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our economy started. There is some optimism, as some numbers recently have shown that consumer confidence is getting stronger, that people are beginning to get on the airways more, that people are traveling. So there are some positive signs.

I hope to work with—I am working with Congress and hope to get a stimulus package that will dovetail nicely with the tax cuts we had this summer, coupled with some of the spending measures we've taken since September the 11th.

First of all, I'm very pleased with the cooperation and support of Italy. They have been very strong from the beginning. The Prime Minister has been very—not only supportive but has asked how to help in significant ways to fight terrorism.

Again, I repeat to you, this is a war that's going to be fought on a variety of fronts. One such front will be to disrupt financial—the finances of the terrorist organizations. And he was discussing with me some Executive orders that had been taken recently that showed Italy's desire to be very firm about disrupting finances. There is a sharing of information that goes on.

I'm confident that if we put out the word that we needed more help from Italy, they would be more than willing to help. Each of us has a role to play. And the Italian Government, under this good man's leadership, is playing a very significant role.

We're going to go eat lunch. Thank you.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. *Grazie.*

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:11 p.m. on the Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to Members of the Senior Executive Service

October 15, 2001

Thank you all. I order you to stop. [*Laughter*] Thanks for the kind introduction, and thanks for such a warm welcome. These are extraordinary times, times of testing for our Government and for our Nation. Yet, all of us can be proud of the response of our Government and the exceptional character of the Nation we serve. I've never felt more certain about America's goodness or more confident about America's future.

I have come to Constitution Hall today to express my appreciation for your dedication and integrity, your commitment to excellence, and your love of our country. The work of both career and political employees during the last 9 months has been outstanding. We've accomplished a great deal together. And since September 11th, Federal employees have acted with remarkable professionalism and purpose. And on behalf of the American people, I thank you.

I want to thank my old college roommate and friend Clay Johnson for thinking of this idea of coming to Constitution Hall to speak to you. I want to thank Ruth Sanchez-Way for her warm introduction and her work on behalf of the American people. I want to thank my friend Kay James for being here, as well. I want to thank the Navy Band. Every time you play, I step a little lighter. [*Laughter*] I'm really proud of my Cabinet. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here, and I'm proud of you all, as well.

I want to start by recognizing the 65 winners of the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive who are seated behind me. Congratulations. And I want to congratulate the Meritorious Executives who are here in the audience with us, as well. All career members of the Senior Executive Service, and today we honor their exceptional performance. Their work covers a tremendous range of issues, yet they share some things in common: an outstanding work ethic, commitment to public service, and pride in a job well done.

One person who was chosen to receive a Presidential Rank Award is not with us today. Bryan Jack headed the Defense Department's Programming and Fiscal Economics Division. He was a brilliant mathematician and top budget analyst. A native Texan, a graduate of Stanford Business School, and newly married, Bryan was a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77 when it crashed on September 11th. Bryan's wife, Barbara Rachko, is with us today. I know how proud you are, Barbara, of your husband. And in this hour of grief—in your hour of grief, the

Nation is on bended knee with you. Where is Barbara?

Since September 11th, we've seen America more united and resolute than at any point in our lifetimes. We've seen a nation that is generous and patriotic and a nation that is determined to see justice be done. We've also seen acts of great sacrifice and heroism. And many of those acts were performed by people who serve in government at the local, State, and Federal level—the police and firefighters, medics, FEMA employees, members of the military, and civilian employees of Government. They've worked past exhaustion. They have risked their lives. And some gave their lives, as well. Our Nation is grateful for all these men and women who have shown the meaning of duty and public sacrifice.

In times of war, the American people look to the Government more than they do in times of peace. They count on Government to help protect them, and we will. They count on the Government to defeat those who are trying to destroy us, and we will. Yet, while our Government is focused on the war against terrorism, it continues to have vital responsibilities in other areas. We will give our best to America in war effort, in all other areas of responsibility, as well.

In doing so, we must resist pressure to unwisely expand Government. We need to affirm a few important principles, that Government should be limited but effective, should do a few things and do them well. It should welcome market-based competition wherever possible. It should respect the role and authority of State and local governments, which are closest to the people. And Government should do everything it can to strengthen families, which are the cornerstone of our society.

Today, we're seeing one of the highest levels of trust in Government since the mid-sixties, which is due partly to the surge of national pride that has swept our country since the terrorist attacks. But it's also because of how you've performed your jobs, particularly during the last month. The American people have placed their trust in us, and we will honor that trust.

