

policies. I think we've taken a long step in that direction. I thank the Vice President for his leadership, and I turn the microphone over to him.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With President Turgut Özal of Turkey**

*February 8, 1993*

#### ***Tax Payment for Domestic Help***

**Q.** Mr. President, are you now going to ask all of your Cabinet Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries whether they have paid Social Security taxes and whether they ever had hired any illegal domestic help?

**The President.** I've handled that through the White House Legal Counsel. I think Mr. Stephanopoulos has already given a statement.

**Q.** Do you feel confident that everyone will now pay back taxes?

**The President.** I do. I think everybody will do what they're supposed to do.

**Q.** Sir, when are you going to—

#### ***Bosnia***

**Q.** Sir, when do you expect to have a statement on Bosnia?

**The President.** We're very close. I don't want to give you a specific time, but we're very close. As you know, we've done an awful lot of work on it. I spent a lot of time on it last week and a considerable amount of time today. So we're quite close.

**Q.** Do you think this week you might have a diplomatic initiative?

**The President.** I think we might be prepared to make a statement in the next few days, yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Economic Advisers**

*February 8, 1993*

#### ***Economic Stimulus Package***

**Q.** Mr. President, do you have any response to the Republican letter? Did they say that they will not support your economic plan unless you do more on the spending side?

**The President.** They said they were against the stimulus program, and that's basically a statement that they think things are fine in the economy now, and I just disagree with that.

I'd like to read this statement, and then I'll be glad to answer it. That reflects the old way of thinking, you know, we're coming out of a recession; therefore we don't need a stimulus package. It overlooks the fact that there are now 3 million jobs less in this economy than there would be if we were in a normal recovery, that we now have fewer non-farm payroll jobs today than we did 2 years ago—3 years ago, 646,000 fewer jobs than in January of 1990.

Let me make this announcement about unemployment, and then I'll answer a couple of more questions on this.

#### ***Unemployment***

You all know that we've been here working every day for hours and hours, putting together this economic package designed to increase income and generate jobs and reduce the deficit.

Before we begin our next meeting, I have two things that I want to say: First, despite these encouraging statistics about the increased productivity, there are still millions of Americans who want to go to work to support their families, but they can't find jobs. The unemployment rate, indeed, is 7.1 percent. It's been above 7 percent for 14 months, and is now higher than it was at the so-called bottom of this recession.

Secondly, no short-term solution to the problems of the unemployed is adequate. Many unemployed workers are what we call "permanently displaced." And they need much better access to reemployment services that will provide them the information and