thank our tour guides, Jeannine Gist and Richard Williams and Major Ed Hill. A lot of Americans are going to come and be better people for having walked through this Center.

I want to thank the families of the victims, the survivors, and the fine citizens of the great State of Oklahoma for your welcome.

One of the things that we remember of that day in 1995 is the conduct of the leaders of Oklahoma—Oklahoma City and of your State, particularly your Governor and his

great wife, Cathy. You had just taken office, Frank, and yet, in the aftermath of the awful moment you showed such character and strength. America came to admire that, and the people of Oklahoma will never forget it.

Americans found a lot to admire in Oklahoma during those days. You suffered so much, and you responded with courage. Your loss was great, and your pain was deep, but far greater and deeper was your care for one another. That is what lasts, and that's what brings us back to this place on this day.

Memorials do not take away the pain. They cannot fill the emptiness. But they can make a place in time and tell the value of what was lost. The debris is gone, and the building is no more. Now, this is a place of peace and remembrance and life.

A mother who lost her daughter here will be working in the new museum. She said, "When I come down here to the memorial I've always felt a very good feeling. This is where she was happy, and this is where she was last. The time for mourning may pass, but the time for remembering never does."

Here, we remember one act of malice. The Gates of Time record the very moment of it. Yet, we also remember many acts of human kindness and heroism and love. Some were recorded, some not. But by 9:03 on that morning, a new and hopeful story was already being written. The truth of Oklahoma City is the courage and comfort you found in one another. It began with the rescue; it continues with this memorial; it is recorded in this museum.

Together, you endured. You chose to live out the words of Saint Paul, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Because of this spirit, your memorial belongs to all America. People from all over our country come here every day and will always come to look and remember and say a prayer. Oklahoma City will always be one of those places in our national memory where the worst and the best both came to pass.

The presence of evil always reminds us of the need for vigilance. All of us have an obligation to confront evil wherever and whenever it manifests itself. We must enforce laws and reject hatred and bigotry, and we have a duty to watch for warning signs.

Last year the United States Secret Service conducted a study of targeted violence in our Nation's schools. They found that most of the time, the person who planned the violence told someone before the attack. In almost every case, the individual displayed some behavior that caused others to be concerned. We all have a duty to watch for and report troubling signs.

The evil that destroys and the good that saves are equally real. Both can be taught. Both can be learned. All order in our society begins in the souls of citizens. Character is often shaped or bent early in life. In every family and in every school, we must teach our children to know and choose the good, to teach values that defeat violence, to teach good kids—kids to respect one another, to do unto others, the meaning of love.

Our first response to evil must be justice; yet a part of us is never satisfied by justice alone. We must search for more—for understanding and healing beyond punishment. Faith tells us that all wrongs are righted and all suffering redeemed. But that faith is tested, especially for those of you with empty chairs at home. Hardest of all is the loss of the children, of the lives taken so soon after they were given.

I hope it helps to remember that we are never closer to God than when we grieve. Faith is tested in suffering. And faith is often born in suffering, for that is when we seek the hope we most need; that is when we awaken to the greatest hope there is; that is when we look beyond our lives to the hour when God will wipe away every tear, and death will be swallowed up in victory.

On this Earth, tragedy may come even on a warm spring day, but tragedy can never touch eternity. This is where they were last, but beyond the Gates of Time lie a life eternal and a love everlasting. You in Oklahoma City are victims of tragedy and witnesses to hope. You have overcome evil, and you have suffered with courage. And for that, your Nation is grateful.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. on the lawn at the Oklahoma City National Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Senator Don Nickles; Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; Mayor Kirk Humphreys of Oklahoma City; Robert M.

Johnson, chair, and Richard Williams, member, Board of Trustees, Oklahoma City National Memorial; and Jeannine Gist and Major Ed Hill, members, Board of Directors, Oklahoma City National Memorial Foundation.

Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion on Education in Columbus, Ohio

February 20, 2001

[Principal Maria J. Stockard welcomed guests and introduced the roundtable participants.]

The President. Thank you, Maria. Maria, thanks very much for your hospitality. I thank all the people that are on your staff that accommodated this horde of folks that travel with me. [Laughter] And I hope we haven't been too disruptive, but it's an honor to be here.

First, I want to say thanks to my friend, the Governor. It's good to see you again, Bob. I appreciate your hard work here. I want to thank the congressional delegation that traveled with me: the Senator, two Congressmen—other than Congressman Pat Tiberi from this district. Deborah Pryce and Dave Hobson came down on the plane with us, and I appreciated our discussion, and thanks for your time, both of you. And thank you, Mike, as well, for being here. I want to thank my friends the Wexners for being here.

One of the things we saw was a program of mentors. And it's a good way to lead into the strength of an accountability system and what it means, because a mentor is really not very effective unless there is a need identified. I mean, what we need to use mentors for and a host program for is to combine the love of our citizenry with enabling children to learn to read, in this case, by identifying problems.

One of the things that I'm insisting that the Congress enact is a law that says that if you receive Federal money, you, the State, or the local jurisdiction must measure to show us whether or not children are learning. The heart of education reform is accountability. The heart of making sure every child learns and no child is left behind is accountability. Because how do you know if you don't measure? How can you possibly judge

whether or not a child is learning to read and write and add and subtract unless we know?

A system that refuses to be held accountable is a system that shuffles children through. And guess who gets shuffled through? In my State, oftentimes children whose parents didn't speak English as a first language, inner-city children. It's so much easier to walk into a room and say, "Oh, these kids aren't supposed to learn. Let's just move them through. It'll be okay. Somewhere along the line something positive may happen." That's unacceptable to me, and I think it's beginning to be unacceptable to America. I know it's unacceptable to Rosa.

I got to know Rosa last summer when I was in your school district, and she knows what I know, that good education starts with high standards and the unfailing belief that every child can learn, regardless of their background or their circumstances; secondly, that local control of schools is paramount to change and excellence. It's important to empower the superintendents, like Rosa. She knows what I know, a great principal of a school is going to make an enormous difference as to whether or not children learn. One of the reasons we picked this school is because of Maria's guidance and leadership.

But also, the cornerstone of reform and the need to make sure we meet the national goal of no child being left behind, is to test. I'm unalterably opposed to a national test. Any kind of national test would undermine local curriculum and local control of schools. But I do believe it makes sense and is right to ask the question: If you receive Federal money, what are the results for the money spent? I know that some say, "Well, testing is punishment." No, testing is a diagnostic tool, necessary to correct problems early, before it's too late.

Later on, I'll be in St. Louis, Missouri, today, and I'm going to talk about a reading initiative that will start at the Head Start Program. But in order to make sure any reading initiative or any math initiative that takes place is effective, we must measure. And we must make sure that children, by the way, all start at the same spot, at the same starting point, in order for the accountability systems to make sense.

I think it's fundamentally—well, I know it's fundamentally important to ask the question, "What works?" Particularly, "Will, the host program work?" How do you know if you don't measure?

When we ask the question, "What works?"—Rosa asks that question all the time here in the Columbus School District. And the feedback she gets from accountability system will help determine not theory but the practicality of good curriculum and teacher training programs and giving students the necessary language skills to be able to succeed in our society.

So I'm here to talk about accountability as the cornerstone for the kinds of reforms that will empower local folks to make necessary decisions. One of the key components of any accountability system is there must be a consequence. If there is success, there must be a consequence. Often times, the best success, as these local educators will tell you, is to have a parent walk up—like our good parent here, Brenda—and say, "Thanks for what you're doing. You saved my son," or "You saved my daughter." That's the best feedback. But I also believe there needs to be bonus plans, and my budget will include some notion for bonuses for districts that succeed.

