Government regulations as charged in the original report? And where did that fall in terms of the confidence that members——

Attorney General Reno. I concluded that, based on the report and the responses to the report, that the Director had exhibited a serious deficiency in judgment regarding matters in the report.

Q. Mr. President, we have seen here an Agency maneuvering the White House, the press, the public, and getting their own head of the Agency that they want. We have seen them push out a man here, and let me tell you—don’t you think it’s about time to protect American people from any actions, operations of the FBI, that we should write a charter for them in Congress? They only exist by an Executive order which Teddy Roosevelt wrote in 1908.

The President. Well, I don’t agree with the characterization you made of what has occurred. So I can’t comment on it. I flat disagree.

Q. Would you look into that, because you obviously have not looked into that?

The President. No, I just disagree.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:15 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders
July 19, 1993

Q. Mr. President, have you given up on a utility tax, and how much of an increase would you take on a gas tax? And besides that——

The President. Well, I’m just sitting here meeting with the chairmen, and I’m going to also, you know, keep working through this with the conferees. And we’re going to see what we can do. But we’re just beginning our conversations, so I can’t answer those questions.

Q. Sir, what qualifications will the new FBI Director have?

The President. Good ones.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Nomination for General Counsel of the Environmental Protection Agency
July 19, 1993

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Jean Nelson to be General Counsel of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“Through her service as a law enforcement official and environmental activist, Jean Nelson has been consistently recognized for her achievements,” said the President. “I am confident that her service at the EPA will be marked by the same level of excellence as her previous work.”

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Louis Freeh To Be FBI Director
July 20, 1993

Good morning. Please sit down. Mr. Vice President; Attorney General Reno; the Acting FBI Director, Floyd Clark; former Director of the FBI, Judge William Webster, we’re de-
lighted to have you here. Senator D’Amato; Judge Robert Bonner, the DEA Administrator; the representatives of all the law enforcement agencies who are here and the friends and family of the nominee to be the next Director of the FBI.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is the Federal Government’s cutting edge in the fight against crime. Its agents are the best trained in the world. Its sophisticated technology enables law enforcement agents to catch criminals with a fragment of a fingerprint. As we saw only recently in the remarkably swift arrest in the World Trade Center bombing, the Agency continues its preeminent place in the law enforcement world. The Agency itself must clearly adapt to new times. It must continue the progress of opening its ranks to minorities and to women that began in recent years. It must work cooperatively with other agencies in the United States and in international partnerships against crime with police forces of other nations.

Yesterday I announced my intention to appoint a new Director of the FBI. Today I am pleased to nominate a law enforcement legend to be the Director of the FBI, Judge Louis Freeh. Judge Freeh knows the FBI. He is a highly decorated former agent and supervisor. He has investigated and prosecuted some of the most notorious and complex crimes of our time. He is experienced, energetic, and independent. He will be both good and tough, good for the FBI and tough on criminals.

It can truly be said that Louis Freeh is the best possible person to head the FBI as it faces new challenges and a new century. He has spent his career in the Federal justice system. After working his way through law school, he became an FBI agent. He knows the Agency as only an agent can, working the dangerous streets. He helped lead the waterfront investigations that led to the criminal convictions of 125 people, including leading organized crime figures.

From the FBI, Judge Freeh became a Federal prosecutor in New York City. He prosecuted and won convictions against the leaders of what was then the largest heroin importation case in our history, the legendary “Pizza Connection” case. The trial lasted over a year. Among other defendants, Judge Freeh sent the head of the Sicilian mafia to jail. Observers were dazzled. He was called, and I quote, “one of the Government’s toughest investigators, a ram-rod-straight and ferocious crusader against the mob, an investigative genius.”

