

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With New Jersey Gubernatorial Candidate
Bret Schundler and an Exchange With Reporters
July 2, 2001

The President. Mr. Mayor, congratulations. The Vice President and I are so honored you and Lynn came to the Oval Office. It gives us a chance to, one, congratulate you on winning the primary and congratulate you on being a great reformer in Jersey City. I don't think people understand, but that's a city with 6 percent Republicans, and yet he continues to win overwhelmingly because he's got great ideas. And we look forward to helping you become the Governor of New Jersey.

I think you and I share something in common: We're always underestimated. And a lot of people didn't think I'd be sitting here. Of course, a lot of people didn't think you would be sitting here, either. And so, I appreciate your record.

I'm intrigued by the idea of eliminating the tollbooth in New Jersey. I think the working people in New Jersey are going to really appreciate that idea, and when you couple that with your strong vision of education reform, I think you've got a good chance of winning.

[*At this point, Jersey City Mayor Schundler made brief remarks.*]

The President. You're going to win. [Laughter] We're glad to have you.

Vice President Dick Cheney's Health

Q. How do you feel, Mr. Vice President?

The Vice President. Very good.

Q. Are you sore?

The Vice President. A little tender, still. It will pass.

Q. Are you taking any painkillers or anything?

The Vice President. No.

Florida Offshore Drilling

Q. Mr. President, did you talk to your brother about—

The President. We were thinking about doing some jumping jacks before you came in, but—

Q. Go right ahead. [Laughter]

Q. Did you ask your brother about oil and gas leases, Mr. President?

The President. What?

Q. Have you had a chance to talk to your brother about oil and gas leases, as they were announced today?

New Jersey Gubernatorial Election

Q. Are you going to campaign for him? Make any stops?

The President. What?

Q. Are you going to campaign in New Jersey for him?

The President. That's what we're going to discuss, how we can help him. We'd like to help him in any way we can. We want him to win.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lynn Schundler, wife of Mayor Schundler. A reporter referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.