

our fellow Americans to review when they come to these great games.

I hope people do come and read the document because they'll understand why we're so insistent upon defending our values. We defend liberty and freedom for everyone, not just a few, not just people in Utah, but everybody who lives in this country and everybody who lives around the world. These are rights we hold self-evident. These are timeless ideals.

People may wonder, if they don't understand America, "Well, why have we reacted with such determination and patience and resolve?" It's because we believe so strongly in these ideals, liberty and freedom, and we know it is what will make the world live in peace, if we embrace those ideals without falter.

And the Olympics give the world a chance, in the midst of a difficult struggle, to celebrate international peace and cooperation. America's athletes will compete hard and, I know, will make us proud. But at the end of every event, the competitors will join to honor the winners, no matter their nationality. And they will stand at attention to honor the flags of many nations, which will be flying in pride and flying in peace.

For centuries, the Olympics have reinforced an important lesson. It's an important lesson for today. No matter how wide our political or cultural differences may be, some things are valued and enjoyed the world over. All people appreciate the discipline that produces excellence, the courage that overcomes difficult odds, the character that creates champions. The feelings and emotions that drive the Olympics are not expressed in any one language; they're expressed with tears and smiles of joy and of pride.

The world has shed many tears, tears of sorrow, over the past 5 months. It now gives the people of the United States and the State of Utah great pride to host these games, which will provide lasting memories of laughter and triumph for people of every nation.

I want to thank you all. Thank you so very much on behalf of our Nation for bringing western hospitality to this global tradition.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:56 p.m. in the Rotunda at the Utah State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Michael O. Leavitt of Utah and his wife, Jacalyn S.; Mayor Ross C. Anderson of Salt Lake City; Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Jacques Rogge, president, International Olympic Committee; Sandy Baldwin, president, U.S. Olympic Committee; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; the President's sister, Dorothy Koch; and Norman Lear, founder, People for the American Way. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and an Exchange With Reporters in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Mr. Hinckley. We're honored to have you here. We very much appreciate that you've come. We're all here, excited about the Olympics, and we think this is going to be a great thing for this area and for the United States of America.

The President. I agree. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. I'm looking forward to it. I want to congratulate the great State of Utah for putting on the games. It's going to be a—I know it's been a lot of hard work, and now we're here, and I think the world is going to see why we love the West so much here in the United States. People can get things done.

Mr. Hinckley. We're happy that they're here. We hope that all will go well, with confidence that all will go well and that it will be a great season for all of us.

The President. I might answer a few questions. You got anything, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] or Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]?

Security at the Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, are you confident about the security situation at the games?

The President. I'm so confident about the security condition, I've come. [Laughter] Fournier, you got anything?

Genealogy

Q. What did you talk about in there?

The President. Well, we just—interestingly enough, we talked about our family heritage, our lineage. The president kindly gave us our family histories, genealogies that have been researched here, and it's a wonderful gift.

And I said, "Before you tell me, are there any horse thieves in there?" [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. I want to tell you that he comes of good stock. [Laughter]

The President. That's right. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. And so does she.

Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, did you give any advice to the American athletes on carrying the flag from New York, the World Trade Center flag?

The President. No, I didn't.

Q. And is there a danger that an event like this takes on some political overtones, especially with the United States engaged in a war on terrorism?

The President. Well, I think the event is going the—the events are going to strike a proper balance between the patriotism that we all feel here and the international flavor of the games. As I understand it, they've reached what appears to be a reasonable compromise about the flag that flew over the World Trade Center.

And I think it's important for all Americans, obviously, to root hard for our athletes and recognize, however, this is an international event. And one of the things that is important is that there be world unity. And this is a nice place to have world unity, during the competition. You know, an athlete wins, people salute their flag and their anthem. And unfortunately, it's not going to be the American flag every single event. It'll be somebody else's country, but it gives us a chance to cheer for others and celebrate with others, as well.

So it appears to me that the proper balance has been struck. No question that tonight is going to be an emotional moment, though.

