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Editor's Note: The President was in Dana Point, CA, on August 23, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, August 23, 2002

The President's Radio Address

August 17, 2002

Good morning. This week I hosted an economic forum at Baylor University in Texas. Participants shared their concerns about the economic challenges we face and their ideas for making the economy stronger. A common theme among many panelists was that we must leave every dollar we can in the hands of the people who have earned it. We must be disciplined with our taxpayers' money, which requires Congress to focus on funding our Nation's priorities.

Winning the war on terror is our top priority. The men and women fighting the war must have every tool and all the training they need to fight and win. That is why my budget includes the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. And that is why I urge the Congress to pass a final defense appropriations bill as soon as they return to Washington.

Keeping our homeland secure is another high priority. My budget would nearly double funding for homeland security to almost $38 billion—money to train and equip firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical personnel; money for the Coast Guard, to protect our ports and coasts; money to keep our water treatment plants and nuclear facilities safe.

A few weeks ago, Congress passed an emergency funding bill that provides more than $13 billion in immediate funding for the war on terror, more than $4 billion for homeland security, and completes our $20 billion commitment to the people of New York. I was pleased to sign it.

But Congress also sent along more than $5 billion in extra spending I did not ask for. Some of that $5 billion I have endorsed and will work to secure, but a lot of that money has nothing to do with a national emergency. Those who wrote the bill designed it so either I have to spend all the money or none of it. At the economic forum on Tuesday, I made my position clear: I will spend none of the $5 billion.

We must remember the lessons of the past. In the 1960s, increased spending required by war was not balanced by slower spending in the rest of the Government. As a result, in the 1970s we faced unemployment and growing deficits and spiraling inflation.

We cannot go down the path of soaring budget deficits. We must meet our defense and homeland security needs and hold the line on other spending. My budget raises defense spending by more than 14 percent. It nearly doubles homeland security funding. In all other areas, it increases spending by 2 percent. Many families are living with raises like that, and so should the Government.

The House of Representatives has done well by staying within these limits. Unfortunately, the Senate has not even passed a budget framework, and so far it has been ignoring fiscal discipline. I requested $2.4 billion for public housing; the bill moving through the Senate includes $300 million more. I requested $2.2 billion for agricultural research; again, the Senate wants to spend $300 million more. I requested $3.1 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Senate wants to spend $200 million more. And these levels could go higher. I challenge Congress to respect the taxpayers and show restraint with their money. It is very important they do so in order for our economy to continue to grow.

If Congress will not show spending restraint, I will enforce spending restraint. For the good of our economy, for the good of the people who pay taxes, my administration will spend what is truly needed, and not a dollar more.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:45 a.m. on August 16 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 17. The

transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement Announcing the United States Delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

August 19, 2002

I am pleased to announce that Secretary of State Colin Powell will lead the American delegation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa from August 26 through September 4.

Secretary Powell will be joined by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Todd Whitman, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality James Connaughton, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios, and Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky.

The World Summit has a unique opportunity to advance the new approach to development that I embraced with other national leaders at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development this past March. * This new approach is based on shared accountability among developed and developing nations.

The United States is a leader in creating more effective ways to combat poverty and raise standards of living, recognizing that progress begins with sound domestic policies that promote good governance, investment in people, and economic freedom. The U.S. delegation will come to Johannesburg with concrete and practical proposals for strong and lasting partnerships to advance some of the world's key development priorities—clean water, modern energy, good health, and productive agriculture—that can lead us to a world without poverty. Poverty remains a huge and urgent global problem that demands action by the entire world community. We will stand together in Johannesburg to bring our full support to this important battle.

* White House correction.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

August 20, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period June 1, 2002, through July 31, 2002. The previous submission covered events from April 1, 2002, through May 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under United Nations auspices, although the leaders failed to meet their stated objective of a comprehensive settlement by June 2002. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler provided diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 21.

Remarks Following a Meeting With the Secretary of Defense and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas

August 21, 2002

Defense Budget and Planning

The President. Well, good morning. I'm pleased to welcome Secretary Rumsfeld and General Myers and members of his staff here to Crawford to discuss some important issues, issues that relate to the security of the American people.

We spent time talking about missile defense. The progress that our Nation is making after our withdrawal from the ABM Treaty

has been—is impressive, that the Secretary and his planners are thinking through how best to spend the R&D money so that we can better protect ourselves and our friends and allies from the true threats of the 21st century.

And I appreciated the briefing, Mr. Secretary. I thought it was illuminating. The American people need to know that the Pentagon is forward thinking, is aggressive in its approach to developing systems that will more likely be able to respond to what we're going to face.

Secondly, we talked about contingency plans. One of the jobs of the military is to constantly be thinking about how to respond to an issue should it arise. And I appreciate so very much the Secretary's thinking on that.

And thirdly, we talked about transformation issues, how best to make the military conform to the threats we face, other than missile defense. What weapons systems, what strategy should be employed? How do we make our services more joint in nature?

The Secretary rightly pointed out that, in the past, the service chiefs would come with their particular wish list, but there wasn't much coordination as to whether or not a weapons system in the Navy could—would work jointly with the Army, for example. And Secretary Rumsfeld and his team have done a really good job of beginning to shape the philosophy—a new philosophy in the Pentagon.

And it was right here in the Governor's House—we call this the Governor's House, by the way—was where he first briefed me on transformation plans nearly a year ago, and he's back to bring me up to date on the progress that the Pentagon is making. And we're making good progress.

The American people need to know that our Secretary of Defense is willing to think differently about how to structure our military and is also willing to work with the Joint Staff, people in the Pentagon, to get them to think differently. It's not an easy task, but he can be a stubborn guy. But he's got a vision that is positive for the country.

Mr. Secretary, would you like to say a few words? And then we might answer questions. I want to learn how you answer questions. They tell me you're quite good at it. [*Laughter*]

Secretary Rumsfeld. Well, thank you, Mr. President. We were here last year about this time, had an opportunity to discuss with you and get some guidance as to the period ahead. We've benefited from that, and we're back to give you a good report and to gain additional guidance for the period coming forward.

We're, of course, working on the budget bill for the 2004 to 2009 period, even though the 2003 budget is still pending before the Congress. So we have to get that process going. And I felt that we had a very good chance today to discuss missile defense and the important programs that we have going forward for transformation.

The cold, hard fact is that the United States lives in a very different security environment today in this 21st century than we did prior to September 11th. We have the task in the Department of Defense of seeing that we're able to provide the kind of defense capabilities and deterrents that will enable our country to contribute to peace and stability and to protect the American people.

And that means we have got to shift this Department and see that we have the kinds of capabilities that fit for the challenges and the threats that exist in the 21st century. It's a big job, but we've got a good team of people, and we're working hard on it, and we thank you for your support.

The President. You're probably wondering why the Secretary is wearing a suit. Would you like to explain why you're wearing a suit?

Secretary Rumsfeld. I don't have any sport clothes. [*Laughter*]

The President. He's going to Fort Hood to talk to our troops, to thank them for their service, and Mr. Secretary, I appreciate—yes?

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. Sir, after you've studied today the military capabilities of the United States and looking ahead to future threats, one thing that has to factor in is the growing number of U.S. allies, Russia, Germany, Bahrain, now Canada, who say that if you go to war with Saddam, you're going to go alone.

Does the American military have the capability to prosecute this war alone?

The President. Well, look, if you're asking—are you asking about Iraq? The subject didn't come up in this meeting.

But having said that, we take all threats seriously, and we will continue to consult with our friends and allies.

I know there is this kind of intense speculation that seems to be going on, a kind of a—I don't know how you would describe it. It's kind of a churning——

Secretary Rumsfeld. Frenzy.

The President. Frenzy is how the Secretary would describe it. But the subject didn't come up.

We will obviously continue to consult with our friends and allies. Your question makes certain assumptions that may or may not be true. But we will continue to talk with our—with the people concerned about peace and how to secure the peace, and those are needed consultations.

Not only will we consult with friends and allies, we'll consult with Members of Congress.

Yes, Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Secretary Rumsfeld. Could I just add a comment there, Mr. President? I think it's worth noting on that particular subject that the President of the United States and the Secretary of State and our country has put together a coalition that stretches across the entire globe that is addressing the problem of the global war on terrorism. It is 80 or 90 countries. There are 37 or 38 down in Tampa, Florida, with liaison officers. We have, at any given time, 18, 20, a couple dozen of countries involved in Afghanistan, participating.

The coalition that is working on the global war on terrorism that the President and the Secretary have put together is broad; it's deep; it's impressive; and it is in fact what is helping the forward progress that we're achieving, the traction we're getting with respect to dealing with the terrible—terribly difficult problem of global terrorist networks.

Q. Still, many of those are now saying that they won't take the war against terror into Iraq. What do you do about that?

Secretary Rumsfeld. The President has not asked them to.

Q. Sir, if I could follow up?

The President. Please do.

Q. General Franks today——

The President. We're in the giving spirit here.

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. General Franks today?

Q. He has said that he is drawing up war plans to provide you with credible options. Now, should the American people conclude from that that you're reaching some critical point, that a decision is imminent?

The President. First of all, in the midst of the frenzy—[*laughter*]—I want you to note that General Franks is not here. General Franks is doing his job. And one of the jobs that the Secretary of Defense has tasked to members of his general staff is to prepare for all contingencies, whether it be in the particular country that you seem to be riveted on, or any other country, for that matter.

We face a—the world is not stable. The world changes. There are—this terrorist network is global in nature, and they may strike anywhere. And therefore, we've got to be prepared to use our military and all the other assets at our disposal in a way to keep the peace. So General Franks is doing what the Secretary has asked.

Would you like to comment on that?

Secretary Rumsfeld. I would. As the President indicated, one of the things we discussed here today was the contingency planning guidance that he signed. I then meet with all of the combatant commanders for every area of responsibility across the globe. I do it on a regular basis. We go over all the conceivable contingencies that could occur.

So General Franks, as well as every other combatant commander—I met, I think, within the last 30 days, with at least three of them on various types of contingency plans in totally different parts of the world. That's my job. That's their job, is to see that we have the ability to protect the American people and deal effectively on behalf of our friends and our allies and our deployed forces.

