

with hope and determination toward a future of peace, prosperity, and freedom.

**George W. Bush**

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

**Remarks at a Reception for  
Senatorial Candidate John Thune in  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota**

*April 24, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Thank you. It is great to be back in South Dakota. I want to thank you all for such a warm and gracious welcome. I am here because I want John Thune to become the next United States Senator. I want to thank you for helping him. He is—my attitude is, anytime you find a person of high character and strong values, you've got to help him, and I want to thank you for doing that.

I'm going to spare you from a lot of my speech that I'm going to give a little later on, but I do want to tell you it's a huge honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We've got a lot on our plate, and I hope to have this good man beside me in the United States Senate, just like he has been beside me as a fine Member of the United States House of Representatives.

We've got a war to win, and we're going to win the war. We've got an economy to worry about, and we're going to make the right decisions to encourage economic vitality and growth in all sectors, including the agricultural sector.

Today I had the honor of going to an ethanol plant. I made it very clear to the people there—and I'm going to continue to make it clear—that I meant what I said when I ran for President, that value-added processing—ethanol—is good for South Dakota; it's good for farmers; it's also good for America.

One of the things I also said—I remember clearly, when I came to South Dakota campaigning—I said if you give me a chance to be President, I'll work hard to cut the taxes on the people of our country. And thankfully, we did. And we did so right at the right time.

There's—some people up there in Washington read a different textbook than John and I read. [*Laughter*] You see, we believe that if you let people have their own money—and it's not the Government's money, of course; it's your money—that you'll spend it. And when you spend it, somebody produces a good and service. And when they produce a good and service to meet the demand, that means somebody is going to work. The best way to encourage the creation of jobs is not through excessive Federal Government; it is through trusting the people of our country with their own money. We cut the taxes, and we cut them at the right time.

I'm going to talk about some other issues a little later on, but one thing I want to remind our country is that we're great. And we're great not because of our Government; we're great because of our people. The thing that I am most proud about, about America, right after this terrible incident of September the 11th, is the American spirit: how strong we have stood in the face of terror; how determined we are as a nation to defend that which we hold most dear, which is our freedoms; and how compassionate our nation can be.

I'm going to say this a little later on, but I want to say it again here—that we can fight evil and will, with a strong military. But at home, we need to fight evil through acts of compassion and decency and kindness. As Americans love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, we show the world the true face of this great country and in so doing stand squarely—squarely—in the face of evil.

I want to thank you all for the many prayers—I had some pictures taken back there, and a lot of people came through and said, "Mr. President, we pray for you and your family." It means a lot to me. It means a lot to me to be a President of a country that prays for their President, and it means a lot to me to be the President of a country that is full of so many decent and honorable and hard-working and bold Americans.

Again, I want to thank you for helping John. This is a very important election. He is—I stand here knowing the character of the man. I know his values. I know his strengths. He will be great for South Dakota in the

United States Senate, and he will be great for America as its next Senator.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Convention Center.

**Remarks at a South Dakota  
Republican Party Rally in Sioux Falls**  
April 24, 2002

**The President.** Thank you all very much. Thank you very much; thank you for that warm welcome. I'm really glad I came back to South Dakota. John said to me, he said, "Well, you might want to come over to South Dakota. A few of my friends might show up." [Laughter] I want to thank all of you for coming.

I'm here for a couple of reasons. First, I'm here because I firmly believe that John Thune should be the next United States Senator from South Dakota. And I'm here to thank the people of this good State who work so hard for the Republican Party, who know that our party represents strength and compassion, that we trust the people of America. I want to thank those of you who man the phones and lick the envelopes, who carry the signs. I want to thank the grassroots support that are so incredibly important not only for making sure our point of view is heard but incredibly important part of our democracy. Your job of turning out the vote and talking to the neighbors and going to the coffee shops and spreading the word is incredibly important. And it's going to be an important reason why John Thune gets elected next November.

I want to thank John's wife, Kimberley, for making the sacrifice necessary to—for her husband to run for this high office. John and I share something in common; that is, we both married above ourselves. [Laughter] My regret is that my wife, Laura, isn't with me here tonight. But I will tell you, I am incredibly proud of this fine soul. She is doing a great job as the First Lady for our country.

**Audience member.** [Inaudible]—in South Dakota!

**The President.** I had the honor of serving as the Governor of my State, and while I was

the Governor, I got to know the Governor of your State. He is—he's one of a kind. [Laughter] I'm proud to be with my old Governor friend, and I know you're proud of the job he's doing as your Governor. I also want to thank the first lady, Mary Dean, as well.

I want to thank the party chairman, Joel Rosenthal. I want to thank the national committeeman, the national committeewoman. I want to thank you all.

This is a—this is a really large crowd. [Laughter] It says something about the vitality of our message, and it says something about the strength of our candidate for the United States Senate. Here's what I like about John. I like his values. I respect his intellect. I appreciate his dedication to hard work and his desire to get things done in Washington, DC, on behalf of the citizens of South Dakota. He's not afraid to stand up for what he believes, and it's refreshing to hear his voice amongst the shrill partisans in Washington, DC. He's a steady hand, and he's a man with whom I can work.

We've worked on big issues thus far. One of the most important issues we worked on was making sure the people of South Dakota and America got to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. When it comes time to spending money in Washington, DC, both of us understand the money we're spending is not the Government's money. The money we're spending is the people's money. And we cut your taxes right at the right time.

You know, our economy was floundering. When I went into office, the economy was grinding down, and that deeply troubled me. Anytime somebody in this country wants to work and they can't find a job, I'm troubled by that. But I understood this economic fact: If you let people keep their own money, they're going to spend it; they're going to demand something. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or service, that means somebody is going to find work. The tax cuts we passed, in spite of some of the big spenders in Washington, DC, helped this economy get back on its feet.

And we need a good farm bill out of Congress. We don't need any more politics with the farm bill. Let's get a farm bill on my desk