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Statement on the Death of Heinz C. Prechter
July 6, 2001

Laura and I were saddened to hear of the death of Heinz Prechter. He will be missed. He was a great friend of ours as well as the entire Bush family. He was an honorable and loyal man. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this very difficult time.

The President's Radio Address
July 7, 2001

Good morning. My second working day as President, I sent to Congress the boldest plan to improve our public schools in a generation, a plan to raise educational standards for every child and to require new accountability from every school. This reform gives our public schools greater resources and insists on proven results in return, not just for some of our children but for all of them.

The plan has now passed both Houses of Congress with strong margins and broad bipartisan support. We stand on the verge of dramatic improvements for America's public schools. We're increasing funding for public schools and insisting on results. We are maximizing local control to give Governors, school boards, and local people more say in their schools. And we are giving parents unprecedented new choices to help their children get a quality education.

Yet, all of this will happen only when Congress joins with me to take the final, crucial step of resolving differences between the House and the Senate versions and sending an education reform bill to my desk.

Across America, Governors are waiting to work with their legislatures to implement reform. Local school boards are eager to put the new flexibility my plan offers into action. We are ready to provide teachers with the best research on the science of reading this very fall. We need to act quickly, because States and schools must make decisions on how to use their new flexibility and live up to their new responsibility.

We have come so far; we're almost there; and we must finish the job. Completing the work of education reform is a final exam for Congress before they go home in August for summer vacation and before America's children go back to school.

The differences between the education reform bills that passed with large majorities in both House and Senate are small. Both bills call for strong accountability. The Senate bill gives States more flexibility. The House bill is more fiscally responsible and focuses Federal dollars where they will do the most good.

With prompt action this month, our public schools can begin to implement the first of the education reforms this fall, with guidance to help teachers use the latest research to teach all our children to read.

This is summer vacation for our children, and it can be a season of accomplishment for our Nation's leaders. I urge the Congress to act swiftly on my education reform plan.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:40 a.m. on July 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 6

but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to America's Promise Participants
July 9, 2001

Thank you all very much, Marc. There is no more important goal for America than to make sure every person realizes the promise of our great land, and I want to thank the good folks of America's Promise for working tirelessly to make sure that goal reaches throughout all our country. My administration stands side by side with you.

And here in Washington, we can help. It's important for the Congress to pass the education reform package to make sure no child gets left behind. It's important for Congress to pass a good and meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights to make sure all in America have got good access to health care. And it's important for America for Congress to pass my Faith-Based Initiative so that Government can stand side by side with the soldiers in the armies of compassion to make sure America's promise is rich and real for every citizen.

I'm honored that the first chairman of America's Promise agreed to be our Nation's Secretary of State. He's doing a fantastic job for our country. Welcome, Mr. Secretary. Like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] Thank you for being here, Alma.

I want to thank my friend Marc Racicot for being the chairman of the board. I want to thank Peter Gallagher. I welcome my friend the Governor of Maine, Angus King, for being here. I want to thank Ted Stevens and Connie Morella as well for being here—Members of the United States Congress. I want to thank the first lady of Michigan, Michelle Engler, for joining us as well. It is my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden Jackie Joyner-Kersee, as well as Bob. Thank you all, and thank you for being such a great supporter for America's Promise.

I also want to thank the members of the board of directors, as well as the members of the Youth Leadership Team, 15 of our best in America who are here today. Please stand. [*Applause*] Just as I was receiving the organization's annual report, I also had an opportunity to say hello to the 15. And our country is in great hands when you look in the eyes of these 15 fantastic leaders. The record has been impressive, and the commitment has been deep. And I want to thank you, Marc, for continuing to challenge corporate America and individuals with the simple and urgent message: There's a need in every community, and a responsible society meets those needs.

Today we're joined by several men and women from around the country who represent the promise of America's Promise:

Mary Mahoney, the president and chief executive officer of Howard Johnson's. Where's Mary? Hi, Mary. Thank you for coming. She's been a mentor, and she's inspired employees at more than 500 hotels to serve as mentors. I want to thank you very much for your dedication.

Leon Assael, the dean of College of Dentistry at the University of Kentucky, is here. Mr. Dean, where are you? Thank you for coming, Dean. They staffed a mobile dental van and asked volunteer faculty and students to serve more than 12,500 disadvantaged students in Appalachia. Thank you for your service to the country.

Reverend Clifford Barnett of Virginia's Brighton Rock AME Church. Thank you for coming, Reverend. He set up a safe haven for children to come to, a place of