

legislation will give families and small businesses added certainty and keep us on the path to greater prosperity, and it brings

us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5765 September 23, 2004

“The Lord, the Lord God is gracious and compassionate, patient, abounding in kindness and faithfulness, assuring love for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin, and granting pardon.”

EXODUS: 34:6–7

On Yom Kippur, Jews around the world gather to mark the holiest day of the year, the Sabbath of Sabbaths. Jewish tradition teaches that on this day, we receive God’s mercy through acts of atonement, prayer, and charity. During this season of prayer and intense reflection, may you find com-

fort in God’s promise, which has never been broken and which is renewed in our time.

Our trust in God gives all Americans great purpose. As we are called to acts of compassion and mercy, we come closer to God and serve a cause greater than ourselves. May you trust God’s faithfulness to all people, and may you be blessed with a good and happy New Year.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks on Relief Efforts for Beslan, Russia September 24, 2004

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. The barbaric terrorist attack on a Russian school 3 weeks ago sickened the world. America grieves with the people of Russia, and we pray for the innocent victims and their families in Beslan.

In America, we’ve witnessed an outpouring of compassion for the Russian people. Today I’m joined by Sue Huddle and her students from John Quincy Adams Elementary School in Washington, DC. Thank you all for coming. They helped organize a toy and school supply drive for the children of Beslan.

Kelsey O’Marra is here too. She is a seventh grader at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Maryland. She helped lead a school fundraiser to help the victims

of Beslan. Kelsey, thank you for your leadership and your compassion.

These children show the sympathy and compassion and generosity of our whole Nation. I’m also joined by Marty Evans, the President of the American Red Cross. Thanks for coming, Marty.

Marty Evans. Yes, sir.

The President. The Red Cross is working hard to make sure the people in Beslan get the help they need. Red Cross and Red Crescent societies around the world have already received \$680,000 in donations for aid to Russia, enough to provide emergency medical care and counseling for 2,000 people. I want to thank Marty for her leadership and her tireless efforts. I thank all Americans who have contributed

to this important cause. I hope many more will donate in the days ahead.

I'm also honored to be with the Ambassador from Russia, Yuriy Ushakov. Thank you, Mr. Ambassador, for coming. He's here with the children from the Russian Embassy School. Earlier this month, I went to the Russian Embassy to express my condolences on behalf of the American people. The atrocities in Beslan reinforce the need for free nations to work together for peace and security. All Americans stand with the people of Russia in this wake of tragedy. We will stand with them as they rebuild, just like we stand with the people of Florida.

Another storm is headed in that direction. It will be another test of will and compassion. I know the Red Cross is ready, and I want to thank the Red Cross for being ready to help the citizens of that beleaguered State one more time. We extend our prayers to the people down there. We hope for the very best. The Federal Government, the armies of compassion stand ready to help.

Thank you all for coming. Thank you for your compassion. May God bless the people of Russia and the United States. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. on the South Portico at the White House.

Remarks in a Discussion on Education in Janesville, Wisconsin September 24, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for coming. I'm proud you're here. I appreciate you coming. Please be seated. Please be seated. We've got a little work to do. I'm here to tell you why I'm running for President again. First, I'm here to tell you I'm asking for your vote and your support.

I'm really pleased to be back in the State of Wisconsin. It's a fabulous place you got here. What a wonderful State. The people are kind and generous and hardworking. It's—Laura and I love coming. Speaking about Laura, I wish she were here with me. No, I know, she's out campaigning. A lot of times they say, "Well, I'd rather you stay home, President, and let Mrs. Bush come." [*Laughter*] But I can understand the logic.

It's a true story—when I said, "Laura, will you marry me," she said, "Fine, just so long as I never have to give any speeches." [*Laughter*] I said, "Okay." Fortunately, she didn't hold me to the promise. People in the country got to see her speak in New

York a while ago. They saw a compassionate, strong, decent woman in Laura Bush. I love her dearly, and I'm really proud of her. I like to tell people, I'm going to give you some reasons to put me back in for 4 more years, but perhaps the most important one of all, so that Laura will be First Lady for 4 more years.

I'm proud of my runningmate, Dick Cheney. He's working hard. I tell people he doesn't have the curliest hair in the race. [*Laughter*] I didn't pick him because of his hairdo. [*Laughter*] I picked him because of his experience and judgment. I picked him because he can get the job done for the American people.

I'm proud of Paul Ryan. I'm proud of working with your Congressman. He's a good, solid man, I'm telling you. He's smart, capable. He's a good thinker. He married well in Janna. [*Laughter*] He keeps bugging me to come to his congressional district as often as possible, and now I know why. It's a beautiful part of the world.