So it is their task to work with me and ultimately with the President as the chain of command goes from the Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, to me, to the combatant commanders. And

they're doing exactly what I've asked them to do and what the President has asked me to do.

The President. Heidi, Bloomberg [Heidi Przybyla, Bloomberg News].

National Missile Defense

Q. Now that you're out of the ABM Treaty, can you talk a little bit about what type of testing you'd like to do on missile defense, what kind of testing we'll see soon?

Secretary Rumsfeld. Sure, we're doing it all the time. We're testing a layered program which involves a terminal phase, mid-course, as well as boost phase. It is a—a program that will become layered. It will start out as a testbed and then evolve over time.

We've had some very good successes with both short-range missiles as well as longer range missiles, intercepting them. And I feel very good about the program. General Ron Kadish is doing a superb job for the country.

Q. When do you expect there will be the kind of missile defense shield that you'd like to see?

Secretary Rumsfeld. You see, that's not knowable. And first of all, the word "shield," we don't use. The program that we're designing—I thought you said "shield." Oh, you didn't?

Q. No.

Secretary Rumsfeld. Excuse me.

Q. Just kidding. [*Laughter*]

Secretary Rumsfeld. The wind——

The President. You thought "shield."

Secretary Rumsfeld. Yes, I thought "shield."

We think of it as a capability that would be broad and be able to deal with relatively limited numbers of ballistic missiles and also shorter range—medium and shorter range missiles. And the shorter range defenses are more advanced.

In terms of how long it would take, it's something that really is not knowable, because you're in the research, development, and testing phase. And as that continues to succeed and be—to work out, we then will put things in place, and they will evolve over a period of time.

The President. Yes, I think the other thing that you should note is that the Secretary is—and his team are briefing our friends and allies about progress we're making. That's one of the things I said when we withdrew from the ABM Treaty, that we would consult with our friends and allies, and we are. And I appreciate those consultations. I think it's very important for people to see what is possible as we—as we make the world more secure through our research and development.

Yes.

Abu Nidal

Q. Mr. President, Abu Nidal—can we have your reaction to reports of his death?

The President. Well, first of all, no terrorist can hide forever. Secondly, it's—I found it interesting that they said he committed suicide with four bullet heads—four bullet wounds to the head. And so I'm not exactly sure how he died. We just have to wait and make sure, in fact, he did die.

But the point is, is that when the world puts their mind to fighting terror, we can rout out these terrorists. And some of them will be able to hide longer than others, and some of them will be able to survive longer than others. But this country will continue to lead the coalition that the Secretary of Defense talked about, to hunt them down one by one. And that's a positive development.

Adam [Adam Entous, Reuters], don't worry about the suit here on the Ranch.

Q. Sorry, I saw the Secretary——

Secretary Rumsfeld. You look good.

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. I borrowed your clothes. [*Laughter*]

Considering how much discussion has been going on recently about Saddam, do you feel a need to get out there and make a case for toppling him? And if so, do you feel a need to do it before Election Day?

The President. Well, Adam, what I need to do is to continue to, as we call it, consult with people who share our interests to make the world a safer place, and I will do so. The American people know my position, and that is, is that regime change is in the interests of the world. How we achieve that is a matter of consultation and deliberative—deliberation, which I do; I'm a deliberate person.

I say it in my speeches, which you fortunately don't have to cover, that I'm a patient

man. And when I say I'm a patient man, I mean I'm a patient man, and that we will look at all options, and we will consider all technologies available to us and diplomacy and intelligence.

But one thing is for certain, is that this administration agrees that Saddam Hussein is a threat, and he will be—that's a part of our thinking. And that hasn't changed.

Nothing he has done has convinced me—I'm confident the Secretary of Defense—that he is the kind of fellow that is willing to forgo weapons of mass destruction, is willing to be a peaceful neighbor, that is—will honor the people—the Iraqi people of all stripes, will—values human life. He hasn't convinced me, nor has he convinced my administration.

Listen, thank you all for coming out on a windy, hot day.

Fine looking boots, Martha [Martha Brant, Newsweek].

Q. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

The President. I expect to see you barrel riding here at the Crawford——

Q. Waiting for the invitation.

The President. That's good.

Thank you all very much. See you tomorrow on the plane.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. outside the Governor's House at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A reporter referred to Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was reportedly found dead in his apartment in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19.

Exchange With Reporters During a Tour of the Squire Peak Fire Area in Ruch, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Healthy Forests Initiative

Q. Mr. President, if I may, your proposal to thin out the forest a little bit—some critics say it might cause a drastic increase in commercial logging. What do you say——

The President. What the critics need to do is come and stand right where I stand. It's—what the critics need to do is come and see firsthand the effects of bad forest policy. That's what they need to come and see. And by the way, there's nothing wrong with people being able to earn a living off of effective forest management. There are a lot of people in this part of the State that can't find work because we don't properly manage our forests. And this is the second fire site I've been to this summer, and it's the same story. Had we properly managed our forests, the devastation cause would not nearly—have been nearly as severe as it has been. And it's a crying shame.

You heard the man say that when a forest like this burns, there's more likely to be disease. The beetles will come and start—we've got to do a better job. And that's why I'm here. I'm going to talk about how the administration can move, and I'm going to call upon Congress to enact some reasonable legislation to make sure we better manage our forest, so these guys aren't having to fight fires every year—particularly, one of the biggest we've seen in a long time, the Biscuit fire. And the point is, is that we can prevent fire by good sound practice.

[*At this point, the tour continued.*]

President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, do you have any reaction to President Musharraf's rewriting of the Pakistani Constitution?

The President. My reaction about President Musharraf—he's still tight with us on the war against terror, and that's what I appreciate. He's a—he understands that we've got to keep Al Qaida on the run and that, by keeping him on the run, it's more likely we will bring him to justice. And I appreciate his strong support.

Obviously, to the extent that our friends promote democracy, it's important. We will continue to work with our friends and allies to promote democracy, give people a chance to express their opinions the proper way. And—so we'll stay in touch with President Musharraf in more ways than one.

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes.

Healthy Forests Initiative

Q. ——back to the fire. Do we have enough money in the Federal coffer to pay for all the things needed throughout the West?

The President. Well, we'll—if we don't, we'll deal with it, because I mentioned to the Governor, Congress has got a way of spending money. My job is to make sure they spend on priorities, and if I didn't think the forest of the United States was a priority, I wouldn't be here. It is a priority.

The other thing is, is that there are partnerships which can be put together to the benefit of those who care about conservation, the State and those who employ people. And the approach I'm going to talk about and the approach, frankly, that the Governor has worked with Governor Kempthorne of Idaho on is a balanced approach, one that recognizes more than one party involved, that there are a variety of folks involved with the health of our forests. And all voices ought to be listened to, and a strategy ought to be developed that will—that will achieve goals. One of the goals is prevent fire, healthy forests. Another goal is going to be to conserve our forests. Another goal will be to provide jobs. So we believe we can do that.

California Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon

Q. Sir, Bill Simon's family's investigation fund was found guilty of fraud. How do you reconcile that fact with your visits tomorrow to California to campaign for him, given your corporate accounting——

The President. I agree—I understand your question. Bill Simon assures us that when the courts look at this case, he'll be innocent, and I take the man for his word.

Okay. You're tired of me answering questions, I know. [*Laughter*] It's unbelievable, 2 days in a row.

Q. We like it.

The President. What?

Q. We like it.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:33 a.m. In his remarks, the President referred to Gov. John A. Kitzhaber of Oregon; and Gov. Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this exchange. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Healthy Forests Initiative in Ruch, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Good morning. Thank you all for being here.

I just got a firsthand look at the terrible effects of the Squire fire. First, I want to thank the fire crews, the men and women of Oregon and surrounding States who risk their lives to put these fires out. On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank you for your service to the country, and thank you for what you do.

I flew over the Biscuit fire today when we were coming in. It's devastating. I mean, it is big, and it's a powerful fire that has been raging for more than a month. It's amazing the scope of the devastation that's taken place in Oregon as well as other Western States. Here in this State, a million acres have burned. A million acres have caught on fire. Hundreds of millions of trees have been destroyed. Countless lives have been affected—the same thing all across the West, a lot of people whose lives have been turned upside down. I saw firsthand the effects of fire in Arizona. I remember going to that school, Governor, where the people were just emotionally spent because of what the fire had done to them.

These devastating fires are—threaten the safety of our communities, obviously the lives of the firefighters. They destroy homes. They ruin farms. These fires destroy critical wildlife habitat, and they leave behind long-lasting environmental damage. And as we work to put out the fires and to bring relief to the victims, we have a responsibility as a nation to work together to prevent the devastation that can be caused by future fires. We have a responsibility to bring sensible policy and put it in place.

Today I'm announcing some steps my administration is going to do to restore the health of America's forests, steps that I believe and we believe will help prevent the kind of destruction we've seen this year.

Before I talk about that, I do want to thank Secretary Ann Veneman and Secretary Gale Norton for coming and for working together, for listening to the voices, such as the voices

of our Governors. These two ladies understand that not all the genius in the world is in Washington, DC, that if we listen to people whose lives are affected by managing nature, that we'll probably get better policy—not probably—will get better policy.

I want to thank Jim Connaughton, who works on my staff and has helped develop this policy, for being here. I want to thank John, the Governor of Oregon, John Kitzhaber, for being here. John Kitzhaber and Dirk Kempthorne brought the Western Governors together to develop a sensible policy as to how to deal with this issue. And Judy Martz and Governor Jane Dee Hull of Arizona are with us as well.

This isn't a Republican issue or Democrat issue. Managing our forests is an American issue. And it requires an approach that understands there's difference of opinion, and we ought to work together to achieve common ground. And John's being here today sends that signal loud and clear. I appreciate you so very much, Governor, for coming. He's an interesting character who—[*laughter*]—who I enjoy being around.

