

are the differences—if they understand that, then the election will take care of itself.

Trust the people, but give them clarity of choice and the information they need. You can do that with more than your money. Every one of you has lots of friends. You're going to touch a lot of people between now and the election. If you do that, we'll have a great celebration November 7.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:46 p.m. at the Mayflower Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to

John Merrigan, chair, Jason Bovis, director, and Paul Equale, vice chair, Democratic Business Council; Bill Berkeley, chief executive officer, W.R. Berkeley Corp.; Janice Griffin, chair, Women's Leadership Forum; Carol Pensky, finance chair, Andrew Tobias, treasurer, Loretta Sanchez, general cochair, and Edward G. Rendell, general chair, Democratic National Committee; Rulon Gardner, U.S. Olympic gold medalist, super heavyweight Greco-Roman wrestling; and Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush of Texas.

Remarks at Press Secretary Joe Lockhart's Last Press Briefing and an Exchange With Reporters September 29, 2000

The President. Most people think Joe's leaving for purely selfish, monetary reasons, but the truth is, he told me that I was no longer in enough trouble to make it interesting for him—[*laughter*—that getting up every day and going to work and making policy and helping the Democrats, you know, it's boring him to tears. [*Laughter*] And he said he couldn't stand to be alone in his office crying anymore, and so he had to leave.

So I have one little gift for him, a memorial of our one and only day playing golf together. [*Laughter*] It happened a couple of weeks ago. Here's Joe. [*Laughter*] And the caption is, "Joe, typical day as Presidential Press Secretary, lost in the weeds." [*Laughter*] "Unlike the press corps, I'll give you a mulligan." [*Laughter*]

Let me say seriously, I know what a difficult job this is, and I know it takes a toll on everyone, and I know Joe's spent a lot of time away from his wonderful wife and beautiful daughter, who are here. I remember when I appointed him, there was all this yapping about whether he was heavy enough to do the job. [*Laughter*] He leaves with *gravitas* and gravity toss—[*laughter*—and a lot of gratitude.

I know that I have a different perspective than the members of the press corps, but I've been following this business a long time, a long time before I showed up. I don't believe I've ever seen anybody do this job better. I admire

you. I'm grateful to you. I'll miss you, and I'll try to keep you bored. Thank you, friend.

Press Secretary Lockhart. You don't have to hang around for this part. You don't really want to talk to them. [*Laughter*] I'm still on the clock. [*Laughter*]

The President. You want us to go? Well, wait, I've got to do one thing. I have a gift for your successor, Jake. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President presented Press Secretary-designate Jake Sievert with a helmet.*]

The President. They're going to try to get even with you, and they're also going to try to get even for everything they couldn't get away with with Joe, so I thought you ought to have this. I hope you'll wear it to your first briefing. [*Laughter*]

Press Secretary-Designate Jake Sievert. I worked enough on the Dukakis campaign not to put this on. [*Laughter*]

The President. Joe?

Press Secretary Lockhart. No, I won't put it on. [*Laughter*]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, can I ask you, I guess on a serious note, about the violence in Jerusalem, and what that might mean to the peace process, and whether you would like to contact Chairman Arafat to see what you can do?

The President. I'm working on all that right now, but I think the less I say about it, the

better. I may have something to say tomorrow, but I think today I'd like to say less and try to keep working.

2000 Campaign

Q. What about the campaign? You seemed to be having an awful good time at that fundraiser a little while ago. [Laughter]

The President. I was having a good time. It's easier for me when you don't have to run. It's easier. I'm having a good time.

Do the briefing, Joe.

Press Secretary Lockhart. Okay. [Laughter]

The President. Keep me out of trouble. Stay bored. [Laughter] Bored.

Press Secretary Lockhart. I can do that.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2 p.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mr. Lockhart's wife, Laura Logan, and daughter, Clare. A reporter referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President's remarks were included in the transcript of the press briefing by Press Secretary Lockhart.

Statement on the Jewish High Holidays in Russia *September 29, 2000*

On behalf of the American people, I want to wish the Jewish community in Russia a happy, enriching, and peaceful New Year. People across the United States are profoundly moved by the flowering of religious life for all faiths in Russia. Jewish life, in particular, is flourishing, with synagogues and Jewish cultural centers opening in regions all across the country.

Russia's support for democratic principles, religious freedom, and inter-ethnic tolerance will have a direct impact on its standing in the inter-

national community and our ability to support Russia's international integration.

The United States stands with Russia's Jewish community as it advances the cause of religious freedom, builds a more inclusive society, and counters the forces of hatred and bigotry. In our tightly interwoven world, the advance of freedom in one country strengthens freedom everywhere. Your community's efforts are truly historic. Our hopes and prayers are with you for the coming year. *L'Shanah Tovah!*

Statement on Signing the First Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001 *September 29, 2000*

Today I have signed into law H.J. Res. 109, a short-term continuing resolution for FY 2001.

The Resolution provides 2001 appropriations for continuing projects and activities of the Federal Government through October 6, 2000, except for those funded by the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2001, and the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, which I have signed into law.

In February, I sent a budget to the Congress that funded critical investments in our future. We need realistic levels of funding for critical Government functions that the American people expect their Government to perform well, including education, law enforcement, environ-

mental protection, preservation of our global leadership, air safety, food safety, economic assistance for the less fortunate, research and technology, administration of Social Security and Medicare, and other important programs. None of the funding bills for the programs that support these functions have been sent to the White House.

I urge the Congress to approve the 11 remaining 2001 spending bills as quickly as possible, in an acceptable form.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 29, 2000.