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**Editor's Note:** The President was in Crawford, TX, on April 27, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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# Week Ending Friday, April 27, 2001

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With Central American Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in Quebec, Canada

*April 20, 2001*

***The President.*** I want to thank the Presidents from some of the Central American countries for coming here. It's my honor to say once again hello to the President of El Salvador, the President of Panama, and the President of Honduras. Thank you all very much. I look forward to wide-ranging discussions on the benefits of trade, the need for us to continue to think about how best to have in place measures that will help in the case of future natural disasters, ways to continue to cooperate on issues of trafficking of people and arms and drugs.

So I look forward to a very fruitful discussion. I'm honored you all are here. *El placir es mio.*

I'll try to answer a few questions. Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press], have you got something?

### *Quebec Demonstrations*

***Q.*** Sir, the protests have really flared up outside. What do you have to say to the protesters?

***The President.*** Well, if they are—if they're protesting because of free trade, I would say I disagree. I think trade is very important for this hemisphere. Trade not only helps spread prosperity, but trade helps spread freedom. And so I would just disagree with those who think that trade—somehow trade is going to negatively affect the working people and people for whom hope doesn't exist in some places. So we need trade. And I am convinced that the leadership that I met with agrees. And we can work together, because they understand that working together we can bring prosperity throughout our entire hemisphere.

Secondly, I would hope that those out there expressing their opinion realize how important it is for the United States and Canada and Mexico to extend our agreements beyond our borders, to Central America and South America, where it's important to keep our neighborhood intact and to have a strong neighborhood. And these are our neighbors.

I grew up in a world where if you treat your neighbor well, it's a good start to developing a wholesome community. So I understand some people don't like trade; I just strongly disagree with them.

### *Trade Promotion Authority*

***Q.*** Mr. President, what are you telling summit leaders when they ask you how likely are you to get fast-track?

***The President.*** Well, first of all, they understand that trade promotion authority, or fast-track, will be very important for us in order to make sure that we can fulfill our hopes to have a free-trading hemisphere. But we also can and will discuss bilateral agreements or agreements with groups of countries. So it's a dual-track strategy.

I hope Congress understands the hope and promise of trade promotion authority. It's important for the President to have trade promotion authority. It will make it a lot easier for us to complete the agreements that we're all discussing here in summits such as this.

***Press Secretary Ari Fleischer.*** Final question.

***Q.*** Mr. President, when you met with the President of Brazil——

***The President.*** You again.

***Q.*** Yes, it's me again—and the other Andean leaders, were they—just following up on fast-track—the fact that you don't have fast-track, did they express that as a concern?

***The President.*** Well, not really. They were more interested in, one, our commitment to the neighborhood. Secondly, they were—we spent a lot of time talking about

drugs and drug trafficking, and I assured them I understood that our Nation must do a better job of reducing demand and, at the same time, working with the Andean nations to eradicate supply.

An issue that came up, and one that I was aware of is that Plan Colombia could have the opportunity to spread the problems to neighboring countries outside of Colombia. And therefore, we have to put together an Andean initiative which recognizes that. And thirdly, that relations are—that we must have relations beyond just drug eradication. In other words, that we've got to work together to make sure the education systems in our respective countries fulfill their promise, that legal reforms are needed in some parts of the world.

And so we had a very wide-ranging discussion, and I was most pleased, by the way, that the President of Brazil joined in the discussion, because it was—I thought it was a very good signal of his understanding the importance of the Andean region. And he plays a very—his country plays a very important part and a very important role in that part of the world.

***Q.*** Thank you.

***The President.*** You got your wish. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the Montcalm Room at the Loews el Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador; President Mireya Moscoso of Panama; President Carlos Flores of Honduras; and President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil. Prime Minister Said Wilbert Musa of Belize; President Miguel Rodriguez of Costa Rica; President Arnoldo Aleman of Nicaragua; and President Alfonso Antonio Portillo of Guatemala also participated in the discussions. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks at the Summit of the Americas Working Session in Quebec

*April 21, 2001*

Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. *Amigo y amigos,* it's an honor to be here. First, Mr. Prime Minister, I want to thank you for your warm hospitality, and I want to thank all those folks in your government who have worked hard to make this conference a success. My fellow Presidents and Prime Ministers and leaders of our hemisphere's 34 democracies, it is a great honor to be here.

We have a great vision before us, a fully democratic hemisphere bound together by goodwill and free trade. That's a tall order. It is a chance of a lifetime. It is a responsibility we all share.

Quebec City is a fitting place for us to begin. Many of the great cultures that have shaped our hemisphere converge in this city. Before Champlain ever sailed the St. Lawrence he sailed the Caribbean, visiting Mexico and Colombia, Puerto Rico and Panama. As a matter of fact, he was one of the first to propose a canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific so that trade may prosper. During the 400 years since Champlain's travels, our hemisphere, united by geography, has too often—too often—been separated by history of rivalry and resentment.

But we have entered a new era. The interests of my nation, of all our nations, are served by strong, healthy democratic neighbors, and are served best by lasting friendships in our own neighborhood.

My country, more than ever, feels the ties of kinship, commerce, and culture that unite us. And I'm proud to have the privilege so early in my administration to meet with all the leaders of this hemisphere's democratic countries.

Our task is to take the vital principles shaped at Miami and Santiago and translate them into actions that directly benefit the people we answer to. I'm here to offer my own ideas. I'm here to learn and to listen from voices—to those inside this hall and to those outside this hall who want to join us in constructive dialog.

The single most important thing we will do here is to reaffirm that this summit is a gathering of, by, and for democracies, and only democracies. Today, freedom embraces the entire hemisphere, except for one country. And we look forward to the day when all this hemisphere's peoples will know the benefits and dignity of freedom. José Martí said it best: *La libertad no es nogociable.*

We also understand that democracy is a journey, not a destination. Each nation here,

including the United States, must work to make freedom succeed. Elections are the foundation of democracy, but nations need to build on this foundation with other building blocks such as a strong judiciary, freedom to speak and write as you wish, efficient banking and social services, quality schools, secure ownership of land, the ability to start and own a business. We must strengthen this architecture of democracy for the benefit of all our people.

This is the spirit behind the American Fellows exchange program that I announce here today. This program will sponsor one-year exchanges of outstanding civil servants among nations throughout the Americas. We'll also provide resources to help reform and modernize judicial institutions, protect basic human rights, root out corruption and other threats to the institutions that sustain freedom.

Our hemisphere's support for democracy and freedom is principled, but it is also pragmatic. Freedom is not only a right, it is also our best weapon against tyranny and poverty. Some complain that despite our democratic gains, there is still too much poverty in equality. Some even say that things are getting worse, not better. For too many, this may be true. But the solution does not lie in statism or protectionism. The solution lies in more freedom.

And that is why we seek freedom not only for people living within our borders but also for commerce moving across our borders. Free and open trade creates new jobs and new income. It lifts the lives of all our people, applying the power of markets to the needs of the poor. It spurs the process of economic and legal reform. And open trade reinforces the habit of liberty that sustains democracy over the long haul.

The United States will work for open trade at every opportunity. We will seek bilateral free trade agreements with friends and partners, such as the one we aim to complete this year with Chile. We will work for open trade globally through negotiations in the World Trade Organization. And here in the Americas, we will work hard to build an entire hemisphere that trades in freedom.

The history of our times is clear: Progress is found in pluralism; modernization is found in markets. Free enterprise requires liberty and enlarges liberty. Our commitment to open trade must be matched by a strong commitment to protecting our environment and improving labor standards.

Yet, these concerns must not be an excuse for self-defeating protectionism. We know from NAFTA that open trade works. Since 1994, total trade among Canada and Mexico and the United States has more than doubled. NAFTA has given consumers in all three nations more choices at lower prices. And it has created high quality, high—good wage jobs from the Yukon to the Yucatan.

The time has come to extend the benefits of free trade to all our peoples and to achieve a free trade agreement for the entire hemisphere. Our challenge is to energize our negotiations on a Free Trade Area for the Americas so that they can be completed no later than the year 2005.

In my first speech to our Congress, I made clear that achieving U.S. trade promotion authority was among my top priorities. I reinforced that message just 2 weeks ago, when I met to discuss trade issues with congressional leaders. When I return to Washington, I will put forward a set of principles that will be the framework for more intense consultations with Congress. I'm committed to attaining trade promotion authority before the end of the year. I'm confident that I will get it. Partnership in trade is fundamental to the hemisphere's well-being. But we know it is not, by itself, sufficient to guarantee the quality of life we seek for ourselves and for our children.

Too many people in our hemisphere grow, sell, and use illegal drugs. I want to make this clear: The United States is responsible to fight demand for drugs within our own borders. We have a serious obligation to do so. And we will expand our efforts, with meaningful resources, to work with producer and transit countries to fortify their democratic institutions, to promote sustainable development, and to fight the supply of drugs at the source. This is a message I carried yesterday to the leaders of the Andean countries. The United States so appreciates the difficult challenge they face in fighting drugs and stands ready to be a consistent and true partner.

We're also committed to deepening our cooperation throughout the hemisphere in fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS, responding to natural disasters, and making sure the benefits of globalization are felt in even the smallest of economies. These goals are at the heart of the Third Border Initiative that we have launched with the countries of the Caribbean.

We're committed to protecting the hemisphere's natural resources. That's why I'm committed to using the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to help countries redirect debt repayments toward local projects that will protect biodiversity and tropical forests. As the program demonstrates success, I'm prepared to work with Congress to boost the funding.

We're committed to making education a center piece of our economic agenda because learning and literacy are the foundations for development and democracy. The United States will sponsor the creation of Hemispheric Centers for Teacher Excellence. These centers will provide teacher training for improving literacy and basic education, both in person and over the Internet.

And finally, we will sponsor the creation of the new Latin E-Business Fellowship Program. This will give young professionals from throughout the Americas the opportunity to learn about information technology by spending time with United States companies. It will empower them with the skills and background to bring the benefits of these technologies to their own societies.

On the day I became President I talked of liberty as a seed upon the wind taking root in many nations. For over two decades, our hemisphere has been fertile ground for freedom. So many men and women have left the shadow of oppression and fear. And for coming so far, this is not the time to grow timid or weary. Freedom is still our best weapon against tyranny and want. In so many places in this hemisphere liberty has been won. Now the blessings of liberty must be extended to every life.

When we reach this goal by our unified efforts, we will inspire the world by our example. Together, let us go forward to build an age of prosperity in a hemisphere of liberty. Together, let us use this Summit of the Americas to launch the century of the Americas.

*Juntos podemos. Juntos lo haremos.* God bless the Americas, and God bless her people.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. in the ballroom at the Hilton Quebec. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada. The President also referred to the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998, Public Law No. 105–214.

## The President's Radio Address

*April 21, 2001*

Good morning. As you hear this I am in Canada for the Summit of the Americas, joined by leaders of 33 other democratic nations. Only one country in the Western Hemisphere is not represented because that country, Cuba, is the only one that is not yet a democracy.

Democracy's progress in our part of the world is not total, but it is remarkable. We live in a hemisphere defined by the ideas and aspirations of freedom. Some 800 million people live in the Americas; 11 million of them live under dictatorship.

We are pleased that many countries in the Americas joined us in passing a resolution this week at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights; they have called upon Cuba to respect the rights of its citizens. We know that for the people of Cuba their day of freedom will come.

The future of our country is closely tied to the future of our hemisphere. Many Americans trace their roots to other parts of the Americas, ties that have enriched our culture. Many American businesses are finding new markets and opportunities in the Americas, which creates jobs at home and promotes economic growth abroad. And all Americans benefit when our closest neighbors are peaceful, stable, and enjoy stronger economies.

The forces of democracy in our hemisphere are strong, but they are threatened by poverty and illiteracy and the drug trade. So at this summit we are discussing a very practical agenda to strengthen democracy. We must tear down the barriers of ignorance

and illiteracy that limit the ambitions of so many children in our hemisphere and feed their frustrations.

We will work with our neighbors to find ways to give all our children quality schools, because learning and literacy are the foundations for development and democracy.

We must make new efforts to confront the problem of illegal drugs. Our country is committed to reducing the demand for drugs at home, and we must help other countries fight the supply of drugs at their source.

And we must renew our commitment to free trade. The people of Canada, Mexico, and the United States have benefited greatly from the North American Free Trade Agreement. NAFTA has created good jobs in all three nations. Now we must extend those opportunities to all with a free trade agreement for the entire Western Hemisphere. This will be good for American workers from farmers and ranchers to high-tech entrepreneurs. It will also be good for the poor in other countries, increasing their wages and opportunities. This is an agenda that stretches far beyond our borders.

But when I return to Washington tomorrow the most pressing business concern, some long overdue reforms here in our own country. Early next week my plan to reform our public schools is expected to come up for debate in the Senate. It is the best chance we have had for meaningful education reform in a generation, and we must not waste it.

Education reform must be a bipartisan effort. I have reached out to Members of Congress in both parties and we have achieved a broad consensus on major reforms. Yet the goal here is not just to pass legislation; it is to pass meaningful legislation. And some principles cannot be compromised. The final bill must have strong accountability for our schools, accountability developed by States and local jurisdictions. And for parents with children in failing schools, we must offer options. No parent should be left powerless and no child left helpless in a system that is not doing the job it is supposed to do.

There is a lot going on in Washington and the world—a summit, a tax relief debate, major education reform. But few things are as important as giving all our children the tools of learning. I hope you will support my education reform plan. And I hope you encourage your Senators to do the same.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:15 a.m. on April 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 21. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 20 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

## Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vicente Fox of Mexico and an Exchange With Reporters in Quebec

*April 21, 2001*

***President Bush.*** It's an honor for me to be with my friend, a friend of the United States, President Fox. He's a strong advocate of trade, and he's a strong advocate of good relations. Today I've decided that the first state dinner I will have as President of the United States will be with my friend Vicente Fox. We will have the state dinner in early fall, hopefully the month of September, depending upon our schedules. I look forward to a continued dialog on a lot of issues that concern our countries, a lot of issues that concern our hemisphere, prior to the dinner. And of course, we look forward to welcoming you, sir, to Washington on that day.