However, if we find failure, there must be a consequence. And I believe that districts ought to be given—those who received Federal money ought to be given a reasonable period of time to correct problems. And there needs to be some intermediate help to help districts correct problems.

But at some point in time there has to be a final moment. At some point in time we've got to say, "Failure is unacceptable." We believe every child can learn, and since every child isn't learning, something else must happen. And I believe the best program is that which empowers local districts, empowers us to make different choices if the children are mired in mediocrity and failure.

I'm excited about the progress I've seen being made on our public school reform in Washington, DC. It starts with the understanding that Washington is not the fount of all knowledge. As a matter of fact, we're going to pass power back out of Washington to empower people at the local level. But

it's important for us to have that national goal of every child being educated and the best public school system ever possible on the face of the Earth. And that's a goal both Republicans and Democrats, and those who don't care about any political party, can agree on.

And we're making progress, and I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to put the most important cornerstone of reform in place, and that's accountability.

Someone who is not afraid of being held accountable because she's got an unbelievably positive record and a positive spirit and a great attitude is the superintendent of schools right here in Columbus, Ohio, Dr. Rosa Smith.

[Superintendent Rosa Smith welcomed the President and Mrs. Bush and briefly described the Columbus schools accountability system, noting that students were assessed every 9 weeks.]

President Bush. Thank you, Rosa. As I mentioned, I had the honor of meeting Rosa last summer, and to show you how powerful she is, she said, "You need to appoint Dr. Rod Paige to become Secretary of Education." *[Laughter]* Well, 6 months later, I did. *[Laughter]*

[Ms. Stockard introduced veteran reading teacher Maisie Glover, who gave her perspective on the effectiveness of assessment as a resourceful tool to help students succeed.]

President Bush. I think that's important for people to hear. The assessment system is never meant to punish; it is meant to provide a useful tool to both teacher and specialists and principals and superintendents to determine what works.

There's a lot of discussion about parental involvement in schools. There is nothing that will make a parent more involved than to know whether or not his or her child is learning. One of the things that in my State I did when I was the Governor was encourage there to be open transparency when it came to performance. So everybody knew—so everybody was aware of whether or not their school—a lot of parents think their school is doing just fine, until the results are posted.

And we've got a parent here that I can't wait for you all to hear from. *[Laughter]* I got an earful behind the scenes—*[laughter]*—a positive earful. *[Laughter]* Tell us your story, Brenda.

[Brenda Seffrin stated that parents must be held accountable also, and she described how her learning-disabled child had progressed after she enrolled him in Ms. Stockard's school.]

The President. You were going to tell me something? *[Laughter]* Don't panic—

Ms. Seffrin. Why are you putting me on the spot? *[Laughter]*

The President. Join the club. *[Laughter]*

Ms. Stockard. She indicated that she had several questions written—

Ms. Seffrin. Well, I just was wondering if you could recommend any programs for our school to help encourage children—and this is for you, too—to write books, as well as read books. If there was anything that we could do.

The President. My recommendation is you tell Maria that. *[Laughter]*

Ms. Seffrin. Okay. *[Laughter]*

The President. The truth of the matter is, the best way to achieve objectives is to empower people at the local level to make those decisions. That's why a good principal, like Maria, will encourage parental involvement, so she gets feedback from what parents would like to see their children doing.

Part of the problem is Washington. People look at Washington and say, "Well, we've got all the answers up there." And the truth of the matter is, we don't, particularly when it comes to education. We may be able to provide some funding, so long as that funding is not so prescriptive that it hamstring the ability for people to make decisions necessary—because I can assure you the schools in Columbus, Ohio, are really different from Laredo, Texas. The children are—they're to be loved, but we've got different challenges in different parts of the country. And that is why flexibility is important. And that's why specific programs that you'd like to see incorporated in the schools ought to be taken to the principal and not to some distant land called Washington, DC.

[Ms. Stockard introduced Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio, who said the report of the State's Commission on Student Success, concerning how Ohio could achieve the best possible system of high standards, assessment, and accountability, aligned with the President's proposals and had support from Ohio legislators.]

The President. I appreciate that, Governor. Thanks, I—the Governor recognized legislators who will decide the fate of the program. I need to do the same thing. [Laughter] One of the things chief executives in government know: We get to propose; we just don't get to write the law. We occasionally get to veto law, but we don't get to write it.

There's a lot of pressure on Members from a couple of fronts. One is the no-testing crowd, based upon there's no role for government. I strongly disagree, and I hope you agree with me, because we need to be results-oriented people. All we're asking is, is it working? What are the results?

There's another segment of our society, the no-testing crowd saying, "All they do is teach the test." Well, just ask Brenda what it's like to see her son get taught how to read, who then was able to pass the literacy test.

There's a group of folks that'll say, "You can't test because it's racist." What's racist is not testing. What's racist, it seems like to me, is giving up on kids, just move them through and hope we get it right—and hope we get it right. One of the most profound statements I heard was from a lady in Houston who was the reading czarina from the Houston Independent School District, who worked for Rod, named Phyllis Hunter. She said, "Reading is the new civil right." That's a pretty powerful statement when you think about it.

The fate of the program that I've submitted depends upon Members of the United States Congress, and you've elected a good one from the Columbus area named Tiberi—sitting right up here. Are you with me, Pat? [Laughter] Not to put any pressure on you. [Laughter] Just teasing.

Representative Patrick J. Tiberi. What do you think, Deborah? Sorry. [Laughter] Do I have the stage? [Laughter]

The President. Yes, you do. You've got the vote, and you've got the stage.

[Representative Tiberi complimented the President for his passion on the issue of education reform and stressed that all sectors should participate, not just the Federal Government.]

The President. That means yes. [Laughter] Smart man, holding out to negotiate. [Laughter] Thanks for traveling with us, Pat.

Representative Tiberi. Thank you.

The President. I am passionate on the subject. I can't think of a more noble goal than to make sure every child is educated. And it's going to happen. You see, the systems in the past have viewed kind of mass migrations of students through, and one of the things that an accountability-oriented system will do is, we start judging each child on his or her individual merit.

One of the keys to success—and I think we're going to get this out of Congress, by the way, and I hope the members of the legislature support the Governor on this—is to do what they call disaggregating results. When you measure, you must measure on a child-by-child basis. Think about what the reform means, that when we start viewing—saying each child matters and we're going to track each child based upon his or her progress, it starts to provide the catalyst for ultimate change, which is a system that slowly, surely evolves away from the mass migration of students through schools to tailoring programs to meet an individual's needs.

The mentoring program that The Limited has put in place is the beginnings of a system that is able to focus on a child on a one-to-one basis. Rosa says that they assess each child's progress on a 9-week basis. That says we're first asking the question, what about this particular child? In the past, accountability systems that really weren't holding people accountable would just lump people into an overall group.

And so I want to applaud the members of the Ohio Legislature for being willing to think about how to encourage reform within the system.

There's a lot of debate about school choice, and there should be. That's fine. But the cornerstone for reform is accountability, ultimately, giving parents, if need be, depending on whether the State likes it or not, the opportunity to make a different choice.

That's up to the State. As far as I'm concerned, if a district receives Federal money, and that school won't teach and won't change, then at some point in time that money should not go to continue to fuel failure.

And one option is charters, and one option is school choice, but another option is private tutoring or private schools. But that's—and the Congress is going to wrestle with that issue. But the whole reason I'm here today is to remind people that the true agent for reform is accountability and be willing to measure on a child-by-child basis, and then correct on a child-by-child basis, where correction is needed. And you watch what happens in America.

