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tripling of current growth rates, but that's not unprecedented. After all, look at the dramatic growth that occurred in Asia in the 1990s.

With the world's help and the right policies, I know—I know—that the developing world can reform their own countries—I know it can happen—and, therefore, better their own lives. They can live in a world where their children's dreams are ignited by liberty and learning, not undermined by poverty and disease. They can live under governments that deliver basic service and protect basic rights. The demands of human dignity know no borders and know no boundaries. They are universal. And so are the gifts of creativity and enterprise that lead to prosperity. When governments repress and punish those gifts, no amount—no amount—of aid is sufficient to lift people from poverty. When governments honor these gifts, every nation can know the blessings of prosperity.

People across the world are working to relieve poverty and suffering, and I'm proud of their efforts. I appreciate Bono. I appreciate groups like the Sisters of Charity. Some were motivated by simple decency; some serve a God who is impatient with injustice; and all have made this commitment. We cannot leave behind half of humanity as we seek a better future for ourselves. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. There are no second-class citizens in the human race.

I carry this commitment in my soul, and I'll carry it with me to Monterrey next week. As the civilized world mobilizes against the forces of terror, we must also embrace the forces of good. By offering hope where there is none, by relieving suffering and hunger where there is too much, we will make the world not only safer but better.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:21 p.m. in the atrium. In his remarks, he referred to Enrique V. Iglesias, President, and Jose A. Fourquet, U.S. Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, archbishop of Washington; and Resident Commissioner Anibal Acevedo-Vilá of Puerto Rico.

## Statement on Action by the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Nomination of Charles W. Pickering, Sr.
*March 14, 2002*

I am deeply disappointed that Judge Charles Pickering, a distinguished judge who was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in the past, is being denied the opportunity to further serve his country. The action of the Senate Judiciary Committee to refuse Judge Pickering a vote by the full Senate leaves another empty seat in the Federal judiciary at a time when we face a vacancy crisis. It was unfortunate for democracy and unfortunate for America.

Judge Pickering has earned the praise and support of those who know him and know his record best—both Democrats and Republicans from his home State of Mississippi. They know him to be a fair and measured judge, an advocate of civil rights, and a dedicated member of his community. He has served with distinction and deserves better than to be blocked by a party line vote of 10 Senators on one committee. The voice of the entire Senate deserves to be heard.

# Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada

*March 14, 2002*

*President Bush.* It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of Canada, a personal friend and a great friend of America, back to the White House. We had a wide-ranging discussion on a lot of topics, starting with how appreciative I am of his steadfast support and the Canadian Government's steadfast support and the Canadian people's steadfast support in our war against terror. We know the Canadians have put troops on the ground in Afghanistan, and they have performed brilliantly. For that, we are grateful.

We also talked about our border. We've got a great relationship on our border. We've had a series of meaningful discussions on putting reforms in place. I believe our border cooperation is going to be the model for not only our hemisphere but also for the world.

We also talked about trade issues. Canada is a massive trading partner with the United States, and it's an important trading partner of the United States. And like any relationship that has got a lot of issues, sometimes we run into rough spots. And one such issue is softwood lumber. But our negotiators, as a result of the Prime Minister's assistance and my assistance, are working overtime to achieve an agreement by March the 21st. We're making very good progress. And we've agreed to keep working hard to achieve an agreement that is satisfactory to both parties, and I believe we can achieve that.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for coming.

Oh, by the way, we talked energy. It's important for the American people to know that as a result of our trade agreements with Canada and our close relations, Canada is a significant supplier of energy to the United States. And that's positive. It's much better for us to be securing our energy from a friend and a stable friend and a partner.

And so I appreciate the Canadian energy business. I appreciate the exploration that's going on. It is good for our economy. I shared with the Prime Minister—I'm optimistic about our economy. We've still got some rough spots, but it looks like we may be improving. And if we are, that will be good news for both of us.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome back. It is my honor to serve you dinner again, and it's a thrill to be with you.

*Prime Minister Chretien.* Thank you, Mr. President. I cannot add to what the President said. He covered the ground very well. I think the relations between America and Canada could not be better. We are solving problems when we have one. We are working with America in the war against terrorism. Our troops are in the fight at this moment in Afghanistan. You know, in the snow, we're good at it, President, you know. And we——

*President Bush.* You're good on the ice, too. [*Laughter*]

*Prime Minister Chretien.* We are good on the ice, too—and both men and women. [*Laughter*] And so—and we have to work on our other problems. Thank you for the statement you made on softwood lumber. I think that the defense of our values and against terrorism are extremely important for Canadians. And we have worked very well together.

For me, I should say a few words in French, with your permission.

*President Bush.* Please.

*Prime Minister Chretien.* Can you translate after that? [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in French and then resumed speaking in English.*]