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make sure that dropping that top rate—people hear what it does for the incredibly vital sector of America, the American economy, which is the small-business sector—but also stand with us in sending that message loud and clear, that we need to get rid of the death tax in the Tax Code.

I urge you to let your Senator know, or Senators know, what your opinion is. I believe you can have a big impact on how folks think up here. I certainly feel like we're making progress by reminding people of the practicalities of budgeting and the commonsense approach to what to do with your money.

But you need to let people know what they ought to be doing with your money, too. And a choice is—the choice is growing our economy or growing the Government. I just want to assure you that we've got ample money to meet our needs. And if we don't pass money back, I just know what's going to happen to it. It's going to be spent. [*Laughter*]

It's like the grandmother in Council Bluffs, Iowa, said during a speech. She said she has baked a lot of cookies in her day. And she's seen children and grandchildren come through her house. And every time she's left the cookies on the plate, they have been eaten. [*Laughter*] And that's how I view the budget process. [*Laughter*]

Finally, I want to urge you to be involved in your communities. I know you are in hiring people. But as entrepreneurs and concerned citizens, it's also important to be involved in your schools, to help fund and staff the programs that literally change America, one face at a time.

You see, the great strength of America are the people of our country, the dreamers and doers and people who can accomplish things. People not only figure out how to make a living by using their brain but also figure out how to make their neighborhoods better by following their hearts. I hope you sponsor mentoring programs, so that all children feel like somebody cares about them in our society. I hope you get involved with after-school programs, that may be sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. The greatness of the country really, really exists because Americans care about our future.

There is a role for Government, but I understand how limited it is. I oftentimes tell people I wish I could sign the law that says we'll love each other like we'd like to loved ourself. That's not the role of Government. But it is the role of the President to lift the spirit of the country and to call upon the best. And the best are sitting right here. And I urge you to go back to your community and make a difference in somebody's life.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Labor Elaine Lan Chao, who introduced the President.

Proclamation 7416—National Girl Scout Week, 2001

March 16, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This week marks the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Juliette Gordon Low founded the organization as a way to give girls greater opportunities to develop skills and to mentor them in knowledge and character. Promoting leadership and altruism, the Girl Scouts organization has played a unique and important role in preparing millions of girls to master challenges and to pursue dreams.

The Girl Scouts offers many ways for members to explore their interests and talents. With participation spanning five levels, girls ages 5 to 17 learn the importance of strong values as they strive to fulfill the highest ideals of good citizenship. The pure enjoyment of camping and other recreational activities is matched with lessons in compassionate caring for their neighbors.

Today, almost 3 million girls and more than 900,000 adult volunteers reap the benefits of involvement with this beloved and enduring organization. Guiding America's next generation of leaders, the Girl Scouts helps individuals to reach their full potential and builds a brighter future for our great Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 11 through March 17, 2001, as National Girl Scout Week. I call on the people of the United States to observe the 89th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 19, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 20.

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.

March 12

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Panama City, FL, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paula J. Dobriansky to be Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs.

The President announced the designation of Dale Cabaniss as Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

March 13

In a morning ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Cyrille Oguin of Benin, Usha Jeetah of Mauritius, Yang Jiechi of China, Knut Vollebaek of Norway, Vygaudus Usackas of Lithuania, and Rostom Al-Zoubi of Syria.

The President announced his intention to nominate Roy A. Bernardi to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate William James Haynes to be General Counsel at the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victoria Clarke to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Chertoff to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina at the White House for a working visit on April 19.

March 14

In the morning, the President traveled to Plainfield, NJ. In the afternoon, he traveled to East Brunswick, NJ, and later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard J. Egan to be Ambassador to Ireland.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Burns to be Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lou Gallegos to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Powell A. Moore to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Charles Weicher to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and serve as Federal Housing Commissioner.

The White House announced that the President added the responsibility of leading the U.S. engagement in support of the Northern Ireland peace process to Richard Haass' February 6 nomination to be Director of Policy and Planning at the State Department.

March 15

In the afternoon, the President met separately with World Boxing Association Heavyweight Champion Johnny Ruiz and National