The spirit of reform, and as Pat said, the willingness for people to discuss this issue in an open way is going to really reinvigorate the public schools. And to say to our teachers, loud and clear, "We love you for teaching," and to say to our principals, "Thanks for being the catalysts, the educational entrepreneurs we need," to herald the great superintendents around the country that are making a major difference, that's what this is all about.

And this is something our country must achieve and will achieve. And it's not going to come out of the Federal Government. We're just a small part of it. But one thing the President can do is to continue talking about this issue until we get it right. And that's exactly what I'm going to do.

[Ms. Stockard then described how her students colored simple bar graphs to chart their own progress toward specific goals throughout the school year. Mrs. Bush discussed the impact and value of teachers to the Nation, and said she hopes to attract young people to the profession.]

The President. Brenda, have you got anything else you want to say, now that you're warmed up? *[Laughter]*

Ms. Seffrin. No, but thank you for being here. It really meant a lot.

The President. Well, thanks. We're delighted.

Well, what do you think, Gov'?

Governor Taft. I think you've got Congressman Tiberi's vote. *[Laughter]* Senator

DeWine is looking very supportive back there.

The President. He is supportive.

Governor Taft. And Congresswoman Pryce as well. I think that she looks supportive. I think you're making some headway. And I just want to say this, we really appreciate the fact that you have come to Ohio to highlight your education program.

The President. It's a great State.

Governor Taft. Really, your first domestic trip outside of Washington. We're honored.

The President. Well, thanks. It's a great State, and it seems like every time I come to Columbus, I'm coming to another school. That's a great testimony to the school district. And for those in Columbus who don't realize this, actually I've got some roots here. My grandfather was raised in Columbus, Ohio. Yes, Prescott S. Bush. So we're proud of the city and really appreciate the hospitality always shown when we come here.

Thanks very much for having us. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The roundtable began at 10:42 a.m. in Room 19/20 at Sullivant Elementary School. In his remarks, the President referred to Representatives Deborah Pryce and David L. Hobson; Senator Mike DeWine; and Les Wexner, State chairman, Business Leadership Council for OhioReads.

Remarks on the Robert Hanssen Espionage Case

February 20, 2001

This has been a difficult day for those who love our country, and especially for those who serve our country in law enforcement and in the intelligence community.

Allegations of espionage of an FBI counterintelligence agent are extremely serious and are deeply disturbing, particularly disturbing for the thousands of men and women who work for the FBI, whose mission is to protect our national security and who now must deal with allegations that one of their own may have undermined it.

I have the utmost confidence in Director Louis Freeh and the men and women who serve in the FBI, those who represent our

country in the CIA and in the Justice Department. I thank them for their service. I commend them for their sacrifice. Allegations of espionage are a reminder that we live in a dangerous world, a world that sometimes does not share American values.

I thank the men and women who proudly serve our country. But to anyone who would betray its trust, I warn you: We'll find you, and we'll bring you to justice.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. aboard Air Force One en route from Columbus, OH, to St. Louis, MO. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Moline Elementary School in St. Louis, Missouri

February 20, 2001

Sarah, thanks for those kind words. And Chris, thank you very much. Now, what you forgot to say is what I can say, and that is, I believe and know that a school succeeds when there is a dynamic principal in charge of the school. And that's the case here at Moline. I also know it's important to have a superintendent of schools who is willing to push the bounds of excellence, and that's what you have in your superintendent of schools.

We're so honored that you would welcome us here. Laura and I are glad to be traveling to the great State of Missouri. I want to thank your senior Senator Kit Bond. I want to thank Congressman Clay. I want to thank Congressman Akin for your hospitality. And Governor, I'm so pleased you're here as well.

We put out an invitation to all the Governors to join us next Sunday night at the White House for dinner, and the Governor has agreed to come and eat some ribs. I think it is—[laughter]—maybe not ribs, but—but I appreciate so very much you taking time to be here today.

Boys and girls, thank you all, as well, for your hospitality. We had a chance to listen to some third graders read. They sound like sixth graders to us.

Let me talk a little policy, if you don't mind. There's a time for politics in our society, and that ended a while ago. Now is the

time for good public policy, and it starts with the universal goal of every child being educated in America. That sounds like anybody would say that, but to me, it's an achievable goal.

There are some certain principles to which we need to adhere in order to meet that goal. First, setting the highest of high standards; understanding that all children can learn; not accepting excuses when certain children don't learn; not adhering to a system that shuffles children through because it's so much easier to quit as opposed to focus on a child-by-child basis. Good education starts with high standards, whether it be set by the President, the Governor, or the superintendent or the principal or the teacher in the classroom.

Secondly, I strongly believe in what we call local control of schools. I believe it's critically important for those of us in the Federal Government to align authority and responsibility where it belongs, and that is at the local level. There's the old statement, "One size fits all"—doesn't work when it comes to educating children. I fully subscribe to that.

You've got different issues, Governor, in the State of Missouri, than we had in the State of Texas. We have the same goals, the same objectives, the same heart, but you have a different set of problems. And therefore, it's incumbent upon us in the White House to work with Members of the Congress to pass Federal money back with as much flexibility as possible, to trust local people to set the course for excellence for all the children in the different school districts around the country.

Thirdly, accountability is critically important for—to meet the goal that no child will be left behind. It is incredibly important to measure, because without measuring, how do you know if a child is learning to read and write and add and subtract? How do you know? It seems like it's a fundamentally fair question for those of us in public life to ask. We're spending money; we'd like to know in return whether or not children are learning.

Now, I don't believe the Federal Government ought to design a test, Governor. I think you can design your own. You've certainly done so, at least in this school district;

they've designed their own accountability system. It's an accountability system that's so impressive because it's not just a measurement on an annual basis, it's a frequent measurement to determine whether or not a specific child is learning. And if that child isn't, there's immediate help. When there's a problem diagnosed, help comes. That's what's so important about having accountability; it's the cornerstone for reform.

I'm going to ask Congress to pass legislation that says that any school district which receives Federal money must design a test on an annual basis so that we know. It's the framework for addressing problems early, before it's too late. It says that consequences matter, but more importantly, if we set up the systems right, by disaggregating results, by treating each child as a person, not part of some overall group, we begin to have an education system that says each child matters, and we're going to track each child as he or she goes through the system. It's a critically important part of education reform.

I believe we can do a better job of teaching children to read. One of the reasons we chose this school is not only because of the strong appetite for diagnosing children early and the willingness to cure problems before they become acute, but this is a school that focuses on a reading curriculum that works.

I hope it's said that the Bush administration is willing to ask the question, "What works?" and then helps districts implement programs that do work. Phonics works. It's an important part of a good reading—balanced reading curriculum. The reason I know is because I have asked the question to folks at the National Institute of Health. They're not Republicans; they're not Democrats; they're not—they are scientists, who have spent a lot of time figuring out how to make sure all children have the capacity to learn.

And while there needs to be balanced reading curriculum, it is critically important for us to make sure the curriculum employed around the country is a curriculum that actually will achieve the results that we want, and that is children reading by the third grade.

So I'm sending up to Congress a proposal called Reading First. It is a \$5 billion program over 5 years. It will triple the amount

of reading money available for local districts to access. It says that inherent in any good program is the need for districts to develop a K-through-two diagnostic tool; that is, a simple tool that will enable K-through-two teachers to determine who needs help early.

There will be money involved in the reading program to help retrain teachers on how to teach a curriculum that works. One of the things that we must recognize in our society, Governor, is that sometimes our teacher colleges do not—are not able to match the hearts of teachers and give them the skills necessary to be effective teachers. There needs to be a lot of retraining, unfortunately. And until the teacher colleges get it right in terms of teaching curriculum that works, it seems like to me, a useful role for Government is to provide funds for teacher retraining. I'm not saying all teacher colleges fail. You would probably argue with me here that Missouri teacher colleges don't fail. But sometimes you find teachers in classrooms who have got all heart but lack the skills necessary to understand the science of reading. And it is incumbent upon us to match the heart and skills together.

