

Week Ending Friday, April 13, 2001

Remarks on Repairing the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 6, 2001

How are you all today? It's good to be here. I'm pleased to be here with Governor McCallum and the mayor of Milwaukee; Secretary Mineta and Secretary Thompson, former Governor of the great State of Wisconsin.

I'm looking forward to tossing out the first ball today. I haven't decided if I'm going to go with a rising fastball, a split-finger, or a breaking pitch. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, it's going to be a great honor to be there. Miller Park will be a proud part of Milwaukee's landscape.

But there is another key structure that is an important part of the life of this city, the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge. For the last several months, a lot of effort has gone into helping repair the Hoan Bridge. But the job is not yet complete. So I'm here to tell the good people of Milwaukee that fixing the Hoan Bridge is a priority of my administration.

I've brought along the Secretary of Transportation here to identify the quickest way to rebuild this critical artery for Milwaukee. The Hoan Bridge is eligible for funding from the Department of Transportation. We look forward to partnering with the State of Wisconsin to complete the rebuilding of the Hoan Bridge.

Today Secretary Mineta and I have received an application for Federal funds from the Governor of Wisconsin, and I plan to make this project an important priority. Almost 100,000 people live in areas directly served by the Hoan Bridge, and because of its limited capacity and weight restrictions, many commuters and shippers must find alternate routes.

We are committed to helping Wisconsin take care of this problem. Secretary Mineta

and I recognize that maintaining the infrastructure of our cities is a vital role for government. I'm glad we can be of assistance to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you very much. See you at the ballpark.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:08 p.m. at General Mitchell International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin and Mayor John O. Norquist of Milwaukee. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 7, 2001

Good morning. This weekend Congress begins its Easter recess. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives return home to meet with their constituents and listen to the people. I hope they'll listen carefully; there are large decisions that must be made when Congress returns.

I have sent Congress an education reform plan that offers greater Federal support to schools but requires higher standards and improved accountability, and I have sent Congress a tax plan that will accelerate our economic growth and leave more money with the people who earned it. Passing these two measures will be a long process that will require many votes in Congress. But the choices Congress makes will shape our country for decades. The tax plan I sent to Congress will help ensure that our children will grow up in a country bustling with opportunities. My education plan prepares our children to take advantage of those opportunities.

These are not routine votes. They are not ordinary business. They are decisions that we cannot afford to get wrong. Important reform is never easy, and it will always be tempting to postpone it. On education, there are some interest groups who don't like the idea of

changes. On taxes, there are powerful institutions in Washington that would prefer to keep the people's money for themselves.

But I'm committed to moving forward. The old saying goes, the President proposes, Congress disposes; but in the end, the people rule. If we want higher educational standards, if we're to pass a substantial tax cut, the people must make their voices heard.

Many of you have already telephoned your Members of Congress or sent letters and e-mails expressing your support for my education and tax plans, and I want to thank you for doing that. I hope you'll keep it up.

The crucial votes on education and taxes are still ahead. And many Members of Congress are still making up their minds. Don't just send them what you earn; tell them what you think. So I have a suggestion: During the recess, many Members of Congress will be holding townhall meetings, where constituents are welcome to come and express their views. You can find a list of these townhalls at www.bushtaxrelief.com. If your Congressman has a townhall scheduled, I hope you'll consider attending it. Maybe you might want to bring a relative or a friend.

And I hope that if you do go, you'll stand up and let your representative hear from you on school reform and tax relief. It's good citizenship, and it will make a big difference.

Before I close, let me send my best wishes to all who will be sitting down tonight to their Passover seder.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on April 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the Helicopter Crash in Vietnam

April 7, 2001

Laura and I were deeply saddened to learn of the crash this morning in central Vietnam of a helicopter carrying 16 people, including 7 U.S. military personnel, who were on an important mission to find and recover the remains of servicemen missing from the Viet-

nam war. The families of the service personnel lost in today's tragic accident know better than most the contribution their loved ones made in bringing closure to scores of families across America. Today's loss is a terrible one for our Nation. Although not lost in a hostile act, like those for whom they search, they too have lived lives of great consequence, answering a calling of service to their fellow citizens. As we enter a period of religious holidays across America, may we remember their sacrifice and keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

April 9, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. Good morning. I'm discussing the budget we're sending to the Hill today with my Cabinet. It's a budget that protects taxpayers, protects children, protects our surplus. It represents compassionate conservatism. It's a budget that sets priorities. It's a budget that recognizes there are some good programs here in Washington that need to be funded.

For example, the budget provides a \$21 million increase for food safety programs, \$1 billion increase for Pell grants for low income students, \$350 million increase for childcare. We help children whose parents are in prison with a \$67 million mentoring program. We increase funding available to prevent child abuse by 66 percent. We fight crime, \$87 million increase for frontline prosecutors. We give \$75 million for Project Child Safe, which is a program that provides gun safety locks for families. It fights corporate subsidies. It eliminates thousands of one-time earmarked projects.

Washington is known for pork. This budget funds our needs without the fat. It also represents a new way of doing business in Washington and a new way of thinking. The budget puts the taxpayers first, and that's exactly where they belong. I'll be glad to answer questions.