

pened because there's been no undermining of the quality of service that these Federal employees have given. I think it's really—and I thank you for saying that about it.

[A participant suggested a tax incentive for something other than a fixed asset, such as payroll taxes.]

The President. Let me just say, that's an interesting point. Small-business people in America, particularly when they first start, is the only economic unit that's in the same position as most American families are; most American families now pay more tax on the payroll than they do on the income tax. And the problem with the payroll tax is you have to pay it whether you make any money or not.

Now, since it supports the Social Security system that, no matter what they tell you, is still solvent until the year 2019—we are going to have to make some changes in Social Security for when the people my age, the big baby boomer generation, retires because you'll have fewer people working and more people drawing. But we have to have some mechanism of keeping the system funded—but it really—I think that's a good point because the payroll tax is something—since you have to pay it whether you make any money or not is an extraordinary

burden on both a lot of middle class families and small businesses.

Q. Mr. President, we want to thank you for coming here and sitting with this forum today. Tony has probably got another shift coming in the door here in a little bit, but we want to thank you for listening to the issues, and it's been a great opportunity.

The President. Let me say too, I thank all of you for your support of the SBA. I thank you, Pat, and Administrator Phil Lader and his predecessor Erskine Bowles. I put two people in charge of the SBA; one of them, Erskine Bowles, spent 20 years starting small businesses—it occurred to me that for a change we ought to have somebody in there that had actually done that—and then Mr. Lader has spent most of his life running them. And it makes a big difference if you have people that have actually lived with this and know what they're doing. I'm very proud of them and all the people that work at SBA. I thank you for your support. It looks to me like from your example that's money well spent.

Thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The roundtable discussion began at 1:40 p.m. at the New Hampshire Hydraulics Co. In his remarks, the President referred to the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB).

Remarks in Manchester, New Hampshire, on the Death of an American Soldier in Bosnia

February 3, 1996

I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of an American soldier this morning in Bosnia. This is the first fatality suffered by American service personnel in Operation Joint Endeavor. Hillary and I join all Americans in extending our deepest sympathies to his family and his friends. Our prayers are with you this afternoon and so is the pride of the Nation, for he gave his life in the noblest of causes, the search for peace.

I have been clear since before this operation began that our mission to secure peace in Bosnia would entail some risks. We have done everything we could to minimize those risks, and all Americans should know that we have pro-

vided our troops with the best training, the best equipment, to confront the challenges they face in Bosnia, and they are very well-led in a careful implementation of their mission. We will continue to take every precaution we can to protect our troops as they work to secure an enduring peace in Bosnia. And all of our troops should know that today our thoughts and our sincere gratitude are with them, especially on this difficult day.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. at the Manchester airport. In his remarks, he referred to Sfc. Donald A. Dugan, USA.