We need to make sure that our Head Start Programs not only fulfill the social functions and the health functions that they do today but that Head Start Programs become, first and foremost, a reading program to give the little guys the skills necessary to be able to come to these elementary schools prepared and ready to take advantage of the programs that these fine elementary schools, like this one, have got and offer for children.

And finally, in order to make sure that a reading program works, there needs to be a strong emphasis on curriculum to help districts decide what curriculum to choose, what curriculum will work.

I am absolutely convinced that we can do a better job of teaching all children to read, because I start with the thought that all children can learn to read. I refuse to accept systems, and refuse not to challenge systems, that give up on children early.

I came from a State where there was a lot of children whose parents did not speak English as their first language. It was much easier to say, "Gosh, these little kids are too difficult to educate. Let's just move them

through.” Those days are unacceptable. That frame of mind is not right for America, and we can do a better job. It starts with putting trust where it belongs.

Madam Superintendent, I promise you, I know where the great educational entrepreneurship of America lay, and it lay right here, in districts such as this one, and schools such as this one. It’s trust in local people—it starts with trusting local people to make the right decisions. It’s a system that is—in its framework, encourages reform when reform is needed, and rewards excellence when excellence is found.

And so I’m here, frankly, to call upon the citizens of this important State to help pass legislation that will not only focus on teaching every child to read but legislation that will have at its cornerstone, at its very core, a reform agenda based upon accountability, based upon measuring each child, based upon making sure that no child is left behind.

America is a great land. It will be a greater land when every child is educated. The strength of our country is the public school system. That strength will be even stronger—even stronger—when we insist that every child be measured, every problem corrected, and every child challenged to be the best he or she can be. That can happen, and it is going to happen.

It’s an honor to be here. God bless you for what you do, and thank you for your hospitality. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in Room 2. In his remarks, he referred to Principal Sarah Riss, Moline Elementary School; Superintendent Chris Wright, Riverview Gardens School District; and Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri.

Remarks at a Tax Family Reunion in St. Louis

February 20, 2001

Thank you very much. Before I have a chance to say hello to you all and watch the Mighty Mighty skate, I want to talk a little bit—some public policy.

Today I was in St. Louis talking about education. There is no more important subject as far as I’m concerned, to make sure every child gets educated. I know the Yahngs feel

the same way. But I also want to talk about the budget, the budget of the United States Government, and the budget of the people of the United States.

I’m going to submit a budget next week to the United States Congress. It is a budget that will set priorities, just like each family does in America—set priorities. My priorities will make sure that we preserve and protect and strengthen Social Security, so that there’s a Social Security system available for the Yahngs and their children, and for you, as well. A priority in my budget will be to make sure that the health care system in America is strong for the elderly, for the uninsured, and for all of us concerned about health. A priority will be public education.

Today I talked about a reading initiative which goal is to make sure that children can read by the third grade. I can’t think of a better priority. By the way, I also understand that local control of schools is the best way to achieve that priority.

Last week I spent time touring military bases. The defense of our Nation is a priority. And in my budget I will submit, amongst other things, a pay raise for the men and women who wear the uniform. Restoring morale in the military not only means better pay, better housing, better health care; it also means having a Commander in Chief who will clarify the mission, the mission of the United States military to have fighting forces trained and prepared to fight war, and therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

A priority of mine, in my budget, will be paying down national debt. And yet after setting priorities, there’s still money left over. And so while we’re concerned about the Federal budget, I’m also concerned about the budget of people such as the Yahngs, who are here standing next to me.

I think it makes sense to understand who pays the bills. I think it makes sense to understand who fills the coffers of the United States, and it’s the working people. And so I’m going to ask Congress to pass a tax relief package, recognizing that we can meet priorities, but also help families meet their own priorities.

I’m deeply concerned about the high cost of energy. American families are paying more

and more for energy these days. I'm concerned about consumer debt. There's a lot of discussion about national debt, and that's a concern. But I'm also concerned that a lot of working folks have got their own debt, and it seems wise to set priorities at the national level and get people their own money so they can meet their own obligations, to meet their own debts.

I'm asking Congress to pass \$1.6 trillion in tax relief, after we've met priorities. That's over a 10-year period of time. It's a fair plan. It's a plan that says, as opposed to trying to pick and choose who the winners are, that everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief. It is a plan that significantly reduces taxes for people at the bottom end of the economic ladder. If you're a family of four making \$35,000, you'll receive a 100 percent tax cut. It's an average tax relief, for families, of \$1,600. The Yahng family, under the plan I submit, will receive actually more than that. They now pay \$2,000 in taxes to the Federal Government. If this plan is enacted by the United States Congress, they'll end up paying \$150 of taxes. That's \$1,850 more that they can decide what to do with.

It's your money. It will give you a chance to set your priorities for your family. It says that we in the Federal Government have a fundamental trust in the people of America, and that's where our faith should be—in the people. The best Government is that which trusts America, and there's no better way to make that trust explicit than to share your money with you.

I want to drop all rates and simplify the code. The reason this family will receive the tax relief they're going to get is because we've dropped the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, and doubled the child credit from \$500 to \$1,000 per child.

As well, I'm going to ask Congress to provide relief from the marriage tax. Our tax code ought to encourage family, ought to recognize marriage as a sacred institution. And I think we ought to listen to the voices of the farmers and small-business people and eliminate the death tax, so that those who struggle—[*applause*].

This is a plan that's going to require the people to speak up. It's the beginning of a series of trips around our great Nation where

I'm going to make my case, not to the folks in Congress or in Washington, DC, but to the American people. I have an awesome responsibility to be the President of everyone. I assume that responsibility, and I'm going to be the President of everyone, and I believe this tax relief plan is fair for everyone who pays taxes in America. It is the right thing to do at this point in our history.

It also makes economic sense. I am concerned about our economy. I'm concerned about it—that we've lost some wind in our sails. I believe good monetary policy combined with good fiscal policy, will provide a needed second wind to economic growth. We must keep the pie growing so that people who want to work can find a job, people who want to dream are able to realize their dreams in the entrepreneurial—as a small-business person or as an entrepreneur.

One of the great strengths of America is the entrepreneurial spirit of our country. Any President and the Congress must do everything in our power to create an environment where the entrepreneur can flourish, where people can realize their dreams. America is a land based upon dreams, a land where people should aim high, and our tax code ought to encourage capital formation and economic growth. But most of all, America is made up of fine, decent, honorable citizens, citizens who work hard every day to provide for their families—just like my friends here—citizens who, once the Nation meets our priorities, ought to keep their own money, so you can spend, and you can save, and you can dream.

I'm so thankful that you all came. I really appreciate you all standing up here today with me. I'm pinching myself every day. [*Laughter*] It is an unimaginable honor to represent the great people of this country, the greatest country on the face of the Earth, and all my public policy will be designed to keep it great and to invigorate our people.

Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:50 p.m. at the Kirkwood Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to Chuck Yahng, assistant sports information director, St. Louis University, his wife, Amanda, and their children, Evan and Claudia.

Remarks at Townsend Elementary School in Townsend, Tennessee

February 21, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. Fred, thank you very much. I appreciate your invitation.

Principal Fred Goins. We appreciate your coming.

The President. And I'm glad I accepted. It's a beautiful part of the world. I was touched by the number of your citizenry who came and lined the roads as we came in to wave and say hello. And I thank them for that, as well. I wish I could thank them in person. I hope they realize my wave was a sincere wave of gratitude.

