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If you want to be a part of the war, walk across the street and say to a shut-in elderly person, "What can I do to help you," or mentor a child, or get into your public schools here in Anchorage, or provide support for people, or go to your church or synagogue or mosque and walk out with a program that says, "I want to help somebody in need." Feed the hungry. If you want to be a part of the war against terror, remember that it's the gathering momentum of millions and millions of acts of kindness that take place in America that stands squarely in the face of evil.

The enemy hit us, and they made a huge mistake. Not only will our Nation seek justice, but out of the evil will come incredible goodness. Out of the evil will become America more resolved not only to defend freedom, more resolved to sacrifice, if necessary, to defend the freedom, but America resolved to show the world our true strength, which is the compassionate, decent heart of the American people.

It is such an honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming out to say hello to Laura and me, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:17 p.m. in Hangar 3 at the base. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Doug Miller, USAF, vice commander, 3d Wing; Lt. Gen. Norton A. Schwartz, USAF, commander, Alaskan Command; Col. Richard Nickerson, USA, Alaska Chief of Staff; Gov. Tony Knowles of Alaska; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Remarks to the Republican Party of Alaska in Anchorage

February 16, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you, Governor—I mean—[*laughter*]. Thank you all for coming. Listen, I've been in Alaska long enough to remember when Edith Holmes sang "The Star Spangled Banner." [*Laughter*] God rest her soul. I actually met Edith when I was living in Fairbanks in 1974. I had the privilege of voting in the Republican primary in 1974. As you know, you've got a one-month residency requirement, and I met it. So I voted. I can't remember who I voted for, but I was a proud participant. I know I'm the only President ever to have voted in any kind of primary in Alaska. [*Laughter*]

But I have such fond memories of Fairbanks and the Kenai Peninsula and Anchorage. And as you know, there was a period of time when you had kind of weak immigration laws and a lot of Texans came up here—[*laughter*]—many of whom were my friends. But such a fabulous State. And thanks for such warm hospitality. And who said your three electoral votes didn't matter? [*Laughter*]

I'm real thrilled to be traveling with Laura, obviously. The last time I went overseas, she didn't go. It was right after 9/11. I went to Shanghai for a quick meeting and came back. Now the people of the Far East are going to get to see a fabulous wife and a great mother and a great First Lady for the country.

I do want to thank all those folks who put this on today, and I particularly want to thank the members of the Alaska congressional delegation: Senator Stevens, Senator Murkowski, and Congressman Young. These are three very accomplished, capable, smart people who also have got a little bit of seniority, which helps. [*Laughter*]

But Senator Stevens, I wish he were here because I would like for him to hear what I am going to say about him. He is a—he's a great legislator who loves America, and he is smart, and I really, really enjoyed working with him. He is a wonderful representative of the State of Alaska, obviously. But those of you who know Ted Stevens, you can't pigeonhole him just for one State. He really cares deeply about the Nation, as does Frank.

And Don Young and I worked a lot of times together on this airport security bill. And it's a good piece of legislation, and he deserves a lot of credit for seizing a moment and getting some good legislation through. It was a period of time when it was so important for the country to see that the Government was actually doing something constructive at home to make—to kind of ease the nerves of the American people. And Don did a really good job of working that issue. And

I was proud to sign the bill that he had a major hand in getting to my desk.

And I also want to thank all the statehouse folks and the mayor, George W.—another George W.—[*laughter*]—there he is. But it's a thrill for us to be here.

We're on our way, obviously, to Japan, South Korea, and China. It's an important trip, because we've got a lot in common with those nations. We've got trading interests. And as I mentioned in the speech over there, that one of the things I am going to continually remind these nations, that trade ought to be a two-way street, you know, that if we open up our market, they ought to open up theirs. And I will work hard to do that, because we have got a competitive advantage in a lot of important areas, and one of which is agriculture. I truly believe that it is in our Nation's interests and the world's interests that we tear down these barriers to trade, so that we can feed people who are hungry.

I'm also going to talk about our values. The world obviously knows that we're willing to defend values, the values of freedom. And I'll explain to the leaders firsthand my absolute determination to do that.