***President Fox.*** Yes, sir. Well, on my side, just to say that, again, we meet, and we meet always to keep the programs going, to keep the followup on the issues that we have been discussing, and I can say that we're working with speed, that we're moving ahead, and that issues like water that we——

***President Bush.*** Yes.

***President Fox.*** ——have created back in San Cristobal, Mexico, is running along and the same—other issues, like migration, like the rest—excellent. And right now, here in this meeting in Quebec, the main concern, I think, is, to all of us is, how do we move with sufficient speed ahead on the trade agreement of the Americas which, as we had the opportunity to see today, everybody is in favor of it, and now our common responsibility, joint responsibility, is to structure a solid, solid project so that it's going to be

to the benefit of everybody, a win-win proposal.

I really appreciate the commitment and the enthusiasm that President Bush showed on his presentations today. I think that's what we need in Latin America, that kind of support, that kind of push, that kind of dynamism that Latin America will take with our partner—in this case, the United States.

***Missionary Aircraft Incident in Peru***

***Q.*** Mr. President, the United States had a surveillance aircraft tracking the missionary plane over Peru. Does the United States share any responsibility for it being shot down as a suspected drug plane?

***President Bush.*** The United States is certainly upset by the fact that a citizen—two citizens lost their lives in Peru. Our hearts go out to the families, the community affected by the loss. I will wait to see all the facts before I reach any conclusions about blame. But right now, we mourn for the loss of a life—two lives. And I'm——

***Labor and Environment Protections in Trade Agreements***

***Q.*** In your speech today, you mentioned labor and environmental standards. Were you signaling that this will have to be part of future trade deals?

***President Bush.*** I understand there's a lot of discussion about labor codicils and environmental codicils. What I was signaling is that we should not allow those codicils to destroy the spirit of free trade. In other words, a free trade agreement focuses on commerce, and that while I understand that some unionists are interested in making sure there's labor protections, I don't want those labor protections to be used to destroy the free trade agreement.

Secondly, it's very important for folks to understand that when there's more trade, there's more commerce, and there's more prosperity. And a prosperous society is more likely to be just. And a prosperous society is one more likely to have good environmental standards and be able to enforce those standards.

So I happen to think trade and clean air and trade and labor conditions—good labor conditions—go hand in hand. It's the poor nations that have trouble dealing with labor conditions. It's the poor nations that have trouble meeting their obligations to environmental quality. And I firmly believe, like my friend the President believes, that commerce and trade go hand in hand, which will yield a more prosperous society all throughout the hemisphere.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:41 p.m. in the Club Executive Room at the Hilton Quebec. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Statement on Earth Day

*April 21, 2001*

On April 22 each year for more than three decades, Americans have paused on Earth Day to celebrate the rich blessings of our Nation's natural resources and to take stock of our stewardship of nature's gifts. Each of us understands that our prosperity as a Nation will mean little if our legacy to future generations is a world of polluted air, toxic waste, and vanished forests.

During the past 31 years, we have made progress on protecting our environment. America is truly blessed with a vibrant and flourishing environment. But with blessings come responsibility. There is much more to do. As we celebrate Earth Day on this April 22, 2001, I encourage Americans to join me in renewing our commitment to protecting the environment and leaving our children and grandchildren with a legacy of clean water, clean air, and natural beauty.

## The President's News Conference With Summit of the Americas Leaders in Quebec

*April 22, 2001*

[*Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada opened the news conference with brief remarks in French and continued in English. No translation of his remarks in French was provided.*]

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** We will start with the President of the United States.

***President Bush.*** Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much, and congratulations on a very successful summit. I want to thank you and your staff and the people of Quebec City for their hospitality.

I've been most impressed by the discussions we've had. It's clear to me that ours is a hemisphere united by freedom. It's a partnership that will help us tackle the big challenges that we all face: the education of our children, HIV/AIDS, protecting our environment. It's a strong partnership. It's a partnership that will help us all achieve what we want—is that everybody in our respective countries are able to succeed and realize their dreams.

I want to thank my fellow leaders who were here. This is my first summit, as you know. I've been most impressed by the quality of leadership. I am most thankful for the generous hospitality each leader showed me. I listened a lot; I learned a lot. There's no question in my mind we have challenges ahead of us, but there's also no question that we can meet those challenges.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much, sir.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Thank you, Mr. President. And now we'll ask the President of Chile, Mr. Lagos, to say a few words.

[*At this point, President Richardo Lagos of Chile, President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina, and President Vicente Fox of Mexico made brief remarks in Spanish, and translations were not provided.*]

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** I thank you very much, President Fox. And I now call on President Andres Pastrana.

***President Andres Pastrana of Colombia.*** Thank you, Honorable Right Prime Minister. First, I'd like to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, Mr. Chretien, and all of your people for your hospitality in these last few days, hospitality that we have enjoyed in Quebec. I think that those who preceded me have expressed the basic tenets of what has occurred here today. But now I would like to share what President Lagos said—back what he said with regard to the democratic clause and the importance of it for the Americas.

We have put all of our efforts as leaders of our democracies to strengthen our democracies. And as we have said throughout this summit, we must move from a political democracy to an economic democracy. Through that, we can seek improvement of living conditions of the most poor and the neediest amongst us.

If there is something that has brought us together, or which unites us, or what calls us here today at this summit, what calls 34 heads of state of the Americas together, what calls us together is our concern for human beings and, particularly, to improve the conditions of life, as I said, for the poorest and the most needy.

And as President Fox said, this is the opportunity to thank all 34 heads of state for their support to state politics, the process of peace in Colombia. Thank you for your support to a political and negotiated solution to the conflict which has torn asunder our country for the last 30 years.

And once again, as says the declaration, we support the peace process. Thank you for your support. And I would also like to call your attention to the uprising, to those behind it, to those who are marginalized and not following the law, and that this is enshrined in our declaration. We can and we will quickly reach humanitarian agreements with regard to the respect of human rights, respecting humanitarian international law, and especially to not exclude the civilian population.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** And now, I would like to give the floor to President Francisco Flores from El Salvador.

***President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador.*** When the whole world is facing a creative, technological, and scientific revolution and countries become more and more integrated, it's key that leaders of the world understand that the possibilities of our countries are based on going from a view of the state as a closed and autonomous organ to a collection of open, integrated societies that support democracy and freedom.

And the definition of a new state is a basis to struggle against poverty, to respect the tremendous diversities that exist in the Americas, and the possibility of moving ahead in the world the way we want to move ahead,

especially those of us who believe in principles.

If anything has been learned from the greatest and most recent tragedies in El Salvador, especially the last two earthquakes, is that the foundations of countries are not physical things; they are moral things. They are based on their strength and their belief in principles and in the belief of men, women, and their dignity.

I would like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting this meeting that has confirmed these values, which, I believe, are the basis for hope for the future in the Americas.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Thank you. I thank President Flores. I give the floor to Prime Minister Owen Archer of the Barbados.

***Prime Minister Owen Archer of Barbados.*** Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share a perspective on behalf of the Caribbean. It is not only the smallest and most vulnerable region in our hemisphere but the smallest and most vulnerable region in the world.

From the outset in 1994, we were very clear that the exercise in which we are involved through these summits is greater than the mere creation of an integrated economic area, but must entail our creation of a program of development cooperation to support the emergence and the evolution of a truly hemispheric community for the Americas. And from the onset, we were clear that the effort had to stand the test of equity, had to stand the test of inclusiveness, and had to stand the test of relevance. It has to be relevant for today's purposes and tomorrow's needs. The Caribbean is pleased to be able to say that this summit has taken us a far distance to being satisfied in all of those tests.

We are not only living in the 21st century; we are now living in a new information age in which there is a great danger of a new dangerous inequality caused by a digital divide. And I believe that in the context of a 21st century society, this summit will stand as that summit where the leaders of the Americas determined that there should be no digital divide in our Americas, that the benefits of the new information technology have been brought within the reach of all of our citizens. Our connectivity agenda is, in my judgment, the most exciting new development from this summit, which I commend to the people of the Caribbean.

We are also very pleased that the arrangements for economic integration have now been so deliberately designed to truly accommodate the special concerns of the smallest and the most vulnerable entities in our hemisphere. And this summit has stood the test of equity.

May I also say, Mr. Prime Minister, that the Caribbean has used this summit, as well, and the meetings in the margin of this summit to lay a foundation for stronger bilateral relationships with our neighbors, particularly the United States of America, Canada, Central America, and the Mercosur countries and the Andean countries, and that we can leave this summit looking to the prospect of being part of a successful partnership in a successful neighborhood of the Americas.

I thank you.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister.

And now the journalists have the floor.

### *Protesters and the Free Trade Agenda*

***Q.*** Mr. President, President Bush, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister of Canada, but we would very much like you to answer the question afterwards, if you don't mind.

[*A question was asked and answered in French, and a translation was not provided. Following his response in French, Prime Minister Chretien spoke in English.*]

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** So I don't think that it is a question of our legitimacy. We are very legitimate. We were elected, all of us. And when you look at what was the Americas some 30 years ago, and what it is today, look at the progress that democracy has made. Look at the clause that we have developed together at this time to make sure that democracy will remain in the Americas.

And a lot of people were invited to comment. We organized a parallel summit, at the expense of the Government. And they met; they discussed; they debated; they met with ministers; there were ministers from my government and ministers from many other Governments that listened to them. And I'm

very proud of the unions, for example, who decided to organize a parade of protest. It was done in a very orderly fashion. They made sure that those who wanted to break everything were not part of it.

There were some hundreds of them who had come with the goal of trying to disrupt us, and I want to say a great thank you again to the police of the city of Quebec, of the province of Quebec, and the Federal police, for the way that they have handled the situation. We could see it on TV, and the restrain, the discipline they've shown is an example.

I guess in other summits there will still be some protestors, communicating among themselves on the Internet and so on, and they have the right to protest. But we will not tolerate breaking the peace of the people. In a democracy, you have a right to speak, but you have to respect the law.

And I don't know if the President would like to comment on that.

***President Bush.*** Well, let me just say that I campaigned vigorously on a free trade agenda. There should be no question in anybody's mind in my country that I would come to Quebec City to promote trade.

For those who question trade and its benefits, I would urge them to look at the experience that we've had as a result of NAFTA. Canada has benefited; Mexico has benefited; the United States has benefited. Sure, there are going to be some who complain, and that's what happens in a democracy. But the overall benefits have been great for our three countries. And it serves as an example to attract the positive opinions of other leaders who came to this summit. It's a positive example for the doubters to look at, for the skeptics to see that wealth can be spread throughout our hemisphere.

And we have a choice to make. We can combine in a common market so we can compete in the long term with the Far East and Europe, or we can go on our own. I submit—and I suspect the other leaders will echo with me; I hope they do, at least—that going on our own is not the right way to do so. Combining in a market in our own hemisphere makes sense. It's a logical extension of what's taken place through NAFTA.

There are some people in my country that want to shut down free trade. And they're welcome to express their opinions. I heard it throughout the campaign. But it's not going to change my opinion about the benefits of free trade, not only for my country and the people who work in my country and the people who wonder whether there's a future in my country, but the benefits of free trade for all the countries of this hemisphere are strong. And I intend to vigorously pursue a free trade agenda.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Thank you.

Next.

### *Missionary Aircraft Incident in Peru*

***Q.*** Thank you, sir. President Bush, you talked at the summit with Peru's leader about the downing of a U.S. missionary plane in a joint U.S.-Peru mission. Your administration has not clarified the U.S. role in this incident thus far, so I'd like to follow up briefly. How much responsibility do we bear, since it was our spotter plane that identified the missionaries' aircraft for Peru's Air Force to pursue?

***President Bush.*** First, the incident that took place in Peru is a terrible tragedy. And our hearts go out to the families who have been affected. Secondly, I did speak to the Prime Minister of Peru, who expressed his government's sincere condolences.

Our Government is involved with helping, and a variety of agencies are involved with helping our friends in South America identify airplanes that might be carrying illegal drugs. These operations have been going on for quite a while. We've suspended such flights until we get to the bottom of the situation, to fully understand all the facts, to understand what went wrong in this terrible tragedy.

***Q.*** What was our role, sir, in the downing?

***President Bush.*** Our role was to, like in other missions, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], was to provide information as to tail numbers. Our role is to help countries identify planes that fail to file flight plans. Our role was to simply pass on information. But we'll get to the bottom of the situation. But I want everybody in my country to understand that we weep for the families whose lives have been affected.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Next.

***Trade Promotion Authority***

***Q.*** Good afternoon. I have a question for the President of the United States. Mr. Bush, you're personally committed to the liberalization of this hemisphere, but you don't have a broadbased mandate from the U.S. Congress to negotiate. What can the Governments of Latin America do to help you overcome the opposition of economic groups and of legislators in your country? Thank you.

***President Bush.*** Write your Congressman. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate that so very much. That's the very same statement that the President of Uruguay asked. I am confident I will have trade promotion authority by the end of the year, because I think most people in the United States Congress understand that trade is beneficial in our hemisphere. We're going to proceed concurrently with that, parallel to that, with the trade agreement with Chile, and we hope to have that concluded by the end of the year.

But I've assured my colleagues that my administration will work to get trade promotion authority. Most Presidents have had what they call fast-track; we now call it trade promotion authority. And I intend to get it myself. It's in our Nation's best interests to have the President have that authority.

In the meantime, as I mentioned to you, my friend the President of Chile and I will instruct our respective and appropriate members of our administration to hammer out, negotiate, and effect a trade agreement between our two countries.

