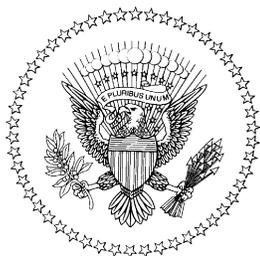


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, August 27, 2001  
Volume 37—Number 34  
Pages 1185–1221

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**Editor's Note:** The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on August 24, 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

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, August 24, 2001

**Executive Order 13222—  
Continuation of Export Control  
Regulations**

*August 17, 2001*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including but not limited to section 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (“Act”) (50 U.S.C. 1702), **I, George W. Bush**, President of the United States of America, find that the unrestricted access of foreign parties to U.S. goods and technology and the existence of certain boycott practices of foreign nations, in light of the expiration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*), constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and hereby declare a national emergency with respect to that threat.

Accordingly, in order (a) to exercise the necessary vigilance over exports and activities affecting the national security of the United States; (b) to further significantly the foreign policy of the United States, including its policy with respect to cooperation by U.S. persons with certain foreign boycott activities, and to fulfill its international responsibilities; and (c) to protect the domestic economy from the excessive drain of scarce materials and reduce the serious economic impact of foreign demand, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1.** To the extent permitted by law, the provisions of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, and the provisions for administration of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, shall be carried out under this order so as to continue in full force and effect and amend, as necessary, the export control system heretofore maintained by the Export Administration Regulations issued under the Export Administration Act

of 1979, as amended. The delegations of authority set forth in Executive Order 12002 of July 7, 1977, as amended by Executive Order 12755 of March 12, 1991, and Executive Order 13026 of November 15, 1996; Executive Order 12214 of May 2, 1980; Executive Order 12735 of November 16, 1990; and Executive Order 12851 of June 11, 1993, shall be incorporated in this order and shall apply to the exercise of authorities under this order. All actions under this order shall be in accordance with Presidential directives relating to the export control system heretofore issued and not revoked.

**Sec. 2.** All rules and regulations issued or continued in effect by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended, including those published in Title 15, Subtitle B, Chapter VII, Subchapter C, of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 730 through 774, and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, shall, until amended or revoked by the Secretary of Commerce, remain in full force and effect as if issued or taken pursuant to this order, except that the provisions of sections 203(b)(2) and 206 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2) and 1705) shall control over any inconsistent provisions in the regulations. Nothing in this section shall affect the continued applicability of administrative sanctions provided for by the regulations described above.

**Sec. 3.** Provisions for administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(e)) may be made and shall continue in full force and effect until amended or revoked under the authority of section 203 of the Act (50 U.S.C. 1702). To the extent permitted by law, this order also shall constitute authority for the issuance and continuation in full force and effect of all rules and regulations by the President or his delegate, and all orders, licenses, and other forms

of administrative actions issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, relating to the administration of section 38(e).

**Sec. 4.** This order shall be effective as of midnight between August 20, 2001, and August 21, 2001, eastern daylight time.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
August 17, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 21, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on August 22. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President's Radio Address**

*August 18, 2001*

Good morning. This month, in my travels around the country, I am talking about values that make communities strong and our Nation unique. One of those essential American values is compassion.

A little more than a week ago, I visited a Habitat for Humanity building site, where volunteers were helping a family find the dignity of owning a home. Every community offers its own examples of service: shelters for battered women and children; crisis pregnancy centers; treatment for drug addiction; care for the homeless; hope for those in prison, and their families. The groups behind these caring efforts have advantages Government social programs often can't match: the idealism of volunteers and intimate knowledge of the communities they serve and values stronger than the problems they face.

A compassionate Government should find ways to support their good works. Unfortunately, Government often treats charities and community groups as rivals instead of partners. And this week came some new evidence. Soon after I took office, I instructed my Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to examine Federal rules and regulations for discrimination against community and faith-based groups. Five Cabinet agencies now have issued their findings. Their report, entitled, "Unlevel Playing Field," documents a Government bias against faith-

community-based organizations, a bias that exists even when constitutional concerns about church and state have been addressed.

Government administrators restrict religious groups from even applying for funding simply because they are religious. They place artificial limits on what programs and how much funding faith-based groups can apply for. In some cases, they restrict civil rights these faith-based and community-based groups enjoy under Federal law. This is wrong.

Next Wednesday will mark the fifth anniversary of a bipartisan charitable choice legislation. This law says faith-based organizations should be able to compete for some contracts to provide social services. But even this limited charitable choice law has been almost entirely ignored by many Federal administrators. They've done little to help or require State and local governments to involve faith-based providers, as the law requires. I've appointed advocates in five Cabinet agencies to end this bias, and soon.

My Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is also working closely with groups to help them know their civil rights, know how to effectively apply for funds so their good works can be expanded. We must also broaden charitable choice to more social service areas, removing barriers of discrimination against the participation of faith and community groups. By doing so, we will welcome them to more fully confront the poverty and hopelessness that remain in America.

The House of Representatives took a key step in leveling the playing field by passing my Faith-Based and Community Initiative, which broadens charitable choice and encourages charitable giving. I applauded the bipartisan House vote and urge the Senate to pass that legislation, with the leadership from Senators Joe Lieberman and Rick Santorum. The needs are real. The time to act is as soon as Congress returns to work after Labor Day.

If you agree, let your Senator know if you see him or her during the congressional recess. Faith-based and community groups cannot replace the work of Government, but with Government's help, they can serve many more people. And my administration is committed to providing that help.

Compassion is one of the values that builds communities of character, because every community of character must be a community of service.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:45 a.m. on August 16 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 17 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on the Korean  
Peninsula Energy Development  
Organization**

August 14, 2001

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I transmit herewith the semiannual report required under the heading “International Organizations and Programs” in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO).

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 20.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders on  
Continuation of Export Control  
Regulations**

August 17, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b), I hereby report to the Congress that I have today exercised the authority granted by this Act to continue in effect the system of controls contained in 15 C.F.R. Parts 730–774, including restrictions

on participation by U.S. persons in certain foreign boycott activities, that heretofore has been maintained under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (EAA), as amended, 50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.* In addition, I have made provision for the administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act, 22 U.S.C. 2778(e).

The exercise of this authority is necessitated by the expiration of the EAA on August 20, 2001, and the lapse in the system of controls maintained under that Act that would result from such expiration.

In the absence of controls, foreign parties would have unrestricted access to U.S. commercial products, technology, and assistance, posing an unusual and extraordinary threat to national security, foreign policy, and economic objectives critical to the United States. In addition, U.S. persons would not be prohibited from complying with certain foreign boycott requests. This would seriously harm our foreign policy interests, particularly in the Middle East.

Controls established in 15 C.F.R. Parts 730–774, and continued by this action, include the following:

- National security export controls restricting the export of goods and technologies that would make a significant contribution to the military potential of certain other countries and that would prove detrimental to the national security of the United States.
- Foreign policy controls that further the foreign policy objectives of the United States or fulfill its declared international obligations in such widely recognized areas as human rights, antiterrorism, regional stability, missile technology nonproliferation, and chemical and biological weapons nonproliferation.
- Nuclear nonproliferation controls that are maintained for both national security and foreign policy reasons and that support the objectives of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act.
- Short supply controls that protect domestic supplies, and antiboycott regulations that prohibit compliance with foreign boycotts aimed at countries friendly to the United States.

Consequently, I have issued an Executive Order (a copy of which is attached) to continue in effect all rules and regulations issued or continued in effect by the Secretary of Commerce under the authority of the EAA, and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative actions under the Act, except to the extent they are inconsistent with sections 203(b) and 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

The Congress and the Executive have not permitted export controls to lapse since they were enacted under the Export Control Act of 1949. Any termination of controls could permit transactions to occur that would be seriously detrimental to the national interests we have heretofore sought to protect through export controls and restrictions on compliance by U.S. persons with certain foreign boycotts. I believe that even a temporary lapse in this system of controls would seriously damage our national security, foreign policy, and economic interests and undermine our credibility in meeting our international obligations.

The countries affected by this action vary depending on the objectives sought to be achieved by the system of controls instituted under the EAA. Potential adversaries may seek to acquire sensitive U.S. goods and technologies. Other countries serve as conduits for the diversion of such items. Still other countries have policies that are contrary to U.S. foreign policy or nonproliferation objectives, or foster boycotts against friendly countries. For some goods or technologies, controls could apply even to our closest allies in order to safeguard against diversion to potential adversaries.

It is my intention to terminate the Executive Order upon enactment into law of new authorizing legislation for the U.S. export control regime. Such legislation is long overdue. The EAA is a Cold War statute that does not reflect and is ill-suited to deal with current economic and political realities. There is a strong need for a new statute to facilitate an effective modern export control regime—one that safeguards our national security and furthers our foreign policy objectives, while recognizing the current realities of today's fast-paced and dynamic business

environment. I look forward to signing into law such legislation in the near future.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 20.

### **Remarks at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

*August 20, 2001*

Thank you all. Thank you very much. At ease. [*Laughter*]

Thank you for that warm welcome. Before I begin my address, I know you'll want to join me in paying tribute to a fine friend and a good man who left us last week. We mourn the loss of Floyd Spence, who served our country well as a Congressman from South Carolina. He was chairman of the Committees on National Security and on the Armed Services, a senior member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. He was a strong advocate for national defense. Our prayers are with his wife, Deborah, and his four sons.

My, time flies. I was here a year ago, minus one day. [*Laughter*] Since then, I have had a change of address—[*laughter*]—and I received a great honor. Another honor comes to me today, to speak as Commander in Chief to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America.

Today I bring the respect of our Nation and a special greeting from one of your own members, from VFW Post 4344 of Houston, Texas, the former President George H.W. Bush.

I want to thank your commander in chief. John has been in the Oval Office. He is a true advocate for the veterans. He has done a fine job. And like me, he married well. And I want to congratulate John's successor, Jim Goldsmith. And I look forward to working with Jim, just like I have with John. I also want to thank Bob Wallace. I want to thank Bob Wallace, the VFW's man in Washington,

DC, for working closely with my administration and representing your interests very well. I want to thank Pat Jankowski of the Ladies Auxiliary, who are gathered here as well in Milwaukee, and I want to thank her for her leadership. And I want to congratulate Diana Stout, who will become the incoming president of the Ladies Auxiliary.

As well, I want to thank the Governor of Wisconsin, Scott McCallum, for his hospitality, and I want to thank all the good people of Wisconsin, particularly Milwaukee for being such a welcoming city to this great convention.

And I want to pay tribute to a good friend of mine and a good friend of yours, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Tony Principi. Last year he was giving me advice about veterans affairs. This year he sits around the Cabinet, making sure I understand what we are doing in veterans affairs. And I appreciate so very much Tony's return to public service. He is doing a fine job.

I want to thank you all for having me come to this convention. I have been looking forward to this visit. I appreciate every chance I get to travel our country. It is important for a President never to become isolated in the seat of power. As great and influential as that city is, sometimes the President just has to get out of Crawford, Texas. *[Laughter]*

This is a fine organization. General Douglas MacArthur called the VFW the greatest organization in the world. He and his dad were both members, and they would be proud of all you have done for your country, and they would be proud of the more than 1.9 million members of the VFW.

Each one of you is a living example of a special kind of patriotism, the love of country, expressed not just in word but in lifetimes of service. You defended America in hours of need. You help your fellow veterans in times of their need. And you have done so much to build the character of our young people, to teach them to live by good values, to honor their parents, to trust in God. You helped them to appreciate freedom, to love America, and to respect our flag. You understand as well that showing a basic respect for our Nation's flag is not merely the option of every citizen; it should be a matter of constitutional law.

In Europe last month, one of my last stops was Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. I went there to thank our service men and women for their sacrifice for our Nation. I took the occasion to make good on a promise, by signing a bill to allocate over \$2 billion in additional appropriations for military pay, benefits, health, and housing. To restore the strength and morale of America's Armed Forces, we must first take care of the people who wear our uniform. I believe we're making every branch of service a place where men and women are proud to serve and, as importantly, proud to stay.

My administration understands America's obligations not only go to those who wear the uniform today but to those who wore the uniform in the past, to our veterans. And at times, those obligations have not been met. Veterans in need of care have been kept waiting, and thousands of veterans' claims have been delayed or, in some cases, lost in the bureaucracy.

Many veterans have observed that the Government seemed to work a lot more efficiently when it wanted something from them. When the draft board got your file, it worked efficiently. *[Laughter]* But now, when you need health care, forms get lost and answers come late. That is no way to treat America's veterans, and that is going to change.

Secretary Principi is conducting a top-to-bottom review of the claims processing. Currently, there are about 600,000 pending applications, of which 53,000 have been pending over a year. Many of those belong to veterans over 70 years of age. That's not right. I have given Secretary Principi the clearest of clear mandates. He must bring those claims to a speedy and fair resolution. We must move as quickly as possible on the backlog, and we will. We will improve cooperation between the VA and the Department of Defense in providing care to those who served.

