

Mar. 22 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

My nephews, David and Jeremy, may not think this is such good news because it may mean for them higher standards, tougher tests, and probably more homework. They may find themselves and certainly their children going to schools that are radically different learning systems than what we see today, as different from what they know today as this lunar module is from the propeller airplane.

This is the most visited museum in the world. And it is that because it stands as a symbol of what can happen when we unleash America's creative genius. We need to unleash that creative genius to create the best schools in the world.

Jeremy and David's parents, Jane and Bill, will be doing what the President just said. They'll be going back to school, too, because whatever they learned growing up isn't enough to live and work in the world the way it is today. And in downtown Dallas and in Maryville and everywhere, communities will be finding that the school can't do it all, or even most—help a child grow up the way we had the chance to grow up.

Doing well at home is as important as doing well overseas and will be infinitely more complex because the army the President has to mobilize is every American.

An enterprising reporter found our moth-

er right after I was nominated. And she told him, "When Lamar grew up, I was teaching and Andy was on the school board. And at the dinner table we talked about better schools." We need that kind of talk going on at every dinner table in America.

Our Education President can mobilize that army, can get that kind of talk going and I hope I can be a sparkplug for change to help him do that.

Thank you.

Note: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. at the National Air and Space Museum. In the ceremony, the following persons were referred to: William J. Carl III, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, TX, who gave the invocation and introduced the President; Mr. Carl's wife, Jane, sister of Secretary Alexander, and their sons, Jeremy and David; former Secretary of Labor William E. Brock III; former Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird; John Minor Wisdom, senior circuit judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; former Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, Jr.; David T. Kearns, nominee for Deputy Secretary of Education; Ted Sanders, Under Secretary of Education; Secretary Alexander's wife, Honey, and children, Andrew, Leslee, Kathryn, and William; and the Secretary's parents, Flo and Andrew Alexander.

Statement on the Strategic Defense Initiative

March 22, 1991

Eight years ago, the Strategic Defense Initiative spurred research and development of technologies necessary to defend the United States and our allies from the threat posed by ballistic missiles. Since 1983, SDI has accomplished much. Technological and engineering breakthroughs have brought us closer to smart or even brilliant defenses. We have proved that it is possible to intercept a ballistic missile warhead in space. But much work remains to be done before we have the defenses we need.

Even as we are hopeful that we can achieve a more stable strategic balance with

the Soviet Union, the threat from ballistic missile proliferation is growing. Today, U.S. forces abroad and U.S. allies live under a growing threat from ballistic missile attack. While the Patriot air defense system performed remarkably well, we can do far better in protecting our troops and our friends and allies. We will have to, because we will face much more dangerous threats than the Scud. Moreover, the decisions we make on SDI today will affect our capabilities into the next century. By then, the

United States itself may also face a greater threat from ballistic missiles.

The primary limit to our ability to develop the technology necessary for ballistic missile defense is our commitment to do so. The pace of our research has been limited not by technological difficulties but by Congress' unwillingness to fund SDI adequately. I have listened to the concerns of congressional leaders and taken into account the changing strategic environment.

As a result, I have refocused SDI's priorities to provide protection against limited ballistic missile strikes. Now it is up to Congress to respond by supporting my request for SDI funding.

Ballistic missile defenses threaten no one. Not only can they help preserve the peace but, as we have seen, they can save lives. Our troops and allies in the Middle East have already benefited from them. America deserves no less.

Appointment of Ed A. Hewett as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Soviet Affairs *March 22, 1991*

The President announced today the appointment of Dr. Ed A. Hewett as a Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and Senior Director for Soviet Affairs.

Dr. Hewett has been a senior fellow in the foreign policy studies program at the Brookings Institution since 1981. From 1971 to 1981 he was associate professor of economics at the University of Texas at Austin. He has served as visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University and has been a visiting scholar at Harvard's Russian Research Center and the Institute for World Economy in Budapest. A founder and editor of the journal *Soviet Economy*, Dr. Hewett served as chairman of the National Council for

Soviet and East European Research and president of the Association for Comparative Economic Studies. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Economics Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Dr. Hewett is the author of many books and articles on Soviet affairs. His most recent books are "Reforming the Soviet Economy: Equality vs. Efficiency" (1988) and "Open for Business: The Soviet Union and the Global Economy" (in press).

Dr. Hewett graduated from Colorado State University (B.S. and M.S., 1964 and 1966) and from the University of Michigan (Ph.D. in economics with a certificate in Soviet studies, 1971). He speaks Russian and Hungarian.

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The President's News Conference With President Turgut Ozal of Turkey *March 23, 1991*

President Bush. Mr. President, welcome to the White House.

Let me just say that we've had a very pleasant, informal visit at Camp David, in perhaps the worst weather I've seen up there. But in spite of the weather, President Ozal and I have had a chance to go over many issues, bilateral issues, and of course,

we talked about the Gulf area. I had an opportunity to thank him eyeball-to-eyeball for the best communications I believe any two countries could possibly have had, for his advice, and for his steadfast adherence to principle from day one. The Turkish Government never wavered one inch. And