***Argentine Financial Crisis***

***Q.*** President de la Rua, the question is for President Bush, but I would also like your answer if you will, Your Excellency. President Bush, the United States Secretary of the Treasury gave direct financial aid to Mexico to overcome the tequila crisis and to stop propagation to the rest of the region. Given the economic financial crisis in Argentina is already spreading to neighboring countries such as Brazil, I'd like to know if the United States plans to give direct financial aid to Argentina as it did with Mexico in the past.

***President Bush.*** It's too early to make that determination. Having said that, Secretary of the Treasury O'Neill, as well as others in my administration, are watching closely the situation in Argentina. It is in our Nation's interest that the Argentine economy recover. That's obviously in the interest of neighbors that it do so, as well. But we're watching very carefully. We're in touch with your government on a regular basis, and we'll make the determinations as to either bilateral aid or additional aid through the international financial institutions as the case merits.

***Q.*** President de la Rua.

***President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina.*** The support given by the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Treasury is of great value. And assistance to our country has come through multilateral financial institutions and other countries who have given us international guarantees. So this has insured a fiscal solvency in my country.

There is no risk, in my opinion, of problems in our country—this transitional problem in Argentina extending to neighboring countries. Argentina, with international financial institutions' help, will be meeting the IMF's criteria, and is endeavoring in a very determined fashion to reduce the fiscal deficit and to ensure fiscal solvency in every aspect. So there is no risk of any—that we need to be concerned about.

Next.

***International Energy Resources***

***Q.*** I am from a newspaper in Mexico City, and I have a question addressed to President Bush and to Prime Minister Jean Chretien. Mexico, there is an issue that is of great interest, and I'm referring now to the power issue. I'd like to ask both of you, what is your view for what would be a hemispheric-wide energy plan? What commitments have you already reached, and what would be needed for such a plan to be equitable as between producers and the great consumers of power?

***President Bush.*** Well, first, if Canadian suppliers and Mexican suppliers of energy and electricity are looking for a market, they've found one in the United States. We're short of energy. We need more energy in our country. Much of what will be explored, from the exploration perspective, will depend upon price. The farther away you get

from market, the deeper the waters, the higher the price must be. But the price of energy is high enough to spur exploration activities on both sides of our border.

What the United States can do is to provide markets by better pipelines, across-border permitting, welcoming supplies of natural gas, regardless of the country of origin. We can work with our friends, the Mexicans, in the south, about the development of electricity. I have talked with President Fox about that, not only when I was in Mexico but also earlier this week, and will discuss this very issue with the Prime Minister and the President right after this press conference.

Part of our issue is to make sure our electricity grids are open enough to handle additional power, say, in the western part of our State, obviously the western part of Mexico. There is some very good news in our hemisphere, at least as far as Americans are concerned, and that is that because of technologies, the Canadians have developed vast crude oil resources in what appeared heretofore to be crude oil that could not be recovered from the ground in what they call tar pits—tar sands, and therefore, Canada is going to be the largest exporter of crude oil to the United States. That's good for our national security; it's good for our economy.

There's a lot of work we can do together. It is important for our hemisphere to not only trade liberally but to move energy throughout the hemisphere as needed, and it starts with the cooperation between Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** I don't have much to add to that. I think that the market in the United States is a great opportunity for Canada. Already, as the President just said, we are the biggest exporter of oil to United States, and it will increase even more in the years to come. We have a lot of natural gas in Canada at this moment.

I remember, at the time when I was Minister of Energy, we had to sell our oil and gas in Canada to our consumers, to give them a market. Now we have a huge market there, but we have to make sure that the development of these resources will be done in a very effective way, that we have assured market. And we do that, having all the time in mind—we have to do that with the mentality that we have to do these things in protecting the environment. But there is a lot of opportunities, and we'll be discussing that later on this afternoon.

Next.

### *Colombia*

***Q.*** This question is for Mr. Bush. If Mr. Pastrana can react to it, too, and Mr. Chretien, if that's possible. Regarding the declaration backing of the peace process in Colombia, Mr. Bush, would your government be willing to take a more active role and participate in this peace process? And how committed are you to the peace process in Colombia?

***President Bush.*** We have funded Plan Colombia, which is over a billion dollars of U.S. taxpayers' money. That's a very strong commitment. At this summit, we laid out an additional Andean initiative of $880 million, monies not only to go to Colombia but the surrounding countries to Colombia, monies that recognize that not only is interdiction important, but also we need to develop infrastructure. We need to have sustainable crop replacement programs. So our country is committed to the region.

I believe firmly that President Pastrana is a strong leader who is doing everything he can to bring the peace. But it's going to be up to President Pastrana to make the peace. Once he does so, we'll stand by his side. And so our support has been strong, and it's been consistent. And we'll continue to support our friend, the democratically elected leader of Colombia.

***President Pastrana.*** Thank you very much for your question. Yes, I think that President Bush has—will resume what has been the help, $1.3 billion, the last year. He talked about a near $1 billion for this next year for what he has been calling the Andean initiative.

More than money, we are asking commerce—that's why we are asking the United States; that's why we were asking Europe. And that's why President Bush is committing in the extension of ATPA and the enhancement of ATPA, to try to get to really some preference that will allow us to get more employment for our people.

I think that President Bush is also very committed in drug addiction. I said yesterday to President Bush that a drug addict is a drug terrorist. One smell of cocaine in the United States is a death in Colombia. So that's why he's also very committed in working and fighting inside the United States. As you will know, the U.S. is expending nearly $20 billion in drug prevention programs. And he's really very committed to bring, also, down consumption in his country.

And I think that we had a meeting in Cartagena, the Andean countries, the ATPA countries: Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia. We invited Venezuela as an observer to the ATPA. And we hope that with the help of President Bush and with the help of the U.S. Congress, we will get the ATPA out before the end of this year. And that will bring us new opportunities for the poorest people of our country.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** And of Canada, I've assured the President that if they need us to play a certain role, we'll be available. There are some discussions to have certain participation. And if we can be useful, we'll be happy to help.

### *Free Trade Agreement for Central America*

***Q.*** I'm one of the Salvadoran journalists covering this summit. Bush, could you give us details regarding the negotiation of a free trade agreement with Central America? In particularly, Mr. Bush, if you have in mind a day to start negotiations? If you have in mind a date to sign this agreement? And also if your administration is going to give special treatment to those Central American economies?

***President Bush.*** Trade—I'm sorry, the very end of your question? Special trade——

***Q.*** Free trade agreement with Central America.

***President Bush.*** My first meeting here in Quebec City is with my—actually, not my first meeting—I had a meeting early—how quickly we forget—with our friends from Central America. And we talked about free trade. And we talked about the possibilities of a free trade agreement with a group of nations.

I did not dismiss that notion at all. As a matter of fact, it should be clear to people that as we discuss the agreement that we're discussing here at this summit, that our Nation is willing to work with others, such as Chile, to negotiate bilateral agreements.

And so, I'm openminded is the way to describe that to you. And I think the leaders would tell you that we had a very frank discussion, and it's very possible—it's very possible that we'll be able to come to an agreement with a group of nations that would really make a logical extension from NAFTA. So, to answer your question, I don't have a date specific, but in my mind is the idea of that possibility.

***Q.*** Will you support, Mr. Bush, any kind of special treatment for those Central American economies in this agreement?

***President Bush.*** Well, that's what I was saying. I would be very openminded. As you know, we're committed in your country to helping with natural disasters. It's in our Nation's interest that your good country, with its brilliant young leader, be—help recover. It's going to be hard to have a good economic vitality and growth without the aid necessary to help recover from the natural disaster that took place. But I'm openminded.

Let me just say something on behalf of my government about *el Presidente de El Salvador.* He is a breath of fresh air. He is a very bright light, and I've been most impressed by his candor, his leadership, his integrity. He's a great leader for your country.

***Q.*** My question is for Prime Minister Arthur—and before I do, Mr. Arthur, you would be happy to know that westerners aren't doing too bad in Jamaica. Now, on the opening on Friday, you spoke of special considerations for the Caribbean in the FTAA process. There have been concerns about the OECD, IDB membership for some of the small states. Going into the conference, what were the Caribbean community and common market's primary concerns, and are you satisfied that these outcomes address these concerns?

***Prime Minister Archer.*** As I said at the opening, we have committed ourselves to being part of the effort to build a truly inclusive hemispheric community. And one of our

basic concerns, obviously, have been to ensure that our framework is in place to accommodate the needs of these smaller, more vulnerable entities within the community.

We are pleased that, as a result of the trade ministers' negotiations in Argentina, we shall be embraced by heads of this summit that there is a realistic framework in place for the completion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, and that even more satisfying, that there are now clear mandates given to the individual negotiating groups that would enable us to be sure that we will translate the principle of special and differential treatment for smaller or more vulnerable societies into the final agreement that will anchor the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

The Caribbean was also concerned, having participated in the two previous summits, about the adequacy of the arrangements for implementation. I think we would be remiss were we not to say how heartened we have been, ourselves, by the statement of commitments given by the heads of the OAS, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank—[*inaudible*]—to support our plan of action with appropriate resources and new institutional arrangements.

But you must believe me when I tell you that for the Caribbean, we are excited by the prospect of translating our human capital advantage into new industry in a new information age. Nothing matters more to us than to be able to leave a conference where there is a commitment to a plan of action to put the new information and communications technology within the reach of the people of the hemisphere, making it possible for us to contemplate a future of specialization as service societies in our new knowledge-based global society.

And for me, certainly, this connectivity agenda that will share the benefits of that new technology to small societies is an exciting opportunity that the Caribbean surely will not miss out on.

***Prime Minister Chretien.*** Thank you very much, Prime Ministers. So this concludes the press conference. There will be another one in a few minutes by the officials of—representative of the regional banks and the World Bank and the political organization of the Americas.

Thank you very much. See you next time.

NOTE: The President's fifth news conference began at 1:40 p.m. at the Quebec Convention Center. In his remarks, President Bush referred to President Valentin Paniagua Corazao of Peru and President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay. President Pastrana referred to ATPA, the Andean Trade Preference Act, and a journalist referred to FTAA, Free Trade Area of the Americas; OECD, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development; and IDB, International Data Bank. President Flores Perez's remarks were in Spanish and translated by an interpreter. A portion of President Pastrana's remarks were in Spanish and a portion of Prime Minister Chretien's remarks were in French and both were translated by an interpreter. Portions of this news conference could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## North American Leaders' Statement

*April 22, 2001*

We met today in Quebec City for the first time as leaders of the three countries making up North America. We have come together as leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, North American neighbors who share common values and interests. The ties that link us—human, social, cultural, and economic—are becoming stronger. Fully realizing the tremendous potential of North America is a goal we all share.

Increased trade and investment are cornerstones of a vibrant, expanding and more comprehensive North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) since 1994 in bringing about a truly remarkable expansion of trade and investment among our countries. NAFTA has eliminated many barriers to trade, led to the elaboration of clear rules of commerce, and established effective procedures for the resolution of disputes. We will build on this progress by completing NAFTA implementation and by identifying ways in which NAFTA can ensure a more predictable framework for the further development of trade and investment within North America. We will work to deepen a sense of community, promote our mutual economic interest, and ensure that NAFTA's benefits extend to all regions and social sectors. Our governments will develop ideas on

how we can work together to develop and expand hemispheric and global trade and promote broader international cooperation.

We consulted on the development of a North American approach to the important issue of energy markets. Towards this end, our Energy Ministers have created a North American Energy Working Group. This technical-level forum will be a valuable means of fostering communication and coordinating efforts in support of efficient North American energy markets that help our governments meet the energy needs of our peoples. We stressed the importance of energy conservation, development of alternative energy sources, and our common commitment to addressing environmental impacts of energy use.

Migration is one of the major ties that bind our societies, with migrants making significant cultural and economic contributions. It is important that our policies reflect our values and needs, and that we achieve progress in dealing with this phenomenon. We are committed to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with appropriate legal protections, and defense of human rights for migrants. We will strengthen mechanisms for trilateral cooperation to address the legitimate needs of migrants and take effective measures against trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.

We reviewed the extensive cooperation underway among our three governments in areas as diverse as transportation, communications, health, justice, agriculture, and border issues. We discussed the growing links among citizens in our three countries and new partnerships in business, employment, education, travel, culture, and joint research.

These patterns of cooperation—by governments, business, and other members of civil society—are building a new sense of community among us. Our governments will review the trends, challenges, and opportunities facing North America at the dawn of a new century, and examine options to further strengthen our North American partnership. Conscious of the challenges we face but convinced of the need to seize the unprecedented opportunities before us, we encourage broad reflection in our societies on ways to advance the trilateral relationship.

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

## Remarks to the American Embassy Community in Quebec

*April 22, 2001*

Thank you. I used to call him Governor, I now call him Ambassador, I'll always call him friend. I appreciate you very much, Ambassador, and it's great to see your beautiful bride here, too.

I first want to say something about your immediate boss; that's the Secretary of State. As you're going to find out, he is a man who respects the job you do, a man who loves his country, a man who is going to be a fabulous Secretary of State for America. And I think the other three Cabinet Secretaries who are up here might do a pretty good job, too. [*Laughter*]

We've had a very interesting stay here in Quebec City. It turns out that Quebec City has now hosted three history-making summits. The first two in 1943 and 1944 involved only three world leaders. Therefore, they had it in one hotel. [*Laughter*] This one was a little more complex, it turns out. [*Laughter*]

When I see how much work it is to organize a Presidential visit, it surprises me sometimes that I'm welcome anywhere. [*Laughter*] And so, I want to thank you very much for the job the U.S. Mission did in preparing for our arrival, not only making sure that the arrival was well prepared, that when we're here, that it went smoothly, and it did, and you're to be congratulated.