In May, I signed an Executive order creating a Presidential task force to recommend major reforms in the delivery of health care to veterans and military retirees. Two distinguished Americans will lead that task force: Dr. Gail Wilensky, an expert on health policy and a faithful friend to the veterans, and former Congressman Gerry Solomon. One

might be tempted to call him an ex-marine, but we all know there is no such thing as an ex-marine.

We are making great progress on implementing the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act to ensure that our veterans receive high-quality care. In the budget I submitted to Congress, I requested an increase of \$1 billion, additional money for veterans services. Secretary Principi recently announced new health care facilities for veterans: six new centers for Parkinson's disease research and care and 41 new outpatient clinics in 28 States.

Veterans are a priority for this administration. I put a good man in charge, and that priority is reflected in my budget. Our budget also meets the most fundamental responsibility a President bears, to provide security for the United States of America. Not only does the budget take care of our people, we give today's military what it needs to operate: equipment, spare parts, advanced training. In all, I've asked Congress to provide our military an increase of \$39 billion over the original 2001 appropriations. This is the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the Commander in Chief. We are not only going to spend more on national defense; we're also going to spend it more wisely.

Secretary Rumsfeld is charged with developing a strategy to bolster today's military, and he is charged with developing a strategy to develop a military that is ready to defend America tomorrow, as well. A modern military requires major investment in research and development so that our military is always the finest in the world.

And something I offered last year as a promise is today a commitment, to research, develop, and deploy a defense against ballistic missiles. These are the priorities I submitted to Congress in February and priorities reflected to the budget amendment in June. I trust they will be reflected in the appropriations bills Congress sends me this fall for my signature.

As we enter the appropriations process, I have great hopes but no illusions. Washington has its own way of doing things, especially around the time of year when final appropriations are made. The spending bills are

passed one after another, 13 in all. Everybody in Washington knows there is a budget, but new spending gets thrown in along the way. Finally, when it is time to pass the last bill, they realize they are just about to go over the budget. And often, and sadly, the final bill has been the Defense appropriations bill, and therefore, defense appropriations has gone without adequate funding. That's the old way of doing business. That's old style of thinking.

I have a better idea. Let's abandon the old ways of gamesmanship, standoffs, and Government shutdowns. Let us keep our priorities straight and start with the things that matter most to our country's security and our country's future. This year, let us have responsible spending from day one and put the national security and education of our children first in line when it comes to the appropriations process.

I hope you all watch very carefully. It's important that people pay attention to what goes on in Washington. It will be an interesting signal about the priorities of the leaders of the United States Congress when they let those appropriation bills out to come to my desk. I'm confident I can work with Congress on appropriations because we have worked closely together on other issues. We saw bipartisan votes on the budget itself. And they passed, and I signed, and the mailman is delivering the first major income tax relief in a generation. And we also work together in honoring veterans.

Members of the VFW have long advocated a fitting memorial to those who served in the Second World War. The World War II Memorial has been in the works for an awfully long time. The final obstacles have been removed. I've signed it into law, and soon the veterans of World War II will have their place of honor in the heart of our Nation's Capital.

In the heart of Washington, DC, that monument will stand for all time as a reminder of service and sacrifice. Not far away are monuments to those who fought in other wars across the world. For all of you, service in time of war was a defining experience in your life. Your brave and selfless conduct has defined the best of our country.

America does not seek to produce more generations of war veterans; we are a peaceful Nation. But we'll always need the commitment and courage and honor that we find in our veterans. Those who have worn the uniform have made a contribution, not just to the defense of our Nation but to the character of our Nation. You've given your best to America, and in so many ways you are the best that is in America.

For all that, you have the deep respect of those who wear the uniform today, the Commander in Chief, as well. And you have the gratitude of a Nation that is in debt.

Thank you for letting me come. May God bless our veterans.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. at the Midwest Express Center. In his remarks, he referred to David, Zack, Benjamin, and Caldwell Spence, sons of Representative Spence; John F. Gwizdak, commander in chief, and James N. Goldsmith, senior vice commander in chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Bob Wallace, executive director, Veterans of Foreign Wars Washington office; Patricia Jankowski, president, and Diana Stout, senior vice president, Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin. The President also referred to Executive Order 13214, President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, published in the *Federal Register* on May 31; Public Law No. 106-117, the Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act, approved November 30, 1999; and Public Law No. 107-11, to expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, approved May 28.

### Exchange With Reporters at the Harley-Davidson Factory in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

August 20, 2001

**The President.** Everybody enjoying themselves in Waco?

**Q.** Love it.

**The President.** That's the spirit.

### Situation in the Middle East

**Q.** Sir, there were some comments on the Sunday chat shows yesterday that you're disconnected in the Middle East peace process. Do you have any response to that?

**The President.** Every time I talk to you all, you ask me about the Middle East. Nothing has changed. We're very much engaged, trying to break the cycle of violence. I spoke to Ariel Sharon the other day. The Secretary of State is in constant dialog with the parties in the Middle East. In order to get to a peace process or discussions of peace, we must end the violence, and it requires two parties. It requires the desires of both parties to do that.

Thank you. Anything else?

It's great to be here in one of the world-class manufacturing companies, a company that not only is good at making a product, a company that is fabulous at marketing a product. The Harley-Davidson is a great example of the American entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to having lunch with the workers and thank them for putting out such a quality product.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:10 p.m. outside the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations factory. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

### Remarks to Harley-Davidson Employees in Menomonee Falls

August 20, 2001

I really appreciate your hospitality. First of all, I'm really impressed by the quality of the workers who are here. It's obviously reflected in the quality of the product. Harley-Davidson is uniquely American. People love them. And some people are bold enough to drive them, and some of us aren't. [Laughter] I'm hitting the speed limit this year, 55. [Laughter]

But I really appreciate your hospitality and letting us come by and say hello. I can't tell you how great it is to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. I thank all the—there are more people than I can think that impress me. One of the things that impressed me, besides people's friendliness, is the number of people that said, "I pray for you and your family." For those of you that do that, thanks. It really is something unique about America—you

don't have to show me the party registration card.

It's really one of the fabulous parts of the job—people from all walks that really care enough about the Presidency that they will do that. I'm just going to keep giving it my best shot. I'm not going to try to figure out which way the wind is blowing—all come down and visit me in Texas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the lunchroom at the Harley-Davidson Pilgrim Road Powertrain Operations factory. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks at Truman High School in Independence, Missouri**

*August 21, 2001*

Thank you all. Good morning. Thanks for that warm welcome. Mary Alice, thank you very much for your great introduction. And I want to thank the residents of the John Knox Senior Village for inviting me to come to Independence, Missouri. I'm glad I accepted.

It is exciting to be here. It's good to get out of the seat of power, Crawford, Texas—[laughter]—and come to Missouri. Speaking about Missouri, I want—it's important for all Presidents to remember what Harry Truman said. He said, "I try never to forget who I was and where I've come from and where I was going back to." That's one thing that Crawford, Texas, reminds me. [Laughter] It reminds me of where I came from. And after my service for this great country, where I'm going back to.

I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and talk about a couple of subjects dear to my heart. I want to thank my friend, the Senator from the State of Missouri, Kit Bond, for the invitation and for his great service to Missouri and the United States. I want to thank United States Congressman Sam Graves for being here. Thank you for coming, Sam. I want to thank the United States Congresswoman from this district, Karen McCarthy. Thank you, Karen, for being here. I appreciate your time. Also here is the former Congressman from Missouri; Jim Talent is with us today, as well.

I wish my wife were with me. [Laughter] Like Harry Truman, I married well. [Laughter] She would love to be here at this school. I want to thank the school administrators, the principals. I want to thank the students who are fixing to start school tomorrow for giving us a chance to come to your beautiful campus.

To the students, let me say as plainly as I can: Your Government's important. You've got to pay attention to your Government. I don't care whether you're Republican or Democrat; you need to be involved in democracy in America. You need to take your vote seriously.

And having been in public service for a while, I can tell you, it's a noble profession. It's an important way to serve your country and your community. And you can do so without being the President, by the way. You can be a Congressperson; you can serve in the statehouse; you can work hard to get people elected; or you can serve your community by loving a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's one of the most important initiatives that we're working on.

And that's one of the most important initiatives we're working on in Washington, DC. It's called a Faith-Based and Community Initiative. It passed the House of Representatives, for which I'm grateful. We're now trying to get it out of the United States Senate. It's part of the unfinished business for this year.

Let me explain to you briefly what we're trying to do. We're trying to make sure that welfare is extended in a positive and compassionate way. We recognize in America there are some who hurt, some who have needs beyond the reach of Government, some who simply need love and compassion from a fellow American. There are children in our country who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them, children whose mom or dad may be in prison. What this Nation needs is a Government that stands squarely on the side of the soldiers of the armies of compassion, those wonderful citizens who put their arm around a neighbor in need, and say, "I love you, brother," or "I love you, sister. What can I do to help make your life better?" Government should

not fear faith in America. We ought to welcome faith-based programs.

And we're making big progress on important issues, like health. For the last couple of legislative sessions in Washington, the Patients' Bill of Rights got stalled over in a partisan wrangling. I'm pleased to report that a bill passed out of the House of Representatives that I can live with. It's a bill that encourages, fosters, nourishes, the relationship between patient and doctor.

But it's also a piece of legislation that will not encourage or enhance frivolous lawsuits that will drive people out of medical care. We want more people with health insurance, not less. We want fewer lawsuits threatening our providers, rather than more, and we want to make sure our patients have got direct access to important health care. There's a good Patients' Bill of Rights that, if Congress comes together, they can get on my desk, that I look forward to signing this fall, after Congress comes home.

We're also making progress in changing the tone in Washington. One of my promises is, I said I'd go up to Washington and try to focus more on the people and less on partisanship. We need to focus more on the lives of our citizens and remember who sent us up there in the first place.

During the course of the campaign, I told the American people, if you gave me the great honor of serving as your President, I would set priorities for our budget. And if we had money left over after the priorities, we would remember who sent it to Washington in the first place. The money up in Washington is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And so we came together—with that philosophy in mind, we came together and passed the first tax relief in a generation. It's real; it is meaningful; it is important tax relief. It wasn't one of these old, Washington style tax relief programs, where the Congress or the President got to pick and choose who got tax relief and who didn't. This was fair tax relief. It said, "If you pay taxes, you get relief." It wasn't targeted tax relief; it was broad tax relief.

And the Congress wisely agreed to start sending money back this summer. Driving in to the high school here, I saw a sign that

said, "Thanks for the \$600 rebate check." But what I meant—what I should have done was stop and said, "You don't need to thank me. It's your money to begin with."

Some of them in our Nation's Capital say, \$600 doesn't matter to a family. Well what they ought to do is get out of the Capital—I presume they are—and come out and talk to the working people of America and find out what \$600 means. I was in the Harley-Davidson plant yesterday in Milwaukee. A lot of the workers came up and said, "Thanks for my \$600." One fellow said, "I built a deck. You need to come over and have a beer with me." [Laughter] I said, "I quit drinking." [Laughter] He said, "How about root beer?" [Laughter]

The other thing we did in the Tax Code, which I appreciate a lot—and this is good for farmers and ranchers in Missouri and Kansas, all across the country. It's good for people who worry about urban sprawl. It's good for entrepreneurs. It's good for those folks who had a dream to build their business, make it work, and pass it on to their children. We're getting rid of the death tax. That's an important reform for our code. The Tax Code will be more reasonable. It will encourage entrepreneurship. It will get people more of their own money, and it was needed. And I'll talk about that a little later on.

A second area where we're making great progress is in public education. There is a good, strong reform bill that passed our House of Representatives and a good strong reform bill that passed the United States Senate. And when we come back, after the so-called vacation—[laughter]—people need to get the education bill to my desk.

And let me talk to you about it right quick. First of all, lest you think I forgot where I came from, one of the key components in the education bill is to trust the local folks when it comes to running public education. I strongly believe in local control of our schools. I don't believe Washington has got all the answers on how to run the schools. I do believe we need to pass power out of Washington, to give school districts more flexibility, more authority. And both these bills do that, and that's an important component of the bill.

But secondly, these bills challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. It recognizes that too often in our public education system, we lower the bar for students. Some folks believe, I guess, some kids can't learn. That's the opposite of what I think. I think every child can learn. I think we ought to have the high expectations. We expect high standards, and we expect people to deliver on those standards. And therefore, one of the key components of reform is to say to school districts, States all across our country, that if you receive Federal money, you must measure. You must devise an accountability system to let us know whether our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract.

I've heard all the arguments. As the Governor of Texas I heard the arguments against accountability, and of course I've heard them as the President. On the one hand, you'll have people say, "That's too much Government." Folks, my attitude is, if we spend money, it is reasonable to ask, "What are the results?"—particularly when it comes to our children.

I want to know whether a little child in the third grade can read, and I want to know early rather than late, and so should you. Because if we don't find out whether a child can read, oftentimes what happens is, they just get shuffled through the system. That's not fair; that's not right. Phyllis Hunter, my friend in the Houston Independent School District, stood up one time and said, "Reading is the new civil right." How can you realize the American Dream if you can't read? And if you can't read, you can't learn. We've got to know. We've got to know whether or not the school systems and the curriculum are working, to make sure that no child in America gets left behind. It makes sense to ask the question, what are the results all across America? Your motto in Missouri is "Show Me." It's not pass them through; it's show me whether or not the children can read.