I want to thank Gary Pack, the superintendent of schools. Let me say a couple things about what I've learned. I've learned this as a parent; I've learned it as a Governor; I know it as the President, that a school is really only as good as its principal, and when you have a fine principal, you've got a fine school. And I appreciate your service. And the same with the superintendents.

But with—the heart and soul of any education system, of course, are the teachers. And I want to thank those who are teaching. I'm sorry that my wife is not here with us today. If she were giving the speech—and most of you, if you had heard both of us, would rather hear her—[*laughter*—she would say that one of her missions will be to convince Americans who are coming up to be a teacher. There's nothing more noble than to teach. And so, to the teachers of this school and the teachers throughout all of Tennessee, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I also want to thank my friend, the Governor of your State, Don Sundquist. He is a good man, and he married—like me—he married above himself. [*Laughter*] But Laura and I love Don and Martha. They have been our friends for a long time, and I appreciate your hospitality.

I want to thank your Senator, Bill Frist. I'm particularly nice to Senator Frist these days, since much of what I'm proposing is going to need to be passed out of the United States Senate. But I've got a strong ally in Senator Frist, and a good friend.

I want to thank members of the Tennessee congressional delegation, Congressmen Duncan and Jenkins and Van Hilleary, for being here, as well. I got to know these folks during the course of the campaign, and they were stalwarts.

I also want to thank my friend, the chairman of the Education Committee, from the State of Ohio, Congressman John Boehner. I am so thankful the chairman is here. I'm going to be discussing education policy today, the framework for good policy, and it's going to require the leadership of John and—on the House side, and Frist and others on the Senate side to get this bill through.

So, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for not only being here—I'm surprised they didn't check you at the border coming in. [*Laughter*] But I'll let you on the plane so we can fly back together and talk policy.

I'm also most appreciative of the mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee, for being here. I've known Mayor Ashe for years and years and years, and he has done a fabulous job of being a fine public servant in Knoxville. So Victor, thank you for coming.

And finally, a former public servant, a distinguished Tennessee citizen, a man whose son is—sees my daughter at the University of Texas, hopefully in the library—[*laughter*—and that's Lamar Alexander.

I want to thank these distinguished officials. I want to thank the local officials. Senator, thank you, as well. Thank you for coming.

There's no more important subject than public education. We must get it right to make sure no child is left behind. My philosophy is this: First, all of us in positions of responsibility must set the highest of high standards for every child. I believe every child can learn, and that ought to be indelibly etched into our national conscience, that every single child in America has got the capacity to learn and we should accept nothing less. And we must set high expectations for every child. We must raise the bar.

I also strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe the best way to chart the path to excellence for every child in America is to insist that authority and responsibility be aligned at the local level.

So I look forward to working with the Members of the House and the Senate to pass power out of Washington, to provide flexibility for the Federal funds so that the Governors, superintendents, principals can design programs that meet your specific needs. As the old adage, one size does not fit all in public education—it is very true. It is very true. We had the same goal in Tennessee and Texas, and that is, every child learn. But we've got different issues in Texas than you have in Tennessee, and that's why we need to have flexibility.

The cornerstone of reform, as far as I'm concerned, is not only high standards and maximum flexibility but strong accountability systems. I think it's so important to measure. I think it's a legitimate thing—I know it's a legitimate request from those of us in public life to say, if you receive taxpayers' money, you measure, and you show us whether or not the children are learning.

And when I ask Congress to pass legislation that says, in return for Federal help, the State of Tennessee, local jurisdictions must develop accountability measures on an annual basis, three through eight, to determine whether or not our children are learning. It is essential we do so.

Now, I know there's some around who will say, "We can't measure. It's not the proper role of the Government." Well, I believe the proper role of any government at any level is to insist upon results. There are some who will say, "Well, we can't have the test because all they'll do is teach the test." Well, I went to a writing class here in this school, and they were teaching the children to write, and therefore, they were able to pass the test.

You don't teach the test when it comes to literacy. We went to a Title I classroom—or a classroom with Title I students in it, where the teacher was using some of the most advanced thought about teaching reading, a balanced approach including phonics. You teach a child to read, and he or her will be able to pass a literacy test. I don't buy teaching the test as an excuse to have a system that doesn't hold people accountable for results.

Finally, there are some who will say, "You can't test because it is a matter of race to test." I think it is a matter of race not to

test. I think it's racist not to test, because oftentimes in our school districts, those who are most easy to shuffle through are those who live in the inner cities or whose parents may not speak English as a first language. No, we must measure because we want to know. We want to know when there's success.

When a teacher told me in that classroom, she said, "We're making great progress in our new reading program here. It's been in place for 3 years. We're making fine progress," we know because there's accountability. People should welcome accountability. It's a way to diagnose and to solve problems. It's a way to say that every single child matters in America, and not one child ought to be left behind.

I don't support, my friends in Congress don't support the design of a national test. All a national test will do is undermine local control of schools. But we look forward to working with States and local jurisdictions to develop accountability systems that meet your needs so we achieve what we want. And that is an education system focused on each individual, an education system that diagnoses early and solves problems early.

Yesterday I also outlined some funding priorities of mine. I'm going to submit a budget next week to the United States Congress. It's a budget that sets clear priorities. A priority is going to be to make sure that our Social Security System and the payroll taxes are saved for Social Security and the Social Security system is strong. A priority would be Medicare. A priority is going to be to make sure our troops are well paid and well housed and well trained, so that we can keep the peace. A priority is going to be, pay down debt. A priority is going to be tax relief, so hard-working Americans have got more money in their pocket to pay down their own debt and to cover the cost of high energy costs.

A priority is going to be public education, as well. As a matter of fact, in the budget I submit, the largest increase of any department will be for the Department of Education. Federal funding for the Elementary and Secondary School Act will go up by \$1.6 billion, an 8 percent increase in funding.

I think it's so important for us to prioritize public education. At the same time, we prioritize—make it a priority of making sure our money is spent well. A priority has got to be diligence when it comes to taxpayers' money. And that's why I'm confident the combination of an increase in spending coupled with education reform that holds people accountable is the right path for America to take.

And finally, yesterday I proposed additional spending for a national reading initiative that will set this goal: Every child will be reading at the appropriate level by the third grade. It's going to require schools, districts willing to challenge the status quo if children are failing. It's going to mean we're going to have to think differently about Head Start. Head Start should remain and will remain a place where children are treated for disease and the health and human service component to it. But I think Head Start ought to be moved to the Department of Education, to highlight the need to make sure that our youngsters get a head start on reading and math.

The billion-dollar-a-year additional money for the reading initiative will allow districts to access money for K-through-two diagnostic testing, for curriculum development, for teacher training, to make sure that the teacher I saw today—the skills that she has are given to all the teachers who are charged with teaching reading.

We've got an aggressive program for public ed. It's a program, though, that has deep faith in the ability of local folks to make sure the children are educated. It's a program the philosophy of which says that the people that care most about the children in towns in Tennessee are the citizens of towns in Tennessee, are the parents in towns in Tennessee, are those concerned folks who every day try to figure out how to make your community a better place to live.

Now, the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. It lies in the classrooms. It lies in the after-school activities, the Scout troops, run by local citizens. And our philosophy, the philosophy of the bill that I'm going to submit to the Congress, incorporates that greatness of America in its core.

It's a thrill to be here in Townsend. It is a—you're the heartbeat of America. And you're the future of America, by making sure every single child gets educated.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Pack, director of schools, Blount County School District; Mayor Victor Ashe of Knoxville, TN; and Lamar Alexander, former Governor of Tennessee and former U.S. Secretary of Education. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

The President's News Conference

February 22, 2001

The President. Good afternoon. It's been about a month now since I've taken office, and I thought it appropriate to come by and have a press conference. Before I do so, though, I'd like to make a few comments.

