

Exchange With Reporters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

July 2, 2002

New York Times Article

The President. Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], what is it?

Q. Do you have any response—there's this columnist in the New York Times today who says that your role on the board of Harkin Energy back in the 1980s and its sale of Aloha Petroleum, your sale of stock, that amounts to the same kind of corporate misbehavior you're now criticizing.

The President. Everything I do is fully disclosed. It's been fully vetted.

Any other question?

International Criminal Court

Q. Excuse me, sir. Do you think you'll be able to work out that logjam, or is our participation in Bosnia coming to an end?

The President. The International Criminal Court is troubling to the United States. It's troubling to the administration and obviously trouble with the United States Senate as well.

President Clinton signed this treaty, but when he signed it, he said it should not be submitted to the Senate. It therefore never has been, and I don't intend to submit it either, because it—you know, as the United States works to bring peace around the world, our diplomats and our soldiers could be drug into this court, and that's a very troubling—very troubling to me.

And we'll try to work out the impasse at the United Nations. But one thing we're not going to do is sign on to the International Criminal Court.

Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, as you contemplate new penalties for corporate malfeasance, do you think that the laws on the books are insufficient to prosecute CEOs, or—

The President. I will make a statement on that at the appropriate time, Dick [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Independence Day Celebrations

Q. How should Americans celebrate July 4th this year, given the anxieties about more attacks?

The President. They should celebrate heartily because we have freedom, and we love freedom. And I—they should also know our Government is doing everything they can to make the homeland secure, that people ought to be joyous in their celebration and celebrate the fact that we're fortunate enough to be Americans. I'm going to do that in West Virginia.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:16 a.m. during a tour of the Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Faith-Based Welfare Initiative in Milwaukee

July 2, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. I—it's great to be here in the midst of so many social entrepreneurs—[laughter]—people who are willing to think differently in order to provide hope for people who need hope.

Wisconsin—Tommy is right—it's kind of the heartland of compassionate conservatism. People decided, "We're not going to worry about process; we'll worry about results. And the result we want is for everybody to feel a part of the American experience." I'm glad I picked Tommy to be in my Cabinet. You all trained him well—[laughter]—and he's doing a great job on behalf of all Americans.

Bishop Patterson, I'm honored that you would travel here. Bishop Patterson is a leader. He is a person who has got a clear vision about the need for the private sector and public sector to join together to help people who need help. And the fact, sir, that you traveled all the way here from the great city of Memphis, Tennessee, to be with us today is a tribute to your dedication to finding ways to improve people's lives. I'm honored you're here.

And then Bishop Daniels, I'm sorry that we kind of muzzled him. I was hoping that he would unleash—[laughter]—if not in