I mean, we're the host country, and we're a nation that has been under attack. And this proud country is unified and strong, and when they play the national anthem, I'm sure there's going to be millions of Americans who are proud to hear the anthem played in a unique setting and in an historic moment.

World Trade Center Flag

Q. Were you disappointed, sir, when you first heard that the flag was not going to be allowed in the ceremonies?

The President. I knew that there would be an accommodation reached. I talked to some friends about it. So I'm happy with the outcome of the accommodation. I think it's a nice balance.

Q. Did you weigh in at all on it?

The President. No, I didn't.

Meeting With President Hinckley

Q. Mr. President, why was it important for you to meet with President Hinckley today?

The President. Well, first of all, this isn't my first meeting. I was—it's kind of—

Mr. Hinckley. Reunion.

The President. Reunion, right. Thank you. I was searching for the word. [Laughter]

I was here in the summer of '99. And first of all, President Hinckley represents a great religion. He is a strong part of the American scene, and I wanted to come by and say hello and pay my respects, and I'm glad I did.

Also, by the way, looking forward to hearing the choir tonight. It is going to be a magnificent moment, an incredibly touching experience for all of us, particularly those of us who will be there live.

So thank you for tuning them up. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. They're all ready to go.

The President. Thanks.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. Good to see you, sir.

NOTE: The remarks began at 3:20 p.m. at President Hinckley's office in the Church Administration Building. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the United States Winter Olympic Athletes in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Well, thank you very much. I'm not deserving, but I'm proud to wear this jacket. I want to congratulate our great country's Olympic team. I want to thank you all for your efforts. I want to thank you for your hard work. The whole country is pulling for you, and we're really proud of you.

I want to thank all those who've worked to make these Games go well: Mitt Romney, Sandy Baldwin, Lloyd Ward, Dwight Bell, Bernie Machen. I want to thank your coaches and your families.

Today we're joined by three Port Authority Police Officers from New York City: Tony Scannella, Curt Kellinger, Frank Accardi. Where are they? There they are. [*Applause*] Thank you all for coming.

And as you know, they brought with them one of the flags that flew in front of the World Trade Center on September the 11th, which will be carried into the Olympic Stadium today. This flag serves as a symbol of this Nation's strength, of our resolve, of our determination to fight for freedom. These Games come at a perfect time for the country. In our time of sadness and determination and resolve, our Olympic athletes will represent the best of America. I can't wait for Americans to see our flag fly. It is such a proud moment for all of us. This Nation is steadfast and unified, and you, the athletes, are going to represent us with such class and dignity and courage.

It's a chance for the world to see that in times of war, we can come together in friendly competition to promote the peace. So not only you represent the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, you represent a spirit that is much bigger than evil and terror: You represent peace.

A lot of people are going to be watching you, particularly a lot of kids. You'll become heroes overnight. That's an awesome responsibility. I know you'll handle it with grace. I know you'll set the best example possible.

And so we're here to wish you all the best, to congratulate you. Let's roll. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Gymnasium A of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex at the University of Utah. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Sandy Baldwin, president, Lloyd Ward, chief officer, and Dwight Bell, cochair, International Relations Committee, U.S. Olympic Committee; and J. Bernard Machen, president, University of Utah. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Opening the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

On behalf of a proud, determined, and grateful nation, I declare open the games of Salt Lake City, celebrating the Olympic winter games.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. at Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 9, 2002

Good morning. Recently, I had the honor of welcoming Coretta Scott King and her children to the White House to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Shortly after the holiday I visited the school that young Dr. King attended in Atlanta, Booker T. Washington High School. It was a moving experience to see the place where this great American began his life of learning.

February is Black History Month, a time of learning for all of us. Ever since the historian and educator Carter Woodson put Black history on the calendar back in 1926, February has been a time to reflect on the contributions of African-Americans and the need to remember and celebrate all of our history.

Nobody can understand this country without understanding the African-American experience. It began when America began. And throughout our history, the experience of Black Americans has challenged every American to live up to the best ideals of our country: freedom, equality, and justice.