One of my missions has been to change the tone here in the Nation's Capital to encourage civil discourse. I think we're making pretty good progress. I want to thank the Democrats and the Republicans who have been coming up to the White House to hear me make my case. I appreciate their responsiveness. I just hope they vote for my agenda that I'll be submitting next week in a budget address to the Congress.

I have a reasonable and balanced budget. It meets growing needs with a responsible rate of increase in spending. It funds priorities. And my administration has no higher priority than education.

Yesterday I announced that the Department of Education will receive the largest percentage increase of any Department in the Federal Government, a little more than an 11-percent increase. But with new money will come high expectations. We must insist on results and support programs that work. It is in the best interests of American children that we reform our public schools by having strong accountability at its core.

Our budget will honor commitments of America's senior citizens. Social Security and Medicare funds will be protected for Social

Security and Medicare. We're now spending \$216 billion on Medicare. Under my budget, Medicare spending will increase by more than 21 billion in 2002. My budget also locks away \$2.6 trillion of the \$5.6 trillion surplus for Social Security over the next 10 years.

Our budget is fiscally responsible. If enacted, it will reduce debt by an unprecedented amount over the next 4 years. Altogether, about 60 percent of the projected Federal surplus will be used to fund priorities and to reduce debt.

After we've funded our priorities, after we pay down an unprecedented amount of debt, we'll still have money left over, which leaves us with two options: first is to spend it on bigger Government; or return it to the taxpayers who earned it. I believe it should be returned to the taxpayers. It's the people's money, and the Government ought to be passing it back after it's met priorities.

It is also necessary because these are uncertain times—increasing layoffs, growing consumer debt, lower consumer confidence—and lower taxes will help our economy. This will be a responsible and fair budget that reflects the Nation's priorities. I invite the American people to listen to what I have to say to the Congress.

I will be glad to answer any questions you have.

Robert Hanssen Espionage Case

Q. Mr. President, in light of the latest spy scandal, should senior FBI officials be required to take polygraph tests? And secondly, what, if any, responsibility should the FBI Director, Louis Freeh, bear for this breach of national security?

The President. I have confidence in Director Freeh. I think he does a good job. I have confidence in the men and women who work at the FBI. I am deeply concerned about the current spy case, as is Director Freeh. He has made the right move in selecting Judge Webster to review all procedures in the FBI to make sure that this doesn't happen again. We ought to be concerned about espionage in America. In the statement I made the other day, I said we will be diligent. We will find spies, and we will prosecute them. I am pleased that they caught the spy. Now the courts must act.

Q. Polygraphs—do we need polygraphs, though, to be able to catch them?

The President. I look forward to seeing what Judge Webster has to say. I presume he's going to review that issue and will make a recommendation to the Director and to me.

Q. Mr. President, do you believe that—

The President. It's not your turn, but go ahead. [Laughter] Yes, Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News].

Clinton Pardons

Q. Do you believe that pardons were for sale in the Clinton White House? And what, specifically, do you think should be done to look into, to investigate the circumstances of the President's brother-in-law accepting money to lobby him on pardons?

The President. David, I—as far as this White House is concerned, it's time to go forward. I've too much to do to get a budget passed, to get reforms passed for education, to get a tax cut passed, to strengthen the military, than to be worrying about decisions that my predecessor made.

I understand there's going to be some people on Capitol Hill that are going to be asking questions. That's their right to do so. But I can assure you our White House is moving forward. And to the extent the Justice Department looks into this matter, it will be done in a nonpolitical way. During John Ashcroft's confirmation process, I said that the Justice Department will conduct its business in a nonpolitical way, and we will do so.

Q. Can I just follow?

The President. Sure. Yes, David.

Q. Other Presidents are commenting on this matter. On the Rich pardon specifically, former President Carter said that in his opinion, it was "disgraceful." Do you not have an opinion on a power that is absolute and is vested in you as the President?

The President. My opinion is I will—should I decide to grant pardons, I will do so in a fair way. I'll have the highest of high standards.

But the President made the decisions he made, and he can answer the questions raised by the American citizens and the press corps. This White House is moving forward. We've got a lot to do. We've got a lot of

people to convince on our agenda. I think we're making pretty good progress, but there's a lot of work to be done.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. President, do you think that U.S.-Russian relations have been damaged by the new spy case? And secondly, are the Russians showing any flexibility on a missile defense system?

The President. I intend to deal with Mr. Putin in a very straightforward way, to be up front with him on all matters. I am, of course, disturbed about the espionage—the alleged espionage that took place. I'm mindful that there are people who don't particularly care what America stands for and people who are interested in our secrets.

Secondly, I was pleased to see comments from Russian leadership that talked about missile defense. It is a—their words indicate that they recognize that there are new threats in the post-cold-war era, threats that require theater-based antiballistic missile systems. I felt those words were encouraging.

When I meet with Mr. Putin, I'm going to talk to him about exactly what he meant by those words. We have no meeting set up yet, I might add, but I took that to be encouraging, Steve. It reminded me of what happened after I met with Mr. Ivanov. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Putin also talked about theater-based systems and the ability to intercept missiles on launch. And to me, it's indicative of his recognition of the realities of the true threats in the post-cold-war era, threats from an accidental launch or threats as a result of a leader in what they call a rogue nation, trying to hold ourselves or our allies or Russia, for that matter, hostage. So I was pleased with what I saw.

John [John Roberts, CBS News].

Sanctions Against Iraq

Q. Sir, the Secretary of State is departing for the Middle East tomorrow. One of the things that he will be discussing with Middle East leaders is the possibility of modifying sanctions on Iraq, and I'm wondering what message he will take from this administration to leaders in the Middle East in the area of sanctions that matter, sanctions that are ef-

fective on the regime but do not carry with them the same level of criticism that current sanctions have had in that they affect the Iraqi civilian population more than they do the regime, sir.

The President. We're reviewing all policy in all regions of the world, and one of the areas we've been spending a lot of time on is the Persian Gulf and the Middle East. The Secretary of State is going to go listen to our allies as to how best to effect a policy, the primary goal of which will be to say to Saddam Hussein, we won't tolerate you developing weapons of mass destruction, and we expect you to leave your neighbors alone.

I have said that the sanction regime is like Swiss cheese. That meant that they weren't very effective. And we're going to review current sanction policy and review options as to how to make the sanctions work. But the primary goal is to make it clear to Saddam that we expect him to be a peaceful neighbor in the region, and we expect him not to develop weapons of mass destruction. And if we find him doing so, there will be a consequence.

We took action last week, and it may be on your mind as to that decision I made. The mission was twofold. One was to send him a clear message that this administration will remain engaged in that part of the world. I think we accomplished that mission. We got his attention. And secondly, the mission was to degrade his capacity to harm our pilots who might be flying in the no-fly zone. And we accomplished that mission, as well.

Q. Sir, if I could follow up—

The President. Yes, John, go ahead.

Q. How would you characterize sanctions that work, sir?

The President. Sanctions that work are sanctions that when a—the collective will of the region supports the policy, that we have a coalition of countries that agree with the policy set out by the United States. To me, that's the most effective form of sanctions.

Many nations in that part of the world aren't adhering to the sanction policy that had been in place, and as a result, a lot of goods are heading into Iraq that were not supposed to. And so, good sanction policy is one where the United States is able to build a coalition around the strategy.

Yes, ma'am.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Mr. President, if I can go back to the controversy surrounding former President Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, are you at all concerned that these controversies are serving as a distraction for your administration's agenda? Are you concerned that further congressional hearings will mean that lawmakers are spending more time on those matters than on working on your policies?