I appreciate Senator Ron Wyden and Senator Gordon Smith, one Democrat, one Republican, who have both made up their mind to get something done. Senator Wyden has been working with Senator Craig to develop sound policy. And of course, Greg Walden, Congressman from this event, is a very active voice in reason—reasonable policy to help the people of Oregon. I want to thank them for coming as well.

I want to thank Ron Wenker, who led our tour, did a fine job. Little did he know a couple of weeks ago that he'd be here entertaining such august company and speaking so eloquently in front of the national press corps about his job and about the job of protecting our forests and doing the best we can do. I want to thank the community leaders who are here, people who care deeply about the future of this region.

I believe, like you believe, that our forests are one of our Nation's great treasures, and therefore, we have a responsibility to protect our great treasure. It's one of our responsibilities as citizens of our country. And yet, as we've seen, our treasure is being wiped out by fire. I've looked, as you have, at why, and it's pretty clear that this fire prevention strategy of our country has been short-sighted, and we, frankly, haven't done a very good job.

And when you haven't done a very good job at something, it's time to take a step back and assess why and solve the problem. Forest policies have not focused on thinning—just haven't. That's reality. That's the truth. We haven't had a strategy to clear the forest floor of built-up brush and densely packed trees that we have seen firsthand here, and in other places around the country, create the fuel, the kindling for extremely large fires, like those we're experiencing this year.

The catastrophic wildfires kill the oldest trees, those which we long to preserve. They kill just about everything that grows in the soil. It's—we should note that because of short-sighted policy, even the sequoias of California, Mr. President, are threatened. The fires that ravaged the West have destroyed endangered species habitat. They damaged fisheries. They've eroded soil. They've become breeding grounds for beetles, as we just saw. We were in the midst of a breeding ground for insects that prey upon weakened forests.

Now, they—our policy has not had the health of our forests in mind. The hands-off policy that have contributed to this environmental crisis have been well intentioned, no question about that. Nobody is questioning the intentions of those who have helped put this policy in place. But they're dangerous—dangerous plans. And we've got to do something about it. All of us in elected positions must respond.

Some will say, "Well, there's thinning taking place," and let me just put what's taking place in perspective to reality. There's —at the rate in which we're thinning our forests, it will take a century, 100 years, to restore America's 200 million acres of Federal forest lands to healthy and safe conditions. That's too long, as far as I'm concerned. I know it's too long as far as forest firefighters are concerned. It's too long as their Senators are concerned. It's too long. And therefore, we've got to develop a different strategy.

We must be active in our management of our forests. We must thin, and we must

quickly restore the areas that have been damaged by fire. People who fight fires and who study forests, who know a lot more about this subject than I do, agree. And that's what the American people have got to know. Come out and speak to a firefighter about good, commonsense policy, and you'll hear what I just said.

Actively managing forests is going to be the centerpiece of this administration. And that's what I made clear to those who work with me. And we'll begin by identifying and protecting those areas that are the most vulnerable to catastrophic fires, areas which are near our communities and our watersheds and other key areas.

In order to effect our healthy forest policy, we must cut through the redtape and endless litigation that blocks efforts to restore forest health. For example, a thinning project to prevent catastrophic fire in the area where we were just standing was proposed 6 years ago. They said, "Well, what can we do to make sure this area is protected?" Yet, because of burdensome regulatory hurdles and meritless appeals and litigation, only a very small portion of this acreage was approved for thinning before the fires came through. And we saw the difference between an area that had been thinned and an area which had not been thinned. And the difference is catastrophic. That's reality.

So, for the good of Oregon's forests, and really for the good of her environment overall and for the good of your economy, I've directed the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Council on Environmental Quality to do the following steps: One, to authorize thinning projects on an emergency basis in the most critical areas; secondly, to speed up the process of developing environmental assessments while considering the long-term threat that fire-susceptible forests pose to endangered species; and to expedite the appeals process.

Listen, we want our citizens at the local level to have a voice. We want there to be an opportunity for our citizens to speak out. That's the great American way. But we must discourage the endless delays that prevent good forest policy from going forward. And Congress should pass legislation that will ensure that vital forest restoration projects are not tied up in courts.

I mean, we can do some of this through administrative action, but Congress needs to act. And I'm confident Congress will act in a way that doesn't exclude people, that, as a matter of fact, encourages citizens to participate. I mean, there's nothing better than having citizens worrying about how to conserve assets and resources.

I signed some legislation earlier this month in what they call a supplemental, which provides protection for Black Hills National Forest of South Dakota. The reason I bring that up is that, slowly but surely, Members of Congress understand that when there's a problem, we've got to deal with it. And my attitude is, if—and I recognize the situation is different in Oregon than perhaps in South Dakota, but managing the forest isn't. Good forest policy makes sense. And so if it's good enough for South Dakota or part of South Dakota, it ought to be good enough for Oregon and Arizona and Montana.

And so I want us to move forward with policy. And there's other ways to make sure that the communities are involved. John and I were talking about—to make sure that any good Federal policy recognizes that—I think Ron might have said it—one size doesn't fit all. Obviously, the Oregon situation is different from other States. The health of the forest isn't different; it's the same. But how to make sure we have a healthy forest requires input from local people. The Congress passed these pilot programs that encouraged partnerships of nonprofits or local governments or private companies to come together to remove small trees and brush that fuel dangerous fires. That makes sense.

But I don't understand why they need to be pilot programs. If it makes sense and we want to manage our forests, these pilot programs ought to be not pilot programs but permanent programs all around the country, so that we don't have a century of work ahead of us to make our forests healthy. We compress that time to a reasonable amount of time so our children and grandchildren can have healthy forests, and so your children and grandchildren aren't fighting fires all the time.

I also believe strongly that the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan made sense. It was a plan where people from different constituency groups came together to talk about how to, first, make the forests healthy. And that is the primary concern of this policy or any policy—ought to be how to manage our treasure. But at the same time, the plan talked about how to protect the wildlife habitat found here in Oregon, how to make sure that recreational areas were in good shape.

And there was a dividend, by the way, to the Northwest plan of 1.1 billion board feet taken a year of sustainable timbering and that, of course, is so people can find work. And that makes sense to me, particularly in a place and a part of the world where people are having trouble finding work.

Good forest policy yield a dividend. They yield healthy forests. They yield places where people can bring their families. They protect the endangered species, but it also—one of the dividends is work, where people can put food on the table. And that's important. The human condition is very important, as far as I'm concerned. When somebody is looking for work who can't find work, we need to do something about it.

So I want to thank you all for welcoming us here today. This is a classic example of what is possible, given what happened and what is happening. It is possible to have sound forest policy that will protect against fire. It's possible. It is possible for us to work together to achieve a good strategy to protect a national treasure.

My administration looks forward to working with both Republican and Democrat alike to forge the policies to leave behind a legacy of healthy forests.

Thanks for coming. Thank you for your concern, your deep concern about this beautiful State, this wonderful area.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. following a tour of the Squire Peak fire area. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Kitzhaber of Oregon; Gov. Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho; Gov. Judy Martz of Montana; Gov. Jane Dee Hull of Arizona; and Ron Wenker, district manager, Medford District Bureau of Land Management, Medford, OR.

Remarks to the Community in Central Point, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. Thanks for—please be seated, unless of course you don't have a chair. [*Laughter*] Thanks for that. Thank you all for such a warm welcome. It's such an honor to be here in Jackson County.

I have come for a couple of reasons. First, I have come to express our deepest condolences for those whose lives have been affected by these fires and to thank the yellowshirts, the hard-working firefighters. I appreciate the sacrifice you all make to protect your neighbors. One of the things you learn growing up in small-town Texas or small-town Oregon is that you learn to be neighborly. And the idea of people sacrificing to serve their neighbors is something that makes this country great. So I want to thank you all for what you do.

I also want to tell you, our job is to make sure we do everything we can to prevent forest fires from happening in the first place. That's one of our responsibilities, and that's why I went up to Jacksonville to talk about a policy that is based upon common sense. It's not a political deal. It's not a Republican idea. It's not a Democrat idea. It's an American idea to preserve our forests so that we can—that's one of the hurdles we've got to address here in the country. That's one of the challenges we've got to meet, is how to preserve our national treasure.

We've got other challenges. Listen, anytime anybody who wants to find work, who can't find work, it means we've got a problem. So I want to talk about the job we have of making sure we grow our economy, so people can work.

And then what I want to talk about—I want to talk about the fact that we've got another challenge, and that is how best to protect our homeland from the killers. And I want to tell you how we're going to win the war on terror, and we are going to win the war on terror.

I want to thank members of my administration for coming out here. They're kind of used to the West, since they are from the

West, and that would be the Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and the Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton. These two ladies are doing a fine job, really fine job. I'm proud they're on my team.

I appreciate so very much Gordon Smith for introducing me and being a friend. I'm proud of the service that he has given to the State of Oregon. He's a hard-working man. He's a family man. He's a good, decent citizen. And I want to appreciate—and I want to say how much I appreciate Senator Ron Wyden for being here as well. I think it's an important gesture to show that forest policy can be commonsense policy. I appreciate you.

The honorable citizens—and so is your Congressman, Greg Walden. [*Applause*] It sounds like they remember you, Greg. [*Laughter*] I remember him, because all he does is talk about Oregon. [*Laughter*] I want to thank Governor Judy Martz and Governor Jane Dee Hull, Governors from Montana and Arizona, for coming. These are fine—I wish I could say they were here—they came to hear my speech. They came to promote good fire policy. They got stuck listening to the speech. [*Laughter*] But I'm proud to call them friends. I had the honor of being a Governor at one time, and I knew these two ladies. And they're good ones, and I want to thank them for coming.

I also want to thank the mayor of Central Point, Oregon, Bill Walton, for receiving me earlier. I want to thank Michael Draper, who is the western director of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Union, for being here. You thought Michael would have gotten you a better seat. [*Laughter*] But thank you all for coming. I want to thank Nolan Colegrove, who is the president of the Intertribal Timber Council. He came up from California. I had a good visit with him. He's a good, solid thinker and a reasonable fellow.