We have no more important bilateral relationship than that with Canada. It's true the relationship doesn't always make the headlines in the United States. That's a good sign. [*Laughter*] Generally, when we make the news, it's because there is a dysfunctional relationship at hand. It shows what a good job you all are doing at relaying our priority to your fellow folks in the Foreign Service or civil service in Canada, that we care about our relationship, that America knows how important it is. And it's a vital relationship.

As the Ambassador noted, the statistics are strong—200 million border crossings a year. Canada is our biggest trading partner. Canada is the biggest exporter of energy to the United States. It's an important relationship. This administration will keep it that way, and I know you will join us in doing so.

I just finished an interesting luncheon with Prime Minister Jean Chretien and President Vicente Fox about how to expand the unique relationship our three countries have, called NAFTA, as you know. But it's an incredibly important relationship. I first came—became aware of the relationship as the Governor of Texas. I saw how important it was for us to understand that family values don't stop at the Rio Bravo River, that family values—that there are people in Mexico who are hungry and worry about their children, who, if they can make a better living somewhere else, will do so. Oftentimes it was in my State; occasionally it was in—more than occasionally it was in other people's State.

But I also saw the hope and promise of what trade could mean and good relations between the three of us. It meant better jobs in Mexico. It meant a mother or a dad might be able to find work closer to home, which is the aspiration of people in Mexico. It also means we've got to—it helps enable—to keep closer ties with Canada. And for that I'm grateful.

And so our discussions today was how to expand and strengthen NAFTA. And one way we can do so is through energy. America is short on energy; Canada is long on energy. America is short on energy; Mexico, with the right policy, could be long on energy. And so our discussions today were not only on other subjects but we talked about establishing an energy group for the hemisphere, which we will do.

And the reason I bring this up is that it's an indication of why this future—our relationship is just as strong in the future as it is today. And it makes eminent sense for us to continue to work with our friends and allies in our hemisphere.

I leave the summit very optimistic about what took place here, because I want you to think about this interesting fact. We had all but one country represented here, because all but one country in our hemisphere has embraced democracy. For some of you oldtimers—I'm trying to find a few—there looks like a guy who might be an oldtimer. [*Laughter*] You know, we couldn't have said that long ago. It's an amazing fact. It's a wonderful testimony to freedom and democracy. So I'm very optimistic about what took place here. It gives us a great chance to expand the opportunities around our hemisphere, knowing that it will help our own country.

I've always believed that it's—the best foreign policy is one that improves your own neighborhood first. And so when I say a priority of ours is this hemisphere, it's not idle chitchat; it's reality, as witnessed by the fact that my first summit was a summit with leaders from our own neighborhood.

I want to say something about your Ambassador. He is a—you'll find him to be a good listener, a strong American. He is going to be a thoughtful manager. He's really a good guy. He's a good guy. [*Laughter*] And he married, like me, above his head. [*Laughter*]

I, too, want to thank the Deputy Chief of Missions, Steve Kelly. I want to thank the acting—the Consul General in Quebec City. I want to thank Nick Nixon, as well. I want to thank Roberta Smolik—Robin Smolik—Robert Smolik. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the guy who wrote this on the card wrong. [*Laughter*] Knowing how the Presidency works, there's a card writer somewhere pulling his hair out now. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Marina Nalli. Did I get it right? [*Applause*]

I want to thank you all very much on the American side for your hard work. I also want to thank Rejjie Tremblay. He made sure I got to my meetings on time. [*Laughter*] I hope word has filtered out of Washington that I believe on starting meetings on time. [*Laughter*] I don't believe in making people wait. I want to make sure that Lori Fortin gets thanks, as well. Not one member of this huge delegation had to sleep on a couch, thanks to you. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Fred Bishop. He's known as Emergency Guy. [*Laughter*] He fixed problems before they became emergencies.

I want to tell you all how much I appreciate your service to the country. It's more than just making sure the mission works—

however, this mission worked well—it's to make sure the mission always works. I want to thank you for understanding that there is something greater than yourself in life, and that's the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:13 p.m. at the Loews le Concorde Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to U.S. Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci and his wife, Jan Garnett; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; and Lois Aroian, U.S. Consul General in Quebec.

## Remarks Honoring the NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Champions

*April 23, 2001*

Welcome. Please be seated. This might be a long speech. [*Laughter*]

First of all, I want to welcome two great teams from two great universities. It is our honor to host you all here at the White House. I want to say congratulations to Coach K—the reason I call him Coach K is because sometimes I have trouble pronouncing long words—[*laughter*]—Coach McGraw, and the players and the representatives from Duke and Notre Dame, welcome.

I want to welcome two fine United States Senators: Senator Helms from North Carolina, Senator Lugar from Indiana. Members of the United States Congress who are here, thank you all for coming.

In reviewing the rosters and the success of this club, it is clear that both Duke and Notre Dame recruited for athletic talent, but they also recruited character, as well. These championships go to prove that good people do finish first.

It is such an honor to welcome Duke back here. It turns out that there was another President named Bush that welcomed the Duke team. And they dedicated a basketball court right here on the South Lawn during that visit. The weather has been such that I haven't been practicing my skyhook lately. [*Laughter*] Looking at the size of some of these guys, I'm not sure I want to try to do it now, anyway. [*Laughter*]

I know it took a lot of hard work to get here, and there were some very close games and tough contests, particularly the "Fighting Irish" in their final—in the final game won in the last second. I'm reminded about what Coach McGraw's son, Murphy, said as he watched the game. He said, "That was scary." Murphy, I know what you're talking about. It reminds me of election night. [*Laughter*]

There's no question that teams require good leadership. And I was struck by the quote of one of the stars here who said about Coach K—just to prove to the press I can say it—Coach Krzyzewski—[*laughter*]—"To me, he's been a friend, a mentor, and a brother. I am the luckier person for having him have me as a part of my life." That's what leadership is all about. That's what it means to be somebody who can set an example and somebody who understands the responsibilities of the assignment. It's not just to win championships; it's to shape lives in a positive way.

And I loved what Coach McGraw said. She said, "Usually there are negative things that occur during the season. But this year I've had not to call a single team meeting; I've gotten no complaints from professors. We can't even yell at the players, because they do everything we ask." I need your help with Congress. [*Laughter*]

Championships bring an awesome responsibility. Not only do you win a trophy, I think you have the obligation of understanding that you have enormous influence on people's lives—people you don't even know. People look at the champs and say, "How does a champ behave? What is a champ supposed to do?" Champions not only cut down nets but they can influence people's lives by sending positive signals by how they behave, not only on the court but off the court. It's a big responsibility. It's a huge responsibility. And that's why these two teams are so fortunate to have great teamwork and great players.

I know this was a team effort, and I'm sure the two players I'm going to mention, Battier and Riley, are going to be somewhat concerned that the President has singled them out. But I want to remind people who may not know their histories that not only were they great players, they're great people; not

only did they set goals about being the best on the basketball court, they set goals of becoming all-academic stars, and they were. They set goals of understanding the Golden Rule and living by it.

These are good people. And I'm sure your teammates are, as well. But they set the kind of example that America needs. And all of us who have got positions of responsibility, all of us, whether we're a President or a coach or a player or a president of a university, must understand that with that responsibility comes the necessity to set the right signal all throughout America that there's a difference between right and wrong, that we can be compassionate, and that we can love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

So it's my huge honor to welcome good teams and good people to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Muffet McGraw, head women's basketball coach, and player Ruth Riley, University of Notre Dame; and Mike Krzyzewski, head men's basketball coach, and player Shane Battier, Duke University.

## Remarks on National Parks Week and National Volunteer Week and an Exchange With Reporters

*April 23, 2001*

***The President.*** It's my honor for me to welcome and to be in the presence of one of my finest Ambassadors. The White House, I often say, doesn't belong to Laura and me; it belongs to the American people. And William Toth is a volunteer who works hard every day to ensure that every American feels right at home in the White House.

Mr. Toth has lived a life of service. In World War II, he served with distinction in General George Patton's army. He later became a professor at New York University. He worked hard to put his own daughters through college, and when the youngest graduated, he retired. But he refused to rest.

For the last 9 years, Mr. Toth has been bringing smiles to visitors' faces as they arrive at the White House. Whether handing out gold coins to visiting children or passing out stories to adults, William makes sure that everyone leaves the White House with a memory.

America owes a great debt to William Toth. But like millions of volunteers across America, he will never ask us to repay it. And that's what makes his service, and the service of so many other volunteers, so unique.

The National Park Service has some of the best volunteers in the Nation. Whether it's here at the White House, at other sites around the Nation's Capital, or at the national parks around the country, National Park Service volunteers perform their duties with the simple goal of helping Americans enjoy our national treasures. They keep us connected to our history and help preserve America's natural beauty for future generations to enjoy.

That's why it's particularly fitting this week that we recognize both America's volunteers and America's national parks, for they both bring great joy to countless Americans.

At 77, William Toth continues to win over everyone he sees. In a letter she sent me last month, his daughter, Dawn, wrote, "I just want to let you know who you have in your corner. In some ways, he's America's most important diplomat. And he'll make you look darn good."

I know that can sometimes be a difficult task, and I appreciate all the help I can get, William. [*Laughter*] The truth is, Mr. Toth, you make America look darn good. I want to thank you for your tireless dedication, for working here at the White House. I want to thank the volunteers at the National Park Service, and the American people thank you from the bottom of their heart.

God bless.

### *Arms Sales to Taiwan*

***Q.*** Mr. President, will Taiwan get the Aegis radar system this time?

***Q.*** ——sale to Taiwan?

***The President.*** You'll find out when we make the—I make my decision clear.

***Q.*** Have you made your decision, sir?

***The President.*** Yes. I haven't made it clear yet, though. We'll let you know soon.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:57 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Dawn Foreman, Tracy Toth, and Melissa Eckert, daughters of Mr. Toth.

## Remarks on Presenting the National Teacher of the Year Award

*April 23, 2001*

***The President.*** Thank you all very much. Welcome to the Rose Garden. I was wondering if it was ever going to get warm in Washington. [*Laughter*] It does.

Mr. Secretary, thank you, and thanks for your kind introduction and thanks for your service to the children of our country. I don't know if you know this or not, but just last week in Monticello, Mississippi, there was a school named in Rod's honor. It's the school he attended as a young man.

What makes the story interesting is that students of his generation were segregated by race. No more in this great land called America. The Rod Paige Middle School will know loud and clear that education breaks down any barrier to success. Mr. Secretary, you're a role model for students across America, and for a couple of adults, as well.

***Education Secretary Roderick R. Paige.*** Well, thank you. Thank you.

***The President.*** And I'm proud to have you on my team.

***Secretary Paige.*** Thank you.

***The President.*** I'd like to thank the Council of Chief State School Officers, Scholastic, Inc., and the National Selection Committee for organizing this event. You've done a splendid job.

And I want to welcome to the White House, Peter McWalters, president of the Council of Chief State School Officers, and Gordon Ambach, its executive director. And I also want to welcome and congratulate 56 teachers of the year, from all across America.

You know, I used to say as the Governor of Texas, you can never thank a good teacher enough. Well, I'm going to try to do it as President: Thank you all, from the bottom of our hearts.

I especially want to congratulate the finalists: Christa Compton and Tonya Perry, Derek Minakami and Michele Forman, the National Teacher of the Year. I'll have a few things more to say about Michele in a moment.

For a half century, the White House has hosted a ceremony honoring the National Teacher of the Year and the State Teachers of the Year. Every American President, since Harry Truman, has presented this award, and that's as it should be. What we honor tells the world what we value, and we value America's teachers.

"A teacher affects eternity," Henry Adams once wrote. He meant that their influence is unending. Teachers play a vital role in the intellectual and moral education of children. They teach children how to read and write, and they teach children right from wrong. They teach students to love knowledge and to disdain ignorance. Teachers inspire students, fire imaginations, nurture their natural abilities, and encourage them to explore the possibilities of life. They prepare good students to be good citizens. They also know better than anyone else they can't do it alone.

It's so important for the moms and dads of America to hear this message: Be a good parent; love your children; teach your children to read early in life; and support the teachers who are spending time with your most precious, precious part of your family.

One of my predecessors as Governor of Texas was a guy named Sam Houston. Sam Houston was a United States Senator, the Governor of two States, Texas and Tennessee. He was even a President—the President of the Republic of Texas. And yet, with all these impressive accomplishments, he wrote that being a teacher in Maryville, Tennessee, gave him a higher feeling of dignity and satisfaction than any other office or honor he ever held.

Well, this year's National Teacher of the Year, Michele Forman, demonstrates the dignity and satisfaction of teaching. Mrs. Forman teaches social studies at Middlebury Union High, in Middlebury, Vermont. She says this: "I think I have the best job in the world. Every day is something new."

Mrs. Forman arrives at school every day at 6:30 a.m., a full 2 hours before the students arrive. Three mornings a week she teaches Arabic, which she's been doing for the past 4 years. Students earn no credit by

taking the course; they attend the classes because of their love of learning—and probably, mostly because of their love of Mrs. Forman.

Michele Forman knows her subjects and has high expectations for her students. She believes there must be a mutual trust between teachers and students. She's highly regarded by her colleagues. She's a woman of boundless energy and enthusiasm. In all these ways, she is an example of excellence in education.

And so it's a high honor to present to Michele Forman the National Teacher of the Year Award.

[*At this point, Mrs. Forman made brief remarks.*]

***The President.*** Well, Michele, thank you very much. In keeping the fine tradition of never missing to want an opportunity—[*laughter*]—or to waste an opportunity, let me say a few words about a pressing issue and a great opportunity for our country.

This week the United States Senate will begin debate on what's known as S–1, appropriately named because it is my number one priority, it is your number priority, and it's an education reform proposal. This is not just about another legislative debate. It's the best opportunity in a generation for having meaningful education reform come out of Washington, DC.

