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Nation's freedom and a champion of democracy abroad. When Senator Helms retires, the Senate will have lost a respected leader, but I have no doubt we will continue to seek his counsel as a senior statesman.

Laura and I extend our best wishes to Jesse, his wife, Dot, and the entire Helms family.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Waco, Texas

August 23, 2001

President's Schedule

The President. Good morning. I'll see you all at the school.

Q. Uh-oh, what does that mean?

The President. In Crawford.

Q. For what?

Q. You're going to drop by?

The President. I'm going to drop by the school after, so we'll have a little chance to visit then, to thank them for letting you all stay at the elementary school. Obviously, nobody told you.

Q. Thanks for the heads up.

The President. We're going to have an impromptu stop. I will decide on my way home to stop by the school. [*Laughter*]

Roland Betts, my good friend from New York City.

Let's go, hit them up.

And we'll—we can have a little visit there, if you like. That way, it won't ruin my golf game. [*Laughter*]

Q. Looking forward to your game?

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to getting out here.

Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels

Had a nice visit with Mitch Daniels this morning.

Q. He down here?

The President. No, I called him.

Q. Is that a Masters souvenir, your glove?

The President. I think somebody must have sent me that. I haven't been there in a while. Beautiful course.

All right, excuse me.

[*At this point, the President played a round of golf.*]

President's Round of Golf

The President. So, I won't be a professional golfer.

Q. I'm going to go find that ball. I'm going to find that one.

The President. The first one? If you can find that first one, you're a pretty good bird-dog. [*Laughter*]

Is everybody enjoying themselves here?

Q. I only just got here, so——

The President. Yes, I know. Where have you been?

Q. Sucking up the salt air on the west coast.

The President. Brie and cheese?

Q. No, tennis.

The President. Okay.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:27 a.m. at the Ridgewood Country Club. In his remarks, the President referred to Roland Betts, owner, Chelsea Piers, L.P. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Crawford Elementary School and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

August 23, 2001

The President. Thank you, Linda. Thanks for having me come. It's—what I thought I would do is just say a few words and maybe answer some of the questions—some questions from some of the boys and girls here, if you have any.

First, thanks for inviting me, Linda, and thanks for being so patient. And also, thank you all for hosting the national press corps. [*Laughter*] I know they've appreciated it very much, and on their behalf, I would like to thank them. They are, most of the time, well behaved. But they're an important part of our country, because in order for people to be able to know what's going on, they report the news. Sometimes they exaggerate; sometimes they don't. But they're an important part of our democracy. And I appreciate so very much you welcoming them here into your school.

I want to thank all the teachers who are here. Teaching is a noble profession, and we