

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's second news conference began at 2:40 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Judge William Webster, former Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, who is leading the investigation of Special Agent Robert Hanssen; President Vladimir Putin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov of Russia; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Andres Pastrana of Colombia; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela; and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Statement on the Death of Dale Earnhardt

February 22, 2001

I have asked my close friend Joe Allbaugh to attend today's memorial service for Dale Earnhardt. I am saddened by the untimely loss of this American legend and want to express my deepest sympathy to his family, friends, and fans. Dale was an American icon who made great contributions to his sport. Dale's legacy will live on for millions of Americans. He was an inspiration to many.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Budget Review Board and an Exchange With Reporters

February 23, 2001

The President. Good morning. Welcome to the Budget Review Board. We've been going over the budget that I'll be submitting to the Congress next Tuesday night. I want to thank OMB Director Mitch Daniels for doing a really fine job.

It is a budget that clearly sets out priorities. It is a budget that sets aside Social Security money for only—to be used only for Social Security. It is a budget that will substantially pay down debt, and it's a budget that provides meaningful, real tax relief for our citizens.

In the budget, I prioritize education. I talked about that yesterday. We also prioritize the health care needs. We recog-

nize the Federal Government plays a very important role in researching cures for disease, and therefore, our budget increases the NIH budget for 2002 by \$2.8 billion, the largest increase in that Department's history.

And so I'm very much looking forward for the American people to see and hear the budget presentation. It's a practical budget. It makes a lot of sense. It meets a lot of needs. And the people of this country are going to realize we spent a lot of time on it and will realize that they've got an administration that is practical, full of common sense, and always asks the question, how can we help the people of the country?

Thanks.

National Economy

Q. Is the uptick in inflation going to make it harder to get the economy going again?

The President. Not with the Secretary of the Treasury at the helm.

Thanks a lot.

Opening Day Plans

Q. Are you going to Puerto Rico to see the Rangers?

The President. Are you?

Q. I'd like to.

The President. I'm not putting out my opening day plans yet.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:25 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 17

The President and Mrs. Bush attended a hometown celebration welcoming them on their first home visit to Crawford, TX.

February 19

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where they toured the Oklahoma City National Memorial Interactive Learning Museum. Later, the President met privately with survivors and family members of victims of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Columbus, OH, where the President toured Sullivant Elementary School classrooms and met with reading mentors.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Louis, MO, where the President toured Moline Elementary School classrooms and listened to a reading of "Amazing Grace." Later, the President met with Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis at a private residence.

The President named Ruben Barrales as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

February 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Townsend, TN, where he met with students from Doyle Middle School at McGhee Tyson Airport. Later, he toured Townsend Elementary School classrooms and listened to several essay readings.

While returning to the airport in the afternoon, the President stopped in front of Heritage Middle School to shake students' hands, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush attended a private dinner at the home of Katharine Graham, executive committee chairman, Washington Post, Co.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Natsios to be Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Maria Cino to be Assistant Sec-

retary of Commerce and Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brenda L. Becker to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate David Aufhauser to be General Counsel for the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert E. Fabricant to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Robert Bolton to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs.

The President announced the appointment of Gary R. Edson as Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs and Deputy National Security Adviser.

February 22

The President announced his intention to nominate James Andrew Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil at the White House on March 30.

February 23

The President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey.

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush went to Camp David, MD. Later, the President met with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tim S. McClain to be General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Pittsburgh, PA, and Council Bluffs, IA, on February 28 and Little Rock, AR, and Atlanta, GA, on March 1.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 17

Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding Executive Orders

Released February 20

Transcript of remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer to the press pool aboard Air Force One

Released February 22

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of John F. Maisto as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Franklin C. Miller as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Direc-

tor for Defense Policy and Arms Control at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Jendayi E. Frazer as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Daniel Fried as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Robert G. Joseph as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Proliferation Strategy, Counterproliferation and Homeland Defense at the National Security Council

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming meeting with Prime Minister Blair of the United Kingdom

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Cardoso of Brazil

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.