And we have an ambitious goal: All our children, every child in America, must have access to a safe and high quality school, so we make sure that standards are high. It's so important to raise the bar and expect the best from every child, just like you do; that results are tested—people shouldn't fear accountability systems in America. We want to know. We want to know whether children can read and write and add and subtract. And if not, we'll make sure they do early, before it is too late, and that schools are accountable.

We give more States more flexibility and freedom. We trust teachers in the classrooms, as opposed to having mandates out of Washington. We've got to trust teachers and principals to chart the path for excellence for every child; provide greater options for parents with bipartisan support for charter schools or public school choice or private tutoring programs.

In separate legislation we are working for liability reform to support and protect teachers who enforce reasonable standards of conduct in their classrooms. We're encouraging more of America's best and brightest citizens, including those who have served in the Armed Forces, to become teachers. This is a project near and dear to my wife Laura's heart. Unfortunately, she's not here. I wish she was, because she could explain a lot better than I could, but she's out traveling the Nation, reminding people that one of the most noble professions ever is to be a teacher, and recruiting teachers. And she's doing such a good job, I need to send her up to the Congress to convince them to behave.

We'll increase spending on education and focus that new spending on reforming schools that aren't performing well or on a powerful reading initiative.

I support historic new levels of education funding. Yet all of us know better schools require more than just funding. And I hope the Senate hears that we need meaningful education reform by high standards, accountability. My education reform has a good balance of new dollars.

Now, one of the interesting things that historians learn—and Michele is an historian—is that the President proposes, the Congress disposes. But the truth of the matter is, the people rule. And I hope the people of America contact the Members of the Senate and insist upon a passage of a well-balanced, meaningful reform package that will enhance our teachers' ability to do what you do well, which is to teach our kids.

It's an honor for me to be here. I welcome you to the Nation's Capital. And once again, thanks from the bottom of my heart, on behalf of all of America, for doing the job you do.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

## Remarks to the Environmental Youth Award Winners

*April 24, 2001*

Thank you all very much. It's my honor to be here. First, Christie Todd, you're doing a great job. I knew I was going to pick—I knew she was going to do a great job when I picked her. I didn't realize how good. And she really is—I'm proud to have her on my team.

I want to thank the parents who are here. I know it's a proud moment for you, and it should be. It means you've done your job.

I always like to remind folks who are lucky enough to have a child, the most important job you'll ever have is to love your children and to be a good mom and dad. I want to thank the sponsors who are here, and I look forward to thanking you all personally after this brief speech. [*Laughter*] Please don't break out in applause. [*Laughter*]

The Congress is back, and it's good to see three fine Members of the Congress here. I thank you guys for coming: Zach Wamp of Tennessee, Mark Kirk of Illinois, and Wally Herger of California. Thank you guys for being here. I know you're here to represent your constituents, and I know you're proud of your constituents, just like we are, as well.

But most particularly, I want to thank the winners. I had the opportunity of having my picture taken with the winners, and it looks like I might have a chance to have a few more after this is over. [*Laughter*] Right, guy? [*Laughter*]

For three decades now, the Environmental Protection Agency has helped to carry out our national commitment to the wise care of the environment. The agency has worked with many private citizens who understand that each have a duty to be good stewards of the land and life around us. And that's what we're honoring today.

Interesting thing is, is that we're honoring youngsters. You would think that the old folks would be the ones leading the charge in America and many places. But it's our young who are doing so, particularly when it comes to cleaning up the environment, and for that we're grateful. It really does speak to a great future for America, I think.

And rather than going through all the impressive accomplishments, just like Christie Todd did, I do want to talk a little bit about good environmental policy. It starts with a commitment. And my administration has a commitment to clean air and clean water and good soils.

Laura and I are fortunate enough to own a ranch in central Texas. I like to remind everybody that if you own your own land, every day is Earth Day. If you live off the land—the people who care more about that than the people who live off the land—the reason I bring that up is because I want—a good policy understands the proper role of the Federal Government. The proper role of the Federal Government is to set high standards, to set goals, but it's to work with local folks to achieve those goals.

Not all wisdom is in Washington, DC, as witnessed by what took place up here. All of us in Washington don't have all of the answers to all of the problems. Our job is to work in a collaborative way with people at the local level. As Christie Todd said, we'll fund more, and we will.

We've got money in our budget to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the first time. It says we'll work with local folks to set aside lands that need to be protected. We've got money in our budgets to repair the national parks. Here, the Federal Government is talking about a clean world and a clean environment, and yet we're not even keeping our own parks; we're not fulfilling our own responsibilities. It seems like to me, if we want to set a good example for the rest of the country, we've got to take care of what we're—over which we're in charge. And we're going to do so at the Federal level.

We've got some regulatory policy in place that makes sense. But it says we're going to make decisions based upon sound science, not some environmental fad or what may sound good—that we're going to rely upon the best of evidence before we decide.

Ours is a policy that truly believes that technologies have advanced to the point where we can have economic growth and sound environmental policy go hand in hand. Oh, there's a lot of talk recently about energy. And for those of you in California, you know we need more energy. For those of

you who are living in the biggest State in our Union, who have suffered blackouts—and some of us think there may be more blackouts coming—we've got to come up with an energy policy for America. But I firmly believe we can do so and protect the environment.

The whole world doesn't have to be zero-sum. It doesn't have to be that we find more energy, and therefore, the environment suffers. You see, we've got technologies available now to make sure that we explore and protect the environment at the same time, and we need to do that. We need to be good stewards of the land.

But we've also got to understand, if we don't bring more natural gas to the markets, we're going to have blackouts. We've also got to understand, in order to power the power-generating plants that are now being built in California, we need more energy. And I want to assure the young up here that this is an administration committed to good, sound policy. And it's an administration that firmly believes that the technologies are developed to the point where we can be good stewards of the land and, at the same time, bring the energy to market that we need.

We'll base decisions on sound science. We'll call upon the best minds of America to help us achieve an objective, not only here at home but around the world, which is: cleaner air, cleaner water, and better use of our land.

It's such a wonderful inspiration to see the young of America standing up here who are setting a good example for all of us. And so, on behalf of our Government and the American people, I want to congratulate the winners, their parents, and their sponsors.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman.

## Message Commemorating the Forced Exile and Annihilation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

*April 24, 2001*

Today marks the commemoration of one of the great tragedies of history: the forced exile and annihilation of approximately 1.5 million Armenians in the closing years of the Ottoman Empire. These infamous killings darkened the 20th century and continue to haunt us to this day. Today, I join Armenian Americans and the Armenian community abroad to mourn the loss of so many innocent lives. I ask all Americans to reflect on these terrible events.

While we mourn the tragedy that scarred the history of the Armenian people, let us also celebrate their indomitable will which has allowed Armenian culture, religion, and identity to flourish through the ages. Let us mark this year the 1700th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in Armenia. Let us celebrate the spirit that illuminated the pages of history in 451 when the Armenians refused to bow to Persian demands that they renounce their faith. The Armenian reply was both courageous and unequivocal: "From this faith none can shake us, neither angels, nor men, neither sword, fire or water, nor any bitter torturers." This is the spirit that survived again in the face of the bitter fate that befell so many Armenians at the end of the Ottoman Empire.

Today, that same spirit not only survives, but thrives in Armenian communities the world over. Many Armenian survivors and their descendants chose to live in the United States, where they found safety and built new lives. We are grateful for the countless ways in which Armenian Americans continue to enrich America's science, culture, commerce and, indeed, all aspects of our national life.

One of the most important ways in which we can honor the memory of Armenian victims of the past is to help modern Armenia build a secure and prosperous future. I am proud that the United States actively supports Armenia and its neighbors in finding

a permanent and fair settlement to the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute. I hope that this year we will see peace and reconciliation flourish in the south Caucasus region between Armenia and all its neighbors. The United States welcomes the opportunity to support the courageous efforts by the Armenian people to overcome years of hardship and Soviet repression to create a prospering, democratic, and sovereign Republic of Armenia.

Let us remember the past and let its lessons guide us as we seek to build a better future. In the name of the American people, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all Armenians as we observe this solemn day of remembrance.

**George W. Bush**

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

*April 17, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)*

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I submit to you this report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period February 1 through March 31, 2001. The previous submission covered events during December 2000 and January 2001.

The United Nations continued in its efforts to sustain the proximity talks that started in December 1999. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

*April 17, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 25.

## Remarks in New Orleans, Louisiana

*April 25, 2001*

***The President.*** Thank you all very much. Thank you all. It's an honor to be here. This ballpark kind of reminds me of home. And seeing my friend Will Clark, who used to play for the mighty Texas Rangers, it really reminded me of home. I want to thank you for being here, Will.

I also want to thank my friend David Vitter, the great Congressman from this district, for his introduction. I'm pleased to have been traveling today, as well, with the Congressman from northern Louisiana, John Cooksey. I appreciate John being here.

And you should appreciate them, as well, because when it came to trying to figure out what to do with the people's money, they stood strong for tax relief. At the airport, when I arrived, it was good to see my old friend and fellow Governor, the Governor of Louisiana, Michael Foster. And with Mike

was a friend of mine, the elections commissioner of the State of Louisiana, Suzie Haik Terrell. It's good to see Suzie, as well.

Just to make it clear that tax relief is not necessarily a Republican idea or a Democrat idea, today I'm proud that Karen Carter and Lambert Boissiere, both good elected Democrats here in the State of Louisiana, stand in this crowd in solid support of tax relief on behalf of the working people.

And finally, before I get going, there are two folks here who I'm glad they're here; I wish I would have been here to hear them sing: Mr. Percy Sledge and Aaron Neville.

After this, I'm going to Arkansas and then I'm going to spend a couple of days in my State of Texas. I'll be spending some quality time with the First Lady, and she's going to be envious to know that I got to shake Percy Sledge and Aaron Neville's hand.

By the way, I'm proud of the job that Laura is doing. One of the things she is doing is traveling our country, reminding people of how important it is to be a teacher, telling the teachers of this good land how much we appreciate them, but also telling those young and old alike that if you're looking for something to do, if you want to make a contribution to our Nation, become a teacher. Teaching is a noble profession. And there is something very fundamental about making a contribution to our Nation.

The truth of the matter is, if you want to start making a great contribution to our Nation, if you happen to be a mom or a dad, remember this: The most important job you'll ever have is to be a good mom and dad. If you have the honor of being a mother or a father, the most important contribution you can make to this land is to every day tell your child you love them with all your heart and all your soul.

I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would say we would love each other like we'd like to be loved ourself. There's no such law. But there are some laws we can pass to help people with their lives. And that's exactly the kind of budget I submitted to the United States Congress. The Congress is focused and principled. It's a budget that says we could spend more money on the public's education system around America. It's a budget that prioritizes education.

The biggest increase of any budget—of any Department in my budget goes to the Department of Education. It signals a priority. But I haven't forgotten where I come from, either. I know that Washington doesn't have all the knowledge necessary to run the schools. As a matter of fact, I'm against mandates. I'm for freedom at the local level. I believe in local control of our schools.

We're making progress. We're making progress, and I appreciate so very much the cooperative efforts of both Republicans and Democrats in Washington to craft a bill that embodies these principles. First, we've got to set high standards when it comes to educating our children. Everybody understands that if you set low standards, you get low results. When you raise the bar, when you expect the best is when you start getting the kind of results we want in America.

Secondly, embodied in the principle involved in the bill that I submitted and we're working on, it says we've got to trust the local people to run the schools in America. It says we've got to trust the local people to make the decisions for children. The people who care more about the children in Louisiana are the citizens of Louisiana, and we must empower the citizens to make that choice.

But also a principle in the bill that's working its way through the Senate says that we want to know results in America. We've got to know. We don't want the Federal Government setting up a test, but we want local people to devise accountability systems that let us know whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. It is so important that we measure. It is important to use measurement not as a way to punish but as a way to solve problems early, before it's too late.

I refuse to accept a system that will not hold people accountable, a system that will just shuffle through children through the system without regard to their knowledge base.

Now, we can do better in America. We can do better by asking the question to our children: "What do you know?" And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we will make sure you do early, before it's too late. No child should be left behind in the great land called America.

In the budget I submitted to the United States Congress, I sent this priority. We better make sure we pay the people who wear the uniform of the United States a decent wage. I have the awesome responsibility of being the Commander in Chief of the United States, and that means making sure that morale is high amongst our troops, that means good pay, that means good housing, that means good training. And that means having a Commander in Chief who respects the men and women who wear the uniform and who, in turn, earns the respect of the men and women who wear the uniform.

Behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

There's always a lot of talk when it comes to the budget, that if we try to share the people's money with them, that somebody is not going to get their Social Security check. Hopefully, these days of that kind of rhetoric are gone from the political discourse. Hopefully, the days of trying to scare people, days of trying to frighten people are behind us. That kind of politics is divisive and unnecessary.

The reality is, the budget I submitted, and the budget most people agree with—this part of the budget most people agree with—says that we will spend payroll taxes, those taxes aimed for Social Security, on one thing and one thing only, and that is Social Security.

We have made a commitment to our elderly in America. It is a commitment this administration will keep. But if you're young in America, you better be wondering what the Social Security system is going to look like tomorrow. There's not going to be enough people paying in by the time you get to be Social Security. We've got to think differently. On the one hand, we're going to protect our seniors. But on the other hand, we better let younger workers, at their discretion, manage some of your own money in the private market so you get a better rate of return on investment.

There's a lot of concern about the health of our seniors, as there should be. The budget I submitted doubles the Medicare budget over the next 10 years. It doubles the amount of folks who will be served at community health centers over the next 5 years. It provides tax credits for the working uninsured. This is a good budget. It is a sound budget. And it meets the Nation's priorities.

