

Aug. 26 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

We said that there's obviously a role for the Federal Government, and let's fund our priorities. Educating our children is a priority; national defense is a priority; helping people who cannot help themselves is a priority. But folks, when the economy slows down, it's time to understand how to get it started again. And one way to help is to give people their own money back.

You see, there's a big debate in Washington about the money in Washington. Sometimes, folks up there lose sight about whose money it is. That money is not the Government's money; it's the people's money. And we did the right thing with sharing that money with the people who pay the bills.

We've taken action. As you can see, this is an administration that, when we see a problem, we move. We don't stick our finger in the air trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing. I don't need a poll or focus group to tell me what to think. I do what I think is right for the American people. And we'll just let the political chips fall where they may. And the right thing to do was to cut the taxes.

But really, the right thing for me to do is to travel our land, come to places like

the Mon Valley, and thank you all very much for what you do. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for loving your families. Thank you for helping a neighbor in need—thank you from the bottom of my heart for walking across the street when you see somebody in your neighborhood who needs a helping hand. Thank you for going to your places of worship and rallying the good faith and good charity inherent in programs all aimed at helping somebody help themselves.

Now, this is a great land. It's a great land because we're blessed with the greatest people on the face of the Earth. It's my honor to be amongst such people today. Thank you for having me. May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. at the Irvin Plant facility of U.S. Steel's Mon Valley Works. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Leo W. Gerard, international president, and Ross McLellan, Local 2227 president, United Steelworkers of America; and Thomas J. Usher, chairman and chief executive officer, USX Corp.

## Remarks on Induction Into the Little League Hall of Excellence in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania

August 26, 2001

Steve, thank you very much. You know, years ago, when I was playing on those dusty Little League fields in west Texas, I never dreamt I would be President of the United States. And I can assure you I never dreamt I would be admitted into the Little League Hall of Excellence. It's a high honor to be here. It's a high honor for Laura and me to be here. I want to thank you so very much for your hospitality.

One of the things I did dream about, though, was making it to Williamsport,

Pennsylvania, for the Little League World Series. And to all the teams that got here, I want to offer my heartiest congratulations. I particularly want to welcome the Japanese team and wish you all the best. Welcome to America.

I must confess, I have a soft spot in my heart for the Florida team. I know and like your Governor. *[Laughter]*

But to all the teams that were here, congratulations.

A couple of words I want to say: First, I want to say thanks to all the moms and dads who participate in Little League all around the world. Little League is a family sport. I can remember my mother sitting behind the—behind the backstop in Midland, Texas, telling me what to do. [*Laughter*] She's still telling me what to do. And my advice to all the players is, listen to your mother. [*Laughter*]

But for all the moms and dads who take special time out of their lives to make sure their kids are able to play the great sport of baseball, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You prioritize your family, and that's crucial for a healthy world, to make sure our families remain strong. I equate Little League Baseball with good families.

I want to thank all the coaches for working with the kids. You're not only teaching the kids how to throw and hit; you're teach-

ing them incredibly important values, the values of good, clean competition, the values of teamwork, the values of working with somebody to win for something greater than yourself.

It's an honor to receive this award from such a fabulous organization as Little League Baseball and, on behalf of the Presidency, thank you for what you do.

May God bless the teams who play here, may God bless the families represented here, and may God bless the great United States of America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:35 p.m. at Howard J. Lamade Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer, Little League Baseball, Inc.; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus *August 27, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period from June 1 through July 31, 2001. The previous submission covered from April 1 through May 31, 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to resume the proximity talks that started in December 1999. During the reporting period, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to

provide diplomatic support to this process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29.