I told the country at different times right after September the 11th that the farther we got away from the date, it's likely that people would grow weary and tired of the efforts. Not me, nor my administration. History has called us into action, and action is where we'll be. We've laid out a pretty clear set of objectives early on in the war against terror but—all focused on defending freedom. And it's as simple as that. It's good versus evil, and freedom is under attack.

My job, obviously, covers a lot of fronts, but there's nothing more important than the security of the American people and to prevent an attack. And as much as I wish I didn't have to say this, I still believe we are under attack. And I see threats every morning. Having said that, you can rest assured we're doing everything in our power to keep America safe. Everything possible, obviously, within the confines of the Constitution, we're doing.

And I'm proud to report that the team is really working hard. You know, when I first came into office—or, not first came into office—well, first came into office, and actually right around the September the 11th period—the FBI's function was really to run down spies or white-collar criminals. And there's nothing wrong with that; that's an important function of the FBI. But I can tell you with certainty they've got a new major focus, and that's preventing an attack. We've got over 4,000 FBI agents around the country that are working hand in glove with State and local authorities, just to give—just to keep running down every lead and every hint and every opportunity to keep the country safe. And we are. And I'm pleased with the efforts being made.

But I'm also a realistic fellow. And I know that in the long term, in order to keep America safe, we've got to keep this vast coalition we've put together and rout out terror wherever it hides and wherever it exists. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're going to do.

The amazing thing for me is that the country is so patient and so determined and so resolved. And I am very grateful for that, as I'm sure you can imagine. It is such a powerful feeling to know that I represent a great land that is united in our efforts to secure freedom.

The other thing that I find interesting is that not only are we going to leave the world a safer and freer place, but I believe the culture is beginning to change. And one of the reasons I first ran for office in Texas and then eventually the Presidency was, I was concerned about a culture which, as I said in my State of the Union, said, "If it feels good, do it." The second half of that is, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." And my wish is, for the country, is that we usher in a period of personal responsibility.

That means, if you're a mother or a father, that your most important job is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. That's really what a period of personal responsibility means; we all rededicate ourselves to the parenting, if we're fortunate enough to have a child. Or it means that you'll love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. Or if you're corporate America, it means you will have full disclosure on

all your assets and liabilities. [*Laughter*] Seriously, so that you don't mislead your shareholders or employees. There's certain responsibility that comes to those of us who have been entrusted with people's lives, in my case, or corporate America's lives, or individual lives, and we must seize that moment.

And you know, I—probably the most meaningful moment for me was on Flight 93, when the guys get on the airplane, and they hear—they get the word that something's happening in Washington. The plane's hijacked. They tell their loved ones they love them; they say a prayer; and they drive the plane into the ground. It is kind of the epitome of taking responsibility to save somebody else's life. It's the ultimate sacrifice.

I believe the country is asking, you know, how best to make ourselves better. And as I said in the speech in there, one way to do that, obviously, is to practice acts of kindness. And it's that—it's the compilation of these acts of decency and responsibility that will eventually define America and eventually win the war against terror.

We've got some—besides the military, besides the budget items, there's obviously an issue that's relevant here to Alaska that I am passionate about, and that is energy. It is so important that our Nation be wise about our energy policy and be—first of all, we've got to conserve better, and we will. There's new technologies coming on that will enhance conservation, and that's important, no question about it. And the less energy we use and still are able to grow our economy, the less dependent we are on somebody else's energy.

But we've also got to explore at home, and there is no better place to do so than in Alaska. There is a myth that somehow the environment cannot be protected if you find natural gas. As a matter of fact, natural gas will help protect the environment. [*Laughter*] And it is—we've got to do everything in our power to send a clear message about reality, that nature and exploration can coexist in a positive way.

I want to thank the Teamsters. Jerry Hood traveled with us today, and I've met with Jimmy Hoffa. He understands that this is more than just national security. We're also talking about people's jobs. This is a chance for people to get to work and to make a living and to put—and to help battle this recession that we face.

So I am—I told Frank—I mean, I can assure you, this is not only important for our national security interests; it's right for America that we pursue this. And obviously you don't need to persuade your—any elected officials here. But if you happen to know somebody else in Congress that seems reluctant, tell them the truth; tell them how it works; tell them how important it is for the country.

