

say, "Tax the wealthy. Give me the new spending, but forget about the budget cuts."

In other words, if everybody looks at this just through the prism of how it will immediately affect you, it's a nonstarter, because there's no way you can bat three for three. We can't get there.

And that's why I say to all of you what I have asked the American people to do; I invite your efforts to improve this, to say what's wrong with it, to say how we can make it better. That's fine. But ask the question, not just what's in it for me, but what's in it for us. This country has got to change. We know we cannot stay on the present course. We know we cannot stay on the present course.

We also know if we look ahead to the future that the next 20 years could be the best years this country ever had. But we've got to increase productivity. We've got to increase job generation. We've got to increase income, and we've got to increase our ability to rely on all the American people. We do not have a person to waste. I believe this program achieves those objectives, and I ask for your support.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Chamber of Commerce officers Ivan Gorr, chairman of the board; Richard Leshner, president; and William Marcell, vice chairman of the board.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali

February 23, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, is an airdrop enough to relieve the suffering? Will that do the job of getting food to people?

The President. Well, if we can reach an agreement, it will help, I think.

Q. How close are you to an agreement, Mr. President?

The President. I don't know. We can't talk until you leave. [*Laughter*]

Q. Do you think that there is some risk, though, of this being the first step to an engagement that we won't be able to get out of?

The President. Not necessarily, no. Not at all.

Q. Why not?

The President. Because what we're discussing is very different. It has no combat connotations whatever, and it's purely humanitarian and quite limited.

Q. Isn't there a risk of people being shot at by antiaircraft artillery?

The President. Well, if we do it, we'll have an announcement that deals with that. We think the risks are quite small.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom

February 24, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, are you going to make an announcement on Bosnia today? On the airdrop?

The President. I don't think we'll have a final announcement today. But the Prime Minister

and I certainly are going to discuss that along with a number of other things.

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, are you concerned that American airdrops might endanger British troops on the ground, put them subject to Serbian——

Prime Minister Major. No, I'm not remotely concerned about that. We'll discuss the airdrops. I think, as a humanitarian initiative that's very welcome. And it'll have our support. I don't think it is going to endanger British troops.

Q. What is holding you up, Mr. President, in your decision?

The President. Just going through the procedures we have to go through to discuss this with our allies.

News Conference

Q. When are you going to announce a press conference?

The President. You know, I didn't realize it had been so long since I had one. I really didn't, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International], until you mentioned it the other day. I need to give you one. I'll get—

Q. When?

The President. I'm going to take it up with our folks. I didn't even know it had been a long time, since I answer these questions all the time.

The Vice President. It seems like there is a press conference every day.

Q. That's not a press conference.

The Vice President. Oh, I know. I know.

The President. I'll do better on that.

Q. You promise?

[At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.]

Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada

Q. Do you gentlemen have anything to say about Brian Mulroney in his resignation today?

The President. I wish him well. I talked to him. We had a nice visit. And I don't think that I can add anything to the statement that was made. But I was very appreciative of the conversation we had, and I wish him well.

United Kingdom-U.S. Relations

Q. Can we ask how the special relationship is, Mr. President?

The President. Excuse me?

Q. Can we ask how the special relationship between the U.S. and Britain is?

The President. Absolutely.

Prime Minister Major. You have got the British press. [Laughter]

The President. Absolutely. It's special to me personally, and it's special to the United States, and I think it will be as long as I'm sitting here in this office.

NOTE: The exchange began at 3:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom

February 24, 1993

The President. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I want to formally welcome Prime Minister Major to the White House and to the United States. We are delighted to have him here. As I'm sure you know, he has already met earlier today with people on the Hill and with members of my Cabinet. We have just finished the first of two meetings. We talked for about an hour, and then this evening we'll have a working dinner.

About the conversations we've had so far, I'd just like to make two points. First, we covered a wide range of topics. We talked about Bosnia, as you might imagine we would. We talked about the Middle East. And then the rest of our time was spent virtually exclusively talking

about economic matters, about the upcoming meeting of the G-7; about the importance of trying to get an agreement under GATT and my commitment to that; about the absolute necessity of the United States, Europe, and Japan working together during this difficult time to try to prevent a contraction of the global economy and instead to hopefully promote growth, not only here at home but throughout the world. And we talked about that at some considerable detail.

The Prime Minister, as you know, has been in office a lot longer than I have. And I asked him for his advice about a number of things