I want to thank my friends from the Klamath River Basin who are here. I want to appreciate your working with us to make sure that people who make the living off the land had enough water to survive. I want to thank the members of the Student Conservation Association who are here. [*Applause*] You'd think your relatives would be clapping too, but—[*laughter*]—thank you for your concern for our environment. Thanks for your hard work to put into practice commonsense policies to preserve the forest land.

I want to introduce Matt Epstein, who is here. The reason I bring up Matt is, everywhere I go, when I land, I try to welcome somebody to—a member of what we call the USA Freedom Corps, out at Air Force One, to thank them. But it also gives me a chance to remind our country what a unique land we are. We have people who volunteer their time to make their communities a better place.

Matt teaches kids how to read. Matt worries about those who don't have enough food. Matt also works hard to promote good forest management policy. He not only does it on his own land, but he promotes good forest policy so people understand the difference between kind of theory and good practice. Matt is a citizen who cares deeply about the community in which he lives. He is a soldier in the army of compassion. Matt understands what I know, that one person can't do everything, but one person can do something to make the community in which we live a better place. So it's my honor to introduce Matt Epstein and his wife, Donna. Thank you for coming. Where are you, Matt? There he is. Hi, Matt. Hi, Donna. Thank you.

We've got some challenges that face our economy; there's no question about it. I mean, the first three quarters of my Presidency, we were in recession. That means the economy was going backwards; it was negative growth. The next three quarters we've had positive growth. But about halfway through that time, the enemy hit us, and it affected our economy. And then to make the challenge even more, we found out some of the folks were cooking the books. Some of the people decided that in order to get ahead, they wouldn't tell the truth.

Oh, we've had some tough times in our economy, and I know you know what I'm talking about right here in this part of Oregon. Times are tough. But let me tell you something, so is America. Our economy has strengths to equal those challenges. I mean, after all, we've got the most productive farmers and ranchers in the world. We've got the most productive workers in the world. We've

got a great climate for small businesses, and the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America.

No, we've got the ingredients to overcome the challenge. But there's still work to do. And let me describe some of the work that needs to get done. I believe a healthy economy will mean that we work to have—in order to have a healthy economy, we've got to have a healthy forest policy. I mean, if you have good forest policy, it will yield to a better economy. After all, the fires that have devastated the West create a drag on the economy. It costs money to fight these fires. It means people lose property. There's opportunity lost. No, good forest policy not only is important for the preservation and conservation of good forests for future generations, it's good for our economy.

And yet, I think we need to be honest with the American people. The forest policy of our Government is misguided policy. It doesn't work. We need to thin. We need to make our forests healthy by using some common sense. We need to understand, if you let kindling build up and there's a lightning strike, you're going to get yourself a big fire. That's what we've got to understand. [*Laughter*]

We've got to understand that it makes sense to clear brush. We've got to make sense—it makes sense to encourage people to make sure that the forest not only are healthy from disease, but are healthy from fire. That's what we've got to do here in America. We haven't done that in the past. We just haven't done it, and we're now paying the price.

And so we're going to change the forest policy in Washington. And that's why I've got my Secretaries here. They know what I know, that we've got to change the policy, starting with setting priorities, right off the bat, about getting after those areas that are dangerous, dangerous to communities, dangerous to habitat, dangerous to recreational areas. There are some high-priority areas that we need to declare emergencies and get to thinning now, before it's too late.

And we have a problem with the regulatory body there in Washington. I mean, there's so many regulations and so much red-tape that it takes a little bit of effort to ball up the efforts to make the forests healthy. And plus, there's just too many lawsuits, just endless litigation. We want to make sure our citizens have the right to the courthouse. People ought to have a right to express themselves, no question about it. But there's a fine balance between people expressing their selves and their opinions and using litigation to keep the United States of America from enacting commonsense forest policy.

We've made some progress through administration action. We can thin on emergency basis, like I just mentioned. We'll speed up the process of developing environmental assessments, while considering the long-term threat that fire-susceptible forests pose to endangered species. We'll make sure that people have their voice, but aren't able to tie it all up. And I need to work with Congress, and I need help from Congress. And I appreciate Senator Smith and Senator Wyden's willingness to do what is right for the people of Oregon. They want to work together.

There's too much bickering in Washington. Like, it's kind of a zero-sum attitude. No, what we need is to understand that what I'm talking about makes sense. And this isn't a chance for one political party to get an upper hand on another political party. This is just common sense for what's best for not only the forests and the preservation and conservation of forests but what's best for the people who live around the forests. That's what this is.

People are beginning to get the message. I mean, Americans who have no idea what good forest policy means are beginning to see the fires on TV. It's a sad way for people to learn, but it's happening, and we're beginning to make some progress. There's some—recently I signed what they call a supplemental bill. And in that bill there was some—the Black Hills National Forest, east of here, got some treatment about how to thin, how to make sure that that forest was well preserved. My attitude is, if it's good enough for that part of South Dakota, it's good enough for Oregon.

No, I want our forests healthy, and I want our economy healthy. That's why I strongly support the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan, a plan which should allow the production of a billion board feet of timber per year. This

is a plan that was a well-thought-out plan. It's a plan that was put together to protect wildlife habitat, to protect recreational areas. But it's a plan that's got another dividend, besides a healthy forest. It means 100,000 more jobs for people to be able to—[*applause*]. This would be sustainable timber harvesting on a small portion of the forest. The prior administration developed and agreed to this plan. I support the plan. Congress needs to pass the laws necessary to implement the plan. Good forest policy will be good for the economy. Good forest policy will mean we will have left a legacy for future generations.

You know, I'll never forget our tax relief debate. I remember telling people that where I came from, at least the economic book that I believe in says, "If you've got tough times in your economy, you got to let people keep more of their own money." Here's the theory behind that. If you let a person keep their own money—and by the way, we're not talking about the Government's money. When we're spending money, we're talking about the people's money. If you let somebody keep their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or service. And when somebody produces a good and service, somebody is more likely to find work. And so therefore, in the face of this recession, the tax cut came at the right time in American economic history.

Now people say, "Well, you know, it didn't have an effect." Of course it had an effect. Let me tell you who it had an effect on. It had an effect not only on people who pay the bills. It had an effect on small-business owners. Seventy percent of new job creation in America comes from our small-business owners, comes from our entrepreneurs. Most of those small businesses, because they are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, pay income taxes on the personal income tax level. So when you drop the income tax rates, really what you're doing is, you're stimulating job creation by putting a shot in the arm to the entrepreneurs, the small-business owners of America.

This tax reform slashed the marriage penalty. It makes sense to me that the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. After all, families—a family unit is the strength of the country. And for the sake of the small-business owners and the people who make a living off the land, the farmers and ranchers, we put the death tax on its way to extinction. But the problem is, because of a quirk in the nature of the rules, all this comes—it doesn't stay stuck. Let me put it to you that way. [*Laughter*] In other words, it comes back into being. The tax rates go back up to where they were. The death tax isn't repealed. The marriage penalty goes back up to where it is. That's just the nature of how the Senate rules work. For the sake of economic growth, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of helping people stay on their farms and ranches, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

There are too many construction projects that aren't moving forward because the project managers can't find terrorism insurance. There's too many hardhats not working in America. There's over 8 billion projects which are not going forward, because the insurance premiums—they just can't can't insurance for a potential terrorist attack. It makes sense for the Congress to act on this. The United States Congress ought to provide a floor for terrorism insurance, so we can get our hardhats back to working again. But I caution the Congress, we need a bill that worries more about the workers and not about the trial lawyers in America.

And speaking about trial lawyers, I am worried about liability for doctors. I'm worried about it. And here's what I'm worried about. I'm worried about frivolous and junk lawsuits, frivolous and junk lawsuits that are making it harder for our citizens to get access to health care. That worries me. It worries me that frivolous and junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, because make no mistake about it, anytime there is these huge settlements that go forward, you pay.

Now look, I repeat, if somebody gets injured, they ought to have their day in court, no question about it. That's a system that I value and a system you value. But these frivolous and junk lawsuits are denying people who have actually been injured their day in court. They're making it hard to find doctors. They're running up the cost of medicine. For

the sake of good, quality, affordable, and accessible health care, we need medical liability reform in Washington, DC. And we need it now, before people lose their doctors in rural America.

I want to tell you a quick story. I was in Mississippi during my so-called vacation. I traveled to Mississippi. [*Laughter*] And the—I met a fellow who had—is a religious man, and he heard the call of taking his practice, his medical practice, into the Mississippi Delta, which is a poor, poor region of America. It's—a significant percentage of the population there is African American. These poor folks need health care. And he felt like—that God gave him the talents necessary to be a doctor, and he felt like he needed to use those talents to help people who could not afford health care. But because of the junk lawsuits, they ran him out of town; they ran him out of the State. I'm going to tell you something, if you look around rural Oregon, you're going to find the same thing is happening to you. Now, we need to have commonsense reform of our medical liability laws, so people can get good health care at affordable prices in America.

I've got a piece of legislation which is important to job creation here in America and that gives me the capacity to negotiate trade agreements. I say that's important. I understand there's some farmers and ranchers who don't believe in trade—and I don't blame you, because you know what, you've been—always dealt out of the mix.

But here's my attitude about this. First of all, fortunately, we produce more food than we need. Imagine being the head of a country where you're worried about your next meal for the American people. We produce more food than we need because we're good at what we do. And if you're good at something you do, you ought to promote that which we do. We ought to be using American food to feed the world. We ought to have a President—and I will use that tool to open up markets for Oregon farm and ranch products.

In order to make sure the economy grows, we need pension protections. Listen, we need—if you're one of these 401(k)s with your company stock, you ought to be able to diversify after a reasonable period of time, so you're not locked in. And by the way, the law that I'm about to describe we passed says—that we just passed—says that if the boss gets to sell his stock, you ought to get to sell yours. There's some commonsense pension—and so I hope Congress gets after it when we get back and get me a pension bill that will help those who have 401(k)s get the best information possible, the best investment advice possible, so they can better manage their accounts.

And I'll tell you one other thing that we did. I signed the law that was the most important corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was your President. It said this, it said: The books are going to be honest; the auditors will be audited; the numbers are going to be real; and the criminals in America will be punished.