It increases discretionary spending by 4 percent. That ought to seem like a lot for people whose pay raise hasn't gone up by 4 percent over the last couple of years. Four percent is greater than the rate of inflation; 4 percent is a hefty increase. But for some in Washington, 4 percent is not enough.

***Audience members.*** Boo-o-o!

***The President.*** For some in our Nation's Capital, they don't think 4 percent can meet the Nation's needs. And that's where we're having a major disagreement. The truth of the matter is, the budget last year grew at—the discretionary budget last year grew at 8 percent. The bill that came out of the Senate, again, grows the discretionary spending by 8 percent. And if that were to continue, the discretionary budget of the United States of America would double in 9 years.

***Audience members.*** Boo-o-o!

***The President.*** There's a fundamental argument going on in Washington, DC. And it's, what do we do with the people's money. That's what the argument is about. And my point I make to Washington is, after we meet priorities and grow the budget at 4 percent, we ought to be understanding where that money comes from. The surplus isn't the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. Let me make the case a little further.

We increase discretionary spending by 4 percent. As well, in the budget I submitted to the Congress, we pay down debt by $2 trillion over 10 years. We've also got another trillion set aside for contingencies.

Oh, there are contingencies all the time when it comes to the Federal level. There are emergencies. Sometimes our farmers need a little extra help because of emergencies. And we're going to meet those obligations. This is a sound budget. It leaves money unspent. That's always dangerous when it comes to Washington, DC, leaving money unspent. [*Laughter*]

I was campaigning on this very issue in Iowa, and a lady got up and she said, "You know, the budget debate in Washington reminds me of what it was like when I had my grandchildren in the house." And I said, "Well, why was that?" And she said, "Well,

because I always made cookies. And when I left the cookies on the kitchen table and the grandchildren came through, they always got eaten." [*Laughter*] "They were never left."

Well, that's what happens to U.S. taxpayers' money. If you leave it sitting around in Washington, it's going to get spent. And it's going to get spent on bigger Government. What we need to do is set priorities and always remember whose money we're talking about. And so I submitted a plan that does just that. And the two Congressmen with me today, they stood strong on the side of the working people in Louisiana and voted for that tax relief.

What you hear in Washington is—a lot of times you hear people saying, "Well, I'm for tax relief, just so long as only a certain number of people get it." That's right. That's what we call targeted tax relief. That means somebody in Washington gets to pick the winners, and somebody gets to pick who doesn't win. That is not our view of fair tax relief. Everybody who pays taxes ought to get tax relief in America.

So ours says, everybody who pays taxes gets relief. We cut all rates. We cut the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. That's important, because there are people in America struggling on the outskirts of poverty. There are people working hard that aren't getting ahead. And not only did we cut the bottom rate, we increased the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

One of the things that troubles me most about our Tax Code is—the example I like to use is a single mother, working hard to get ahead. By the way, she's working the hardest job in America. Raising children by herself is the toughest job in this country.

Under this Tax Code, if she's barely getting ahead making 22,000 a year, say, raising two children, for every additional dollar she earns, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone who is a successful Wall Street stockbroker, for example. And that's just not right, folks. That's not what this country is about.

The message in the Tax Code ought to be, the harder you work, the better it is the chance you've got to get ahead in life. And so we reduced the bottom rate, and we increased the child credit. This code needs to be more fair.

But there's a lot of them up there saying, "Well, you can't drop the top rate. That's not fair." Well, first, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. And secondly, you can help me send this message to Washington: The small-business owner in the State of Louisiana is likely to be a sole proprietor; he's likely to be a Subchapter S; generally, he's not going to pay corporate income taxes. Therefore, he's going to be paying personal income tax rates.

By dropping that top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we're sending this message: The role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to become a large business. Dropping that top rate sends the clear message: We want more money in the pockets of the small-business owners so they can expand and grow their businesses.

The Tax Code we submitted makes the Tax Code more fair. It addresses inequities. It makes the code more responsive to hard work. But it also recognizes the role of family in society. The marriage penalty is unfair, and we've got to do something about taxing marriage in America.

And you know what else is unfair? Taxing a person's assets twice. In our country, called America, if you're a farmer or a rancher or a small-business owner and you pass away, your heirs have to pay taxes twice. They pay taxes when you get profitable, and they pay taxes when you die. The death tax is unfair, and for the goodness of America we need to get rid of it.

Now, that's the plan I submitted. Now, when I was campaigning in Louisiana during the campaign, I came and talked like this and a lot of people heard it and cheered. But I must confess, a lot of the punditry kind of had a blank stare on their face. They thought I was, as they say, whistling into the wind—[*laughter*]—that there was no chance we would get any tax relief.

But thanks to the hard work and the phone calls and e-mails of hundreds of Americans from across the country, we have begun to define the parameters. Out of the House

came a $1.6 trillion plan, and now the Senate—somewhat reluctant, but nevertheless—they passed a $1.2 trillion plan. Because of you all, because of the voices of America, tax relief is on the way.

And there's two important reasons why it must happen. The first is, we have a little slowdown in our economy, and tax relief will help. It's a part of how we recover the steam necessary to get our economy chugging again. And I'm confident with tax relief, we'll send a message—one, it will encourage long-term investment, but the tax relief package I look forward to working with the Senate and the House on will also have a retroactive feature to it, will get money in people's pockets quickly. It'll help recover this economy. And it's necessary. It is necessary.

But there is another reason. It has to do with the people. You know, sometimes with public policy we like to talk about ideology and numbers and charts. But behind every good public policy is the question, how do we help people? Today, in the crowd, we've got the Rogelstads, somewhere behind—there they go, right there. And I've asked them to come—it's Katie and Dustin. Katie is a receptionist; Dustin is a sales rep. More importantly, they're a mom and dad of Lawson and Karli.

They've come for a reason—because I want to share with you what happens to this one Louisiana family when we have tax relief. The Congress passes the plan that the House passed. And when it's fully implemented, these good folks who now pay 3,390 in Federal income taxes will save $1,850 a year.

You know, some will say, well, you know, that's 1,850—that may not be a lot for—but that's a lot for them. It's a lot for them, given the fact that we've had no energy policy in America, and therefore, energy prices are going up on the American people. It's a lot for people who struggle with credit card debt.

Now, this tax relief package, we're talking about live Americans who will benefit in a real way. You see, and the question is—and this is the fundamental question facing Washington, DC—once we meet fundamental obligations and pay down debt, once we increase discretionary spending by 4 percent, what do we do with the money left over?

The other way to look at it is, who do you trust? Do you want the Congress spending this $1,850, or do you want these people spending the 18? And we stand on the side of the families in Louisiana. It's, who do you trust? Do you trust the Government, or do you trust the people? And you've got an administration that stands squarely on the side of the people of America.

And not only do I trust you when it comes to your own money, I trust you when it comes to asking for your help and maybe convincing some of the members of the Louisiana delegation who don't see it our way, to see it our way. You're one e-mail away from letting somebody know how you feel. You're one stamp away from saying, "Meet priorities, but trust us with our own money. Meet priorities, but remember whose money it is you're spending up there."

You see, we can not only afford tax relief, but my point to the Congress is, we can't afford not to have tax relief. It is so important to trust the people of America, because that's why our Nation is so different and strong, because of our people.

This is a fabulous country, and I'm so honored—I'm so honored to be your President. I'm able to stand up—I'm the President of the greatest people on the face of the Earth, hard-working, God-fearing people, people who walk outside their house on a regular basis and say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help?" They don't need the Federal Government telling them how to love a neighbor; they do it out of the goodness of their heart. No, this is a land that is so strong because every single day there are countless acts of kindness where neighbor helps neighbor, or church member says to a child who wonders whether or not there's a future for him or her, "Somebody loves you."

My call to America and to the Congress is, let's free the good hearts of the American people. Let's not stand in the way of faith-based and community-based programs that are trying to help people in need. Let's unleash—let us unleash not only the creative passions of America through tax relief, let's unleash the compassion of America through

a Faith-Based Initiative that recognizes the great strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of our loving citizens.

We're making a difference in Washington—I say "we" because I stand up there with you all—that there's a new attitude in our Nation's Capital. We've still got a lot of work to do. But it's an attitude of respect. We need to have debates with the people in mind, not debates trying to say, "My party is better than your party," or debates that say, "Well, I'm going to tear this person down so I can do better." That's not what America should be about.

Slowly but surely, we're ushering in a culture of respect in the Nation's Capital. It's important to do so. And as importantly, all of us must work together to usher in a culture of personal responsibility into America, a culture that says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, responsible for loving our children, responsible for helping a neighbor in need.

And I understand my responsibilities, which is to uphold the high honor of the great office of President of the United States.

So I want to thank you all for coming out. I am honored to have you by my side. Let's work hard, and we're going to bring tax relief where it belongs—to the people of America.

God bless, and God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:45 p.m. at Zephyr Field. In his remarks, he referred to former Major League baseball player Will Clark.

## Statement on Senate Action on Legislation to Clean Up Brownfields

*April 25, 2001*

I am pleased that the Senate has passed legislation to clean up the Nation's brownfields. Environmental reforms must set high standards and get results. This legislation will allow communities to reduce environmental and health risks, capitalize on existing infrastructure and create jobs. I commend the Senate for their bipartisan approach to this important environmental reform.

## Proclamation 7429—Loyalty Day, 2001

*April 25, 2001*

*By the President of the United States of America*

***A Proclamation***

Two hundred and twenty-five years ago, America's founders faced a decisive crossroads. Thomas Jefferson later remembered "the bold and doubtful election we were to make for our country, between submission or the sword." They chose the sword, and a Nation was born.

Today, we celebrate our loyalty to this country and to the principles for which America stands. Americans demonstrate their dedication by protecting our Nation and its people, promoting our commonly held ideals, and passing these values on to future generations.

Many Americans display their loyalty through careers in public service. Members of our Armed Forces ensure that our Nation remains strong and secure, as well as defend democracy around the world. Domestically, law enforcement officers and the professionals working in our judicial system maintain the peace and uphold the rule of law on which our society depends. Countless other Americans also work to protect us from dangers that threaten our safety and resources.

Americans have not let the dream of "a more perfect Union" fade with the passing of time. Rather, each new generation, along with millions of immigrants, has promoted ideals that lead to the archetype that the founders envisioned. Heroes have risen to fight for freedom, abolition of slavery, universal suffrage, civil rights, and other principles that form the foundation of our Nation. Today, citizens across the country continue this tradition by giving their time and effort to causes greater than themselves. Whether through charitable, civic, or church activities, Americans demonstrate their loyalty by working to improve our country and the lives of its people.

Perhaps the most basic and important means by which we display loyalty to our country is by passing on to our children the

hope and idealism that is an important part of the American spirit. Parents have the important task in ensuring that our Nation's future leaders are prepared to assume the responsibilities they will face. Teachers play essential roles in molding our young people, and they deserve our gratitude and respect for their dedication. Ministers and other mentors also give of themselves by introducing children to the vast opportunities that our Nation holds. By spending time with a child, Americans invest in the future of our country.

Loyalty Day recognizes the solemn bond between America and its citizens. It provides an opportunity to recognize those who demonstrate their loyalty every day and challenges all of us to find more ways to contribute to the greater good of our country.

The Congress, by Public Law 85–529, has designated May 1 of each year, as "Loyalty Day," and I encourage all Americans to join me this day in reaffirming our allegiance to our blessed 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 laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2001, as Loyalty Day. I call upon all the people of the United States in support of this national observance.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of April, 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., April 27, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 30.

## Remarks on Arrival in Little Rock, Arkansas

*April 25, 2001*

Thank you all for coming. It's my honor to be back in Arkansas. It's great to be with my friend the Governor. We got to know each other when I was the Governor of a neighboring State. I respected him then; I continue to hold him in high regard. Governor Huckabee is one of the more popular Governors in the country because he's done in office what he said he would do.

It's also my honor to come to Arkansas to support a good friend of mine and a good friend of Arkansas, Senator Tim Hutchinson. This is my first trip as a—my first fundraising trip since I became the President. It's the first time I've really gotten what they call political, and it's for a good cause.

This man has done a really good job for the citizens of Arkansas, and I would like to see him returned to the United States Senate after next year's elections. He and I are working together on a lot of issues that matter to the Arkansas folks: a budget that is good for Arkansas and a tax relief plan that will benefit some 787,000 people who live in this State.

And the budget is focused. We increase a Federal education funding from 366 million to 390 million. We increase Head Start funding from $57.4 to $58.5 million. There's an estimated 379 million targeted for highway funding in Arkansas. This is a responsible budget that leaves room for tax relief, but also focuses on issues that matter to the folks of Arkansas. And coming down on the airplane, he and I spent a lot of time talking about agriculture.

One of the things the Senator talked about was there were a lot of farmers hurting in this State. And I assured him I understood that. And the point I want to make to the people is that when this election comes around in 2002, I hope the people of Arkansas realize how important it is to have a United States Senator who can walk into the Oval Office and say, "Mr. President, the people of Arkansas need your attention." And I can assure you when Tim Hutchinson walks in the Oval Office and says the people of Arkansas need my attention, they're going to get my attention.

And so, it's my honor to be here with this good United States Senator. I urge the people of this State to realize what a good man they've got in office, and I thank the people of this State for the prayers and support they've given me since I've been the President.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:07 p.m. at the Little Rock National Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas.

## Remarks at a Reception for Senator Tim Hutchinson in Little Rock

*April 25, 2001*

Well, Tim, thank you very much. It's my honor to be back in the great State of Arkansas. We were just reminiscing about the campaign. I remember—I was kind of tired, because it was the last day of the campaign, and I was on the airplane flying into Arkansas, wondering whether or not I could give one final speech. And we landed up there in northwest Arkansas, and there was about—I don't know, 17,000 people inside the area and another 17,000 trying to get in. And I had that funny feeling right there that not only could I not only give the speech, but I had that feeling things were going to go okay on election day in Arkansas, and they did, and I want to thank you all.