Three years ago, as Judge Freeh neared the end of his work as a prosecutor, the Department of Justice selected him to head a special task force in one of the most notorious and difficult criminal cases of our day. A mysterious bomber was at work in the South, mailing parcels that killed Federal Judge Robert Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, and civil rights leader Robbie Robinson in Savannah, Georgia. Many predicted that the case would never be solved. But led by Louis Freeh, the task force tracked down the bomber, and Freeh himself prosecuted the case and obtained convictions. The bomber is now serving seven life terms in prison. In recognition of his service to the law, President Bush appointed Louis Freeh to the Federal bench. Now Judge Freeh has agreed to leave that lifetime post to serve his Nation once again in a difficult new job. There are few jobs in our Government that are more important.

Our Federal law enforcement agencies face an ever-changing array of threats. Drugs continue to ravage our young people and our streets. Law-abiding citizens can be caught in the crossfire between gangs, today equipped like armies. White-collar swindlers practice inventive forms of what Al Capone once called “the legitimate rackets.” And our Nation, so long immune from the terrorism that has plagued the world, now faces that threat, too.

With Attorney General Janet Reno, Drug Policy Coordinator Lee Brown, and now, we hope, FBI Director Louis Freeh, our administration has a street-smart front line against crime. These law enforcers did not learn about crime in theory books, they learned about it on the streets and in the courtroom. And they have learned the best lessons of State and local enforcers. With all of their hard-won experience, this crimefighting team can work hard every day to protect the American people’s right to safety in their homes and in their communities.

I must tell you that I am very proud and very grateful that Judge Freeh was willing to leave his lifetime appointment on the Federal bench for the somewhat less secure work that the rest of us find in the executive branch. [Laughter] I hope the American people will be
grateful as well, and I look forward to his speedy
confirmation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:27 a.m. in the
Rose Garden at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders
July 20, 1993

Representative Dan Rostenkowski

Q. Mr. President, do you think that Chairman
Rostenkowski’s legal problems will have any ef-
fect on the budget process?

The President. No. We’ve got a lot of work
to do. Chairman Rostenkowski’s done a great
job with this budget so far, and we’ve worked
very closely together. And we’re going to work
today. I don’t know anything about the rest of
it. I just know that we’re going to work. That’s
what we all got hired to do, and we’re going
to do our job.

Energy Tax

Q. Are you ready to give up on an energy
tax?

The President. No.

Q. Does an energy tax have to be part of
the program? There’s a lot of move on Capitol
Hill against it.

The President. I know it. But if you look at
all the numbers, it’s hard to get there without
it. So, I think we ought to——

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:41 p.m. in the
Old Family Dining Room at the White House.
A tape was not available for verification of the
content of this exchange.

Remarks to Democratic Members of the House of Representatives
July 20, 1993

Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President,
Mr. Speaker, Mr. Leader. Ladies and gentle-
men, as all of you know I have just spent several
days away from Washington, stopping along the
way to look at the floods in Iowa and going
through California to meet with the National
Education Association and then on to Japan
where I met with the leaders of the seven large
industrial nations of the world, which included
an agreement to reduce tariffs by historic rates,
agreed to continue our common efforts to pro-
mote democracy and economic progress in Rus-
sia, and reached an agreement with Japan that,
for the first time, convinced the Japanese explicit-
ly to reduce dramatically their trade surplus
with us and to work with us with specific nu-
merical objective criteria to deal with that prob-
lem. Then I went to Korea to see our young
men and women in uniform there defending
freedom at a distant outpost. I got within about
10 yards of the dividing line between North
and South Korea, the Bridge of No Return,
then flew back through Hawaii to see the many,
many thousands of sailors there at Pearl Harbor
along with the leaders of our military in the
Pacific Command. And then I came back with
Leader Gephardt on Saturday to go to St. Louis
to visit the Governors who have been victimized
by the floods, and their people have.

All these trips have a common thread, as dis-
parate as they were. I had an opportunity to
see people who were serving this country and
people who are living here and working hard,
making our jobs possible. And I was immensely
moved, as I always am, by the incredible char-
acter and courage and good common sense of
the American people.

Now, we come here at a difficult time for
the country and for the world. The world is
in a significant economic crisis. All the wealthier
countries of the world are facing difficulties in
creating new jobs. For a very long time there
has been a kind of political paralysis in this
country where we always knew what we had