We're not going to have this in America, where those who should be responsible to employees and shareholders feel like they can cut corners. When I gave the speech about corporate responsibility in New York, I said in my speech, the business schools in America need to be willing to teach right from wrong. And that's what the curriculum ought to do. And I was working the ropeline, and probably one of the hardhat types was sitting up there, was sitting on the rope line, said, "If you want to send the right message, if you want to teach the lesson, just put a couple of them in handcuffs." That's the best ethics lesson that we can have in America.

America is coming to understand by far the vast majority—by far the vast majority of our chief executive officers are honorable, decent people. They tell the truth. They treat their shareholders with respect. They care deeply about the plight of their employees. But this corporate task force I put together is serious business. And we're going to find those who cheat, and we're going to prosecute them, and they're going to find out that, instead of easy money, they've got hard time ahead of them.

We're making progress on the economic front. After all, the conditions are right for growth. I want you to think about this: Inflation is low; interest rates are low; productivity is up; consumer spending is strong. We've got the capacity to trade more. We've got the ingredients for growth. We've got some

hurdles to cross, but you just need to know, I'm not going to rest until people who want to find work are able to find a job.

I also want you to know, I'm not going to rest until this homeland is secure. There's an enemy out there; there just is. The way I like to put it to kids who write letters in or ask the question—I hope you share this with them—is that people hate us because we love freedom. People—it's hard for people to understand, particularly youngsters, why anybody would attack us the way they did, or would want to continue to attack us. But you've got to tell them that your great country stands for something that they can't stand, which is every life matters. Every individual counts. Every person has got worth, and we love freedom in America.

The more we value the ability to worship God the way we see fit, the more they hate us. The more we honor church and synagogue and mosque, the more they hate us. The more we speak our mind freely, the more they hate us. The more free our press is, the more they hate us. And therefore, since we're not going to yield to our freedoms, since we're not going to yield the values we hold dear, we've got to do everything we can to defend the homeland.

There are a lot of people working overtime to protect America. Everytime we get a hint, we're moving on it. There's a lot of good people at the Federal level, the State level, and the local level running down every kind of lead, every kind of possibility. We take everything seriously here in America, because we now understand that there's an enemy out there.

And that's why I asked Congress to work with me to make sure that at the Federal level, and eventually at the State and local level, we do everything we can to protect the homeland. I proposed a Department of Homeland Security. Look, I didn't run for office saying, "Vote for me. The Government is going to be bigger." That wasn't my promise. I did say, "I'll try to make it better." And I'm concerned by the fact that there's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security. They're scattered everywhere in Washington, which makes it awfully hard to hold anybody to account. The number one—my number one goal and my number one job now is to protect the homeland from the enemy, and therefore, I ought to have the tools necessary to do so, and that starts with the Department of Homeland Security.

And we're making some pretty good progress on it, but I need the tools, and so does my Secretary need the tools, to be able to move the right people at the right place at the right time, to respond to any threat. And unfortunately, that's not the way the Senate bill looks right now. You see, some Senators are more worried about their own turf than they are protecting the American people. I am not going to accept a homeland security bill that has a book that thick trying to micromanage the Department, when all I'm asking for is the same flexibility that they've given other Presidents and that they've given to manage the airports. All I want to do is to be able to respond. I'm not interested in redtape. I'm not interested in micromanagement. I'm interested in doing what's right for the American people.

And let me give you just one example. Let me just give you one example. It's important for us in America to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing into the country, and whether or not they're leaving when they say they're going to leave. That's really important for us to know. And yet when you go down there on the border, in my part of the world, you've got one uniform in the Border Patrol; then you've got the INS; then you've got your Customs. It seems like, to me, that we need the flexibility necessary to meld those agencies together, to be able to transfer people around, to be able to better protect our border for the sake of the homeland security of the United States of America.

So there's a lot of good people working hard. There really are, and I'm proud of them. And I'm proud to report to you that our FBI and CIA are talking. I mean, people are buttoned up. They understand the job. They know the priority. They understand. And that's good. But you've got to know how I think. The best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and that's what we're going to do.

It's a different kind of war we face here in America. It's not like the old days where you could measure the size of the enemy by

the number of tanks he had or the number of airplanes they were flying. You can't measure progress by which hedgerow we've taken. This is a different kind of war. This is a war where we face coldblooded killers—that's all they are—who hide in caves and send youngsters to their death. They hide in a cave, and they send some poor, unsuspecting soul to their death. There is no cave deep enough, however—there's no cave where they can hide from—you see, when it comes to defending freedom, this great Nation is relentless and patient and tough. Anytime—anybody who wants to take away something we hold dear is going to find out what this country is made out of.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind. I can't imagine what was going through their mind. They must have thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so worried about our own well-being and so selfish that after September the 11th, we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But that's about all we would do.

No, they learned something about America and our character. They learned that not only do we have a fabulous military; they're learning firsthand, when we say something, we mean it. And when I say, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," I mean it.

And the Taliban knows what we mean. The Taliban, one of the most barbaric group of people that modern history has seen, found out that the United States sticks by its words. I want you to tell your kids this about us, that we went into that country not to conquer anybody but to liberate—that's why we went—and that for the first time, many young girls go to school, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies. No, by kicking out the Taliban, we recognized that each person has worth, that each person matters.

We've got work to do, and that's why I submitted a significant increase in our budget, our defense budget, the biggest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because I wanted to send a message, loud and clear—first—and that is, anytime we cement—put our troops in harm's way, they deserve the best equipment, the best training, and the best possible pay.

And the second reason I did it is because I want to send a message to our friends and allies and to the enemy that we're not quitting. There's not a calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, this ends. That's not the way I think. That's not the way—it doesn't matter how long it takes, as far as I'm concerned, and we owe it to our children and our grandchildren to be tough and resolved and to be smart about how we conduct this war. This the kind of war where sometimes you'll see us move, and sometimes you won't. I mean, it's the kind of war where we can be just as effective cutting off their money as it is hauling them in.

And speaking about hauling them in, the United States and our coalition and friends have pulled in over a couple of thousand of them. And there's another couple of thousand that weren't quite so lucky. You'll see some action in Afghanistan, because there's still some spots where they feel like they can bunch up. But we've got some brave souls on the ground there, chasing them down. They may try to light, like they did in the Philippines. And I want to thank President Gloria Arroyo. She heard the message, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," and she responded. She asked for help. We provided help, but her troops were the ones that got this guy that was running what they call Abu Sayyaf, the person who killed—kidnapped two brave Americans, the Burnhams.

We're going to make sure that Yemen continues to remain strong and is not a place where people get to light. I mean, we are—we're running a vast coalition that loves freedom. And it's going to take a while; it will. And you've also got to know that it's very important for us not to allow the world's worst leaders to develop and hold and use the world's worst weapons to blackmail us or our friends.

But we're making progress. We are, slowly but surely. And that's the kind of war this is. It's a slowly-but-surely war. We're making progress so that our—so we'll be free. See, here's how I view what happened on September the 11th. I view it as an unbelievable national tragedy. But because I know the American people so well, I know our character and our strength, out of the evil done

to American will come some good. That's what I believe. I believe that, if we remain strong and steadfast and resolved in our war against terror and terrorists, we can achieve peace.

I want you to tell your youngsters at home that my dream is peace. I want them to grow up in a peaceful world, in a peaceful society. It's not only them, but it's any child in any country, anywhere, needs to grow up in a peaceful world. And the United States can lead the world to peace. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have given up hope on peace. That's what I believe. I believe, by leading this coalition of freedom nations, we can achieve peace. There will be some steep hills to climb. There will be some sacrifices made. But we can achieve peace.

And here at home, we can achieve a better society. The good that can come out of the evil done to us is good that comes when people have taken a step back and said, "What does it take to make my society, my country a better place?"

People ask me, how can they help in the war against terror? My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. And there are a lot of Americans who hear that call. It's not my call. They've heard that call long before I was President. Some are hearing it for the first time, but they're hearing the call—that if you want to fight evil, you do some good. It's just acts of kindness and decency which will change our country one soul at a time.

Listen, there are some pockets of despair and hopelessness and poverty and addiction in America. If one of us suffers, we all suffer. Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good, as good, solid, decent, loving Americans decide to mentor a child, to teach a child to read, for example, or to go to a shut-in and just simply say, "I love you" on a regular basis. "What can I do to make your day brighter?" It will happen when people understand their most important responsibility is to love their children with all their heart and all their soul.

No, this culture of service, this culture of serving something greater than yourself in life, is becoming real in America. People understand being a patriot is more than simply putting your heart and saying the Pledge of Allegiance to "one Nation under God." They also understand that being a patriot means to love somebody, to help somebody in need, to provide food where there's hunger and shelter where somebody needs a house and housing. That's what it means. That's what it means to be a patriot.

No, the enemy thought they were hitting a weak nation, but instead, they've awakened a great compassionate spirit in America. This sense of sacrifice was defined most clearly to me, and I think it will be to others who study the history of this period, was on Flight 93. Here were people flying across the country. They realized their plane was being used as a weapon. History will show that they said a prayer; they told their loved ones goodbye. One guy said, "Let's roll." They drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves. Every life in America matters.

It's this sense of service, this sense of understanding there's something greater than ourselves in life, this sense of working to make America the very best it can be allows me to say with certainty that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good, because this is the finest Nation, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:54 p.m. at the Compton Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Matt Epstein, Jackson County chapter president and State board representative, Oregon Small Woodlands Association; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Gordon Smith in Portland, Oregon

August 22, 2002

Thank you all very much. It's great to be back in this beautiful State. I am honored to end my day here in Oregon by urging the people of this State, the good people of this State, to send this good man, Gordon Smith, back to the United States Senate.

And I want to thank you all for helping him. I want to thank you for what you've done, and I want to thank you for what you're

fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote, which is to go to your coffee shops, if you live in rural Oregon, go to your places of worship, go to your community centers, and remind the people of this State that you've got a good, honorable, decent man in Gordon Smith.