And then you'll hear people say it's racist to test. Folks, it's racist not to test, because guess who gets shuffled through the system, oftentimes: children whose parents don't speak English as a first language, inner-city kids. It's so much easier to quit on somebody

than to re-mediate. And so we've got reform at the heart of this bill, and the reform is, every child can learn. No child should be left behind, and we're going to find out whether or not children are learning or not. And when they are, we need to praise the teachers. And by the way, for the teachers who are here, thanks for teaching. It's a noble profession.

That's one thing Laura's going to spend a lot of time on. She's not only going to spend a lot of time heralding reading programs at work or working on libraries—expanding libraries around America, but she's going to do her job—the best job she can at recruiting folks to become teachers—the young, those, for example, who have served in our military. We've got a troops-for-teachers program that will encourage those who have served in the military to get back in the classroom. We've got to do a better job of recruiting good Americans into the classrooms.

The education bill is a good bill. I look forward to signing it. It is a sign that we're making progress on getting things done. Washington needs to be a results-oriented world. And one area where we need better results is with our military. When I campaigned for the Presidency, Dick Cheney—and by the way, he's doing great. He's a wonderful man and a great Vice President. I'm really glad he's decided to leave the private sector to come and join the administration. But we both said that we need to strengthen the military in order to keep the peace.

And we made great progress. The Congress has done great work. We passed pay raises. I had the honor of signing an additional pay raise in Kosovo, when I went overseas, \$2 billion additional money to pay our troops more, house them better, better health care for the men and women who wear the uniform. Listen, high morale begins with treating the men and women who wear the uniform—treating them well and paying them better. And that's what we're doing.

We've also got a vision for a stronger military reflected in the budget. The budget I sent up for 2002, with amendments, was the largest increase in military spending since the time of Ronald Reagan. It's important not only to spend more, but we need to spend more wisely. And that's why Secretary Rumsfeld is doing a total review of our military

force today, as well as a strategic review of what our forces ought to look like tomorrow. We're going to spend money on research and development, to make sure that not only can we keep the peace today but that our military is properly equipped, properly trained, to make the world more peaceful in the out years.

And one area that is so important, and I know there's been a lot of discussion about it, is to make sure America's prepared to address the true threats of the 21st century. I met with President Putin, as you know, twice. I had the privilege to represent our Nation with our former adversary and to look him in the eye, and say, "Mr. President, America is not your enemy. The cold war is over. We need to discard all the relics of the cold war, a treaty, for example, that has codified hatred and distrust, called the ABM Treaty."

I said, "Mr. President, the threats that face Russia and America and other freedom-loving nations are the threats of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of rogue nations or cyberterrorists. It's terrorist threats that face us, and we must develop necessary defenses to protect ourselves and protect freedom-loving people. We need to get rid of the ABM Treaty, so we can research and development—develop weapons systems that will meet the true threat facing America. The cold war is over. The hatred is gone. Let's come together, for the good of freedom-loving people, to protect us all." Let's protect Israel and our allies and America.

We're making good progress about bringing morale back to the military. We will be strong militarily, because this is a peaceful nation, a nation—rests upon freedom, democracy. It's such a wonderful land. We cannot retreat within our borders. We've got to be an active nation to promote the peace, and we will.

And finally, we're making good progress about reforming Medicare. Medicare is—they usually call it, in the political lexicon, "Mediscare." See, when you talk about Medicare, then somebody takes your words and tries to twist it and frighten people who rely upon Medicare. That's an old tactic, an old political tactic. That doesn't deter me, however, from talking about making sure the

system works. Medicare is an incredibly important program. It's a promise the Nation made to our seniors, and we've got to make sure it works.

And one of the things that Medicare doesn't do, it doesn't provide prescription drugs for our seniors. And that doesn't make sense in a world—a health world that has changed dramatically since Medicare was first signed. Now, I've asked Congress to—both Republicans and Democrats to think about how to do the following things: Make sure prescription drugs is available for seniors; make sure seniors who like their current Medicare system can stay in it, the way it is; but make sure seniors have got a variety of options from which to choose.

I said, "Why don't you all look at your own health care plan?" It's not a bad place to start. If the Senators and Congressmen have got a variety of options from which to choose, if their own health care plan trusts them to design a program that meets their needs, why shouldn't we do the same thing for our seniors? Why shouldn't we say, let's give seniors choices?

And then, of course, there's the Social Security issue, a longtime political issue, as well. Now, it should be becoming clearer to people that if you're on Social Security today or near retirement, the promises our Government made to you will absolutely be kept. Those days of demagoging the issue should be gone out of the political—out of politics.

But one of the things I learned and one of the things I know, as a result of my travels and studying Social Security, there's a lot of young folks who recognize the truth. And that is, there are not going to be enough people paying into the system to make sure that they have got a Social Security system available for them. There's a lot of young workers who heard the message that I delivered. And I believe one of the reasons I'm standing here is because I had the courage to deliver this message. In order to make sure there's a Social Security system around tomorrow, to make sure there's one in the future, we must give younger workers the option to manage their own money in the private markets, if that's what they choose to do.

You notice I said, "if that's what they choose to do." Government ought to trust

American people to make decisions in their own life. They ought to trust the seniors to make the right choices when it comes to their health care, and they ought to trust younger workers with the choice on how to manage their own money. Remember the payroll tax—again, it's not the Government's money; it's the workers' money. And in order to have a Social Security System around tomorrow, we've got to have a better rate of return on the people's money in order to offset the fact there are fewer people paying into the system.

My point is that we're beginning to address these difficult issues. Our charge in Washington, DC, at least the way I view it, is to not have endless partisan squabbling but to talk about the issues that are important for America, to be willing to address the tough issues, to make sure our country fulfills its promise, not only today but in the years to come.

Now, one of the interesting battles, and I hope it's not a battle—let me just say, one of the interesting opportunities to show America that we can work together, to be the positive guy—*[laughter]*—is the budget. We'll be talking about the budget. This is when we actually spend the money.

See, the first discussion we had was, we set the budget, the parameters, about the limits of spending. And now the Members of Congress are coming back, and they're going to actually commit taxpayer's money. And it's going to be an interesting discussion. Now tomorrow, my Office of Management and Budget will issue what's called a mid-session budget review and will show in plain terms that we have fully funded and will be able to fully fund our Nation's priorities, that we've got enough money to preserve and protect Social Security, that we'll pay down over \$100 billion of public debt, that Medicare, all Medicare, every dime that comes into Medicare, will be spent on Medicare, and we can meet our priorities when it comes to our military and to education.

Our budget is in strong financial shape, despite an economic slowdown that began last year. The slowdown is serious, folks. Make no mistake about it. It's real. Since last summer, the economy has grown by a little over one percent. That's a slowdown. Inevi-

tably, the slowing economy has resulted in slowing tax revenues, lower corporate profits, and in some cases layoffs.

Yet despite the year-long trend, despite the fact that this has been on for a year, the Federal budget will have the second largest surplus in history, in part, because this administration took immediate action to address the downturn. We took exactly the right action, at the right time, by pushing the largest tax cut in a generation. You will hear people say that tax relief is going to make it hard to meet the budget. But reality is, tax relief is important to make sure our economy grows. I believe there are some who resent tax relief because they wanted more of your money in Washington, DC. It's a fundamental, philosophical difference.

And the fundamental question is, who do you trust? I trust the people with their own money. I'd rather you spend your own money, than the Federal Government spend your money. I think you can do it more wisely than we can in Washington, DC.

No, this tax relief has laid the foundation for expanding economic growth. And now we must resist the temptation of a bigger threat to growth, and that's excessive Federal spending. The biggest threat to our recovery is for the Congress to overspend. We have the funds to meet our obligations, so long as they resist the temptation to spend.

You know, every new way to spend money can be made to sound urgent, important, but we've agreed to budget limits. That's what a budget is. You set budgets at your house; the Congress set a budget that we all agreed upon. And I expect the Congress to live within the limits of the budget that we all agreed on. I am optimistic that we can avoid this—this business about shutting down things and not getting things done. I am optimistic, because we've made good progress so far, and both political parties deserve credit.

Congressman Young of the House and Senator Byrd of the Senate have done a good job on the appropriations process thus far. We passed two supplemental spending bills: one focused on agriculture, one focused on defense. These supplementals in the past were usually nice platforms for people to load up the spending with additional programs, things that might sound good, but all of a

sudden end up busting the budget. And both bodies of the Congress stuck to the limits that we agreed to. It's a good sign. It's a sign that fiscal responsibility is now an important part of the psyche in Washington, DC.

However, even though I'm optimistic, there are some temptations that will face the Congress when they come back. I'd like to share some of the with you. The first temptation, when it comes to budgeting, is what we call the temptation of the false emergency. Now, our budget system provides for special consideration for emergency, as it should. We've had natural disasters, and we need to have money set aside. That's an emergency, and we need to get money quickly into the communities when there's a natural disaster. An economic recession is an emergency. A declaration of war is an emergency. But far too often in the past, the normal has been declared an emergency in order to increase the budget. Far too long in the past, well meaning Members have declared that such-and-such pet project in their district is an emergency, and therefore we need to spend that money under the emergency provisions. That's going to end.

A second temptation is to complain that the budget has been cut when, in fact, it is increased. One of the amazing things about Washington accounting is that when a budget increase is less than expected or less than anticipated or less than someone hopes for, that's called a cut. [Laughter] So if budget X goes from point A to point B and it's a 6 percent growth and reasonable folks come together and say it ought to only grow at 4 percent, that's a cut. And we're not going to let the so-called Washington cuts cause the budget to get out of balance. We're going to blow the whistle.

Then there's what they call the last minute budget raid. That's when the bills are coming, winding down the process, and in order to get votes, Members start demanding this or that. There were 6,000 last minute additions to the budget last year, some of them small, some of them large, but all of them adding up to one thing, a budget that could be out of balance. And so as the watchdog of the Treasury, as the person who's got the opportunity to bring fiscal sanity to Wash-

ington, I'm going to be watching carefully for the last minute budget additions.

Seven out of the last eight budgets submitted by the Executive and passed by the Congress have raided the Social Security or used part of the Social Security to fund the budgets. One of the temptations is to use Social Security money for something other than Social Security. Now the good news is, is that both political parties and both parties of Congress have declared that we're not going to do that. But I'm going to watch carefully, to make sure that the old temptations of the past don't come back to haunt us when it comes to budgeting your money in the year 2001.

And finally, there is a—not finally, next to finally. [Laughter] I was afraid some of you were going to fall out. [Laughter] There is a temptation not to listen to the budget in the first place. During the last session, the appropriations process created \$35 billion more dollars than the budget called for. A budget's a budget, folks. We spent a lot of time working on the budget. People came together. Both parties said, "Here's the budget." And I know the American taxpayers, and I know the President in this case, expects for Congress to live within the budget we passed. We don't want the budget to be a hollow noise. We want the budget to be real, and that's why I've been given the power of the veto, to make sure that the budget—make sure the appropriations are within the guidelines of the budget.

And finally—[laughter]—and finally, one of the temptations, and perhaps the greatest temptation of all is what we call appropriations gamesmanship. And here's the way it works. We've got a budget of X amount, and you add up all the potential appropriations bills. The budget amount is X. And so they'll pass one bill of the 13, and they may add a little bit here. Then they'll pass another bill, all still within the budget. And they finally get to the last appropriations bills, and all of a sudden, if the budget amount becomes the appropriated amount, we busted the budget, because of all the previous bills have added a little here or there. And guess what generally is the last ones out? Defense—the defense bill.

In other words, they'll put it on the President's desk, and say, "You either get to bust the budget, Mr. President, or you have to choose between defense or perhaps education." That's gamesmanship. And that's not necessary, folks. That's not good to play with our national security or our national interests in educating every child.

And so what I expect and hope is that Congress will, at the very minimum, agree on the funding levels for defense and education early in the process, not late. This will be an interesting test of the priorities of the leaders of Congress. It will be an interesting test to see whether or not they agree with the administration that our true priorities begin with educating our children, and a true priority is the defense of our Nation. I'm confident we can work together, but it's going to require the people to help us watch the process. The people need to pay attention. And if you see the appropriations process dragging on and it looks like the old games of the past, we all need to blow the whistle. We all need to expect better out of Washington, DC.

And I believe we can do better. I know this: We're not going to raise the taxes on the people. I know this: that we're going to make sure additional spending doesn't cut into essential programs, like Social Security or Medicare. I know this: We won't short-change the military, because it's important to rebuild our military. And I know this: We're making progress in changing the tone in Washington, and the budget process is the way to show the American people that we can work together for what's right.

Harry Truman brought a lot of wisdom to Washington, in what he said. He said some things, and I think he called—he was a plain-spoken fellow. Nothing wrong with that. [*Laughter*] Nothing wrong with telling people exactly what you believe. Washington can use a lot of that. He said, "Washington is a very easy place to forget where you came from and why you got there in the first place." Pretty wise.

