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do it but let the thing play out. There's a process under way, and the courts will do what they're going to do. That's the way it ought to be. And I don't think I should comment.

I'll tell you, I am thankful that I live in a country with enough faith in its democracy that we're all letting this thing play out. Comedy shows are having fun with it. We're all laughing about it. The two candidates seem to be in a fairly good humor about it. When I was in Asia, I had a couple of people tell me that in some countries people would be in the streets over this. Instead, we trust our system. We just have to trust it, whether we agree with it or disagree with it. Let it play out. I just hope that we don't run out of time.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. at Maple Run Golf Course. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's Radio Address
November 25, 2000

Good morning. All across America, friends and families are still savoring the joys—and the leftovers—of a bountiful Thanksgiving. This weekend also marks the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. But even as many of us head out to buy that perfect gift for those we love, millions of Americans are also extending their generosity to people they've never met.

Last year Americans gave a record $190 billion to charitable causes: to feed the hungry, immunize children, build homes, tutor immigrants, restore parks, and send disaster relief to hard-hit people all around the world. Working with America's extensive network of nonprofit and faith-based organizations, we're making a difference, but we still have more to do.

Today I'm releasing a report from the Council of Economic Advisers that examines this resurgence of charitable giving and outlines proposals to further cultivate public generosity. I'm also announcing the launch of a new $2 million privately funded initiative designed to introduce more young Americans to the rewards of charitable giving.

Both of these efforts emerged from last year's White House Conference on Philanthropy, which Hillary and I organized to showcase America's great tradition of giving. To keep the momentum going, we also formed a task force on nonprofits and governments which will soon issue a roadmap for creating innovative partnerships between nonprofit organizations and Federal agencies. We're tackling America's toughest challenges together and making the most of the American people's enduring spirit of generosity.

Now, according to the Council of Economic Advisers, charitable gifts now exceed 2 percent of our gross domestic product, the highest level of giving in nearly three decades. Sustained by a strong economy and rising incomes, charitable giving has jumped more than 40 percent since 1995. At the same time, both donors and charities have become much more sophisticated, often using the Internet for research, education, and, increasingly, to make contributions.

Overall, 70 percent of America's households made charitable contributions last year, even those who didn't have much extra to spare. In fact, half of all Americans with incomes of less than $10,000 made a charitable contribution. And as a percentage of their net wealth, families with the lowest incomes gave much more than the wealthiest. That's both humbling and inspiring, and suggests a tremendous potential for growth in charitable giving by well-to-do Americans.

This new report also reveals that people over the age of 65 are much more likely to make charitable contributions than younger people, even after accounting for differences in income and wealth. Perhaps, having earned the wisdom of a lifetime, seniors understand that the satisfaction of charitable giving cannot be measured in dollars and cents. And they know that personal generosity is an essential ingredient in the mortar that binds our entire community together.

Given this truth, how can we do a better job of engaging younger Americans in giving? We know already that they care about their

communities, because so many are volunteering for local causes. Nearly 150,000 of them have joined AmeriCorps over the past 8 years, dedicating at least a year of their lives to public service.

According to one recent study, this youthful spirit of community can be translated into a lifetime of financial support for worthy causes but only if we engage people early and teach them the importance of philanthropy. With the help and guidance of several major philanthropic organizations, we developed a national blueprint to do just that, the Youth Giving Project.

Building on the success of a program in Michigan, this grassroots initiative will train young people to identify charitable needs in their own communities, teach them how to raise and distribute money to address those needs, and build leadership skills along the way. It will be coordinated by a nonprofit coalition of experts on youth programs that can provide local groups with training materials, access to a comprehensive web site, and expert advice.

This is just a small investment with a potentially great dividend. The baby boom generation stands poised to inherit $12 trillion from the World War II generation. And it's likely their children will inherit even more. With that in mind, we need to help younger people recognize their own capacity to do good and help them discover the rewards of generosity.

In this time of prosperity and season of sharing, let's remember: When we give what we can and give it with joy, we don't just renew the American tradition of giving, we also renew ourselves.

Thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:15 a.m. on November 24 in the Laurel Conference Room at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters
November 27, 2000

Cabinet Accomplishments/Presidential Transition

The President. Let me say, first of all, I called this Cabinet meeting in part just to thank publicly the members of this Cabinet for 8 extraordinary years of service. A number of them have been with me the whole way. And for all of them, I am very grateful.

The policies we have worked on together have been very good for America. They have sparked the longest economic expansion in history. Our welfare rolls were cut in half. We have crime at a 28-year low. And more land has been protected in the lower 48 States than at any time since Theodore Roosevelt's administration almost a century ago. This is a record that all of them can be proud of, and only a small fraction of the record that they established.

Our country is now moving forward. And in the final weeks of this administration, we are committed to maintaining a steady course. That means providing a smooth transition to the next President, whether it is Vice President Gore or Governor Bush. As you know, an appropriate legal process is now underway. That process will take a few more days to play itself out. Our job is to do what we've done for 8 years now, to focus on the business at hand.

That is why I'm signing today an Executive order creating a transition coordinating council. The council will provide the President-elect's team with coordinated services, especially regarding personnel matters. This action and other efforts by the Cabinet will well ensure that we are as prepared as we can possibly be for an orderly transition to the new administration. Meanwhile, we will be doing what we can to get ready when Congress comes back to town in a few days.

Thank you very much.

2000 Presidential Election

Q. Mr. President, do you think Governor Bush was presumptuous in declaring victory last night?

The President. Well, I don't think I should comment on what he or the Vice President says. There is an election challenge. Both of them