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and your employees. And in the new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

We can see the culture of service and responsibility growing around us here in America. You know, I started what's called the USA Freedom Corps to encourage Americans to extend a compassionate hand to a neighbor in need, and the response has been really strong. People want to serve. People want to be involved in their community. Our faith-based and charities are strong, providing the much needed healing to those who need help.

Policemen and firefighters and people who wear our Nation's uniform are reminding us what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself. Once again, the children of America believe in heroes, because they see them every day. In these challenging times, the world has seen the resolve and the courage of America. And I've been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people.

All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right Nation. We're a strong country, and we use that strength to defend the peace. We're an optimistic country, confident in ourselves and in ideals bigger than ourselves. Abroad, we seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. At home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner of America. This is the work that history has set before us, and we welcome it. And we know that for our country and for our cause, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:30 p.m. at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers. In his remarks, he referred to Patrick G. Ryan, event chair; Jean Hastert, wife of Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert; Representative Don Manzullo; former Gov. Jim Edgar and former Gov. James R. Thompson of Illinois; Robert Kjellander, Illinois national committeeman, and Mary Jo Arndt, Illinois national committeewoman, Republican National Committee; Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Business Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in Chicago

September 30, 2003

The President. Mr. Mayor, thank you. I want to thank the business leaders here from the Chicago area for sharing with me their concerns about our economy. I think it's safe to say most people share the sense of optimism I do but recognize there's still work to be done, particularly when it comes to job creation.

We talked about good legal policy. We talked about the need for an energy plan. We talked about fair trade for American manufacturers. We talked about the need for China to make sure that China's got a monetary policy which is fair. And I assured the leaders here that I would work to—I'd represent the manufacturing sector and the—all sectors of our economy when it comes to world trade.

The thing I'm concerned about is people being able to find a job. We put the conditions in place for good job creation, but I recognize there's still people who want to work that can't find a job. And we're dedicated to hearing the voices of those folks and working hard to expand our economy.

And so I want to thank you all for taking time. Mr. Mayor, I wish the Cubs all the best. [*Laughter*] I made a significant contribution to the Cubs, as you might recall——

Participant. Sammy.

The President. ——when I was a—yes, Sammy Sosa. I'll take great delight when they win.

Participant. Thank you for Sammy.

The President. Thanks for coming.

Let me answer a couple of questions. Then we've got to go to Cincinnati. Deb [Deb Reichmann, Associated Press].

Justice Department Investigation of Classified Information Leak

Q. Do you think that the Justice Department can conduct an impartial investigation, considering the political ramifications of the CIA leak, and why wouldn't a special counsel be better?

The President. Yes. Let me just say something about leaks in Washington. There are

too many leaks of classified information in Washington. There's leaks at the executive branch; there's leaks in the legislative branch. There's just too many leaks. And if there is a leak out of my administration, I want to know who it is. And if the person has violated law, the person will be taken care of.

And so I welcome the investigation. I'm absolutely confident that the Justice Department will do a very good job. There's a special division of career Justice Department officials who are tasked with doing this kind of work. They have done this kind of work before in Washington this year. I have told our administration—people in my administration to be fully cooperative.

I want to know the truth. If anybody has got any information, inside our administration or outside our administration, it would be helpful if they came forward with the information so we can find out whether or not these allegations are true and get on about the business.

Yes, let's see, Kemper [Bob Kemper, Chicago Tribune]. He's from Chicago. Where are you? Are you a Cubs or White Sox fan? [*Laughter*] Wait a minute. That doesn't seem fair, does it? [*Laughter*]

Q. Yesterday we were told that Karl Rove had no role in it.

The President. Yes.

Q. Have you talked to Karl, and do you have confidence in him——

The President. Listen, I know of nobody—I don't know of anybody in my administration who leaked classified information. If somebody did leak classified information, I'd like to know it, and we'll take the appropriate action. And this investigation is a good thing.

And again I repeat, you know, Washington is a town where there's all kinds of allegations. You've heard much of the allegations. And if people have got solid information, please come forward with it. And that would be people inside the information who are the so-called anonymous sources, or people outside the information—outside the administration. And we can clarify this thing very quickly if people who have got solid evidence would come forward and speak out. And I would hope they would. And then we'll get to the bottom of this and move on.

But I want to tell you something, leaks of classified information are a bad thing. And we've had them—there's too much leaking in Washington. That's just the way it is. And we've had leaks out of the administrative branch, had leaks out of the legislative branch, and out of the executive branch and the legislative branch, and I've spoken out consistently against them, and I want to know who the leakers are.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:10 p.m. at the University of Chicago. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago and Chicago Cubs baseball player Sammy Sosa. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004

September 30, 2003

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2657, the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2004" for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2003.

Section 103 of the Act establishes in the House of Representatives an Office of Interparliamentary Affairs. To ensure consistency with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe section 103 as assigning the Office functions limited to protocol and travel support for the House of Representatives.

Several provisions of the Act make specified changes in statements of managers of the House-Senate conference committees that accompanied various bills reported from conference that ultimately became laws. As with other committee materials, statements of managers accompanying a conference report do not have the force of law. Accordingly, although changes to these statements are directed by the terms of the statute, the