Not only do you have an honorable, decent man, you've got an independent thinker who always has Oregon on his mind. I know because I talk to him all the time. He's reminding me about the good people of this State and the need to have commonsense policy.

I also appreciate the fact that he loves his family. He's got his priorities straight, his faith and his family. And I am so honored that Sharon Smith is with us today. And I want to thank Sharon for coming, and I want to thank Sharon for—there she is. Gordon and I, we both married above ourselves. [*Laughter*]

I talked to Laura today. She sent her very best to the Smiths. And she's not here. She's in Crawford, but she had just come from Leander, Texas, where they paid her the high honor of naming an elementary school the Laura Welch Bush Elementary School. You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. And the truth of the matter is, she didn't particularly care for politics, nor politicians. [*Laughter*] Then she got stuck with one. [*Laughter*] She's doing a great job. In the face of crisis, she was calm. In the—when there needed to be love, she provided love. And I'm really, really proud of the job she is doing as the First Lady of the country.

Traveling with me today to emphasize that my words on the—up on the Hill were more than just words, that I intend to get something done, were two members of my Cabinet, Gale Norton, who is the head of the Department of the Interior, and Ann Veneman, who is the Secretary of Agriculture. And I want to thank them for coming. These are two fine, fine ladies who are doing a fantastic job. I've given them big responsibilities.

And it might be noted that I wasn't speaking a foreign language today, as far as they're concerned—they're both from the West. [*Laughter*] They both have a Western attitude about things.

I appreciate Congressman Greg Walden for being here as well. I don't know if—all I can see is a hand and a shining head. [*Laughter*] But Walden is a good man. He's doing a fabulous job as a Congressman. He represents the Klamath Basin well. He represents the rural parts of your State. He understands resource management. He's a good fellow, and I just hope and feel good about the fact that his district will send him back to Washington, as they send Senator Smith back to Washington.

I'm very much honored to be here with the next Governor of the State of Oregon, Kevin Mannix, and his wife, Susanna. Thank you all for coming.

Finally, I'm so grateful that Senator Mark Hatfield and Antoinette are here. They're great friends of my mother and dad. They brought a lot of class—they're really classy people, and he set a fine example for future Senators, an example which Gordon Smith is following very closely. I like Gordon's attitude a lot. You see, he went to Washington to try to get things done, as opposed to pick fights. There's an attitude there in that town that zero-sum politics is the best for the country. That's not the way Gordon thinks, nor do I think, for that matter.

I think it's important for the people of Portland to know that he goes there with not a political party in mind but with the people of Oregon in mind. That's what he goes to do. He goes to solve problems. He sees problems, and he tries to come up with commonsense solutions to solve those problems. And he's willing to work with his counterpart, who happens to be a Democrat. I saw them working together today. I saw their conversation and their discussion. It wasn't about how we can one-up each other; it was how best to work together to help Oregon. And that impresses me a lot. I hope it impresses the voters of this State. That's the kind of tone and attitude we need in our Nation's Capital.

Today I was with a man who I believe is a true champion of the environment, and that's Gordon Smith. He understands that we can be stewards of the land, that we can put policies in place that will benefit the environment, and at the same time benefit people. And that's really important.

I went up on the mountain today, in the midst of a burn, to talk about how best to prevent those burns from happening in the

first place, how to put in place commonsense policy that says, if you let the forests develop kindling, nature may just cause them to burst into massive flames. So instead of allowing the kindling to build up, why don't we thin the forests? Why don't we manage the forests? Why don't we use our God-given talents and our technology to manage the forests, so that the forests are healthy for generations to come? That's common sense.

It's a logical approach. It's a logical approach to preserving an incredibly important treasure. And at the same time, when we do it right, it will mean people are going to be able to find work. It will mean people are going to be able to put food on the table, which is a vital concern of Gordon's, and it's a vital concern of mine. Listen, anytime somebody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem, and we've got to deal with it in a way—this is a problem, and our job is to come up with solutions to solve the problems.

You know, part of the reason why we can't get some commonsense forest management policies done is because there's too much redtape; there just is. There's too many rules and regulations all bound up to make sure nothing positive happens, it seems like to me. So I talked to our Cabinet Secretaries, and we're going to do everything we can, administratively, to cut through the redtape. And there's some things we can do. We can set priorities. We can declare emergencies. We can get moving on a policy that makes sense for Oregon and for America. We've got a process now that allows people to tie up good policy in appeal after appeal after appeal. Listen, let me make this clear to everybody: We want people to be able to express their opinion. That's important. That's a great thing about America. People ought to be allowed to give their opinions on a subject. But they not—ought not to use that privilege to tie up good, commonsense practice forever, so nothing gets done except the forests are burning.

And Gordon's an easy man to work with on this topic, because he understands. And I appreciate his efforts, and I appreciate him constantly educating, not only me but others in Congress, about how best to make sure that the Oregon forests are healthy and people can find work at the same time.

No, he's got a good approach to Government. He also cares deeply about education, and so do I. We had a fantastic discussion today, by the way, with people from all around your State, people who came in—the mayor of Salem and this business lady and this educator. And one of the things that became clear is that the people who have got responsibility in your State understand the importance of education.

We passed a good bill out of the Senate and the House that Gordon supported. It's a bill that says that we believe in high standards for every child. See, if you believe that certain kids can't learn—in other words, if you have low standards—that's the kind of results you're going to get. You're going to get results in which children don't learn. In other words, if you think in your mind that there are certain children who can't learn, the system will make sure they don't. In other words, low standards yields low results.

Gordon and I understand we've got to set high standards, and we did. We also trust the local people to chart the path for excellence for every child in the State. We worked together to make sure we passed power out of Washington. One size does not fit all when it comes to public education.

But there's one other thing in part of the bill that I'm just insistent upon. It makes eminent sense. See, if you believe every child can learn, therefore you've got to measure whether every child is learning. So in return for Federal dollars, we just said, "Show us. Please show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. That's all you've got to do. You accept a lot of Federal money for title I students; just show us they're learning. See, we believe they can. All you've got to do is show us." And if they're not, then change. We cannot allow our children to be stuck in schools that will not teach and will not change.

I want to thank Gordon for his work on Medicare. He's a leader on Medicare. He knows what I know. The Medicare system is an important system, but it's antiquated. It's old. Medicine has advanced. Medicare hasn't. As a matter of fact, in order to get

prescription drugs available for seniors, it requires an act of Congress. [*Laughter*] It is so old, it requires Congress to pass a law. That's an old system. We need a system that adjusts to the needs of each senior. And our Medicare ought to include prescription drugs for our seniors. It's modern medicine. We want to modernize the system, and Gordon Smith is one of the leaders in the United States Senate on making sure Medicare is modernized. And I want to thank him for his leadership.

Gordon mentioned we've got some challenges, and we do. One of the challenges was the fact that there was a recession. It turns out, when you look at the facts and the history, when I got sworn in and Dick Cheney got sworn in, the country was in a recession. We had three quarters of negative growth. And he and I agree—and thankfully, he was in the Senate at this point in time—that the best way to help a country recover from a recession is to let people keep more of their own money. You see, I admit that's a philosophy that frightens some in Washington because they seem to forget whose money it is we spend. Some of them think it's the Government's money. It's not the Government's money that we spend. It's the people's money.

We understand the textbook—this part of the economic textbook that said, if you let people keep more of their own money, they will demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody's going to produce the good and service. And when somebody produces the good or service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax cuts that Gordon Smith fought for in the Senate came at the right time in American history, and now what we need to do in order to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is vibrant is to make the tax cuts permanent.

You ask, "Why aren't they permanent?" And that's because of a quirk in the laws, in the rules of the Senate. This is one of these deals where we slash the marriage penalty. We put the death tax, thankfully, on the way to extinction. We cut marginal rates, which, by the way, benefits small businesses. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, and when you cut individual income tax rates, you provide more capital in the sector of our economy that creates more new jobs, and that's small businesses.

But unfortunately, the law is such that it all comes back after 10 years. It's kind of hard for me to explain to people in the Crawford coffee shop, but that's just the way it is. That's just the way it is. So, imagine the farmer or the rancher who's worried about inheritance tax driving him off the land. They start planning for this new inheritance, death tax repeal, and all of a sudden, it comes back into being. It means it creates uncertainty. And people need certainty when it comes to job creation and certainty when it comes to estate planning and certainty when it comes to their farms and ranches. For the sake of economic vitality, these need to be permanent, and we need to get rid of the death tax forever.

We're taking aggressive steps to create an environment in which businesses grow. That's a difference of philosophy. See, some think Government create wealth. We don't think that. We think the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes. One way to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit and to create jobs here in the Northwest is to aggressively seek markets for products manufactured and/or grown in this part of the world.

Thankfully—and Gordon was a part of this—I was able to get trade promotion authority. It's an authority that had lapsed for a long period of time, and we fought for it and got it done. And now I want to assure you, I'm aggressive—going to aggressively promote U.S. and Oregon products in markets all around the world, for the good of our workers, for the good of people who work.

And finally, we're making progress on one of the drags in our economy. We had some citizens in our country who decided that they were going to cook the books. We had some citizens who did not uphold their responsibilities as leaders; that they—that they were—didn't uphold their calling to employee and shareholder alike. They tried to cut corners. I signed the most comprehensive corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was the

President. And you just need to know that I got a Corporate Fraud Task Force in place that's going to hunt these cheaters down and bring them to justice, for the good of this economy.

By far, the vast, vast majority of our fellow citizens uphold their responsibilities. They're honest people. Their numbers are honest. But we're going to audit the auditors, and we're going to make sure the numbers are real, for the sake of economic vitality. That's what's going to happen here in America.

I've also got a big job besides worrying about people working, and that is to make sure the homeland is secure. As a matter of fact, that is my most important job—is to make sure an enemy which hates freedom, which hates America because we love freedom, doesn't hit us again. And we're making progress. We are. We've got a lot of people working hard. Anytime we get a hint of—that somebody might do something to us, we're moving. We've got people working overtime to secure the homeland. It's not only people at the Federal level, but it's people at the State and local level, for which I am most grateful, and I know you are as well.