But we're having the time of our lives, and it's been an—as you can imagine, a fantastic experience in many ways, sad in many ways, very emotional for a period of time. But I've never been more optimistic about a country or a philosophy. I believe that philosophy that our party honors is one that heralds the individual, recognizes everybody has got potential, and that the job of the Government is to help people realize their potential. It's not to create wealth but an environment in which people are willing to take risks so that the entrepreneur can flourish, you can own your own business. We believe strongly in the freedoms that we adhere so closely to, that—we believe in private property rights and the rights of every citizen.

And so it's a proud moment for me to be able to represent the Republican philosophy to the United States but, more importantly, show that it works. It works for people.

And then so the tax cut that I campaigned on that we worked hard to get not only has made a huge difference in the lives of our citizens, but it came right at the right time. Just as the economy was, you know, declared stagnant and dead in the water, we got a tax cut going, which means people have got more money to spend, which means it's kind of a boost in the arm for our economy. And I wish I could say we're out of recession. I don't think we are. But there are some positive signs happening.

So, all in all, I guess what I'm telling you is, one, I love being your President. I want to thank you for helping me get there. And I am incredibly optimistic, optimistic about the country, optimistic about peace, optimistic about our future. I just feel so strong, and it's great to be a President of a land of

so many good people. And they don't even have to be Republican, as far as I'm concerned—[*laughter*]—people from all walks of life.

So thanks for greeting Laura and me. Thanks for giving us a good sendoff as we go on to this important foreign policy trip. And may God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in The Gathering Place at the Alaskan Native Heritage Center. In his remarks, he referred to Alaskan gubernatorial candidate Senator Frank H. Murkowski, who introduced the President; Mayor George Wuerch of Anchorage; and James P. Hoffa, general president, and Jerry Hood, special assistant to the general president on energy policy, International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan in Tokyo, Japan

February 18, 2002

Prime Minister Koizumi. This is my fourth meeting with President Bush, and we engaged in very candid and very friendly talks, and very useful meeting it was. I was able to renew our friendship and cement further our relationship of trust and reaffirm the importance of Japan-U.S. alliance.

In the fight against terrorism, Japan, on its own initiative, has been cooperating with the United States and in cooperation with the international community to eradicate terrorism. And we shall continue with this firm resolve and firm stance to fight against terrorism in the days ahead, as well.

I expressed my respect for the strong leadership that President Bush has exercised to date. On September the 11th, these unforgivable terrorist acts took place. But in this fight against terrorism, we shall continue—we shall need to sustain our cooperation, and under international cooperation we need to carry forward this fight against terrorism.

On these points, again, we saw eye to eye. On the issue of Afghanistan, the roles that Japan and the United States play will differ, but we should complement each other in order to make our own contributions to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan.

Turning to East Asia, as a whole, the relationship between Japan and East Asia is important for the stability and the peace in the world. Japan attaches importance to our relations with China and Korea, and the close coordination between Japan and China and Japan and Korea is something that I would also like to work on to further strengthen.

On North Korea, Japan, through cooperation and coordination with the United States and Korea, would like to work on normalization of relations with North Korea.

With regard to China, we welcome China's accession to WTO, and it will be hosting Olympic games in the future, as well. And I very much hope that China will play important roles in the international community and also play its part in the international community, recognizing its important responsibilities. In considering the future of friendly ties between Japan and China and Japan and Korea, we also agree that Japan-U.S. relations would be very important.

And turning to economic issues, economic revitalization in Japan to imbue confidence once again in the Japanese economy, this is the greatest mission given to my Koizumi administration. Whether my support is high or low, I shall not slacken this structural reform efforts that I've made. This policy of structural reform will not change whatsoever. I explained this to President Bush, the measures against deflation and measures to prevent the financial unrest, but we will do all our best in this regard. So there will be absolutely no change to the structural reform efforts that the Koizumi administration has maintained. In fact, it may only be strengthened, but it will not change; the policy will not change.

Ten years ago, Japan perhaps was a little overconfident. Today, Japan has lost confidence in itself. But Japan has to regain confidence in itself, and with hope, if we work on the structural reform, then definitely Japan shall be able to revive its economy. And the potentials of Japan can also come to the fore. And it is to that end that the Koizumi administration has been working on structural reform. And President Bush has shown his understanding towards this and