

is not the correct path to follow and that, hopefully, people use this example as—the incidents that took place on September 11th to bring some reality to the Middle East.

The discussions are moving on. And I want to thank the Secretary of State for staying with it, staying on the phone, and encouraging both parties to get to the table. And we'll see what happens. We're hopeful.

Chechnya

Q. Mr. President, have you changed your thinking on Chechnya, in light of what's happened since September 11th?

The President. Well, first of all, to the extent that there are terrorists in Chechnya, Arab terrorists associated with the Al Qaida organization, I believe they ought to be brought to justice; as you heard me say, that our initial phase of the war on terrorism is against the Al Qaida organization. And we do believe there are some Al Qaida folks in Chechnya.

However, I do believe it's very important for President Putin to deal with the Chechen minority in this country with respect, respect of human rights and respect of difference of opinion about religion, for example. And so I would hope that the Russian President, while dealing with the Al Qaida organization, also respects minority rights within his country.

Airport and Airline Security

Q. Mr. President, tomorrow you'll be announcing some new security measures, one of them likely to include some Federal role in training airport security personnel and monitoring their work as time goes on, moving forward.

The President. Well, we're going to deal with airport security tomorrow, as well as other measures, to try to convince the American public it is safe to fly. One of my concerns is that this terrible incident has said to many Americans—convinced many Americans to stay at home. And one of the keys to economic recovery is going to be a vital—the vitality of the airline industry.

I presume many of you came to Washington today by flying, and you're here safely. And it's a—we'll announce some confidence-boosting measures, some concrete proposals,

and I believe we'll be able to work with Congress to get them done in an expeditious way.

Q. You don't support arming pilots?

The President. Army pilots?

Q. Arming pilots.

The President. Oh, arming. As I said, I look forward to any suggestion that—there may be better ways to do it than that, but I'm open for any suggestion. And the good news is, is that there's a willingness on Capitol Hill to work with the administration, and vice versa, to come up with constructive, sound ways to convince the American public it's safe to fly.

Q. How quickly do you think you can put these plans in place?

The President. Oh, some of them will be—some of them will take a while; some of them could happen very quickly. Just give me a chance to give my speech. You're trying to jump the gun on me, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. [Laughter]

Q. It's my job, sir.

The President. You're doing it well, too, my boy. [Laughter]

John, no longer can you say, I haven't answered your questions. [Laughter]

Q. One of the three ain't bad. Thank you, sir. [Laughter]

The President. [Inaudible]—batting .333. All right.

Q. Thank you.

The President. Gordon, good job—no questions. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:40 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Imam Muzammil H. Siddiqi, president, Islamic Society of North America; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Message on the Observance of Yom Kippur, 5762

September 26, 2001

*The kindness of the Lord has not ended,
His mercies are not spent.*

Lamentations 3:22

Yom Kippur is a day of holy awe—and a day of awesome hope. It is the day, Judaism

teaches, on which God judges the world—and the day when humanity rediscovers the power of God’s love and forgiveness. The Jewish tradition holds that all humans sin, but that atonement, prayer, and charity can avert God’s decree.

This is a year in which we were stunned by humanity’s capacity for cruelty and violence. It is a year in which we were astonished by humanity’s capacity for compassion and self-sacrifice. We have endured great loss. We have suffered great wrong.

May God bring peace to all who mourn. May people of Jewish faith and heritage in this country and around the world be inscribed and sealed for a good year in the book of life. And may we be blessed with the strength and patience to pursue justice and defeat evil.

George W. Bush

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

Remarks to Airline Employees in Chicago, Illinois

September 27, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much for such a warm welcome. I first want to thank Craig and Michele for their love and compassion for their friends, and for being such great representatives of an incredibly important industry for America’s future.

I want to thank all the airline employees who are here from all the airlines around America. I want to thank you for your dedication, for your concern, and for being such great patriots for this great country.

Besides you all, I’m keeping pretty good company today. First, I’m pleased to introduce the Secretary of Transportation, Norm Mineta. I want you to know that Norm took a United flight. And he said the flight was just perfect. I appreciate Norm’s hard work and concern about our mutual goal, and that’s to get the airplanes flying again all across America.

I’m proud to be on the stage with your Governor and with his honor, the mayor. The mayor said he’s going to buy me lunch today.

[*Laughter*] I like my cheeseburger medium.
[*Laughter*]

I appreciate so very much Jane Garvey from the FAA being here. Thank you for coming.

I’m really proud of the attitude in Washington, DC, right now. Traveling with me today were Republicans and Democrats, but make no mistake about it, they’re first and foremost patriotic Americans.

The State of Illinois has produced a good man and a good Speaker, and that’s Denny Hastert. Thank you, Denny, for being here. Also traveling is Minority Leader Dick Gephardt. Dick has been a joy to work with as we do what’s right for America. I appreciate Senator Dick Durbin for being with us today, and I want to thank you coming, Dick. Henry Hyde of the great State of Illinois; Mark Kirk of Illinois; Jerry Weller of Illinois.

We’ve got quite a crowd traveling today, all of whom—all of whom are here to say as clearly as we can to the American public; get on the airlines, get about the business of America.

That’s got a nice ring to it, doesn’t it? I want to thank not only the employees, the people that make the airlines go, but I want to thank the chief executive officers from American Airlines and United Airlines, as well as old Herb Kelleher from Southwest Airlines, Jim Goodwin, and Don Carty. George Mikelsons of American Trans Air is here, as well. Thank you all for coming, and thank all your employees for being here. I know this will make Representative Gephardt feel good: There’s a lot of folks from TWA here.

I’m so honored to be here. I think it’s interesting that on one side, we see American; on the other side, it says United. Because that’s what we are: America is united. We are united. We are united in bringing justice to those folks who did the evil deed on September 11th.

We’re not only united; we’re determined. We’re determined to find those terrorists who tried to affect our way of life. We’re determined to find them and to bring them to justice, and we will.

But our determination goes beyond the immediate and the short term. This is a nation that’s determined to defend freedom