But as—last fall and the winter I began to think about how best to enable not only this administration but future administrations to do what's going to need to be done, which is to secure America. I realized there were over 100 agencies—over 100 agencies—involved in one way or another with homeland security. For those of you who tried to manage something, if there's 100 agencies scattered around with different bosses, different cultures, different priorities, it's hard to really bring to account; it's hard to set the priorities.

So I said, "Well, why don't we have a Department of Homeland Security?" I proposed a new Cabinet officer that would take different agencies involved with homeland security and put them under one umbrella, so that we can have as the number one priority of these folks protecting you. It ought to be the number one priority. If it's our number one goal, it ought to be the number one priority of every agency in Washington, DC. So I've asked Congress to act.

The House passed a pretty good piece of legislation. The Senate is now involved with the bill. I've got great support from Gordon Smith. However, the Senate must know loud and clear, I'm not going to accept a bill which is more concerned about special interests in Washington than the people or more concerned about their own turf than the protection of the American people. We want a bill—I need a bill that allows me to move the right people to the right place at the right time, in order to protect America, not a bill which tries to micromanage the process for the sake of special interests that are lodged in Washington, DC. I'm confident that Gordon understands this. I look forward to working with him to get a good piece homeland security legislation to my desk as soon as they return from their August respites.

Now, having said that—[*laughter*]—having said that, you've got to know that the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to secure freedom for the long term is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that is what we're doing. And that is what we'll continue to do. And we're making some progress.

We put this coalition together, and as you recall, I said, "You're either with us, or you're with them." A lot of people chose to be with us. And I meant it. I still mean it. I still remind people that that's part of the doctrine of the first war of the 21st century. And we've got a coalition together that is working hard. We're sharing intelligence like never before. We're disrupting finances. This is an incredibly important part of this new type of war we fight. If we can deny the killers money, it makes it harder for them to move and plan and plot.

We're arresting people. I bet you we've hauled in over 2,500 folks so far, not only just America but other countries that are—have heard the call. By the way, about equal the number have not been quite so lucky. So we're making progress. [*Laughter*] But we've got a lot of work to do. You just need to know, we've got a lot of work to do. They're still out there. They still hate. They don't value life like we value life—every life precious to America, to our culture. That's not the way they think.

And so, so long as I'm the President, I'm going to commit our resources, the resources necessary to defend our freedom. That's why

I've asked for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I want our troops well paid and well trained. Anytime we commit somebody into harm's way, they deserve the absolute best from our Government.

And I want the message to go to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul. See, this is our freedom at stake. History has called this Nation into action. History has put the spotlight on the great beacon of freedom, and we're not going to blink. We're going to be a steady, patient, determined nation, doing what it takes to not only secure the future for our own children but the future for other country's children. We cannot let terrorists get the upper hand, and we won't. And I want you to know—and that by being steadfast and resolved and, by the way, making it clear the difference between good and the difference between evil, by making it clear we will not let the world's worst leaders develop and possibly deploy the world's worst weapons, to try to blackmail America and our friends and allies, by being steadfast and strong, I believe we're going to achieve peace.

And that's one of the great ironies for the enemy. See, they didn't realize who they were hitting. They thought we were weak and self-absorbed and materialistic and shallow, and that all we'd do maybe is file a lawsuit or two—[*laughter*]—but that's all we would do. That's what they probably thought. Instead, they found out that this is a nation that is strong and good and decent and that we're a nation that refuses to be cowed by a few killers. People that hide in caves and send youngsters to their death, that doesn't impress us at all. All that does is make us want to get into the cave with them and bring them out. That's what that does.

They didn't understand that when it comes to defending our freedoms, we'll do what it takes, because we love freedom. We love the idea of people being able to worship freely. But see, what they really didn't understand is that—they didn't understand that we are determined to achieve peace. That's the goal. I want our children to grow up in a peaceful world. We might have to cross some hurdles before we get there, but that's where we're headed, for a peaceful world. I believe that as we remain strong and dedicated to fighting terror, that we can achieve peace not only for our own people but peace in parts of the world that might have quit on peace. See, I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia.

No, I think there's going to be incredible good that has come out of the evil done to America, not only abroad but here at home as well. People say, "Well, Mr. President, I want to be a part of the war on terror. What can I do?" And my answer is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and decency which define the true character of America. You see, it's when you go—it's when somebody mentors a child, when somebody says, "I love you" to somebody who is wondering if love is possible. That's part of being a part of defining America. It's going to a shut-in's house and saying, "What can I do to help you today?" It's the simple act of loving your child every day. It's all part of the goodness that will come out of America.

You see, there are pockets of despair in this country, and so long as one of us hurts, all of us hurts. But people in this country are beginning to understand that by serving something greater than yourself—they understand that one of us can't do everything, but one of us can do something to help change America, one conscience, one soul, one person at a time.

No, the enemy hit us; the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done to America is going to come not only a more peaceful world but a more passionate America, because Americans are understanding that the true definition of patriotism is not only to support a great military, but a definition of patriotism is to serve something greater than yourself, is to love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

That's what's happening in this great Nation. I confidently and boldly predict that America will be a better country as a result of what was done to us, because we're a country full of the most decent, compassionate, strong, honorable people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. in the Pavilion Ballroom at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Sharon Smith, wife of Senator Gordon Smith; Oregon gubernatorial candidate Kevin Mannix; Antoinette Hatfield, wife of former Senator Mark Hatfield; and Mayor Michael E. Swaim of Salem, OR.

Remarks at a Luncheon for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Stockton, California

August 23, 2002

Thank you all very much for coming. I'm glad to be back in California. It's an honor to be back in Stockton, California, I might add. It's wonderful to be in a part of the world where we grow a lot of things and help feed not only our own people but feed the world.

I'm also here to—I was up in Oregon yesterday to talk about sensible policy, to make sure that we don't allow our forests to burn. I flew over the Biscuit fire there in Oregon—it's a huge fire—and was briefed by the experts about, you know, how that fire got started. It was a lightning strike. But because of poor forest management, we allowed kindling to build up, and we allowed it turn into just a giant pile of ready-to-burn material.

I saw those firefighters that are spending hours trying to protect people and wildlife and habitat, and heard one after another say, "Mr. President, bring some common sense. Bring some common sense to our forest policy. Let's thin the forest so that they don't serve as giant piles of kindling to burn and ruin the legacy of good forests." That's what I was here to talk about, some commonsense policy.

And that's what you need in Sacramento, California, is some commonsense thinking, somebody who can lead this State. And that's why I'm honored to be back to work on behalf of the next Governor of the State of California, Governor Bill Simon.

And Laura did report, Bill, that she had a great trip. You drew the long straw with her, and you got the short straw with me. [*Laughter*] But she sends her very best to you and Cindy. She was impressed by your speech, and your—caliber of the campaign you're running. People are beginning to take notice here in California that something different's happening, got a little different attitude when it comes to politics and the Governor's office. She picked up on that. And so she sends her very best.

I talked to her this morning. She's in Crawford, Texas. She is—[*applause*]—there you go; one person from Crawford. [*Laughter*] You've got 1/600th of the city here. [*Laughter*]

But yesterday, she had the high honor of having an elementary school named after her in Leander, Texas. I share that same honor of having one named after me right here in Stockton, California.

But I do want to herald the next first lady of California, a fine lady, a great mom, smart person, and that's Cindy Simon. Good to see you, Cindy.

Alex Spanos told me the funniest thing. He said, "This is an airplane hangar." It doesn't look like one to me. [*Laughter*] Alex, I want to thank you for your hospitality. What a fine American Alex Spanos is. I kind of needled him in front of, I guess, maybe 3 or 4,000 people at the Civic Center down there. I said I love being around an optimist. He told me with a straight face that the San Diego Chargers were going to win the Super Bowl this year. [*Laughter*] Of course, that's what he told me last year. [*Laughter*]

But I love Alex. My family loves Alex. I know you love Alex. He's a wonderful contributor to the fabric of our society, and we appreciate you, Alex, and Faye, and your fantastic family. And thank you for your hospitality.

I surround myself with good people. I pride myself on the fact that my administration has got some good, honorable, decent, hard-working, smart people. And I've got some of them with me today. First, I've got a National Security Adviser right here from the State of California who is really doing a good job, and that's Condoleezza Rice.

And secondly, when I picked somebody to be the Secretary of Agriculture, I wanted somebody who knew something about agriculture. And it made sense to find somebody from this part of the world, so I picked a lady from Compton, California. Ann Veneman is doing a fantastic job for America.

I told her the other day that I wanted to make sure that agriculture wasn't treated as a stepchild when it came to international trade. You see, when you're good at something, that ought to be the cornerstone of public policy. And we're really good about growing crops and raising cows and raising chickens and hogs. We're good at that in America. We're so good at it, we don't have to worry about bringing it in from another country. We're self-sufficient in food, and that's important from a national security perspective.

But it's also important, if that's the case, to use our leverage to help our producers by opening up markets for U.S. products. And today Ann announced the fact that the Russians, our friends the Russians have finally honored the agreement to not only contract for our chickens but to honor the contract for American chickens. She's doing a fantastic job on behalf of the American farmer.

We've got two fine United States Congressmen here with us today—one, the Congressman from this area, Richard Pombo. Richard, thank you for coming. I know Richard's wife and son is here as well. And of course, there's Doug Ose from right up north of here. Doug and his family is here as well. Thanks for coming, Doug.

I want to thank State Senator Dick Monteith for coming today. He's going to be the next Congressman from the adjoining district. Thank you for coming, Dick.

My friend big Jim Brulte is here. He's a State senator from down south. He's got a lot of judgment and wisdom, and he's trying to keep the fiscal house in order until a new sheriff arrives in town, in Sacramento, California. And I appreciate Big Jim being here, too. Thanks for coming, Brulte.

And finally, I want to thank your mayor, Gary Podesto, for his hospitality, his kind introduction down at the civic center, and for the great job he's doing for the people of Stockton, California. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

I want to thank you all for helping the next Governor. I want to thank you for your talent and your time. I want to thank you for what you're going to do. You see, in order for this good man to win, he not only needs your financial support; he needs you to start helping turn out that vote, to start talking to your neighbors about why you need a change in Sacramento and why he's the man to bring that change.