I want to thank Tim Hutchinson for his help in getting me here. More importantly, I want to thank him for his help as a United States Senator. I'm here for one simple reason. This man needs to be returned back to the United States Senate, come elections in 2002.

It's good to see the Lieutenant Governor, Win Rockefeller, and wife, Lisa Ann. Thank you all for being here. Every time I came back to Arkansas, it seemed like Win was able to make time for his old buddy, the Governor of Texas, and I appreciate that very much, sir. Thank you very much.

It's great to be here with former State Senator Jim Keet. It's good to see you again. He reminded me in 1988 when I campaigned here for the man we affectionately call "Number 41"—[*laughter*]—I'm "Number 43"—but we campaigned together for a great President, my dad, in 1998 together, and it's good to see you again, sir.

It's also great—Nick Bacon is here, Medal of Honor winner, an American hero, a man who represents the veterans of this State incredibly well. You need to know, Nick, that the veterans have got a friend in the White House. And it's my honor to be the President, not only the Commander In Chief, of those who wear the uniform, but a President who understands that those who used to wear the uniform need to be well-represented in Washington, just like you're doing here in Arkansas. And Dennis Rainey of the FamilyLife ministry, and Pastor Robert Smith, thank you all for being up here.

I'm sorry my wife isn't here with me. She is in Crawford, Texas, and I'm headed to Crawford, Texas, after this speech. [*Laughter*] They say, "Well, you must not like to live in Washington because you like to go to your ranch or Camp David." Well, I like to do both. I like—I love my life in the White House. I love getting up every morning and going into this majestic office that we call the Oval Office. As Tim said, it is an honor to be the President of the United States, and I view it that way, but I also like to stay in touch with the people that got me here. I like to get outside of Washington. I like to go to where the space is open, where I can walk around with Spot and Barney, the two family dogs. [*Laughter*] My wife loves our country—the country house we've got, and so do I, and so I beg your forgiveness for not eating dinner here tonight. I am here to thank you for supporting Tim. I do want to give some remarks about what I think is going on in Washington, but then I'm fixing to get on Air Force One and take it to Crawford, Texas. [*Laughter*]

By the way, our family is happy. I'm really proud of the work that Laura is doing. She is—people are learning about west Texas women. They sometimes don't say a lot, but when they speak, people do listen. She's a great listener. And she's doing the country a great service by traveling our Nation, convincing people, both young and old alike, to become teachers, reminding people that teaching is a noble profession and that you do the country a great service if you end up in the classroom. We're working on Troops to Teachers programs that take retired teachers—I mean, retired military folks and help them become a teacher. And she, as well, is working with youngsters who are just getting out of college and saying, "Be a teacher. It will be a huge contribution to America,"

and people are listening. And for that, I am grateful, and I know you are as well.

As Tim mentioned, I think we are making good progress in Washington, reminding people that we're up there for a reason, and it's not just politics. We're up there to get some things done on behalf of the American people. And Tim's helping—a lot. And he mentioned tax relief.

I want to remind people that before the tax relief debate started because of me, he had already been up there talking about increasing the child credit for people who are raising children in America. Well, now, one of the key ingredients in our tax plan is doubling the child credit, and that's an important part of tax relief. It's an important part of tax relief, particularly when you drop the bottom rate in our Tax Code, like we're advocating. And the reason that's important is because there's a lot of folks in our country who live on the outskirts of poverty who are working hard to get ahead, and as a result of the way this Tax Code is structured, as they begin to get ahead, pay a higher marginal rate on dollars earned than somebody who is successful.

I love to use the example, because it helps make my case as loud—as clearly as I can, about the single lady working in any State in the Union, trying to get ahead. She may have two children. First, it's important for Congress to understand she's got the toughest job in America. Raising children on her own is the hardest work in our country, coupled with the fact that for whatever reason, she's making $22,000 a year. The way this Tax Code is structured today, for every additional dollar she earns, she pays a higher marginal rate on that dollar than someone making $200,000 a year. And that is not fair, and that's not what America is about, as far as we're concerned.

So tax relief, when you combine dropping the bottom rate from 15 to 10 and increasing the child credit, it makes the Tax Code more fair and more equitable. It inculcates this principle: The harder you work, the more money you ought to put in your pocket in America. And Tim understands that.

Well, I've heard a lot of the debate about taxes. You know, they say, "Well George W., he only cares about the wealthy people." That's because I believe if you pay taxes, you ought to get tax relief. What I don't subscribe to is this business about Washington, DC, people being able to pick and choose the winners. That's code word for targeted tax cuts. That means elected officials get to sit in a room, and they get to say, "This table over here gets tax relief, and this table doesn't." Our attitude is, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief. That's the only fair thing in America.

We dropped that top rate, just like we dropped the bottom rate. And there are two positive effects when you do so. First of all, it sets a principle, that the Federal Government should take no more than a third of anybody's check. It's time we have some principles in the Tax Code. One, the code ought to be more fair. Two, our Federal Government doesn't need to take more than a third of anybody's check. And secondly, it's important for the policy makers in Washington to focus on the reality of dropping the top rate. By dropping the top rate, we stimulate investment. We send a clear message that ours is an entrepreneurial economy.

The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur or the small-business person can flourish. And these Senators that are balking on this plan must understand that most small businesses all across America are unincorporated. They're Subchapter S's. They're sole proprietorships. They don't pay the corporate tax; they pay the personal tax. And by dropping the top rate, we're sending a clear message that small business must thrive and flourish in America, that we want our entrepreneurs to have more cash so they can expand their payrolls, create new investment opportunities. No, the way to deal with this Tax Code is to recognize if you pay taxes, you've got to get relief. And that's what this Senate must hear loud and clear from the people of Arkansas.

We're trying to do something about the marriage penalty. This Tax Code of ours sends the wrong signals. It taxes marriage. We ought to be rewarding marriage. We ought to be encouraging families in the Tax Code.

And finally, one area the Senator and I are working closely on, it's an area dear to the hearts of a lot of people—doesn't matter whether you're Republican or Democrat—and that's this business about the death tax. The death tax is unfair, and we need to repeal the death tax in the code. It's unfair to tax a person's assets twice. I've talked to hundreds of people all across America who've heard this message about repealing the death tax, and they come up to me and say, "I've worked all my life. I started with nothing. It looks like I'm going to end up with something, and it should be the American right to be able to pass my assets on to my children without the Federal Government making it impossible for me to do so."

This is a State with a lot of farmers. And Tim and I spent a lot of time talking about agriculture, coming down here. And I understand that some in the agricultural sector are hurting. And I understand there is pressure—what they call urban sprawl in some areas. Well, if you're worried about urban sprawl and if you're worried about the farmer, why don't we make it easier for people not to have to sell their farm upon death? We need to get rid of the death tax, and the Senate needs to hear that loud and clear.

I'm sure you've heard the arguments—I certainly have—that, well, if you have a $1.6 trillion tax cut, the Government is not going to be able to meet its needs, that by letting people keep their own money, the Federal Government is going to starve to death.

Well, let me tell you about the budget that Tim has supported and I proposed. It increases discretionary spending by 4 percent. Now, there are some parts of our budget that are going to grow based upon what they call entitlements. That's like Social Security. And Social Security, by the way—we've set aside all the payroll taxes, and they're only going to be spent on Social Security. This business about letting Congress dip into Social Security, that's over with. People have got to understand the Social Security system is safe and secure and sound under a Bush administration.

But discretionary spending grows in my budget at 4 percent. Is that enough? Well, 4 percent is greater than the rate of inflation. Seems like it's enough to me. Four percent is greater than most people's paychecks increase by. That ought to be enough. But it's not enough, and over the objections of Senator Hutchinson, the United States Senate passed a discretionary budget of 8 percent.

Now, what does 8 percent mean? If we increase the discretionary budget by 8 percent, on an annual basis, it means that 9 years of discretionary budget of the United States of America will double. And when you double the discretionary budget of Federal spending, you crowd out capital in the private sector, and it's a drag on the U.S. economy. This Congress needs to be able to live within its means, and 4 percent is plenty.

We've got some choices to make: Bigger Government or a stronger economy. And we've got some choices to make. Once we meet the needs of the Government, who do we trust with the money? Who do we trust? And that's the question I'm asking Washington to think about. Senator Hutchinson trusts the people, and so does President Bush, because we understand this surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. And we've got to trust them with their own money to make decisions for their family. It's a fundamental, philosophical question.

Some of your members here of the congressional delegation are struggling with that question. Who do you trust? Who do you trust with that additional money? And Senator Hutchinson has no problems making the statement loud and clear. Once we meet our needs in Washington, he trusts the people, the people of Arkansas to make the right decisions for their families and the children, make the right decision on how they're going to save and what they're going to do with their money.

And we've got some priorities in the budget, and that's one reason why I think it's safe for me to say that the budget meets the needs. Instead of trying to be all things to all people, it sets clear priorities. Education is a priority in our budget, and it should be a priority in the budget. The Department that gets the biggest increase of any one, of any Department in my budget, is the Department of Education. And let me tell you what we do in it.

I've made reading a priority in our Nation. I fully understand if you can't read, it's going to be hard to get ahead. One of the worst things that's happened is we've just shuffled children through the system who are illiterate. And that has got to end in America, and it starts by having the Federal Government make a commitment to sound reading programs, diagnostic tools. And so we've tripled the amount of money in the Federal budget, money that's accessible by the local school districts.

We tripled character education funds. It's one thing to teach children to read and write, but we also have to teach them right from wrong in America. And so we make money available for local school districts for character education.

Teacher training is a priority. So we increase teacher training funds by 18 percent, from 2001 to 2002. No, we set priorities in the budget. And I appreciate Senator Hutchinson's leadership on the Labor and Education Committee in the Senate. He talked about a bipartisan consensus, and we're getting there, because the principles inherent in the bill are sound and make sense. It's a commonsense approach to education.

It says, first and foremost, this Nation must set high standards for the children to go to school. If you set low standards, guess what you get? Low results. And so we set high standards and high expectations. Secondly, we know who is best to chart the path to excellence, and it's not in Washington, DC. This bill and reforms that we're proposing in Washington will pass power out of Washington because I strongly believe, as does Senator Hutchinson, in local control of schools.

We've done something different at Washington, DC. We have said, "Listen, we've spent a lot of Federal money, and some of it makes sense. And if you receive Federal money, you have to account for it." It's time to have a results-oriented approach to public policy. And it says if you receive money, you must measure. It doesn't say the Federal Government should measure, it says the State of Arkansas ought to measure. And you ought to test, and you ought to let us know whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, there ought to be ample praise in society. But if they're not, instead of just quitting on children, instead of just shuffling through the school system, we've got to end that practice.

Up until now, much of public education has asked the question to our children, "How old are you? If you're 10, you're supposed to go here, and if you're 12, you belong here, and if you're 16, you go here." And guess what happens in a system that simply asks age as opposed to, "What do you know?" Children get shuffled through the system. And many times, sadly enough, they're inner-city kids. It's so much easier to quit on a child than to take the extra time to teach them.

The system must stop asking the question, "How old are you?" and start asking the question, "What do you know?" And if the children do not know what they're supposed to know early in life, we need to correct those problems, because there are no second-rate children in America as far as this administration is concerned. There are no second-rate dreams. And the education reform package we're sending sets this clear and profound goal: Not one single child will be left behind in the great country called America.

I take my obligation to defend our country very seriously. I'm proud to be the Commander in Chief. And I fully understand that to enhance morale in the United States military, it requires a Commander in Chief who honors the men and women who wear the uniform and, in turn, earns the respect of the men and women who wear our uniform. And secondly, in order to boost morale we must increase pay, and my budget does so. It improves housing. And my budget does so. And Tim Hutchinson stands side by side. We need modern defenses. And he and I agree strongly that the Little Rock Air Force Base is important for the future of this country. He not only looks out for Arkansas, this Senator looks out for America. And for that I hope the people of this great State are grateful.

You will hear those who make every excuse in the world to keep your money in Washington say, "Well, the Bush budget or so and so votes means that somebody is not going to get adequate health care." In the budget

I submitted to Congress, we doubled the Medicare budget over a 10-year period of time. In the budget I submitted to Congress, we doubled the number of folks who will be served in community health centers in America over a 5-year period of time. In the budget I submitted for America, we have tax credits for working uninsured. We have a President who is saying to Congress, "Instead of just talking about these health care issues, let's get something done on them." And my budget reflects that, and that's an important priority of ours—the health of our citizens.

And finally, I believe that Senator Hutchinson and I and others, but Republicans and Democrats, are doing something that's immeasurable. You can't talk about it in terms of the budget. But they're working hard to change the tone of Washington, DC. I have pledged to the American people to change the tone of our Nation's Capital so that when people look at Washington, they are proud of what they see. I believe most Americans of either party are sick and tired of needless partisan bickering and name-calling, and finger-pointing.

We need to spend our energy getting things done, not passing the blame. And we're making good progress. There is a culture of respect that's beginning to emerge in Washington. I'm beginning to notice that the rhetoric is toning down just a little bit. I hope people realize that good public policy means good politics. And we don't need to be spending all our time on politics in Washington. It's time to focus on the people's business. Tax relief is in the people's interest. It's good for our economy. It's good for our people.

This doesn't have to be a, "Well, I can't vote for that bill because it might make George W. Bush look good, or some political party look good," we need to get the attitude in Washington, DC, "We've been elected for a reason, and that's to stand up and do what each of us think is right on behalf of the American people." Tim Hutchinson understands that. I hope all Senators understand that. And if they understand that, then the dialog is going to be much, much more civil, much more responsible.