I think one of the reasons I got there in the first place is to show the American people

that it's possible to work together. I think one of the reasons I got there in the first place is to do in office what I said I would do, to try to bring some faith back into the political process. I know one of the reasons I got there in the first place; one of the reasons I got there in the first place was to watch the budget and to trust the American people.

But there's a large call, as well, and that's to work with the American folks to help change our culture from one that will be more respectful and more compassionate, from one that used to say, if it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else, to one in which all of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

A responsible culture, a culture of personal responsibility means that if you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, that you understand your responsibility is to love your children with all your heart and all of your soul. A culture of responsibility understands that if you live in a community and see a neighbor in need, that instead of relying upon Government, that you ought to walk across the street and help that neighbor in need. A culture of responsibility says that if you're a part of corporate America, you have a responsibility to the workers that work for you. A culture of responsibility says that if you're fortunate enough to hold high office, that you have a responsibility to set the highest of high standards and to live by those standards.

I am honored to be in such a position. I'm honored to be in a position to help work with decent Americans all across our country to usher in this period. And I know it can happen, because we're all inhabitants of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming today. May God bless, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:58 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Alice Gensor, president, Democratic Club, John Knox Village retirement community; Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

**Remarks to Families at a Target Store and an Exchange With Reporters in Kansas City, Missouri**

August 21, 2001

**The President.** Good morning, everybody. I'm excited to be here at Target. A lot of these folks have—some of the folks have got their rebate check; some of them are getting them. But I suggest you talk to the Target people about what the rebate check has meant for their business. One of the main reasons why we insisted that people get money back was to provide a second wind for our economy. And the other reason why is because we recognize that these good folks spend their money just as wisely, if not more wisely, than the Government can.

I remember in the debate, people said, "Well, \$600 doesn't mean much." Well, I suggest you ask people who got the \$600 what it means. It seems to mean a lot to a lot of folks.

[At this point, the President greeted audience members and then answered questions from reporters.]

**Federal Budget/Tax Relief**

**The President.** Okay.

**Q.** Mr. President, would you like to see Social Security kind of taken out of the budget equation? You are going to have like a billion dollar surplus just from general revenues tomorrow. Do you think that's a fair way of figuring out the surplus?

**The President.** I think what I said in the speech was what I mean, that Social Security ought to be spent on Social Security, and OMB numbers show that that's the way it's going to be. That hasn't been the case; seven out of the last eight budgets have used Social Security for—they used Social Security funds for other matters. And we worked with Congress—see, here's the problem. A lot in Congress are upset that we passed money back to the people because they wanted to spend it on pet projects, on bigger appropriations. And what I am saying is, that battle's over with.

We cut the taxes; it was the right thing to do. It was the right thing to trust the people with the money. It was the right thing for our economy. And Congress now needs

to understand that there are some new parameters. When you pass money back to the people, it means there is not that much money available for additional programs, and they need to be fiscally sound.

We've got a good budget. And the fundamental question is, will the appropriators stick to the budget, and I am confident they will if they listen to the people.

And one of the reasons why we came here is to highlight the fact that the tax relief plan is important to hardworking Americans. Some people said, you know, "Thanks for giving us the money." Well, it's their money to begin with. That's the point I keep making. It's not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And these good folks have got a reason to spend it. A lot of them are going to spend it on school supplies. But it's not only important for them; it's important for our economy.

**Q.** Sir, the ad team for Al Gore's last campaign put out an ad today for the Democratic National Committee accusing you of raiding the Medicare Trust Fund and asking you to take Harry Truman's plain-spokenness and tell the people the truth. Is that fair?

**The President.** Well, you know, there's a lot of people still want to politicize the budget. They like the old-time wars of zero-sum politics. There are a lot of big spenders, a lot of highly partisan people that really didn't like the tax cut to begin with. They want the Government to have the people's money. They believe in bigger Government.

And all I do is rest my case with the people. And the people wanted tax relief. The people want fiscal sanity in Washington. The people want all the money going into Medicare to be spent on Medicare, and that's what my budget does. And people also want a good defense for our country. And I hope, at the very minimum, the leadership in the Congress will give us the Defense appropriation number and the Education appropriation number early in the process, so that we don't rob defense or rob education by holding those appropriation bills late.

**Q.** Sir, where do you draw the line in terms of using your veto power this fall? Is it sticking to the budget resolution numbers? Or—

**The President.** The budget resolution number's a good place to begin. Because if we appropriate, of course, for the budget, we will not only be able to afford the tax relief, but we won't touch Social Security, and we will be able to fund the Nation's priorities, including education and defense.

As you know, you heard my speech yesterday—should have heard my speech or will pay to hear my speech—and whether or not you listen to it is another question—but we have—I have requested a good deal of money for defense, and it's needed.

#### **Possibility of Government Shutdown**

**Q.** Sir, you know, in the Clinton administration, they had some battles up there. They had to shut down the Government from overspending. They wanted more money.

**The President.** Yes. Right. A new sheriff in town.

**Q.** If it comes down to a showdown about closing down Government, are you prepared to—

**The President.** I am confident we won't have to shut down the—shut down the Government. There are things such as continuing resolutions. There's ways for us to make sure that the budget—I mean, the Government doesn't get shut down over a budget fight.

You're right, the last administration was anxious for the Government to spend more money. I want the Government to spend the right amount of money. And we have achieved a good balance. It's not only money to fund priorities such as education, defense, and health care, but it is money available for the taxpayers. It's their money to begin with.

And our economy needs—I love the discussion, you know, the tax cut means there's less money available to spend. Well, what the tax cut is, it means that we've been given an opportunity to revitalize our economy, so that the tax revenues that have been lost because of economic slowdown come back into the Treasury.

#### **Effect of Tax Relief**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you think that the purchasing of school supplies and things people would buy ordinarily will, in fact, jumpstart the economy?

**The President.** No, I think it's a cumulative. If you try to look at one isolated incident, it's easy to belittle \$600 in a person's pocket. But \$600 of additional disposable income all across America—that amounts to billions of dollars—will provide a part of the equation for economic recovery. Of course, if somebody buys a pencil, somebody's had to make it. But it is not just school supplies. That maybe kind of diminishes the effect of billions of dollars getting into the economy in a very quick period of time.

I want to remind you all about a year ago, the discussion about tax relief was sometimes in political circles belittled as an impossibility. No one would have dreamed that we would not only have gotten tax relief but this amount of money injected into the economy as quickly as we did. And it's a part of the equation.

#### **Dinner With Gov. Bill Graves of Kansas**

**Q.** You broke bread with Governor Graves last night.

**The President.** I did.

**Q.** Why Governor Graves, and what did you talk about?

**The President.** Well, I was hoping I could maybe get him to buy my meal.

**Q.** He didn't?

**The President.** He didn't, no. Please record the fact that I paid, much to my chagrin.

We talked about just politics. He and Linda are friends of mine. He's done a great job as the Governor of Kansas, and he's one of my best friends that I've made in politics amongst the Governors. Just had a nice visit.

**Q.** Have a future with you some day?

**The President.** You know, we didn't spend much time talking about that. He has not finished his term yet. Maybe, you know.

#### **President's Tax Rebate**

**Q.** Mr. President, what are you going to do with your tax rebate?

**The President.** Charity.

**Q.** Really? Which one?

**The President.** I don't know yet.

**Q.** You haven't gotten it?

**The President.** Not to my knowledge.

**Q.** Why charity?

**The President.** Why? Because it's something people ought to do. And I believe in supporting charities. As you know, every year when I put out my income tax returns, you see the fact that I do give to charities, give to my church. I haven't made up my mind yet.

Thank you all for your time.

### **President's Schedule**

**Q.** Are you going to talk to us—you going to talk to us tomorrow? Play golf and maybe talk to us?

**The President.** Do what?

**Q.** You're going to have the budget review tomorrow. Do you think you might talk to us from the golf course or someplace?

**The President.** I won't be playing golf tomorrow. Probably—I may—just keep loose this week. I may have a discussion with you on some matters later on this week.

**Q.** Military matters, perhaps?

**The President.** I ain't telling.

**Q.** Buildings with five sides?

**Q.** No more hints?

**The President.** No, the last time we—I'm trying to get a picnic organized so you all can come out to the ranch. Is this the—are you the last shift?

**Q.** Yes.

**The President.** Okay, last shift. Up until when we go. We're leaving Thursday, now. We're going back Thursday morning, the 30th.

**Q.** Wow, even earlier?

**Q.** The 30th?

**The President.** We're going back on the 30th. Laura wants to get back a day early.

### **President's Vacation**

**Q.** How's the bass fishing going?

**The President.** They've actually gotten up to about a pound. They're growing. The lake's evaporating because it's so hot.

Okay, see you there.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:36 a.m. at the Kansas City North Target store's snackbar. In his remarks, he referred to Linda Richey Graves, wife of Gov. Bill Graves. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Memorandum on a Military Drawdown for Tunisia**

*August 18, 2001*

Presidential Determination No. 2001-24

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense*

*Subject: Military Drawdown for Tunisia*

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including Title III (Foreign Military Financing) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2001, as enacted in Public Law 106-429 (Title III), I hereby direct the drawdown of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and military education and training of the aggregate value of \$5 million for Tunisia, consistent with the authority provided under Title III, for the purposes of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 22.

## **Statement on Senator Jesse Helms' Decision Not To Seek Reelection**

*August 22, 2001*

The Senate is losing an institution with the decision of Jesse Helms to retire after three decades of distinguished public service. Senator Helms went to Washington but never became a part of Washington. He has always remained true to his conservative principles and to the people of North Carolina who elected him five times. Senator Helms is a true gentleman, known for treating his colleagues with the utmost respect and courtesy, regardless of party or policy differences.

As chairman and ranking Republican of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms has been a tireless defender of our

Nation's freedom and a champion of democracy abroad. When Senator Helms retires, the Senate will have lost a respected leader, but I have no doubt we will continue to seek his counsel as a senior statesman.

Laura and I extend our best wishes to Jesse, his wife, Dot, and the entire Helms family.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Waco, Texas**

*August 23, 2001*

#### **President's Schedule**

**The President.** Good morning. I'll see you all at the school.

**Q.** Uh-oh, what does that mean?

**The President.** In Crawford.

**Q.** For what?

**Q.** You're going to drop by?

**The President.** I'm going to drop by the school after, so we'll have a little chance to visit then, to thank them for letting you all stay at the elementary school. Obviously, nobody told you.

**Q.** Thanks for the heads up.

**The President.** We're going to have an impromptu stop. I will decide on my way home to stop by the school. *[Laughter]*

Roland Betts, my good friend from New York City.

Let's go, hit them up.

And we'll—we can have a little visit there, if you like. That way, it won't ruin my golf game. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** Looking forward to your game?

**The President.** Yes, I'm looking forward to getting out here.

#### **Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels**

Had a nice visit with Mitch Daniels this morning.

**Q.** He down here?

**The President.** No, I called him.

**Q.** Is that a Masters souvenir, your glove?

**The President.** I think somebody must have sent me that. I haven't been there in a while. Beautiful course.

All right, excuse me.

*[At this point, the President played a round of golf.]*

#### **President's Round of Golf**

**The President.** So, I won't be a professional golfer.

**Q.** I'm going to go find that ball. I'm going to find that one.

**The President.** The first one? If you can find that first one, you're a pretty good bird-dog. *[Laughter]*

Is everybody enjoying themselves here?

**Q.** I only just got here, so—

**The President.** Yes, I know. Where have you been?

**Q.** Sucking up the salt air on the west coast.

**The President.** Brie and cheese?

**Q.** No, tennis.

**The President.** Okay.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:27 a.m. at the Ridgewood Country Club. In his remarks, the President referred to Roland Betts, owner, Chelsea Piers, L.P. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

#### **Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Crawford Elementary School and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas**

*August 23, 2001*

**The President.** Thank you, Linda. Thanks for having me come. It's—what I thought I would do is just say a few words and maybe answer some of the questions—some questions from some of the boys and girls here, if you have any.

First, thanks for inviting me, Linda, and thanks for being so patient. And also, thank you all for hosting the national press corps. *[Laughter]* I know they've appreciated it very much, and on their behalf, I would like to thank them. They are, most of the time, well behaved. But they're an important part of our country, because in order for people to be able to know what's going on, they report the news. Sometimes they exaggerate; sometimes they don't. But they're an important part of our democracy. And I appreciate so very much you welcoming them here into your school.

I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Teaching is a noble profession, and we

can't say enough good words about the teachers, not only here in Crawford but in Texas and across America. So thank you very much for being a teacher.

I want to thank the parents who are here. You're right, some of the sweetest—one of the sweetest words in our vocabulary is “mom.” And my advice to you is, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] That's about as good advice as a fellow can give, because your mom always has good advice.

I want to ask you a couple of questions. Do any of you read more than you watch TV?

**Students.** Yes.

**The President.** Well, that's important. The reason I asked that question is, it's so easy to watch TV, and it's hard to read. But you need to do it the other way around. You need to read more than you watch TV. Because when you get to be a good reader, and I know you will be, it makes learning so much easier. And then when you learn a lot of things, it helps you realize your dreams.

