

President. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:20 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin.

Remarks at Clarke Street Elementary School in Milwaukee

May 8, 2002

The President. I'd like to thank my friend Rod Paige, who is the Secretary of Education. Scott McCallum, your Governor—welcome to your Governor. I want to thank the teachers who are here. Thank you all for teaching.

I'm here because this is a great school that believes every child can learn. It starts with a mindset that says every child can learn. That means there's high expectations, and there's a willingness to make sure every child is learning. I appreciate the curriculum you're using. We went—a reading program that we're quite familiar with in Texas—Rod and I are from Texas—and it's a program that works. You're using a curriculum that has been proven to work, and that's important. I want to thank the parents who are here. You've got a responsibility to make sure your children come to school polite, prepared, ready to learn. Make sure you encourage them to read more than they watch TV. I know that's a monumental task, but it's important. It's important to make sure every child learns to read. And parents have got a lot of responsibility to make sure their children learn to read.

I want to thank the Boys and Girls Clubs that are involved here as well. I appreciate that. We're going to change America one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. And the Boys and Girls Clubs are an integral part of providing help, particularly in after-school programs. And I want to thank you for being here.

Okay, I've got some questions for you. Ready? How many of you are going to college?

[*The students raised their hands.*]

The President. That's good news. See, that means you've set a goal. In order to meet

that goal, you've got to really be good readers, and you've got to study and listen to your teachers.

How many of you read more than you watch TV? [*Laughter*] With all due respect to the cameras, I hope you read more than you watch TV. You learn a lot more. It will help you get ready. See, if you raised your hand and said you wanted to go to college, in order to make sure you help achieve that goal, practice your reading. A good way to do it is to turn your TV sets off and practice.

And finally, in order to go to college, to meet the goal you've set, make sure you make right choices. Tell them, "no," when somebody tries to say drugs are cool or alcohol is good. Make the right choices. You'll be in college, and that's what we want.

I'm so glad that we could come by to see you all. God bless you all, and thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:29 a.m. in the school's gymnasium. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at Logan High School in La Crosse, Wisconsin

May 8, 2002

The President. Thank you. Okay, here we go. Thank you all very much. It's—

Audience member. We all love you!

The President. Your mother may be watching; behave yourselves. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored to be here. I want to thank the citizens of La Crosse, Wisconsin, for such a warm welcome. I'm—great to be here in Logan High School. It's a great place.

So I was being briefed about Logan High School. I'll tell you what impressed me the most. I was impressed by the fact you've got a great baseball team. I was impressed you've got a great girls basketball team. But I was most impressed when I saw that the school raised a banner for the academic superstars. I'm at this school, of course, to talk education, but I'm also here to herald excellence. And we have found excellence at Logan High School, and thanks for giving me a chance to come by.

I appreciate the Secretary of Education traveling with me today. You know, we've got