The President. I—as I said earlier, I've got a lot of work to do, and I think I've got the Congress' attention. I certainly hope so. There has been a lot of discussion about tax relief, and I'm pleased with the progress being made on that important subject. There's a lot of hot debate that have already taken place, and we've just begun to make the case. I'm beginning to travel around the country to important States—all the States are important, of course, but some States may be more important than others right now in trying to convince some lawmakers to hear the message of the people. This is an issue that affects everybody who pays taxes. Congress is listening to the debate. They're participating in the debate.

There's a lot of discussion about education reform on the Hill, and I'm confident that the focus will be the right focus. And my speech Tuesday night, I hope, will help keep the focus on the agenda.

Yes, ma'am. You're next.

Faith-Based Initiative

Q. Mr. President, why do you refuse to respect the wall between the church and state? And you know that the mixing of religion and government for centuries has led to slaughter. I mean, the very fact that our country has stood in good stead by having the separation—why do you break it down?

The President. Helen, [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers]. I strongly respect the separation of church and state—

Q. Well, you wouldn't have a religious office in the White House if you did.

The President. I didn't get to finish my answer, in all due respect. I believe that so long as there's a secular alternative available, we ought to allow individuals who are helping to be able to choose a program that may be

run by a faith-based program, or will be run by a faith-based program.

I understand full well that some of the most compassionate missions of help and aid come out of faith-based programs. And I strongly support the faith-based initiative that we're proposing, because I don't believe it violates the line between the separation of church and state, and I believe it's going to make America a better place.

Q. Well, you are a secular official.

The President. I agree. I am a secular official.

Q. And not a missionary.

Airstrikes on Iraq

Q. Sir, on the airstrikes in Iraq, the Pentagon is now saying that most of the bombs used in those strikes missed their targets. Given that, what is now your assessment of how successful those strikes were? How much danger do the remaining installations that we missed in those strikes pose to our forces? And would you hit them again if commanders in the field asked for authorization to do so?

The President. I—we had two missions. One was to send a clear signal to Saddam, and the other was to degrade the capacity of Saddam to injure our pilots. I believe we succeeded in both those missions.

The bomb assessment damage report is ongoing, and I look forward to hear what the Pentagon has to say as they fully assess, completely assess the mission. And I will continue to listen to the commanders in the field. My job as Commander in Chief is to get input from the commanders in the field, and we will do everything needed to protect our pilots, to protect the men and women who wear the uniform.

“Brunei” [Frank Bruni, New York Times].

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. You said that your \$1.6 trillion tax cut is reasonable and responsible within the outlines of the budget you're going to present. If, when that gets to Congress, things start getting layered on to it, like corporate tax cuts, capital gains, would you still support it? And if it reached your desk at a higher level, would you sign it?

The President. As you know, I shy away from hypotheticals, Pancho. I'm going to resist the Christmas tree effect of tax policy. I don't want people putting ornaments on my plan. I have made it clear to the business interests that the best tax policy is one that reduces the taxes on the people, and I hope they listen to me, and I hope they help me get the tax plan through that I have proposed.

And the reason I feel so strongly about that is, one, a marginal cut will help the economy. Secondly, I am deeply concerned about high energy prices and their effect on the working people in the country. I am concerned about consumer debt. I know there's a lot of talk in Washington about paying down the national debt, and that's fine and good, and our budget will do so. But I am very concerned about the fact that a lot of consumers in our country have got high consumer debt. And I believe we need to share some of their money with them so they can help manage their own personal finances. And I will resist the temptation by folks to pile on their pet projects on to our tax cut.

Q. But if they do pile on?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm not willing to admit defeat right here before I've begun to fight or persuade—let me put it to you that way. I think I've got a pretty good case, and I think that many of the business interests will hear that case.

Yes, sir.

Plan Colombia/Fast-Track Trading Authority

Q. You've shown a lot of interest in Latin America issues.

The President. Si.

Q. I have a double question for you. The first one has to do with Colombia. There's a big meeting on Tuesday with President Pastrana, and a lot of people are still worried about the implications of Plan Colombia, which your predecessor set in motion, about possible future military involvement of the United States. I want to know your impressions of Plan Colombia.

And my second question has to do with the free trade agreement for Latin America. You're going to be going to Quebec in April. Are you going to ask for fast-track approval

so this thing can get going again, because it's been kind of dormant lately?

The President. I appreciate that question. I'd love to have fast-track approval. I think it's going to be important to work with our neighbors to the south and Canada to the north, to promote free trade throughout the hemisphere.

I spoke to the Prime Minister of Canada this morning, and that subject came up, about the summit, upcoming summit. And so we're going to begin the process in Congress. Ambassador Zoellick will be working with Members of Congress to lay the groundwork for the ability for the President to have what they call fast-track negotiating authority.

Secondly, I look forward to my meeting with President Pastrana. I'm looking forward to the briefing that he'll be bringing from Colombia. And I, too, am worried about ever committing the United States military to an engagement in that part of the world. I know we're training, and that's fine, but the mission ought to be limited to just that. And so I share the concern of those who are worried that at some point in time the United States might become militarily engaged.

Now, in terms of the success of the mission, the President's going to bring me his firsthand account of what's taking place in the country. I am concerned about the amount of acreage in cultivation for the growth of coca leaves. We've got to do a better job of working with the Colombia Government on its eradication program.

I had a long talk about the Andes with President Fox. I'm convinced President Fox will be a stabilizing influence for that part of the world. Fortunately, we've got a good relationship so that he will share with me his insights as things develop. He has had meetings with Mr. Pastrana and Mr. Chavez, and I believe Vicente Fox is going to be a stabilizing influence and a positive influence on the Andes.

Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News].

China and Iraq

Q. Mr. President, on Iraq, what is your understanding of the Chinese presence in Iraq, especially with regard to constructing

military facilities? And do you see anything that you see as a violation of U.N. sanctions?

The President. We're concerned about the Chinese presence in Iraq, and we are—my administration is sending the appropriate response to the Chinese. Yes, it's troubling that they'd be involved in helping Iraq develop a system that will endanger our pilots.

Q. That is what they're doing, sir, you're convinced that is—

The President. We think that may be the case. Let me just tell you this. It's risen to the level where we're going to send a message to the Chinese.

Let's see. Kelly Wallace [Cable News Network].

Q. Oh, I get a second one?

The President. Yes, Dick [John Dickerson, Time].

Presidential Pardons

Q. Mr. President, when you campaigned—I know you want to move forward on this question of pardons—but when you campaigned, you talked about the legacy of the sixties, where leaders didn't stand up and take their moral role and say something had been done wrong here. You want to move forward, but on the question of these pardons, do you feel there's any moral obligation, in terms of your office, to stand up and say to those who may be watching this, look, something has been done wrong here?

The President. I think the press corps will ferret out any wrongdoing. My job is to assure the American people that this administration will have the highest ethical standards. And we're going to move forward. The President made decisions he made, and I made the decision in this White House to move forward. And we will.

Q. President Bush, given the questions that are being raised about the involvement of Senator Hillary Clinton's brother in the pardons process, what kind of guidance would you give members of your own politically active family in not only seeking pardons but seeking any other influence on any other issues with your administration?

The President. My guidance to them is, behave yourself. And they will.

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, to follow up on your answer on the tax question, perhaps looking at it the other way, some people are saying that perhaps it's too large a tax cut.

The President. Some are saying it's too small; some are saying it's too large; and I'm saying it's just right.

Q. But are you willing—

The President. Let him have another. I interrupted him.

Q. You were not willing to be flexible in terms of people who want to increase the size. Are you willing to be flexible with people who want to lower the size of your tax cut?

