

I offer a new direction: Invest in American jobs, American education, control health care costs, bring this country together again. I want the future of this country to be as bright and brilliant as its past, and it can be if we have the courage to change.

Mr. Lehrer. President Bush, your closing statement.

President Bush. Well, let me tell you a little what it's like to be President. In the Oval Office, you can't predict what kind of crisis is going to come up. You have to make tough calls. You can't be on one hand this way and one hand another. You can't take different positions on these difficult issues.

Then you need a philosophical—I'd call it a philosophical underpinning; mine for foreign affairs is democracy and freedom. Look at the dramatic changes around the world. The cold war is over. The Soviet Union is no more, and we're working with a democratic country. Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, the Baltics are free. Take a look at the Middle East. We had to stand up against a tyrant. The United States came together as we haven't in many, many years. We kicked this man out of Kuwait. In the process, as a result of that will and that decision and that toughness, we now have ancient enemies talking peace in the Middle East. Nobody would have dreamed it possible.

I think the biggest dividend of making these tough calls is the fact that we are less afraid of nuclear war. Every parent out

there has much less worry that their kids are going to be faced with nuclear holocaust. All this is good.

On the domestic side, what we must do is have change that empowers people, not change for the sake of change, tax and spend. We don't need to do that anymore. What we need to do is empower people. We need to invest and save. We need to do better in education. We need to do better in job retraining. We need to expand our exports, and they're going very, very well indeed. We need to strengthen the American family.

I hope as President that I've earned your trust. I've admitted it when I make a mistake, but then I go on and help try to solve the problems. I hope I've earned your trust, because a lot of being President is about trust and character. And I ask for your support for 4 more years to finish this job.

Thank you very, very much.

Mr. Lehrer. Don't go away yet. I just want to thank the three panelists and thank the three candidates for participating, President Bush, Governor Clinton, and Mr. Perot. They will appear again together on October the 15th and again on October 19th. Next Tuesday there will be a debate among the three candidates for Vice President.

And for now, from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, I'm Jim Lehrer. Thank you, and good night.

Note: The debate began at 6:03 p.m. in the Field House at Washington University.

Remarks to the Community in St. Louis

October 11, 1992

Thank you all. Thanks for that great rally. And thanks for the welcome back to Missouri. Thank you very, very much. Fantastic. Hey listen, I think you guys were—I am glad to be out of that tag-team match over there. I think with my dear friends the Gatlin Brothers here and Lee, my other dear friend Lee Greenwood, you had the best of all worlds being over here, not over

there.

You know, these debate things, the tension mounts. But there's one good thing about them: You can look right into that camera and take your message, unfiltered, right out there to the American people. You can get around, and I think our message is a message of hope. The other side would have you believe—and the only way they

can win is if they try to convince the American people that we are a nation in decline. And we are not. We are the United States. We are a rising nation, the most respected in the entire world.

Yes, we have problems. And on our Agenda for American Renewal we've got the answer to fix them. But it would be a sorry thing to think the only way you can do it is to tear down our country. And I'm glad I had an opportunity tonight to stand up for America and stand up for what is right.

We need to win this State, and I need your help. But we also need something else. We need to reelect Senator Kit Bond. He's doing an outstanding job there in the Senate. He's here with us tonight, and a great United States Senator. If we had more like him, we wouldn't have people going around yelling "Clean House!" We need to clean House and Senate; but keep Senator Bond there and send more like him, and watch us move this country forward. Clean the

House, that's right.

You heard me tonight on there getting my 2 minutes in every once in a while, I'll tell you. But all I want to say to you is thank you for this. Do not let them get you discouraged about the United States. I believe I am going to win this election because I believe I have the trust of the American people. The election is about world peace. The election is about who has brought change. Governor Clinton talks about change, change, change; that's all you'll have left in your pocket if you put him in there. We don't need any more tax-and-spend. Stay with our program, and watch us move this country forward.

Thank you all. And on a night like this, Lee says it better, but "God Bless the U.S.A." Thank you all very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 8:30 p.m. at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers the Gatlin Brothers and Lee Greenwood.

Remarks on Signing the Benjamin National Franklin Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill of Rights Act in Springfield, Pennsylvania

October 12, 1992

Curt, thank you so very much. And I just can't tell you what this event means to me. I want to offer a special salute to Curt Weldon. He has got to be, when you look at the whole Nation, the firefighter's, the emergency responder's best friend. He is unbelievable in his steadfast support for everything we believe in. Curt is very generous in his assessment of my role, but it is his work, his labor, his efforts that make this historic bill here—gives us this bill to sign today. I want to salute Chief Gallagher; Gene Bidoli, the president of the Firemen's Association of Delaware County. I want to salute the 20 national presidents that are here today representing a million and a half emergency responders all across our great country.

It's an honor to be here. And I guess like every kid in America, I grew up won-

dering whether I could ever be a fireman. Barbara saw me drilling a hole in the Lincoln Bedroom the other day, trying to put a fire pole down, curving it around to go down into the Oval Office. But I am here today to sign the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial Commemorative Medal and Fire Service Bill of Rights Act. It authorizes the minting of a medal commemorating Benjamin Franklin's contribution to the advancement of science and the American fire service.

The activities funded through the sale of the medal we're going to authorize today will help to carry out your important bill of rights. The proceeds will help promote education and training programs, a greater public awareness and support of the many hazards of firefighting and emergency response. And they will help assure that