

So this is a process here, and in that you love to follow the process, I will give you some insight into what I think is going to happen in the process. It's just going—it's like water cutting through a rock. It's just a matter of time. We're just going to keep working and working and working, reminding the American people that we have a serious problem and a great opportunity to act not as politicians but as states men and women to solve a problem.

And so—oh, I know, I've read about so-and-so, "We're not going to talk about this," and, "We're going to throw down this marker." But in the meantime, the people are watching Washington, and nothing is happening, except you got a President who's willing to talk about the issue and a President who, by the way, is going to keep talking about the issue until we get people to the table.

I repeat to you, Keith, the Social Security issue is a really important issue for an upcoming generation. I mean, imagine realizing that we've got a problem and then not doing anything about it and watching a young generation get taxed, perhaps by as much as a payroll tax of 18 percent. How would that make somebody feel? That we shirked our duty, that we weren't responsible citizens.

Secondly, we've been at this for a couple of months, looking forward, and it takes a while in Washington, DC. Now, I know people want things done tomorrow—or yesterday, and if they're not done, they say, "Well, the thing has fallen apart." That's not the experience I've had in Washington, DC. I can remember the tax debate, where things didn't happen quite as quickly as some liked, but nevertheless, we got something done. And I'm convinced we're going to get other things done here in Washington.

But the President has got to push. He's got to keep leading, and that's exactly what I'm going to do. And when we get something done, there will be plenty of time to share the credit. People—to me, this is an issue that is one in which people from both parties ought to take great pride in coming to the table to get something done.

One thing is for certain: The party that I represent is leading. I mean, we're willing to take the lead and say, "Here's what we

believe. Here's why we believe it," willing to take a message to the American people that is a positive message and one that says, "We recognize a problem. Now let's work together to solve it." And so I think as people make their calculations, that I think the American people are going to end up saying to those who have been willing to lead on the issue and talk about the issue and be constructive on the issue, "Thanks for what you're doing, and we'll send you back up there with our vote, because that's the kind of spirit we like."

Listen, thank you all for coming out. Enjoyed it.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mikhail Khodorkovsky, founder and former chief executive officer, YUKOS Oil Co., who was convicted of fraud and tax evasion on May 31 in Russia; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; former President Jiang Zemin of China; William H. Pryor, Jr., judicial nominee, U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; Janice R. Brown, judicial nominee, U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Statement on the Proliferation Security Initiative

May 31, 2005

Since the Proliferation Security Initiative was launched in Krakow, Poland, 2 years ago, nations around the world have been cooperating to develop new and dynamic approaches to stop the global trafficking of weapons of mass destruction. To counter proliferation networks, we are working in common cause with like-minded states prepared to make maximum use of their laws and capabilities to deny rogue states, terrorists, and black marketeers access to WMD-related materials and delivery means.

Today, more than 60 countries are supporters of the PSI. Its global reach continues to expand, most recently by endorsements from Argentina, Georgia, and Iraq. The goals of PSI have been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1540.

Through training exercises involving military, law enforcement, customs, intelligence, and legal experts, many PSI partners are developing new tools to improve their national and collective capacities to interdict WMD and related shipments—whether on land, at sea, or in the air.

On this foundation, PSI partners are building a record of success by stopping the transshipment of WMD-related materials, prosecuting proliferation networks, and shutting down front companies trafficking in WMD materials.

I urge all responsible states to join this global campaign by endorsing the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles and by committing to work to end the security threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and an Exchange With Reporters

June 1, 2005

President Bush. Mr. President, welcome back.

We've just had a wide-ranging discussion on very important issues. We spent time talking about our bilateral relations. I would characterize our bilateral relations as strong. We spent time talking about the continent of Africa.

And Mr. President, I want to thank you for your leadership. South Africa is a great country. The President has used his position to not only better the lives of his own people but to work to bring stability and peace to the region and to the continent.

We talked about several situations that are of concern to our Government, most notably Darfur. I want to thank you for your leadership there. The President has got troops there. Deputy Secretary Zoellick is on the way to Darfur. This is a serious situation. As you know, former Secretary of State Colin Powell, with my concurrence, declared the situation a genocide. Our Government has put a lot of money to help deal with the human suffering there.

Later on today I'll be meeting with the head of NATO, who has agreed to help the AU position troops so that humanitarian aid can reach these poor folks as well as getting—bringing stability and hopefully some breathing room so there can be a political agreement. But the President gave me some good advice on that situation, and I want to thank you for that.

As well, we'll discuss, later on, ways to cooperate to make the world a more peaceful place. But Mr. President, again, I really appreciate you coming. It's great to see you.

President Mbeki. Thank you very much, President. I must say thank you very much, Mr. President, for asking us to come. And again I must say I agree very much with the President about the state of the relations between our two governments and the two countries, indeed very strong. And President, I appreciate it very much the commitment you have demonstrated now for some years with regard to helping us to meet our own domestic South African challenges as well as the challenges on the African continent.

They are—I'm afraid you have—I'm going to create more problems for you, President—[laughter]—because I'm going to ask for even more support.

President Bush. That's all right. [Laughter]

President Mbeki. Because the contribution of the United States to helping us to solve the issues that lead to peace and security on the continent, that contribution is very vital. The contribution, President, to helping us in terms of the economic recovery and development of the continent, particularly via NEPAD, is very important.

And I—we believe very strongly, President, that the forthcoming G-8 summit in Gleneagles in Scotland, has the possibility to communicate a very strong, positive message about movement on the African continent away from poverty, under development, these conflicts. And clearly, your presence, Mr. President, in terms of the practical outcomes, your contribution to the practical outcomes of the G-8 summit is critically important.

But thanks very much.

President Bush. Thanks.