And let me ask you this question. Some of you are too young to have probably thought about this question, but some of the older kids, how many of you dream about going to college?

[*At this point, the students indicated their interest in college.*]

**The President.** Oh, that's great. That means you'd better practice reading. That means you'd better read more than you watch TV if you want to achieve that goal. That means you've set a goal, right? That's what that is. You've set a goal, and now you're going to work hard to achieve the goal.

A couple of other points I want make, and then I'd be glad to answer some questions. In order to go to college or to realize your dreams, you have to make right choices in life. As you grow up, you've got to learn to say yes to the good things and no to the bad things, like saying no to drugs. That's going to be important in order to realize your dreams. No to alcohol, excessive alcohol. You've just got to learn to make the right choices when you get older.

And guess what is going to help you learn that? Not only your moms and your dads but your teachers. And so I hope when you—

in school, listen to the people that care about you a lot. Read more than you watch TV, listen to the values that you are being taught, and study hard, and then you will be able to realize your dreams.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions, and I'm going to answer some questions from the press corps, too.

You got any questions? Yes, sir.

### **Secret Service**

**Student.** Where are your Secret Service?  
[*Laughter*] [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Yes, that's right, let's see. There's a few of them in here. They're important because, unfortunately, there are some people in our society that don't think right, that are interested in harming people. And they do a great job, and they're good citizens, too, and I bet you get to see a lot of them around Crawford. They like to eat the hamburgers downtown here.

Yes, ma'am.

### **President's Golf Outing**

**Student.** Where did you play golf at?

**The President.** I played golf at Ridgewood Country Club in Waco. This morning I played with my friend Senator David Sibley. He is your State senator. He just—he's not going to run again, he told everybody the other day. But we had a good time playing golf. And then I played at Clifton the other day. But I'm through playing golf—[*laughter*—for a while.

Yes, sir.

### **Former President George Bush**

**Student.** Was your dad the President?

**The President.** My dad was the President. He was the 41st President, and I'm the 43d President. And there has been one other time in which a dad and his son were Presidents. Do you know who that was?

**Student.** John Quincy Adams?

**The President.** John Quincy Adams was the son, and the daddy's name was John Adams.

Yes, ma'am.

**Student.** What is it like being President?

**The President.** Well, it's a great honor to be the President. It's one of these jobs where you can help people help themselves. It's a

job that requires an understanding of where you want to lead. You've got to know who you are and where you want to lead the Nation, which means you've got to know what you believe in. And I believe in family, and I believe in faith, and I believe in personal responsibility. I believe that we ought to trust local people to make the decisions for schools in their cities and counties. I trust the people of Texas and all the other States across the country to make right decisions. It's a great job. Thank you for asking. It's a lot of work. But that's okay. People in Crawford are used to work.

Yes, sir.

### **President's Daily Activities**

**Student.** What do you do on a regular basis?

**The President.** On a regular basis? Well, that's kind of a regular basis today. [*Laughter*]

I'm going back—I'm going to go back to our place right around the corner here, and I'm going to meet with Condoleezza Rice, who is the National Security Adviser. I'm going to give a phone call to President de la Rúa, who is the President of Argentina, to talk about the recent financial package that has been developed on behalf of his nation, so that his nation doesn't default on debt, which would then affect other people in the hemisphere.

I'm going to have lunch with First Lady Laura Bush, who sends her very best, by the way. I'm going to see Barney the dog and Spot the dog and India the cat.

I'm going to have a phone call this afternoon with my personnel office. One of the things the President does is name people to different positions of responsibility in Washington. We've got about an hour conference call to go over the names they've recommended to me to be nominated for a variety of positions.

We've got a horticulturist coming out from Texas A&M to help us identify the hardwood trees on our beautiful place. We've got about 12 or 13 different types of hardwoods out there, so he is going to educate us about the land. So I've got a lot going on today.

Tomorrow, interestingly enough, here in Crawford, Texas, the Secretary of Defense

is coming down, and I'm going to hold a big, major press conference tomorrow morning to discuss defense matters. And that's very important because one of the jobs of the President is to be the Commander in Chief, which means we've got to have a strong military and a strong vision about our military. And we will discuss that tomorrow with the pool press corps, tomorrow morning. The Nation will be interested in the announcements we make as well as the discussion we have, I'm confident.

But when I get back—by the way, the interesting thing about Crawford, it's just like I've moved my office from Washington to Crawford. See, the thing about a President is, is that you're always the President, and there's always an issue, and somebody is always calling, and somebody needs to visit, and somebody is flying into town to come by, to sit down and talk about variety of issues. And so it's just like I moved my office from the Oval Office right out here to Crawford. And I'm glad I did; I love being here.

Let's see. Yes, sir.

### **2000 Election**

**Student.** Did you—

**The President.** Yeah, you. Go ahead.

**Student.** Did you ever get mad at Al Gore during the election? [*Laughter*]

**The President.** Not really. No, I never did. I—he—you know, he ran a good, hard race, and I felt like we ran a good race, too, and never got mad at him. One of the things in politics you learn is, you can't get mad at people. And it's—never really did.

Yes, sir.

### **First Family**

**Student.** Does your family go with you sometimes in Washington and—

**The President.** On trips? Sometimes. We have—Laura goes with me a lot, of course. We spend a lot of time together, and that's good for me. I don't know if it's so good for her, but it's good for me. [*Laughter*]

We've got twin daughters who are 19 years old, and sometimes they travel with us, and sometimes they don't. We recently went to Europe, overseas, and Barbara went and traveled with us that time, and she got to

meet the Pope and saw some really interesting parts of the world. But they're pretty independent little girls right now, and they're both in college, and that's good.

Yes, ma'am.

### **The White House**

**Student.** Where's the White House?

**The President.** The White House is in Washington, D.C.; it's up East. It's a beautiful house, and guess what color it is?

**Audience members.** White.

**The President.** That's right. That's a good answer.

And the other thing is, is that—but it's not—it's the people's house, see. The people of America own that house. And any time you go to Washington, or most of the times you can go to Washington, there's a tour and you can go look at the White House and see what's in it. It's a beautiful place. We're very lucky to live there, and we find it a great honor.

Yes, sir.

**Student.** Is it like really, really big or—

**The President.** It's big. Yes, it's really, really big.

**Student.** Is it bigger than the tower?

**The President.** Bigger than what?

**Student.** The tower.

**The President.** Bigger than the tower here? I don't know; that's pretty big.

It's got a lot of rooms. It's got some fantastic, big rooms. One of the things the President does is have what they have a state dinner. We occasionally welcome a foreign leader to come to Washington, DC, and we have a dinner, a very formal, fancy dinner. Laura and I are entertaining President Vicente Fox from Mexico, and that will be the first week we're back, the week right after Labor Day. It's going to be a majestic event, and the rooms are just really beautiful, formal rooms that I think you would find amazing.

Red shirt, right there.

### **The Presidency**

**Student.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Favorite what?

**Student.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** I can't hear either question.

Two red shirts. Yes, ma'am, go ahead.

**Student.** Are you looking forward to getting out of your office?

**The President.** Am I looking forward to getting out of the office? No. [*Laughter*] I enjoy it. It's been a great experience. This is a job where you can actually make a huge difference in people's lives, and I like that; I like that part of it—part of the job.

Yes, sir, back to you.

**Student.** What's your most favorite thing—

**The President.** Most favorite thing—helping people, to make a difference in people's lives, setting a good example, so that youngsters like yourself realize that democracy is—can be a very good system, that politics is a noble calling. I hope that I can inspire people to get involved in the political process. I hope I can inspire people to get involved with helping neighbors in need in Crawford, Texas. I hope I can help raise the bar, make sure every child is educated. And I hope to make the world more peaceful.

And that's a pretty big agenda, and the President has got a chance to do those things. And I'm honored to be able to do it.

Yes, sir.

### **President's Car**

**Student.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** My limo? I don't have one here. I've got an SUV here.

Yes, ma'am.

### **President's Education**

**Student.** Where did you go to college?

**The President.** Yale University.

Next. Yes.

### **President's Autograph**

**Student.** Can I have your autograph?

**The President.** No. [*Laughter*] I mean, yes, of course. I'll sign one, and we'll—let you copy it.

### **President's Age**

**Student.** How old are you?

**The President.** How old am I? I'm the speed limit. [*Laughter*] Fifty-five.

**Student.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Well, the old speed limit. Yes, Donna.

**Little League**

**Student.** What is your favorite childhood memory?

**The President.** My favorite childhood memory was playing Little League baseball in Midland, Texas. I was—I loved baseball, still love baseball. As a matter of fact, I'm going to the Little League World Series on Sunday. So we're going to fly out of Waco, and I'm going to go to a picnic in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and then go to the Little League World Series, and then I'm going to come home. I'll be back home here Sunday night. So it's a pretty fast life I'm living these days.

**President's Inauguration**

**Student.** How did it—you just became President. How has it—

**The President.** Well, when I got sworn in as President, it was a pretty cold day in Washington, DC. And it was—the Inaugural ceremony was at the end of a pretty pressure packed time. One, the election—I campaigned hard in the election. Secondly, we weren't sure what the outcome was. You might remember that period of time. It took a period—it took about 30-something days to figure out who the President was going to be. I spent a lot of my time here in Crawford, as a matter of fact.

And then when I was declared the winner, we had to get moving, because I had to put an administration together, had to put a team together. And we got up to Washington—I went from Crawford to Midland, Texas, where I was raised, and then flew up to Washington and got settled in in what they call the Blair House.

And the Inaugural Day came, and I got sworn in. And I guess I had a lot of mixed emotions. One, I was exhilarated. I—gave a very—what I thought was a pretty good speech. The people seemed to listen to it. I turned around, and there was my dad and mother, and they had tears in their eyes, so it was emotional. And it was just a lot of activity. It's hard to describe, but it was a real proud moment. And then frankly, that night, I was a little tired.

But I get to work early. I'm excited about my job. I'm one of these early-bird type people, like I'll be in the Oval Office at about

7 o'clock every morning, because I'm anxious to get to work. I like what I'm doing. And it's been a great honor.

Yes, sir.

**President's Travel**

**Student.** Have you been to China?

**The President.** I have not—yes, I've been to China, but I haven't been to China since I've been President. But guess where I'm going in October? China. [Laughter]

Lets, see, who hasn't had a question? Yes, sir.

**President's Round of Golf**

**Student.** What did you score at the end of the golf game?

**The President.** It was too high to count. [Laughter] A lot. [Laughter]

Yes.

**President's Travel**

**Student.** Have you been to—

**The President.** Been to where?

**Student.** Speegleville.

**The President.** No, I haven't been there yet. Do you recommend it?

**Student.** That's where I'm from.

**The President.** Oh, you live there.

**Student.** I live there, too.

**The President.** You live in Speegleville? That's great.

Yes, ma'am, in the glasses. Yes, ma'am.

**Presidential Decisionmaking**

**Student.** Is it hard to make the decisions as President?

**The President.** Is it hard to make decisions as President? Not really. If you know what you believe, decisions come pretty easy. If you're one of these types of people that are always trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing, decisionmaking can be difficult. But I find that—I know who I am. I know what I believe in, and I know where I want to lead the country. And most of the decisions come pretty easily for me, to be frank with you.

I realize sometimes people don't like the decisions. But that's okay. I've never been one who's trying to please everybody all the time. I just do what I think is right. The good thing about democracy, if people like the decisions you make, they'll let you stay. If they

don't, they'll send me back to Crawford. Isn't all that bad a deal, by the way.

Yes.

### **Texas**

**Student.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Why do I live in this State? I love Texas. I was raised in Texas. Texas has got a way of life that I really like. I like the can-do attitude of the Texas people. Texans are really caring people. It's a great place to live. You know, I've changed my address, but I haven't changed my home.

Okay, a couple more, and then I've got to go. Yes, ma'am. No, you're first, and then you're second—unless you have the same question.

### **President's Travel**

**Student.** How many important places do you go in a week?

**The President.** How many places do I go in a week? Well, it just depends on the week. When I went to Europe, it seemed like I was going to a country every day. And I travel around some, but I spend a lot of time in Washington, at my office, particularly when the United States Congress is in town, because I get to deal with the Congressmen and the Senators. A lot of them come down to the White House to say hello, and we have nice discussions about different issues.

But I travel—sometimes travel a lot and sometimes not so much.

Yes, ma'am.

### **President's Hobbies**

**Student.** What are your hobbies?

**The President.** Hobbies? I like to fish. I like to exercise. And by the way, I hope everybody takes some time to exercise. It's really—it's really important. That's a good way to stay healthy, even if you only walk 20 minutes a day. But I love to exercise. I like to play golf. I'm not very good at it, but I like to play. I like to read a lot. I hope you read. I've read a couple of books since I've been down here. It's very important to read a lot.

Anybody got anything over there?