In Texas, at least in the Crawford area, we call that "coffee shop talk." You've probably got a few of them around here. It makes sense, when you get into that coffee shop, to extol the virtues. When you find a good candidate, you've got to support that candidate. It's important for this great State that you do, because you've got some problems and you need somebody to solve the problems.

It starts with having the right kind of attitude. The attitude is, I want to work with people to make things better for everybody. You don't ask the question, you know, I'm going to work for people to make sure that this so-and-so has got the right party registration. That's not the right attitude for government. The attitude in the 21st century, the one that makes sense to me, is how can I work together with people from all walks of life to make things better? You need somebody in Sacramento who's got that kind of attitude, somebody who's willing to put aside all the typical old-style politics to bring a breath of fresh air, to bring new life into a stagnant situation. And the answer for the breath of fresh air for Sacramento, California, is Bill Simon.

I also appreciate a man who doesn't have to take a poll to figure out what to believe. I like Bill's ideas. I like the fact that he set education as his number one priority. And that ought to be the priority of any Governor. The most important thing a State needs to do is to make sure that every child—not just a few or some—every child gets a good education.

And it starts with having high expectations. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. See, if you believe only certain children can learn, those that you kind of exclude won't learn. That's just the way it is. If you have low standards, you're going to get low results.

Bill understands every child can learn. He also knows what I know, that it's important to have flexibility in the public school system. You can't—one size doesn't fit all. You've got

to trust local folks to chart the path to excellence. The bill I signed says that we're going to set high standards, but we're going to trust local people; we're going to let people design a path to excellence that works.

But also, what's important in education—if you believe every child can learn, then you need to ask the question: Is it working? Is every child learning? And see, that's why I am such a strong supporter of accountability. And Bill joins me. We need to know. We need to know if every child is learning. See, if you believe they can, then you're willing to measure. If you don't believe that every child can learn, then you don't measure. If you believe every child can learn, then you use an accountability system to say thanks to the teachers where children are learning, and to say to schools that aren't teaching, "You need to change, because every child counts in the State of California."

That's the kind of policy that's needed here in California. You need a policy that says every child can learn. When we find children who aren't, we're going to correct problems early, before they're too late to regain confidence in the school system. That's what you need to do in this great State, and this good man can do that.

We're getting ready to write a new welfare law in Washington that says work is the cornerstone of freedom, that we're going to help people work. We need to have a Governor in this State who understands the dignity that comes with work but who also understands, like I know, there are people—there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this State, just like there are around the country. There just are.

And one way to help address each person is to unleash the great faith-based programs which exist all around the country. The Federal Government and the State government must not fear programs who change lives but must welcome those faith-based programs for the embetterment of mankind.

Bill understands that. You see, government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That's done when loving Americans love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. It's a breath of fresh air you need in Sacramento, California.

You also need somebody who can make the budget work. [*Laughter*] That's what you need. You need somebody who's willing to make tough decisions and set priorities with the people's money. It starts with understanding when a government spends money, it's not the government's money, it's your money. And you better have somebody who understands that, that concept. And somebody who watches the budget carefully.

Bill Simon is a proven businessman who can get that done. And that's what the State of California needs, and that's why I'm so proud to be here to embrace his candidacy and urge the good people of California to work on behalf—for the State's interests, that this man get elected.

I want to thank you all for your support of his candidacy. And before I leave, I want to tell you we've got some tasks at hand at the Federal level too that we're going to meet. There's no bigger task than protecting the homeland of our country. That's my most important job. I spend a lot of time thinking about it. Not only do I spend time thinking about it, I act on it.

You need to know that your Government is doing everything we can to run down every hint, every piece of evidence, every whisper about somebody that might be doing something to America. And we're chasing down every lead. A lot of good folks are working really hard on your behalf. And I'm proud of them. I'm proud of them at the Federal level; I'm proud of them at the State level; and I'm proud of them at the local level.

You probably have heard that I have asked for there to be a reorganization of the Federal Government in order to make the homeland more secure. I didn't run—and I readily concede this—on the platform: Vote for me, I want to make the Federal Government bigger. [*Laughter*] I ran on: Let's make it work better. If it's got a responsibility, let's see to it that it works better. And so the idea of the Department of Homeland Security is not to create new bureaucracy but to make those bureaucracies and those agencies which have got some responsibility in homeland security work better.

There are over 100 agencies in Washington that have something to do with protecting you. And it seemed like to me they

ought to be under one umbrella, so there's accountability in the system. The problem is, is that I worry about a Senate bill—I don't worry about it, because I'm not going to accept it—a Senate bill which wants to micromanage, that wants to decide every kind of rule there is, that is more worried about protecting their own turf than protecting the American people.

But we're going to get a good Department. I want you to know we're doing everything we can to secure the homeland.

But the best way to do so is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do.

And we're making some progress, and we have to make progress. After all, they are still out there, and they still hate. They hate what we stand for. I want you to tell your sons and daughters that we seek justice, not revenge, and we do so because we love freedom.

This country values every person. Every life is important. We value the ability to worship freely, and we hold those values dear. And when somebody wants to take them away, we're going to respond. And we'll respond in a forceful way. And force—we'll use every asset at our disposal to protect the people of this country but also to protect the values that we hold dear. It is our responsibility.

History has called us into action. And so long as I'm the President, this country is not going to blink. We will be steadfast and strong in our desire to make the world more free.

And we're making some pretty good progress. We've got this coalition of freedom-loving countries and people who understand the threats to civilization that terrorism poses, that are helping to share intelligence and to cut off money and haul them in, as I say, rather—it means arrest, incarcerate them. We've got over a couple of thousand of them—these are the big shots, the leaders. We're pulling them in, and slowly but surely, we're decimating their army.

But this is a different kind of war. See, that's what makes it not very appealing to all the air time that they've got out there, because you can't see tanks and aircrafts and ships and convoys and all, the way that wars used to be fought. Remember, we're out there chasing down these people that hide in caves. They find the darkest cave possible. In the meantime, they're sending some youngster to their suicidal death.

They've hijacked a great religion. That's what they've done. It's a different kind of enemy. But we're figuring them out. And there's no cave deep enough.

We've got a fantastic United States military. We've got a great coalition. We've got a people that understand the task at hand. And so we're making progress.

But there are some other hills we've got to climb in order to make the world more peaceful. There just are. As our fellow citizens, you've just got to understand that there's going to be more combat, more missions. We'll do everything we can to continue to enforce the doctrine that if you harbor one of these people, you're just as guilty as they are. You'll see that doctrine enforced. You'll see the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them," enforced.

You'll understand clearly, as time goes on, why I feel strongly that we cannot allow the world's worst leaders to develop the world's worst weapons, to hold America or our friends and allies hostage. We just can't do that.

History has called us into action. History has shined the spotlight on this great land, and we will show the world that we love human values, universal values. And we will show the world that we love freedom. That's the task at hand.

And by being strong and patient and deliberate, we're going to make the world more peaceful. That's the objective. The objective is for our children to grow up in peace. The objective is to achieve peace in parts of the world where the people have given up on peace.

See, I think it's possible to achieve peace in the Middle East. I think it's possible to achieve peace in South Asia. I believe that out of the evil done to America can come some great good, if we remain strong and focused and diligent and tough when we need to.

And I believe here at home we can achieve a more compassionate country, too. You see,

out of the evil done to America has come a new culture, one that says serving something greater than yourself in life is part of being—part of being a patriotic American.

People say, you know, "How can I help? What can I do?" You know what you can do? You can love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. You can understand what I know, that one person can't do everything to make America a more hospitable place, a more decent place, a more loving place; but one person can do something, and America can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And all of us have a responsibility to help make that change. And it doesn't take much. Mentoring a child on a regular basis will change lives. Helping people who need—who are shut in will change lives. Feeding the hungry will change lives. Helping find shelter for those who lack shelter will change lives.

See, America is changing, one person at a time. The evil people, they thought they were hitting a weak country. They thought they were hitting people that were so self-absorbed, so materialistic, that all we might do was file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they realized this country is a country of courage and character and compassion and decency. After all, we are the finest country on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. at the A.G. Spanos Jet Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Gary A. Podesto of Stockton; Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and Alex G. Spanos, founder and chairman, A.G. Spanos Companies, and his wife, Faye.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

August 20

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had intelligence briefings.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Melvyn J. Estrin, George Farias, Roy Goodman, Alma Johnson Powell, Catherine Reynolds, and Beatrice Welters.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mary Mochary (chairman), Patricia H. Gerber, Chi Ming Lee, William Hideo Marumoto, Elizabeth McNamee, Velma Morrison, Mary H. Perdue, Harriet Rotter, and Alfred Raymond Tye.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Rural Telephone Bank: Clay Davis and Christine Toretti (general public representatives); and Gilbert Gonzalez, Jr., James House, Luis Luna, and Roberto Salazar (Department of Agriculture representatives).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Oklahoma City National Memorial Trust: Luke R. Corbett, Patricia Eaton, Donald F. Ferrell, Gloria Griffin, Robert M. Johnson, Linda P. Lambert, Gary B. Marrs, and Richard E. Williams.

The President announced his intention to appoint Amanullah Khan and Shinq-Chern Liou as members of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The President announced his intention to designate Marvin Lee Watts as U.S. Commissioner of the Pecos River Commission.

August 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Ruch, OR, and later to Central Point, OR. In the afternoon, he traveled to Portland, OR.

August 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Stockton, CA, where he spoke at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Santa Ana, CA, where he spoke to Hispanic community advocates, volunteers, and leaders at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Dana Point, CA, where, in the evening, he attended a reception for gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort.

The President announced his appointment of David M. Childs as a member of the Commission of Fine Arts.

The President announced his appointment of Rudy Boschwitz as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 21

Fact sheet: Healthy Forests Initiative

Announcement: Defense Briefing Participants List

Released August 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by Chairman James L. Connaughton of the Council on Environmental Quality on the fire season and the Healthy Forests Initiative

Released August 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer and Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.