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-