The President. I think it's just right. We've thought long and hard about the right number. This is a well-planned-out tax relief package that addresses the concerns of working Americans. It is needed; it is necessary; it will make a very positive difference in the lives of people who pay taxes. And our country can afford it.

There is a choice we have to make: Once we meet priorities, do we increase the size of the Government, or do we increase the amount of money in the pockets of the people who are working for a living? It is the right size, and it is the right time for tax relief in the country.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News]. And then you're next.

Q. And on that same subject—

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. —your tax and budget package, how can you be sure that, as you put it, there will be money left over? All it would take would be a less than one percentage point drop in productivity for that out-year surplus to dwindle or maybe even vanish. And also, nobody, including Alan Greenspan, thinks that it would provide much of a current stimulus.

The President. First of all, I think given the choice between increasing the baselines of the budget, to the extent to which it had been increased the past, and passing money back to the people, I think Mr. Greenspan—not to put words in his mouth—but it seems like—why I don't just put some words in his mouth—[laughter]—it seems like what he said in his testimony is, he would rather see

tax relief rather than increasing the size of the budgets beyond the needs of the country.

Secondly, I believe we can do a heck of a lot better in growing our economy than the basic assumptions in the 10-year plan. I believe that good monetary policy, good fiscal policy, good regulatory policy, good trade policy will enable our economy to grow beyond the scope that is envisioned in the current budget projections.

Secondly, I believe, as well, that if we don't pass some of the money back to the people that pay the bills, it is going to be spent. And I worry about a bloated Federal Government serving as a drag on economic growth.

Yes, sir.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's Upcoming Visit

Q. Mr. President, Stephen Sackur of the BBC.

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. You have a meeting with Prime Minister Blair tomorrow.

The President. Correct.

Q. There are some concerns in this country about the European plan for what they call a rapid-reaction force, their own military capability. What will you tell Prime Minister Blair about the American attitude to this rapid-reaction force?

The President. I, first, look forward to the visit. I'm anxious to meet the Prime Minister. We've had a couple of good conversations on the telephone. I'm thankful that he's coming across the—actually coming down from Canada—but coming across the sea to visit us. Laura and I are looking to having a private dinner with he and Mrs. Blair Friday night. We'll be having a press availability after our meeting, and—

Q. I know, but I think a lot of people would like to—

The President. Well, why don't we wait until after he and I visit so I don't have to give the same answer twice.

Q. But just on the whole outline of the question of the European defense capability—

The President. You bet. I understand, you're trying to get me to tell you the answer twice. [Laughter] Britain and the United States have got a special relationship. We'll

keep it that way. I look forward to talking to the Prime Minister about the importance of NATO. It is—anyway, let me visit with him first. I promise to call upon you tomorrow. Nice try.

Yes, sir.

Federal Budget

Q. Mr. President, you've talked a lot about areas of the budget that are going to increase—education; today you talked about Medicare; you've talked before a little bit about defense. You haven't talked much about the areas where, to come in with a budget that's going to be responsible, you'll have to do some cuts.

The President. Yes.

Q. Where might we see you take the red pen to the budget?

The President. Let me remind you, and the people who are listening, that accounting in Washington is a little different than the way normal—I shouldn't say "normal" people—the average person accounts. This is a town where if you don't increase the budget by an expected number, it's considered a cut.

We're going to slow the rate of growth of the budget down. It should come to no surprise to anybody that my budget is going to say, loud and clear, that the rate of growth of the budget, for example, from last year, was excessive. And so we'll be slowing the rate of growth of the budgets down. That, evidently, is a cut. In my parlance, it's not a cut. When you increase spending, it's not a cut.

I will be glad to explain some of the slow-downs and some of the increases and perhaps a decrease or two after we put the budget out. Let me submit it on Tuesday, and then I'll be glad to answer any questions.

Thank you for this. I look forward to this—I look forward to future press conferences.

Q. Frequently? [Laughter]

The President. Well, yes, of course. [Laughter]

Q. Once a week?

The President. Well, you don't want to see me once a week. You'll run out of questions.

Q. Twice a week?

The President. Oh, twice? [Laughter] I'll be running out of ties. [Laughter]

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's second news conference began at 2:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Judge William Webster, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is leading the investigation of Special Agent Robert Hanssen; President Vladimir Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov of Russia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Statement on the Death of Dale Earnhardt

February 22, 2001

I have asked my close friend Joe Allbaugh to attend today's memorial service for Dale Earnhardt. I am saddened by the untimely loss of this American legend and want to express my deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and fans. Dale was an American icon who made great contributions to his sport. Dale's legacy will live on for millions of Americans. He was an inspiration to many.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Budget Review Board and an Exchange With Reporters

February 23, 2001

The President. Good morning. Welcome to the Budget Review Board. We've been going over the budget that I'll be submitting to the Congress next Tuesday night. I want to thank OMB Director Mitch Daniels for doing a really fine job.

It is a budget that clearly sets out priorities. It is a budget that sets aside Social Security money for only—to be used only for Social Security. It is a budget that will substantially pay down debt, and it's a budget that provides meaningful, real tax relief for our citizens.

In the budget, I prioritize education. I talked about that yesterday. We also prioritize the health care needs. We recog-

nize the Federal Government plays a very important role in researching cures for disease, and therefore, our budget increases the NIH budget for 2002 by \$2.8 billion, the largest increase in that Department's history.

And so I'm very much looking forward for the American people to see and hear the budget presentation. It's a practical budget. It makes a lot of sense. It meets a lot of needs. And the people of this country are going to realize we spent a lot of time on it and will realize that they've got an administration that is practical, full of common sense, and always asks the question, how can we help the people of the country?

Thanks.

National Economy

Q. Is the uptick in inflation going to make it harder to get the economy going again?

The President. Not with the Secretary of the Treasury at the helm.

Thanks a lot.

Opening Day Plans

Q. Are you going to Puerto Rico to see the Rangers?

The President. Are you?

Q. I'd like to.

The President. I'm not putting out my opening day plans yet.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 17

The President and Mrs. Bush attended a hometown celebration welcoming them on their first home visit to Crawford, TX.

February 19

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where they toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial Interactive Learning Museum. Later, the President met privately with survivors and family members of victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Columbus, OH, where the President toured Sullivant Elementary School classrooms and met with reading mentors.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Louis, MO, where the President toured Moline Elementary School classrooms and listened to a reading of "Amazing Grace." Later, the President met with Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis at a private residence.

The President named Ruben Barrales as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

February 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Townsend, TN, where he met with students from Doyle Middle School at McGhee Tyson Airport. Later, he toured Townsend Elementary School classrooms and listened to several essay readings.

While returning to the airport in the afternoon, the President stopped in front of Heritage Middle School to shake students' hands, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a private dinner at the home of Katharine Graham, executive committee chairman, Washington Post, Co.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Natsios to be Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maria Cino to be Assistant Sec-

retary of Commerce and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brenda L. Becker to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Aufhauser to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert E. Fabricant to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Robert Bolton to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

The President announced the appointment of Gary R. Edson as Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy National Security Adviser.

February 22

The President announced his intention to nominate James Andrew Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil at the White House on March 30.

February 23

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey.

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD. Later, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tim S. McClain to be General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Pittsburgh, PA, and Council Bluffs, IA, on February 28 and Little Rock, AR, and Atlanta, GA, on March 1.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 17

Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding Executive Orders

Released February 20

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer to the press pool aboard Air Force One

Released February 22

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of John F. Maisto as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Franklin C. Miller as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Direc-

tor for Defense Policy and Arms Control at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Jendayi E. Frazer as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Daniel Fried as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Robert G. Joseph as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Proliferation Strategy, Counterproliferation and Homeland Defense at the National Security Council

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Cardoso of Brazil

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.