

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Democratic Congressional Leaders February 13, 1993

Economic Program

Q. Mr. President, what kind of concerns are you hearing from congressional leaders?

The President. I think they want me to give them a good, credible program, and one that will get the economy—

Space Program

Q. Will you be cutting the space station, Mr. President?

The President. Tune in Wednesday. Before I discuss any specifics—I support—I think you all know I've always been a big supporter of NASA and the space program and the technologies it can represent. I think that people who care about that will be pleased by the recommendations we make.

Somalia

Q. Will the troops be coming home from Somalia?

The Vice President. Thanks for coming to the photo op. [Laughter]

Q. Will the troops be coming home from Somalia, sir, by April?

The President. Well, I'm encouraged by what the Secretary-General said today. This does need to go from a U.S. mission from a U.N. mission. I never thought we could do it. Even though I think President Bush hoped we could, I never thought we could do it by the end of January. And I'm hopeful, by the timetable he has suggested today. And I'll do some work on that Monday.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:25 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address February 13, 1993

Good afternoon, my fellow Americans. On Wednesday night I will present my plan to generate jobs and increase the incomes of the American people. This morning I want to talk with you for a few moments about that program, its goals, and the thinking that went into it.

As I have traveled our country over the last year and a half, a single theme has emerged repeatedly from all of you in every region and from every walk of life. That theme is the need for change: bold, comprehensive change to reverse the trickle-down policies of the 1980's and restore the vitality of the American dream.

Over the last 12 years, while the middle class saw their tax burdens rise and their incomes go down, the wealthiest Americans, whose incomes went up, often by paperwork manipulation and moving jobs overseas, saw their taxes go down. Higher deficits came with lower taxes on the wealthy. And those deficits forced Government to cut back on essential services to

the middle class, the working poor, and the neediest Americans. Good families in embattled neighborhoods saw their children getting by with outdated school books, going to school in neighborhoods that were ever more dangerous, while the wealthiest Americans in protected communities watched their bankbooks grow. Our economy suffered through two grinding recessions, and our job-creating engine stalled. The status quo simply isn't working for working families anymore.

The experts say we're in a robust economic recovery. And to be fair, there are some good signs: our best companies doing better, people being able to refinance their homes, and consumer confidence on the upswing since the election.

But the jobs just aren't there yet. The unemployment rate has been over 7 percent for 14 months now, and we're 3 million jobs behind where we ordinarily would be in a real economic