

Japan-U.S. Trade

Q. Mr. President, can you elaborate for us on your conversation with Prime Minister Hosokawa?

The President. Well, I called him to discuss the trade issue. And the Trade Ambassador will have an announcement on that later today, and then we'll be glad to answer questions about it. But I think I should let him make the announcement first.

Q. [Inaudible]—was it a friendly conversation—

The President. It was a friendly, a forthright conversation. It's consistent with the tone that we've established in our relationship. But it was one that I had to have today.

Q. Are we ready to reimpose Super 301?

The President. We'll have an announcement about that later today.

Q. Actually, can I just ask on this subject—

The President. Yes.

The Vice President. How refreshing! [Laughter]

The President. Wow—[laughter]—I was beginning to think that we were the only two policy wonks in the world that love—[laughter]. There they go again.

Reinventing Government

Q. When this report was released 6 months ago, you were predicting, I think it was \$108 billion in savings—

The Vice President. \$106 billion. Be careful not to inflate that number. [Laughter]

Q. —and over 5 years—I mean, are you confident that the targets can be met?

The Vice President. Absolutely. There was a fundamental misunderstanding about the difference between savings and CBO scoring. If you have savings and the caps are not adjusted, then the CBO says that's zero, but the savings are real. And that is the case for every single one of the savings in the report.

I'll give you a quick example. We recommended the closing of a uniformed military medical school. The savings involved each year in closing that are about, what, \$200, \$300 million per year. Under the arcane rules of scoring, that's called zero, because the caps aren't changed. But in the real world where the money is spent, that is a real savings.

And when this all plays out, you'll see that they're real. For example, in the '94 budget year, which was only—we only caught part of that because we were well into it when the report was released—but in that part of the '94 budget year and in the '95 budget year, we called in the report for the portion of the \$106 billion in savings reflected there for \$12.6 billion. Out of that amount, \$12.5 billion will be gained. Those savings are in the budget, so give us time. We'll demonstrate how and where the savings occur, and they will be real.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Elaine Kamarck, Senior Policy Adviser to the Vice President.

Statement on the National Performance Review

March 3, 1994

We are changing the way Government works. We're cutting redtape. We're empowering employees to get results, and we're treating each and every citizen as if they were our most valued customer. It's an ongoing commitment that this Government has made to its citizens, and it starts at the top.

The National Performance Review is not another boring Government reform report that sits gathering dust on the shelves of the White House. It is the blueprint for change that's taking place right now.

NOTE: This statement was included in a White House statement on reinventing Government.