### **Nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**Q.** Mr. President, you plan to make an announcement tomorrow, we're led to believe, on a new Chairman for the Joint Chiefs—

**The President.** There will be a press conference tomorrow, and—

**Q.** Could you tell us, if you don't want to tell us who it is, what is the message you intend to send to the world?

**The President.** Tomorrow; I'm going to talk about that tomorrow. Thanks.

Yes.

### **ABM Treaty**

**Q.** Mr. President, when will you put President Putin on notice that the six-month clock is running on U.S. withdrawal from the ABM?

**The President.** We'll have, on the—she's talking about what they call the ABM Treaty, which is a treaty signed in 1972. And I have made it clear that I think the treaty is a treaty that hampers our ability to keep the peace, to develop defensive weapons necessary to defend America against the true threats of the 21st century.

We will withdraw from the ABM Treaty on our timetable, at a time convenient to America. Now, one of the things I've said in the course of questions about the ABM Treaty, I've said that we would consult closely with our allies in Europe as well as continue to consult closely with Mr. Putin.

I have no specific timetable in mind. I do know that the ABM Treaty hampers us from doing what we need to do. And secondly, I do know that Mr. Putin is aware of our desires to move beyond the ABM Treaty. And we will.

Yes, Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

### **Nomination for Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**Q.** Sir, as you've looked for a new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, what have you been looking for? What have you been considering?

**The President.** I have been looking for—and it's not just me, of course. It's the Secretary of Defense; we've been in collaboration. We've been looking for someone who will bring the highest standards of excellence

to the office, someone who is willing to think differently about the missions of our military how to conform—the fundamental question is, how do we conform our defenses to the true threats that face America not, only now but in the out years?

I'm looking for somebody, obviously, with experience, somebody who understands what the job is, what the job entails. And we found that person.

**Q.** Is it General Myers?

**The President.** I'm not going to tell you who it is until the appropriate time.

You just saw a good reporter, how a good reporter asks questions. See, she's trying to get me to say something I don't want to say. [Laughter] But that's her job. That's her job, is to try to jump the news.

But tomorrow, we will have a full discussion on defense matters, and that subject may be included.

Yes.

### **Federal Budget**

**Q.** The Mid-Session Review came out yesterday, and outside of the Social Security surplus, there isn't much of a surplus left. Are you concerned, when Congress gets back, there won't be room for your education or defense priorities?

**The President.** No, I think if—the Mid-Session Review showed that the budgets we submitted not only are in balance but meet the priorities that I think are important, including defense and education.

I'll tell you what these numbers are showing. They're showing that we've inherited an economic slowdown. And the country is in an economic slowdown. And so what a President should ask and what the Congress should ask is, what can we do to stimulate economic growth? And we responded with tax relief.

Now, evidently, there are some people in Washington, DC, who are having second thoughts about tax relief. And so my question to them is, do they want to raise taxes? Do they suggest that helping the economy grow—a good way to do so is to raise taxes? If that's the case, that's a brand new economic theory.

The way to stimulate growth is to cut taxes, and we have done so. Now it is going to be

incumbent upon the Congress to make sure they don't overspend. And the surest way to make sure the economy does not recover is to bust the budget. And one of my jobs as the President is to make sure that we don't bust the budget. I will use the veto to make sure that Congress stays within the budget.

There is—we have the second largest surplus in the Nation's history. We're paying down over \$100 billion of debt, in spite of the fact the economy is slow. But this tax relief package is going to help our economy recover, and that is going to be important.

### **Immigration Policy**

**Q.** Sir, what is your timetable for amnesty for illegals, or—

**The President.** There will be no blanket amnesty for illegals. I have said that point blank. I will say it as many times as I need to say it. I'm more than willing to talk to the Mexican officials about how to help willing employers find willing employees, how to treat people with respect once they're here in the country. I think we ought to have a good, honest dialog about how we make sure our neighbors to the south do a better job of enforcing their own border. We've got great collaborative efforts going now on a wide variety of fronts. Relations with Mexico have never been better.

But there is going to be no amnesty. Amnesty is not the right answer to the immigration issue.

Now, there are ways for us to discuss, as I said, a worker program of some type that will legalize the hard work that is taking place now in America. So long as there is somebody who wants to hire somebody and somebody willing to work, it seems like to me it's in our Nation's interest to make sure the two go together.

### **Representative Gary Condit**

**Q.** Mr. President, I don't know if you think this is being a good reporter or not, but seriously, you—

**The President.** Probably not. [Laughter] But if it's not, I won't embarrass you in front of—anyway—

**Q.** You've talked a lot about family values and personal responsibility. For better or worse, so much of the country seems to be

focused on this controversy involving Congressman Condit.

**The President.** Yes, I'm not going to discuss Congressman Condit. Evidently, he's making a statement to the Nation tonight, and let's just see what he says.

**Q.** Will you watch it?

**The President.** No, probably not. I'll read about it. Maybe in AP or Reuters; I'm not sure which one.

#### **Senator Jesse Helms**

**Q.** Sir, what is your reaction to Senator Helms' decision to retire, and are you concerned that that seat might be in jeopardy for the Republicans?

**The President.** It depends on who runs, obviously. Senator Helms has served our Nation with distinction. I called him yesterday, had a good visit with him. I told him I appreciated his service to America. He explained to me he and Dot wanted to take some time to be together after the sessions—after his term is up, and I said, "I appreciate that, Senator. You served well."

I'll tell you one thing about Senator Helms, he was a gentleman. You may not have agreed with his politics all the time, but he was a gentleman about it. He brought a lot of class, I thought, to the Senate, and he will be missed. And it depends on who we field, obviously.

**Q.** Would you support Elizabeth Dole as a candidate?

**The President.** Well, I'm not—as you know, one of the things the President doesn't do is get involved in all the speculation on these run-ups for these different candidacies. I will tell you, Elizabeth Dole would make a fine candidate. I've competed against her once before, and she was formidable and a fine lady, there's no question about that.

But I'm not going to get involved in the primaries. I'll, of course, look forward—if she is the nominee of the Republican Party in North Carolina, I, of course, will campaign hard for her.

Okay. Listen, I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come by. Good luck to you all. What you just watched is a mini press conference.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:08 a.m. in the cafeteria. In his remarks, he referred to Linda

Stout, principal, Crawford Elementary School; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and Dorothy (Dot) Helms, wife of Senator Helms. A reporter referred to Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

#### **The President's News Conference in Crawford, Texas**

*August 24, 2001*

#### **Nomination for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

**The President.** Be seated, please. For those of you who didn't stand, stay seated. [Laughter]

As President of the United States, I have no more important responsibility than safeguarding the security of our country and our citizens and supporting our friends and allies throughout the world. As Commander in Chief, I have the obligation to make sure America's military is properly trained, equipped, and manned to meet the threats of today, while also preparing to meet the changing threats of tomorrow.

When I took the oath of office and assumed the title of Commander in Chief, our military faced significant challenges. I'm proud to report that, thanks to the leadership of Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld and the work of our military and civilian leaders, as well as the cooperation of the United States Congress, we're making progress.

We've increased pay for our service men and women and funded improved military housing and medical benefits. I've asked Congress to provide our military an increase of \$39 billion over the original 2001 appropriations. That will be the largest increase in military spending since Ronald Reagan was the Commander in Chief. This money—this is our money our military needs and money our budget allows.

We are not only going to spend more on national defense, we're going to spend it more wisely. Secretary Rumsfeld and our military leaders are in the midst of a comprehensive review of our entire defense structure, from which will come recommendations to accelerate the transformation of America's military.

Transformation is a process, not a one-time event. It's not easy, because it requires

balancing two sometimes conflicting priorities: the need to train and maintain our forces to meet all our security responsibilities in the world right now, with the need to research, develop, plan, and deploy new systems and strategies that will allow us to meet our responsibilities in a much different world in years to come. Transformation is important because the decisions we make today, or put off, will shape our Nation's security for decades to come.

I am pleased that my administration has assembled an outstanding national security team. I asked Don Rumsfeld to come to Washington because of his creativity and his experience and because I know he is a results-oriented leader who will get the job done. Don and I will work closely with our new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, who will serve as my principal military adviser, and who will make sure the military's point of view is always heard in the White House.

The Chairman, together with the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will make sure all our Armed Forces work in a coordinated and effective way. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is also charged with reporting faithfully to the U.S. Congress on the state and needs of our Armed Forces.

In the last several years, our Nation has been ably served by an outstanding military leader and a good man, General Hugh Shelton. He has done a great job as the most senior officer in the world's greatest military. I've appreciated his advice and counsel, and our entire Nation is grateful for his service.

Today I name a new Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, one of the most important appointments a President can make. This appointment is especially so because it comes at a time when we need great leadership. Secretary Rumsfeld and I thought long and hard about this important choice, and we enthusiastically agree that the right man to preserve the best traditions of our Armed Forces, while challenging them to innovate to meet the threats of the future, is General Richard B. Myers.

General Myers is a man of steady resolve and determined leadership. His is a skilled and steady hand. He is someone who understands that the strengths of America's Armed

Forces are our people and our technological superiority. And we must invest in both.

I'm also pleased to announce that General Pete Pace, current commander of SOUTHCOM, will serve as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs. General Pace is a proud marine and represents a new generation of leadership and military thinking.

I have spent a substantial amount of time with both these men, and I am convinced they are the right people to lead our military into the future. Times like these, times of rapidly changing technology and ever-changing threats, will require tough choices. This team of strong leaders, Don Rumsfeld, General Myers, and General Pace, knows that our Nation must think differently, and we will think differently to protect and defend America's values and interests in the world.

To tell you more about our new Chairman and Vice Chairman, it is my pleasure to welcome to Crawford the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld.

Mr. Secretary.

[At this point, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld; Chairman-designate Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF; and Gen. Peter Pace, USMC, made brief remarks]

**The President.** Thank you.

Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

### **United Nations Conference on Racism**

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President. You mentioned thinking long and hard about these nominations. I hope to ask you about another long deliberation.

The United Nations Conference on Racism convenes in just one week. Do you want your administration represented there? If so, at what level? And are the Zionism and reparations agenda items absolutely prohibitive to any U.S. participation?

**The President.** She is referring to a conference that will be taking place in South Africa. We have made it very clear, through Colin Powell's office, that we will have no representative there, so long as they pick on Israel, so long as they continue to say Zionism is racism. If they use the forum as a way to isolate our friend and strong ally, we will not participate.

The Secretary of State is working hard to resolve that issue. We have made it very clear from the get-go—I remember explaining to President Mbeki our position. As I understand, the reparations issue has been solved. At least, the last information I had was that that issue looks like it's been resolved.

But the fundamental question is whether or not Israel will be treated with respect at the conference. And if not, then we will assess prior to the beginning. So I am not exactly sure where we stand at this moment.

I do know what our administration's position is. And the position is, we will not participate in a conference that tries to isolate Israel and denigrates Israel.

**Q.** Participate at any level?

**The President.** That's my feeling.

Yes.

#### **Situation in the Middle East**

**Q.** Mr. President, on Israel, as well, following up on that, today the Israelis pushed farther into Palestinian territory, attacking two houses in Hebron. So far the peace talks that were agreed to between Peres and Arafat haven't happened.

I know you say that the U.S. is engaged, but Egyptians, Palestinians are calling for more U.S. involvement. What is it going to take for the U.S. to actually get more involved, take more action in order to help bring about peace in the Middle East?

**The President.** Well, let's start with this: In order for there to be any peace talks in the Middle East, the first thing that must happen is that both parties must resolve to stop violence. The Israelis have made it very clear that they will not negotiate under terrorist threat. And if Mr. Arafat is interested in having a dialog that could conceivably lead to the Mitchell process, then I strongly urge him to urge the terrorists, the Palestinian terrorists, to stop the suicide bombings, to stop the incursions, to stop the threats.

At the same time, we have worked very closely with Prime Minister Sharon to urge him to show restraint. Terrorism is prevalent now in the Middle East, and the first thing that all parties who are concerned about peace in the Middle East must do is work to stop the terrorist activities.

The Israelis will not negotiate under terrorist threat, simple as that. And if the Palestinians are interested in a dialog, then I strongly urge Mr. Arafat to put 100 percent effort into solving the terrorist activity, into stopping the terrorist activity. And I believe he can do a better job of doing that.

Go ahead.

**Q.** What's your reaction to the fact that the Israelis are moving into Palestinian territory again?

**The President.** My reaction is, is that I would hope the Israelis would show restraint on all fronts. And we continue to urge restraint with both parties; we are constantly in dialog.

But it requires two willing participants. People have got to make up their mind this is what they want to have happen in order for the beginning of peace discussions. We've got a framework for a peaceful resolution. It's called the Mitchell plan. And our administration, as has most of the world, embraced the Mitchell plan. But in order to get to Mitchell requires there to be a cessation of terrorist activity. If not a cessation, 100 percent effort to get to a cessation, and we haven't seen that 100 percent effort yet.

And if what you're asking is, do we hear the Palestinians call for discussions? Of course we do. But my attitude is, if they are that interested in peaceful dialog, they ought to do everything they can to stop the terrorist activity that has accelerated in recent months. And we will see whether or not the will is there.

