

**Federal Reserve/Stimulus Package**

**Q.** Can I just follow on another point? Given the Fed's decision not to act—

**The President.** Given the—

**Q.** I'm sorry, the Fed's decision not to act on interest rates here a couple of days ago—

**President Bush.** Oh, the Fed—a new subject, okay, go. [Laughter] I'm kind of “the Feds,” and we're acting—in terms of Pakistan. I got you. [Laughter]

**Q.** I'm trying a Fournier.

**President Bush.** But it's not quite as subtle as Fournier. See, Fournier is good about it because he actually addresses the two questions to two people. You're now going with the—it's a sole two-question, and it's a very—it's brazen, but go ahead. [Laughter]

**Q.** It is a stretch—

**President Bush.** I'm very impressed. It is a stretch—Little Stretch. [Laughter]

**Q.** If I could remember what I was going to ask—[laughter]—given what the Fed said and the growth numbers for the fourth quarter, are you as convinced that a stimulus package is still needed?

**President Bush.** One thing I'm—I believe we're still not out of our economic problems. We've still got problems. The economy is still soft. Too many people aren't working. There's not enough job creation. And I believe, like I said in the State of the Union, we need a stimulus package. Until Americans can find steady work, I am going to be relentless in my desire to enhance economic growth, and that means jobs. And we've got to work with Congress to figure out how to enhance economic vitality. There are some positive numbers, but not enough positive numbers to satisfy me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan. The President also referred to the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, and the June 13, 2001, Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan negotiated by CIA Director George J. Tenet.

**Remarks Announcing the Appointment of James Towey as Director of the Office of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

*February 1, 2002*

**The President.** Good morning. Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, welcome to the Roosevelt Room in the White House. We're honored you all came. Thanks for being here.

I know all of you are here today to be a part of a great cause, and that is how best to serve our neighbors in need and to serve our community and our country. Really, it's to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Our goal is to rally all Americans to our cause. I mean all Americans. And I'm proud to have an outstanding man in Jim Towey to join me on this cause. First, I want to welcome the Towey family, all of them. [Laughter] Mary, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, welcome, guys. And I'm glad Mom is with us. Florence, welcome, sure glad to have you here.

And I want to welcome Your Eminence, Cardinal Bevilacqua; sure good to see you, sir. I've had many a good heart-to-heart visit with His Eminence, and I've always come away a better person after having visited with him. Thank you for being here. And I want to thank everybody else for being here, as well.

A year ago this week, I announced one of the most important commitments of my administration, the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The purpose was to apply the compassion of America to help solve the problems of our country. The purpose of this initiative recognizes the power of faith in helping heal some of our Nation's wounds. The purpose of this initiative is to rally the armies of compassion which are spread throughout the United States of America. The purpose of the initiative is to recognize our greatest strength, the hearts and souls of the American people, and apply that strength to help solve problems which afflict many of our citizens.

Since the attacks of September the 11th, it has become obvious to everyone how essential the community and faith-based groups are to the well-being of our Nation.

They have saved lives. They provide hope. They have helped heal the Nation's wounds.

We have a tremendous opportunity now to take the spirit and apply it to problems like poverty and addiction, abandonment and abuse, illiteracy and homelessness. These are incredibly tough problems. But I believe with the help of faith, we can solve the problems. I have faith that faith will work in solving the problems.

For the past year, the Office of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has done a terrific job. And I'm proud of the folks that work in the office.

And today I'm honored to name Jim Towey as its new head and new Director. He has served a Republican Senator and a Democratic Governor. He understands there are things more important than political parties. And one of those things more important than political parties is to help heal the Nation's soul. He's run a statewide Department of Health; in other words, he's an administrator. He also worked with Mother Teresa for more than a year—for more than a decade.

He brings to the job managerial skills and a servant's heart. He will be a great Director, and I look forward to working with him to advance a bold initiative.

In the next year, Jim will work to eliminate barriers that discriminate against community and faith-based organizations. Government cannot stand in the way of the good works of the people in our neighborhoods. Government must expedite and stand on the side of faith-based programs. We should not discriminate at the Federal level against people who are trying to help us solve the Nation's problems.

He'll work closely with Members of Congress from both parties to pass legislation that will put Government squarely on the side of our faith- and community-based groups. Jim will have the full support of a new Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, in which he will participate along with five Cabinet secretaries and Steve Goldsmith, the Chairman for the Corporation of National and Community Service.

The Council will be chaired by USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland. I was proud to announce "Bridge" 2 days ago when

he made his national debut, and I must say he handled the pressure quite well. [*Laughter*] But he's a good fellow who, along with Jim, is going to make an enormous difference about fulfilling a vision that I truly believe is going to help America help herself, is truly, going to believe, lift the spirit of this country. After all, that's my job. My job is to unify our country around common, big goals, and there is nothing more important than to help the hopeless see hope, to help the addicted see a better life, to help the collective will of our country to have a better tomorrow, realize its potential.

I'm so proud that Jim has decided to join our team. I'm grateful for your sacrifice to your country. I love your heart. America will be better off by your service. Welcome.

[*At this point, Mr. Towey made brief remarks.*]

**The President.** Good job, Jim. Thank you. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:18 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mr. Towey's wife, Mary, and their sons, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, and Mr. Towey's mother, Florence; and His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Towey.

### Remarks at the Congress of Tomorrow Luncheon in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia February 1, 2002

**President Bush.** Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. It is rare that a fella can give two 50-minute addresses in the same week. [*Laughter*] I knew you'd be thrilled. [*Laughter*]

J.C., thanks for those kind words, and thanks for your leadership. One of us didn't get the dress code right. [*Laughter*]

**Audience member.** You didn't get the memo.

**President Bush.** Yes, I didn't get the memo. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, I'm delighted to be here; I am. First, I want to say something about the