Let me say a few words about important values we must demonstrate while all of us serve in Government. First, we must always maintain the highest ethical standards. We must always ask ourself not only what is legal but what is right. There is no goal of Government worth accomplishing if it cannot be accomplished with integrity.

Second, I want us to set an example of humility. As you work for the Federal Government, there is no excuse for arrogance, and there's never a reason to show disrespect for others. A new tone in Washington must begin with decency and fairness. I want everyone who represents our Government to be known for these values.

Third, we must confront the tough problems, not avoid them and leave them for others. This is never easy, but it's what conscience demands and what leadership requires. We must keep the long view and remind ourselves that we're here to serve the public's long-term interests.

Fourth, I hope you'll never take the honor of public service for granted. Some of us will serve in Government for a season; others will spend an entire career here. But all of us should dedicate ourselves to great goals: We are not here to mark time but to make progress, to achieve results, and to leave a record of excellence.

Fifth, we should never forget that we're part of the same team. The American people do not distinguish between political and career employees. They don't hold us to separate standards. The public has high expectations for the entire Government, and together we will meet those expectations.

And sixth, we should always remember, every dollar we spend is the taxpayers' money. People worked hard to earn it, and so we should spend it wisely and reluctantly. That will take discipline and creative leadership, and I urge all of us to show that kind of leadership.

I know that you face barriers in trying to lead creatively. Some of them are imposed by Congress, including barriers to hiring people you need, rewarding men and women of merit, and contracting services which would save the taxpayers money. And that's why, last August, my administration released a strategy for improving the performance of the Federal Government. And that is why, shortly, we will be sending to Congress the

"Freedom to Manage Act," and the "Managerial Flexibility Act," which will allow you to manage more efficiently and serve the public in better fashion.

Those of you in high places of Government are more than administrators and experts. You hold the ideals and hopes of the Nation in trust. And I want to thank you for your willingness to serve our great Nation.

It is an incredible honor for me to be the leader of such a strong team on behalf of the American people, a team of men and women who could be doing something else but have decided, "I want to serve the greatest land on the face of the Earth."

Let's do our duty. Let's hold ourselves to the highest of standards. And we'll leave this city and this Government better than we found it.

Thank you for having me. May God bless your work, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. at Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Ruth Sanchez-Way, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Remarks in a Welcoming Ceremony for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Arlington, Virginia

October 15, 2001

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, thanks for those kind remarks, and congratulations once again. I know your family is proud, and I want to congratulate Mary Jo, Rich, and your daughters, Nicole and Erin.

I also want to congratulate Pete Pace, who succeeds General Myers as the Vice Chairman. Pete, I want to congratulate Lynne, as well; Tiffany, Lieutenant Pete Pace, and of course, I've got to congratulate your mom, Doris. Moms are pretty important, as I learned firsthand. And so did you.

Mr. Secretary, we did a fine job in picking these two men. There's no question we made the right choice. And there's no question I made the right choice when I named you Secretary of Defense.

The country is coming to know Don like I know him. He's a no-nonsense kind of guy. He speaks his mind. He's results-oriented. He's the right man at the right time to defeat the evil ones. I appreciate your service. I appreciate the service of Paul Wolfowitz, your Deputy, and all the folks you've assembled at the Defense Department. I also want to welcome the Members of Congress who are here; I know Congressman Ike Skelton is here, and others are, as well.

General Myers and I have spent a lot of quality time together recently. He has my complete confidence. Richard B. Myers is the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, taking his place in a line that began with another general who was born in Missouri, Omar Bradley. And like Omar Bradley, General Myers is known for his calm manner, sound judgment, and his clear strategic thinking. Now, at any time those qualities would be important; but today, they're indispensable.

When General Myers and General Pace stood at my side in Crawford, Texas, this summer, I spoke of our duty to protect and defend America's values and interests in the world. Since that time, those values and interests have come under direct attack.

America has awakened to a great danger. We have entered a different kind of war. And the enemy is finding out we are ready. We are fighting this war, and we will win this war on many fronts—by diplomacy, law enforcement, financial sanctions, and intelligence. And our military is playing an essential role. Eight days ago, I sent the Armed Forces into action. They have performed with skill and precision. They know their work, and they know the American people are behind them.

I made a commitment to every service man and woman: For the mission that lies ahead, you will have everything you need, every resource, every weapon, every means to assure full victory for the United States, our allies, our friends, and the cause of freedom.

In the war against terror, there will be times of swift and visible action. There will be times of steady and quiet progress. We will be patient, and we will be persistent. The terrorists are beginning to understand: There is no place to run; there is no place to hide; there is no place to rest.