Yes. Then David [David Sanger, New York Times], then some of the TV people.

#### **Federal Budget Priorities**

**Q.** How realistic is it for you to expect Congress to move forward with your defense priorities when there is so little money in the budget outside of Social Security? And is it perhaps naive to expect Congress to just roll over and abandon their priorities?

**The President.** Well, I would hope that a congressional priority is strong national defense. And it will be very interesting to kind of get a feel for the congressional priorities this fall.

And one of the early tests will be to see whether or not the leadership will give us

a defense number early in the process. And that's what I've asked Congress to do. I did so in Independence, Missouri. I repeat it today.

And we hear a lot of dialog on the Hill about the importance of national defense. If that's the case, give us a number—at the beginning of the process, not at the end of the process. Let us know what the defense—I think it's realistic to ask Congress to prioritize national defense and education. We've done so. The budget that Mitch Daniels outlined clearly shows that we've got the monies available for a good, strong national defense.

Now, I readily concede, if Congress goes off on a spending spree in other areas, it's going to create a competition for defense dollars. And my point is going to be, to the Members of the United States Congress and their constituents, that national defense ought to be a funding priority, and I expect it to be. I expect it to be in '01, '02, and '03.

**Q.** So you are using a veto threat as a way of bringing a hard line into—

**The President.** Wait, wait, you put the word “veto” in my mouth. I have said that I will work for fiscal sanity in Washington, DC. And one way for a President to make—effect the fiscal condition of our Government is to express displeasure when certain budgets get busted. And so far we haven't had that, and that's why I praised Senator Byrd and Congressman Young. We've had a couple of supplementals.

And as the Washington watchers will tell you, the supplementals have been restrained. They have been within the budget guidelines, and I appreciate that very much. There has been some fiscal sanity thus far. Hopefully—and I am optimistic there will continue to be some fiscal sanity in Washington. We'll find out.

And there's going to be a battle. There's always a battle over whether defense is getting too much or not enough. Our position is, it has been underfunded, and we expect Congress to respond. And our job, as well, is to present a coherent strategy as to why, why there ought to be more money. And that's what the Secretary is here to discuss with me in Crawford today.

You know, there's a lot of discussion about transformation. Transformation isn't one document. It's not a moment in time. It's a strategy, and it starts with assessing the true threats facing America today and in the future. And then we size our forces depending upon the threats that face the country. And those are the dialogs we're now having.

And one of the jobs of Dick, should he be confirmed, is to make sure the Congress understands why our force size—why we are asking for monies for certain force sizes and how it relates to keeping the national security of the country in the long term, as well as today.

Dave.

### **Social Security Funds**

**Q.** Mr. President, to follow up on that, the administration's budget projections show these fairly thin surpluses outside of Social Security for the next several years, and the budget that you've been discussing, of course, does not include missile defense, does not include a number of the conventional weapons, transformations that your team that you've introduced here today is going to be working on.

Would it be reasonable to dip into Social Security and into the Social Security funds to pay for missile defense and to pay for military transformation, or is there any other contingency you can imagine that would make it worthwhile to go into the Social Security funds?

**The President.** Well, I've said that the only reason we should use Social Security funds is in case of an economic recession or war. Secondly, our budget does call for missile defense expenditures. If I'm not mistaken, I think it's to the tune of \$8 billion. And you might recall, as we left town, there were some Members of the United States Congress saying that that was way too much expenditure on a missile defense program, and they would like to divert that money to other programs, some within the defense budget, some outside the defense budget.

And so we do make—we've also increased research and development by a significant amount of money, David. But I think the

thing that's important to know is that Secretary Rumsfeld is taking a long look, addressing—assessing all the threats or the perceived threats that could face our country and how we address those threats.

One of the threats that faces America is the threat of blackmail as a result of some rogue nation having a weapon of mass destruction. And that not only is a threat to our own land; it's also a threat to our forward-thinking foreign policy. Take, for example, some nation in the Middle Eastern area developing a weapon of mass destruction and then threatening the United States if we were to move troops into an area to protect an ally.

So, in other words, the ability to have a weapon of mass destruction not only affects our people living in America, because some of these weapons have now got longer ranges than ever anticipated, but also affects our foreign policy. It could be used as an attempt to isolate America, and we're not going to let that happen.

So one of the things you will hear us talk about is the need to develop an effective missile defense system, and we do have money in the budget for that. And there is going to be an interesting dialog over whether it's too much. We're going to stand our ground and say the \$8 billion—I believe it's \$8 billion, if I'm not mistaken—is the right amount of money.

And you'll see, Dave, as well, as you look at other parts of the defense budget request, particularly the '02 and then the add-on '03, which we haven't laid out yet, there's a lot of money for research and development, which is absolutely necessary. And one of the reasons Dick Myers is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs—nominee—is because he has had a lot of experience in space, for example. It's an area that we need to explore and know more about. He's had a lot of experience when it comes to the leading edge of technology that is becoming more and more prevalent in our military. And our budget reflects the need to fully explore and, at the same time, make sure that today's military can fulfill the missions. And it's a balancing act, and I fully recognize it's one, but our budget does reflect that.

Yeah, John [John King, Cable News Network].

### **National Economy/Federal Spending**

**Q.** Mr. President, looking ahead to those budget fights down the road, though, in '02 and '03, when you will undoubtedly be asking for more money for missile defense, many question your economic assumptions—more mixed signals today: durable good orders down; home sales up—people question whether your 3.2 percent forecast for growth next year. Even many economists who are allied with your administration think that's too overly optimistic. On what do you base it?

**The President.** I think—I'm sorry Mitch Daniels isn't here to lay out all the forecasts that led to our assumption. And we're right in the middle, as I understand. We picked the number that seemed reasonable.

Let's—the facts are, our economy has slowed down. We had an anemic one percent growth over the last 12 months, and that affected tax revenues. And our administration, instead of wringing our hands, put in place a fiscal stimulus package that was the first real tax cut in a generation.

And we believe that's going to have a positive effect on our economy. No question the economy's slowed down, and therefore Congress must adjust its spending attitudes. The surest way to make sure that the recovery doesn't happen in a meaningful period of time or a reasonable period of time is to overspend.

So my message to the Congress is: I'm proud of your vote for tax relief; it was the right thing to do because it responded to economic circumstances that our Nation now faces. But don't go hog wild. I mean, appropriators appropriate. Don't overspend. And one of my jobs as the President is to make sure we keep fiscal sanity in the budget.

**Q.** But if you're off by just a point or two, Washington will be billions and billions short.

**The President.** Well, if I'm off by a point or two, then Congress can adjust their sights. See, I'm glad that Congress finally, for the first time in a long period of time, said, "We're not going to spend Social Security, except on emergencies." That wasn't the case up until this administration. It's a useful part

of the dialog, if you believe in fiscal sanity in Washington, DC. It set some important parameters.

So we have the tax relief plan, which is important for fiscal stimulus, coupled with Social Security being off limits except for—except for emergency. That now provides a new kind—a fiscal straitjacket for Congress. And that’s good for the taxpayers, and it’s incredibly positive news if you’re worried about a Federal Government that has been growing at a dramatic pace over the past 8 years, and it has been.

Listen, the ’02 budget we submitted has got discretionary spending growing by 6 percent. That’s a pretty significant number. Certainly not as much as some of the appropriators would like to see in Washington, DC, but we think it’s a nice, balanced number. It’s one that will help meet the needs and, at the same time, not overspend and therefore affect economic growth.

Of course, the other side of things is, if the economy gets back to where it was growing, Washington could conceivably be awash in money, so there’s leverage on both sides.

### **Stem Cell Research**

**Q.** On stem cells, you’ve said that the 60 stem cell lines can be experimented on. It now turns out they’ve been mixed in the laboratory with mice cells. Under FDA guidelines, they could have no practical effect. Did you know that when you made this decision, that these possibly couldn’t be used?

**The President.** Here’s what I knew. I knew that I sat down with the NIH experts, the people who were—people who are charged by our Federal Government to follow the research opportunities on all fronts, and they feel like the existing stem cell lines are ample to be able to determine whether or not embryonic stem cell research can yield the results necessary to save lives. This is their opinion, and I can think of no better opinion on which to make my—base my judgment.

And so I haven’t changed my opinion in the least. As a matter of fact, I read some comments today where the NIH scientists again confirmed that we’ve got enough existing stem cell lines to do the research nec-

essary to determine whether or not the promise of embryonic stem cells will be met.

**Q.** Sir, did no one warn you that the animal viruses could invalidate the use of these cells?

**The President.** The NIH came into the Oval Office, and they looked me right in the eye, and they said, “We think there is ample stem cell lines to determine whether or not this embryonic stem cell research will work or not.” And I appreciated their candor, and I appreciated their advice.

Root [Jay Root, Fort Worth Star-Telegram], good to see you, my boy.

### **Weapons Systems**

**Q.** You talked about the need to—

**The President.** How are you? Used to cover me as Governor. Fine lad, fine lad.

**Q.** You talked about the need—

**The President.** Little short on hair but a fine lad. [Laughter]

**Q.** I am losing some hair.

You talked about the need to maintain technological superiority. Given some of its well-known problems, do you think that a part of that would include the B-22, and do you think that, given some of the budget problems that have been discussed, that it compromises, maybe, your ability to go forward with the B-22, the F-22, and the Joint Strike Fighter?

**The President.** Root represents Fort Worth.

**Secretary Rumsfeld.** I never would have guessed.

**The President.** The Secretary and both the civilians who work with him and the military who works for him are charged with not only assessing the threats that will face us but then are charged with not only designing a force structure to meet those threats, as well as the capital expenditures necessary to meet them.

There is no question that we probably cannot afford every weapons system that is now on—being designed or thought about. And you should ask the Secretary this question, if you care to, because he is going to bring to my desk, in a reasonable period of time, what the Pentagon recommendations are as to what weapons systems should go forward and which should not.

One of the things that happens inside the Pentagon is, people are encouraged to think outside the box, so to speak, and help design systems that could or could not affect security in the long term. And there are many good ideas.

But this administration is going to have to winnow them down. We can't afford every single thing that has been contemplated. And when we make decisions, they will fit into a strategic plan. And we need one. And there is going to be one, and it's coming this fall, starting with—as the Secretary will talk about.

**Q.** I will take you up on your invitation to ask the Secretary—

**The President.** You can ask him next. I'm on a roll here. [*Laughter*]

**Q.** Good morning, sir.

**The President.** This will give him a little time to think of the answer.

### **President's Priorities**

**Q.** You've talked about limits on spending. If your wish came true that the Federal budget is, once again, awash in money, what would your priorities be? Where would you like to spend—

**The President.** Education, defense, and making sure the taxpayers had ample money to make choices for themselves. You know, I think one of the things we've got to recognize is that our Government should fund priorities, but we've always got to remember where the money came from.

And I can't tell you how proud I am to be traveling around the country, and people walk up and say, "Thanks for the \$600." Now there are some cynics who say \$600 doesn't mean anything to a working family in America. That's not what I hear. I hear it means a lot to people.

So if we're awash—and I think our economy has got very strong underpinnings. We're certainly going through a correction. But there are some signs we're improving. Some signs, as John accurately noted, still show that there's an anchor on economic growth. But I believe we'll be back and be robust, and when we are, then we'll deal with the budget.

In the meantime—in the meantime, however, it's important for Congress and the ap-

propriators to realize there's not as much money around Washington as there used to be, and therefore, they need to readjust their sights. And our priorities are going to be educating our children and national defense. Those are our priorities, and I hope a lot of Congress comes with me on that.

**Q.** Are you implying that another tax cut might be—

**The President.** No, I'm not implying. I'm saying that if we are awash—I think you were implying we might be awash with money, and I hope we are. I think we've got a very strong economy. Let me say, we've got a strong economic potential. We could have a very strong economy again. I think I am going to get trade promotion authority, which should help. This tax cut will help. Monetary policy should help.

And when we get economic growth going again, after the correction in some of our sectors like the high-tech sector, we may have good money. And if we do, then I want to always remember where it came from. It didn't come because of the genius of the Federal Government; it came because of the genius and hard work of the American people. But let's wait until that happens. Let's just hope it happens soon.

Yes, sir.

### **Immigration Policy**

**Q.** Mr. President, you said yesterday that you oppose blanket amnesty for illegal immigrants from Mexico. But even if you only grant guest worker status to some illegals, doesn't that amount to rewarding illegal activity, when other immigrants are struggling to come to this country legally?

**The President.** Colin Powell and John Ashcroft are taking a hard look at our immigration policy. They are not only reviewing our policy in our own working group; they are reviewing the policy with their counterparts in Mexico. And we have had some very good dialogs; it's been a very constructive dialog.

I talked to Vicente Fox about this subject a couple of days ago, and we both agreed that the discussions thus far have been positive. I do not believe in blanket amnesty.

One of the issues you referred to is an important issue, and that is, how do we make

sure that as we facilitate willing employer hooking up with willing employee, that we don't penalize those who have been waiting in line legally? And so our deliberations are taking that into account. And that's a far cry, however, from blanket amnesty.

