

you going to stop them from getting a nuclear weapon?

**The President.** Well, the international community must come together to make it very clear to Iran that we will not tolerate the construction of a nuclear weapon. Iran would be dangerous if they have a nuclear weapon. I brought this subject up in the G-8; we had a good discussion on the subject with near universal agreement that we all must work together to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

And secondly, I appreciate those courageous souls who speak out for freedom in Iran. They need to know America stands squarely by their side. And I would urge the Iranian administration to treat them with the utmost of respect.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

#### **Middle East Peace Process**

**Q.** Mr. President, do you plan to send Dr. Rice to the Middle East soon, particularly given the situation—

**The President.** I'll let you know when we decide to do so. We, of course, have got Ambassador Wolf in the region now, and he's working hard with both parties. And I called President Mubarak today to ask him to work with the Palestinian Authority to consolidate their security forces under Prime Minister Abbas so that the Prime Minister can achieve the goals that he set out, which is for the dismantlement of terror and what hopefully will be a peaceful Palestinian state.

Thank you all.

**Q.** You do anticipate sending—

**The President.** I said, I'll let you know when we send her.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:23 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

#### **Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation**

June 18, 2003

I commend the House of Representatives for acting to permanently eliminate the death tax. The death tax results in unfair double taxation of income and it hurts America's small businesses, which are the engine of job creation. Today's vote is a victory for fairness, job creation, and certainty for family businesses, farmers, and ranchers.

Permanently eliminating the death tax is an important step toward increasing fairness in the Tax Code and promoting economic security. I urge the Senate to act on this important matter so that we can eliminate this unfair tax once and for all.

#### **Remarks at the Congressional Picnic**

June 18, 2003

**The President.** Listen, thank you all for coming. Laura and I and Dick and Lynne are so happy you all are here. And we're really happy it's not raining. [Laughter]

**Audience member.** [Inaudible]

**The President.** I bet you are.

First, we're so thrilled that Dennis Edwards and the Temptations Review has joined us tonight. We expect to see some serious rug-cutting or, in this case, grass-cutting. [Laughter]

We do want to thank the families who are here. We're so grateful for the wives and husbands of the Members of the Senate and the Congress for being so patient with your loved ones and for supporting them in their service to the United States of America. We want to thank the sons and daughters as well for understanding your dad and your mom are serving something greater than themselves in life.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress from both political parties for doing such a fine job on behalf of the United States of America. You know what I know: We're blessed to live in a great country. And one

of the things that makes us great is we've got tremendous values. We believe in freedom, respect for others, personal responsibility. And today is a day for us all to come together and to celebrate those fantastic values and for us—for Laura and me and for Dick and Lynne—to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation for serving our country so well.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Enjoy yourselves.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

### Remarks in Fridley, Minnesota

June 19, 2003

Thank you all very much. Forget the spam; I like coming to Minnesota because of the people. [Laughter] Thanks for coming today, and I appreciate the warm welcome.

Speaking about sports teams, I had the honor of hosting some sports teams there in the White House this week, two of which happened to be from the great State of Minnesota. It seems like the folks up here know how to play hockey. I welcomed the men's and women's hockey national champs from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and University of Minnesota-Duluth. And I've got to tell you, I was impressed by the character of the people on those teams. I know you're proud of them. It's an honor to have met them. They told me I'm going to see them next year, so—[laughter]—just like I saw them last year. [Laughter]

But it's great to be here. I also want to thank the Hamiltons, Harold and Eleanor, for opening up their business to—[applause]. Harold told me that he started his business at the kitchen table. It's really what America is all about, when you think about it. Thirty years ago, Harold and Eleanor sat down at the kitchen table—it might have been before lunch or after lunch, I don't know which one—but they said, "Why don't we see if we can't create an opportunity for not only our family but for others, an opportunity to work."

That's what we call the entrepreneurial spirit. That's the spirit that enables Americans to realize if they work hard, they can achieve a dream. Good government recognizes the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit, and good government creates an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. And that's why I worked with the United States Congress to cut the taxes not only on the working people but on the entrepreneurs of America, so they can better realize their dreams.

I want to thank Governor Tim Pawlenty for doing in office what he told you he was going to do. I appreciate your State auditor. She, along with Tim, traveled from the airport. There was no road rage today. [Laughter] If you got caught—if you got caught in the motorcade, I'm sorry. [Laughter] But we made it in record time from the airport. [Laughter]

I appreciate other State leaders—the Lieutenant Governor is here; the speaker is here; the majority leader of the State house is here. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

I just had a chance to not only visit with the owner of this fine company, but I had a chance to visit with other entrepreneurs—some of whom I'll mention in my address—and some of the good folks who work for the companies, good, hard-working Minnesota folks who are going to receive significant tax benefit, significant tax relief.

See, one of the things that I understand is, in Washington, DC, when we talk about money, we are not talking about the Government's money. We're talking about the people's money.

And I had a chance to visit with some of the people whose money we're talking about, and what they intend to do with it. The message I heard over and over again from moms and dads was that they intend to save it for their children's future, and that's really important. It means people in this part of the world understand that a responsible society is one in which moms and dads understand their most important responsibility is to love their children with all your heart and all their soul.

I met Deborah Simonet. She's an application developer for 3M. She's a single mom.