And that's what we need in this country. We need responsibility. We need to usher a period of personal responsibility, where each of us understands we have the awesome responsibility to be a good citizen. If you happen to be a mom or dad, you have the awesome responsibility of loving your children with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a fortunate citizen in this country, you have the responsibility of putting your arm around a neighbor in need and say, "Brother or sister, somebody loves you. Somebody cares." One of the most profound initiatives that we are working on—one of the most profound initiatives that we are working on is the Faith-Based Initiative that welcomes people of faith and community and good heart into the compassionate delivery of help for people who need help in America.

We should not fear faith in America; we ought to welcome faith. It changes lives and changes hearts. We're making good progress toward ushering in a period of personal responsibility. But it requires people serving in Washington who understand the reason they are there. And I firmly believe Senator Tim Hutchinson understands the reason they are there. He loves and cares about the people of Arkansas.

And by the way, as this campaign gets going, you might turn to a friend or neighbor and say, it makes a lot of sense for Arkansas to have somebody who can walk into the Oval Office. It makes a lot of sense for our State, with the problems we have, to have a United States Senator be able to pick the phone up and say, "Mr. President, I'd like to discuss the concerns of the people of Arkansas. We've got some problems with our farmers. I'd like to discuss the concerns. We may have a problem in our education system. Mr. President, I'd like you to hear me out. I'd like to deliver a message on the people of Arkansas." And I can assure you, folks, that the person running this race who will have the ear of the President of the United States is Senator Tim Hutchinson. So I want to thank you all for coming. Thank you for your generous support. Work hard. We need this man in Washington, DC.

God bless. And God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:53 p.m. at the Statehouse Convention Center. In his remarks, he

referred to Nick Bacon, director, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dennis Rainey, executive director, FamilyLife.

## Statement on the Anniversary of Ukraine's Closing of the Chernobyl Nuclear Plant

*April 26, 2001*

Last year on December 15, Ukraine ended one of the darkest chapters of the Soviet legacy and opened a new stage in Ukraine's evolution into a modern European state when it permanently closed the Chernobyl nuclear plant.

Closing Chernobyl created the circumstances for a safer and more prosperous Ukraine for future generations. We are reminded of this today on the 15th anniversary of the terrible accident at Chernobyl and are again grateful that an environmental threat has been removed from the central European landscape.

Today's anniversary is an occasion for the global community to pause and reflect on the lessons provided by this disaster, to recall the valor and dignity that the people of Ukraine displayed in the face of adversity, and to acknowledge the suffering that many victims of Chernobyl continue to endure throughout the region.

I am proud of the American people's role in helping to alleviate this suffering—at the time of the tragedy and continuing through today. I am proud of our continued efforts to work with Ukraine to improve nuclear safety and mitigate the harsh social impact of Chernobyl's closure on the local population.

Much work remains to be done in Ukraine's transition to a modern European state. This work will require strong and courageous leadership over the coming months and years. It will require real support for democracy and difficult but necessary reforms. Last year strong Ukrainian leadership and committed international assistance achieved great results in Chernobyl. I urge Ukraine to stay on the path of reform it set out upon last year. Former U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt once noted that "it is only through strife, through hard and dangerous endeavor, that we shall ultimately win the goal of true national greatness."

I firmly believe that Ukraine's national greatness rests in Europe and in its transatlantic and global ties. The United States stands ready to work with Ukraine as it undertakes the political and economic reforms necessary to build these ties that are so vital to the brighter future Ukrainians seek for themselves and their children.

## Statement on House of Representatives Action on the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act"

*April 26, 2001*

America's children represent our greatest hope for the future. I commend the House for its bipartisan passing of the "Unborn Victims of Violence Act," which will make it a separate felony to harm an unborn child in the course of committing any one of 68 Federal offenses. This legislation affirms our commitment to a culture of life, which welcomes and protects children.

## Remarks at a Celebration of Reading in Houston, Texas

*April 26, 2001*

***The President.*** Thank you all very much. Thank you very much. Laura and I are really glad to be back in Texas. [*Laughter*] I didn't realize, Dad, until I saw that video, how different your life has been since I'm the President and you're not. [*Laughter*] Sounds like it's been pretty rough. And perhaps you and I should sit down and have a discussion, talk about it. Let me think: I have an opening the 27th of September. [*Laughter*]

We have some other family issues to discuss, like where to put my Presidential Library. [*Laughter*] I've decided not to go through the hassle of raising money. And so, you know my dad's library? We're just going to add, "And Son." [*Laughter*] As you can already tell, lately my dad has been calling me "43." I call him "41." It's kind of shorthand we have in our family. And we have a nickname for Mother as well. To show you where she stands in the power structure of

this family, we call her "Number One." [*Laughter*]

And so I'm going to turn the stage back to Number One, and then close the program with some remarks of my own. It's really great to be back in Houston and to return bearing the proudest title ever been given to me: Son of Barbara and George Bush.

[*At this point, the Celebration of Reading proceeded.*]

***The President.*** Well, thank you. Thank you, Laura. Once again, thank you all for that warm welcome. I know all of you join me in thanking the authors for being here tonight. The readings were fantastic, and we appreciate it.

You've certainly set a high standard for a little reading I intend to do tonight. [*Laughter*] Now, some people think my mom took up the cause of literacy—[*laughter*]—out of a sense of guilt over my own upbringing. [*Laughter*] That's one reason why she was so happy I married a teacher.

The truth is, I guess I could have paid a little closer attention when I was in English class, but it all worked out okay. [*Laughter*] I'm gainfully employed. [*Laughter*] And I even have a new book out, and I brought along a copy. Right, here it is. I didn't actually write all of this, but I did inspire it. [*Laughter*] Some guy put together a collection of my wit and wisdom. [*Laughter*] Or as he calls it, my accidental wit and wisdom.

It's not exactly a world transformed, but I'm kind of proud that my words are already in book form. [*Laughter*] And I thought tonight I would share a few quotable passages with you. It's kind of like thoughts of Chairman Mao—[*laughter*]—only with laughs and not in Chinese. [*Laughter*]

Here's one. And I actually said this. [*Laughter*] "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully." [*Laughter*] Now, that makes you stop and think. [*Laughter*] Anyone can give you a coherent sentence, but something like this takes you to an entirely new dimension. [*Laughter*]

Here's another: "I understand small-business growth; I was one." [*Laughter*] My, do I love great literature. I said this up in New Hampshire: "I appreciate preservation. It's what you've got to do when you run for President." [*Laughter*] "You've got to preserve." You know, I really don't have the slightest idea what I was talking about there. [*Laughter*]

You know, a lot of times on the campaign, they asked me about economics, and I actually said this. "More and more of our imports come from overseas." [*Laughter*]

Now, most people would say this when they're talking about the economy. "We ought to make the pie bigger." [*Laughter*] However, I said this. [*Laughter*] "We ought to make the pie higher." [*Laughter*] It is a very complicated economic point I was making there. [*Laughter*] But believe me—believe me, what this country needs is taller pie. [*Laughter*]

And how about this for a foreign policy vision: "When I was coming up, it was a dangerous world. And we knew exactly who the 'they' were." [*Laughter*] "It was 'us' versus 'them.'" [*Laughter*] "And it was clear who the them was." [*Laughter*] "Today, we're not so sure who the 'they' are"—[*laughter*]—"but we know they're there."

John Ashcroft, by the way, attributes the way I talk to my religious fervor. In fact, the first time we met, he thought I was talking in tongues. [*Laughter*] Then there is my famous statement: "Rarely is the question asked, is our children learning?" [*Laughter*] Let's analyze that sentence for a moment. [*Laughter*] If you're a stickler, you probably think the singular verb "is" should have been the plural "are." But if you read it closely, you'll see that I'm using the intransitive plural subjective tense. [*Laughter*] And so the word "is" are correct. [*Laughter*]

Now, ladies and gentlemen, you have to admit, in my sentences, I go where no man has gone before. [*Laughter*] But the way I see it is, I am a boon to the English language. I've coined new words, like "misunderestimate"—[*laughter*]—and "Hispanically." [*Laughter*] I've expanded the definition of words, themselves, using "vulcanize" when I meant "polarize"—[*laughter*]—"Grecians" when I meant "Greeks," "inebriating" when I meant "exhilarating." [*Laughter*] And instead of "barriers and tariffs," I said, "terriers and barriffs." [*Laughter*]

We all make our contributions in the world, and I suppose mine will not be to the literary treasures of the Western Civilization. [*Laughter*] But I do hope to contribute in my own way. And one of those ways is to bring closer the day when every child and every American learns to read. And that is why the budget I submitted to the United States Congress triples the amount of money available for reading programs all across America.

I'm proud of mother. She took up the cause more than a decade ago. And she didn't leave it behind in the White House. Through her efforts and the efforts of all who have helped the Barbara Bush Foundation, so many lives have been enriched with new opportunities.

We heard Norma Vargas beautifully describe the good that has come into her life since she has found the courage to walk into that San Jose classroom to begin her first lesson. Tens of thousands more have their own stories. Stories of people finding new and better jobs, and gaining a new sense of dignity, because now they can read.

And I'm proud that Laura has her own commitment to education. She was a teacher when I met her. In her own way, she will always be a teacher. She's the best kind of teacher, too, the kind who leaves no one out and believes in the possibilities of every person.

That's the spirit of your cause and ours. I thank each of you for all you have contributed. It will be repaid many times over in lives of new achievement and lives of new hope.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:04 p.m. at the Wortham Theater Center. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President George Bush, former First Lady Barbara Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and former Prime Minister John Major of the United Kingdom.

## 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.

### *April 22*

In the evening, the President returned from Quebec, Canada, to Washington, DC.

### *April 23*

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald J. McConnell to be Ambassador to Eritrea.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen A. Cambone to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald Cameron Findlay to be Deputy Secretary of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lori A. Forman to be Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development for Asia and the Near East.

The White House announced that the President invited President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to the White House on April 24.

### *April 24*

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Henry Jones to be Ambassador to Kuwait.

The President announced his intention to nominate James G. Roche to be Secretary of the Air Force.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas E. White to be Secretary of the Army.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon England to be Secretary of the Navy.

### *April 25*

In the afternoon, the President traveled to New Orleans, LA, and later, he traveled to Little Rock, AR.

In the evening, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bonnie McElveen-Hunter to be Ambassador to Finland.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jacob Lozada to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Human Resources and Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eugene Scalia to be Solicitor of the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles J. Swindells to be Ambassador to New Zealand.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart Bernstein to be Ambassador to Denmark.

The President announced his intention to nominate George L. Argyros to be Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.

***April 26***

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Houston, TX, and in the evening, he returned to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen L. Johnson to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Moshe Katsav of Israel for a working visit on May 30.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mercer Reynolds to be Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

***April 27***

In the morning, the President traveled to Austin, TX, and in the afternoon, he returned to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. David Welch to be Ambassador to Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael K. Powell to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Presidential Scholars: Bruno V. Manno; Robert Lewis King; Jennifer Sandra Carroll; Lynne Ann Munson; Lawrence Richard Bearden; Modesto A. Maidique; Mary Katherine Turner; Paul Gust Vallas; Theodore Martin Hesburgh; Flo N. Traywick; Michele M. Ridge; Virginia Sue Hoffa; Marcia Jackson; Manuel Lujan, Jr.; Elizabeth K. Johnson; Mary Kramer; Linda Richey Graves; Louis Wade Sullivan; Jean Loretta Becker; Nancy Ann Hunt; Stanley E. Taylor; Shirley Miller; Glen Thomas Becerra; and Williamson Evers.

The President announced his intention to nominate James W. Ziglar to be Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, hail, flooding, and tornadoes beginning on April 21 and continuing.

## Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

***Submitted April 23***

Edward C. Aldridge,
of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, vice Jacques Gansler.

Peter F. Allgeier,
of Virginia, to be a Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, vice Richard W. Fisher, resigned.

Bruce Marshall Carnes,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, vice Michael Telson, resigned.

Maureen Patricia Cragin,
of Maine, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Public and Intergovernmental Affairs), vice John T. Hanson, resigned.

Viet D. Dinh,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Eleanor Acheson, resigned.

Roger Walton Ferguson, Jr.,
of Massachusetts, to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 14 years from February 1, 2000 (reappointment).

William D. Hansen,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Education, vice Frank S. Holleman III, resigned.

William J. Haynes II,
of Tennessee, to be General Counsel of the Department of Defense, vice Douglas A. Dworkin.

Robert Glenn Hubbard,
of New York, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Martin Neil Baily, resigned.

A. Elizabeth Jones,
of Maryland, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (European Affairs), vice James F. Dobbins.

Powell A. Moore,
of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice John K. Veroneau.

Timothy J. Muris,
of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of 7 years from September 26, 2001, vice Robert Pitofsky, term expiring.

Angela Styles,
of Virginia, to be Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy, vice Deidre A. Lee, resigned.

***Submitted April 25***

Claude A. Allen,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Kevin L. Thurm, resigned.

Lou Gallegos,
of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Paul W. Fiddick, resigned.

Timothy J. Muris,
of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of 7 years from September 26, 1994, vice Robert Pitofsky, resigned.

Lee Sarah Liberman Otis,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy, vice Mary Anne Sullivan, resigned.

Pat Pizzella,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Patricia Watkins Lattimore.

Mary Kirtley Waters,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, vice Andrew C. Fish, resigned.

***Submitted April 26***

Stephen L. Johnson,
of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice James V. Aidala, resigned.

## 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 April 21***

Fact sheet: President's Speech at the Summit of the Americas

Fact sheet: Tropical Forest Conservation Act

Fact sheet: Inter-American E-Business Fellowship Program

Fact sheet: Creating Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training

Fact sheet: American Fellows Initiative

Fact sheet: Caribbean Third Border Initiative

Fact sheet: Andean Regional Initiative

***Released April 23***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay

***Released April 24***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

***Released April 25***

Statement by the Press Secretary on opening day for the President's South Lawn tee ball initiative

***Released April 26***

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Israeli President Katsav To Visit Washington

## 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.