I believe that—strongly believe that if someone is willing to work and someone's looking for a worker and can't find anybody, we ought to facilitate the two hooking up. And so there are ways to make sure that people are rewarded for hard work without affecting those who have been patiently waiting in line for legal status.

**Q.** Respectfully, sir, can I follow up and say—

**The President.** Is this a question or a speech?

#### **Mexico-U.S. Relations**

**Q.** Well, how do you respond to those who say you are courting the Hispanic vote with this outreach?

**The President.** Well, I respond by saying that, first of all, I can't think of anything more important for our foreign policy in our hemisphere than to have good relations with Mexico. Mexico is our neighbor, and we ought to have a neighborhood that is prosperous and peaceful.

The basis for good foreign policy is to make sure your own area, your own neighborhood is in good shape. And I have got a great relation with the President of Mexico, symbolized by the fact that the first state dinner I'm going to have is with Vicente Fox, and it's going to happen in 2 weeks.

The history of the relationship between Mexico and the United States hasn't always been smooth. I mean, it's been pretty hostile at times. And to me, that didn't inure to our country's benefit.

We've got good relations, and one of the things we've got to do is discuss common problems. We've got problems on our border; we've got problems with drug interdiction; we've got problems with environmental issues on our border; we've got water problems; and we've got immigration problems. And if we're going to have good relations with our neighbor, we ought to deal constructively with the problems, admit there's

a problem, and figure out ways to deal with it.

The long-term solution, however, for immigration, is for Mexico to be prosperous enough to grow a middle class where people will be able to find work at home. And I remind people all across our country, family values do not stop at the Rio Bravo.

There are people in Mexico who have got children who are worried about where they are going to get their next meal from. And they are going to come to the United States if they think they can make money here. That's a simple fact. And they're willing to walk across miles of desert to do work that some Americans won't do. And we've got to respect that, it seems like to me, and treat those people with respect.

Now, I get accused of being political on everything I do. I guess that's just the nature of being the President. And what I try to assure people of is, I deal with problems as I see them. And some people are going to like the solution, and some are not, and we'll just let the chips fall where they may.

I'm going to let Rumsfeld talk to Root. Listen, I've got to go get briefed. Okay, one more. One more. Two more—make them quick.

#### **Representative Gary Condit**

**Q.** You said yesterday that you had no plans to watch the interview last night with Congressman Gary Condit, that you would—

**The President.** Yes, I followed through on that.

**Q.** —but that you would read about it. And I was wondering if you had and if you have any thoughts?

**The President.** Actually, I haven't read about it yet. I have been briefed on it by Karen Hughes and Condi Rice, who watched it, and you might ask them what their opinion is. *[Laughter]*

I'm trying to get Condi and Karen some national exposure. *[Laughter]*

**Q.** Sir, seriously though, if I could follow up, this is—you've been reluctant to talk about this issue, and 23.6 million Americans watched this interview last night—

**The President.** Well, I was one who didn't.

**Q.** There is enormous interest in it.

**The President.** There was 270-some million Americans, and I was one of the 250 who didn't watch it. Did you watch it?

**Q.** I did, indeed.

**The President.** Okay, good. Do I have—I don't have an opinion yet on it.

I do know that—I hope that the Levy prayers are answered. That's my hope. This isn't about a Congressman or about a network. This is about a family who lost a daughter, and that's what I'm concerned about. I hope that if she is alive, she's returned soon. I pray she's alive. That's where my heart is, and that's where my concerns are on this issue.

I'm not worried about the gossip or the Washington whispers. I am worried about a young girl's life, and so should America be worried about a young girl's life.

**Q.** But sir, do you think the Congressman's evasiveness has—

**The President.** I have no idea about the Congressman. I am not paying attention to the Congressman. I am paying attention to whether or not this poor girl is—is found. And that's what I'm interested in.

I understand how Washington works, and there's all kinds of stuff that goes on in Washington. People are saying this about somebody, and they're saying that about somebody. It's a town of gossip. And I'm not worried about the gossip. I'm worried about the facts. And there's a girl missing, and our prayers are with her parents. I have seen them on TV. I agonize for the mom and the dad. And that's where my heart is.

Last question, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek]. No, next to last. This is the last question, but there's two more answers—mine and Rumsfeld's.

### **Changing the Tone in Washington**

**Q.** I'll go fast. Thank you, sir.

You've talked a lot about changing the tone in Washington, and you've had some success doing it. But lately there have been some shots across the bow—the Democrats' ad this week on the surplus. I'm wondering if you think that the tone in Washington is changing back to the partisan bickering of the past?

**The President.** Well, it's not in Crawford. [Laughter] It's a great tone here in Crawford. One of the good things about coming out

here is that you get a sense for what people are paying attention to, and they don't really pay attention to partisan squabbling.

The truth of the matter is, I welcome the tax debate. I hope that people try to, you know, attack based upon tax relief for the American people. I think it's—you know, if you want to try to position an issue, it's a nice place to be, because the counterpoint is, what are you going to do, raise them? If you're against tax relief, are you then advocating you're going to raise taxes on the American people, which would be not only an economic—it would be really bad for our economy. But I look forward to hearing the debate, "Mr. President, I think you're wrong. We should raise taxes on the people, particularly after they just got their \$600 check."

And so I welcome the debate. But out here in Crawford, people aren't that—you know what they're interested in? Their families, whether it's going to rain, interested in the price of fuel, they're worried about insurance rates—they're not too bad in Texas. But that's what they're worried about. They're worried about things. They're not worried about the partisan squabbling that has kind of sullied the Washington scene at times.

And frankly, I haven't seen any of the ads. Of course, I didn't watch the show.

All right. Mr. Secretary. Jay Root asked a very penetrating question. You've forgotten what it is—

**Secretary Rumsfeld.** I never would have guessed. But I know the answer.

**Q.** You know the answer? I could just be quiet. But let me just ask, on the B-22, is it a viable program, or given its problems, do you think it's just not going to survive?

**Secretary Rumsfeld.** The issue, with respect to weapons systems, is there are several things that are required by Congress. One is the Presidential budget to be offered in the first part of next year. And there is a process that precedes it in every department to produce that budget that the President then pulls together.

The other is a so-called quadrennial defense review, and another is the nuclear posture review. Those are all going on. And through an iterative process with the services, the budget for the 2003 Presidential

budget is being built and those kinds of decisions get made.

As the President suggested, we are balancing some risks. There are operational risks with respect to near-term threats. There are also risks of not transforming, of not modernizing the force at a rate that makes sense, or of not taking proper care of the men and women in the Armed Forces, and the risks that you run then of not having the people you need to see that the United States of America can continue to contribute to peace and stability in the world.

So it is that complicated process of balancing those risks that will lead the services to come back with their recommendations, which we then will all consider and take into account in our recommendations to the President.

With respect to the specific aircraft you're talking about, we all know it's been a troubled program. It has had enormous difficulties and—but it has not come to the point of a decision, and it will in the coming period of September and October.

**The President.** Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's 15th news conference began at 10:44 a.m. at the Crawford Community Center. In his remarks, he referred to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and Bob and Susan Levy, whose daughter, Chandra, has been missing since April 30. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. Reporters referred to former Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Chairman-designate Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF.

## **Proclamation 7458—Women's Equality Day, 2001**

*August 24, 2001*

*By the President of the United States of America*

### **A Proclamation**

Women's Equality Day marks the anniversary of women's enfranchisement and a pivotal victory for women's rights. Our Nation recognized a woman's right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, but the roots of the women's rights movement go back to at least 80 years earlier.

In 1840, Elizabeth Cady Stanton met Lucretia Mott at the World's Anti-Slavery Convention in London. They, along with the other women there, expected to join in the anti-slavery proceedings, but male delegates refused to allow them to participate. Thus rebuffed, Mott and Stanton began a journey that would lead to the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention. There, the Declaration of Rights and Sentiments called for women's equality, including the right to vote and to take part in our Nation's great moral debates.

Nearly all women's rights advocates also fought for the abolition of slavery. One hundred and fifty years ago, anti-slavery suffragette Sojourner Truth gave a powerful address expounding on the strength of women. Her impassioned call for women to actively participate in social justice movements became a legendary link between abolition and suffrage. That same year, Susan B. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and they later joined Harriet Tubman, Mary Ann Shad Cary, Lucy Stone, and other abolitionists to pursue the goal of women's suffrage. Many 19th Century abolitionist suffragettes did not live to see the fruit of their work for women's enfranchisement, but their efforts led the way for women to fight for and win recognition of their rights as equal participants in our Republic.

Tremendous advancements have been made in the fight for equality. But we must remain diligent in enforcing our Nation's laws. And we still have work to do in this area.

Today, thousands of people, mainly women and children, are trafficked into the United States each year and forced to work in the sex industry, sweatshops, field labor, and domestic servitude. Beyond these vile acts, workplace discrimination and targeted violence continue to take place, despite their rejection by our communities and legal system.

Our efforts to ensure women equal rights must include the protection of women from violence and equal access to justice. This is particularly vital for women who face geographic, cultural, and other barriers to social justice services. Women victimized by crime should receive equitable and compassionate care, including access to advocacy, emergency shelter, law enforcement protection, and legal aid. That is why my 2002 budget requests increased funding for Federal initiatives to combat violence against women and to continue the guarantees of basic civil rights and liberties for women.

As we remember the well-known champions of women's equality, we also honor the millions of women whose private efforts and personal ideals continue to sustain and improve this land. On Women's Equality Day, I call upon all Americans to defend the freedoms gained by those who came before us and to continue to expand our shared vision of social justice and equality.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2001, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 28, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on August 29.

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## Digest of Other White House Announcements

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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.

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### August 20

In the morning, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Menomonee Falls, WI. Later, he traveled to Kansas City, MO.

The President announced his intention to nominate Edward R. McPherson to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sandra L. Pack to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Thomas Korsmo to be a member of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate W. Michael Cox to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disabled Employment Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate William J. Hybl to be U.S. Representative to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roger P. Winter to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Bureau of Humanitarian Response.

**August 21**

In the morning, the President traveled to Independence, MO. Later, he traveled to Kansas City, MO. He then returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

**August 22**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

The President announced his intention to nominate Raymond Burghardt to be Ambassador to Vietnam.

The President announced his intention to appoint Donald Cappoccia and Pamela Nelson as members of the Commission on Fine Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Bolen, Neil DeGrasse Tyson, Robert Walker, Heidi R. Wood, and John W. Douglas.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: Matthew Fong, Barry Wynn, and Betsy Atkins.

The President announced his intention to appoint Cheryl Feldman Halpern as a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert Martin as Acting Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts.

**August 23**

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX. Later, he returned to Crawford, TX, where he had a telephone conversation with President Fernando de la Rúa of Argentina concerning the Argentine economy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret K. McMillion to be Ambassador to Rwanda.

The President announced his intention to designate Terrence S. Donahue as Acting Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**August 24**

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Ameri-

cans and Pacific Islanders: John B. Tsu, Lupo Carlota, David B. Cohen, Mary Ling, Barbara Marumoto, Gary K. Ong, Sunny Park, Amata Coleman Radewagen, Jhoon Rhee, Michelle Park Steel, Joe Ting, Chiling Tong, Baoky N. Vu, and Zachariah Zachariah.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Pittsburgh, PA, on August 26 and San Antonio, TX, on August 29.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**


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

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**


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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 August 20**

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2131

Statement by the Press Secretary: Updated Implementation of the Patten Report

**Released August 22**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels on the Federal budget surplus

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that on August 20, the President signed the following bills: H.R. 93, H.R. 271, H.R. 427, H.R. 364, H.R. 558, H.R. 821, H.R. 988, H.R. 1183, H.R. 1753, and H.R. 2043

**Released August 24**

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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**Approved August 13 \***

H.R. 2213 / Public Law 107-25  
To respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers.

**Approved August 17 \***

H.R. 2131 / Public Law 107-26  
To reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

**Approved August 20**

H.R. 93 / Public Law 107-27  
Federal Firefighters Retirement Age Fairness Act

H.R. 271 / Public Law 107-28  
To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center.

H.R. 364 / Public Law 107-29  
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5927 Southwest 70th Street in Miami, Florida, as the "Marjory Williams Scrivens Post Office"

H.R. 427 / Public Law 107-30  
To provide further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the

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\* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and for other purposes.

H.R. 558 / Public Law 107-31  
To designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse"

H.R. 821 / Public Law 107-32  
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1030 South Church Street in Asheboro, North Carolina, as the "W. Joe Trogdon Post Office Building"

H.R. 988 / Public Law 107-33  
To designate the United States courthouse located at 40 Centre Street in New York, New York, as the "Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse"

H.R. 1183 / Public Law 107-34  
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 113 South Main Street in Sylvania, Georgia, as the "G. Elliot Hagan Post Office Building"

H.R. 1753 / Public Law 107-35  
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 419 Rutherford Avenue, N.E., in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "M. Caldwell Butler Post Office Building"

H.R. 2043 / Public Law 107-36  
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2719 South Webster Street in Kokomo, Indiana, as the "Elwood Haynes 'Bud' Hillis Post Office Building"