

Memorandum on the Interagency Working Group on Federalism  
February 26, 2001

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive  
Departments and Agencies*

*Subject:* Interagency Working Group on  
Federalism

It is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the Interagency Working Group on Federalism (the "Working Group").

Section 2. Membership.

(a) The Working Group shall comprise the following officials:

- (1) Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, who shall serve as Chairman of the Working Group;
- (2) Director, Domestic Policy Council, who shall serve as Vice Chairman of the Working Group;
- (3) Secretary of the Treasury, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (4) Attorney General, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (5) Secretary of the Interior, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (6) Secretary of Agriculture, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (7) Secretary of Commerce, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (8) Secretary of Labor, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (9) Secretary of Health and Human Services, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (10) Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (11) Secretary of Transportation, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (12) Secretary of Energy, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (13) Secretary of Education, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (14) Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or an appropriate designee thereof;

- (15) Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (16) Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (17) Counsel to the President;
- (18) Assistant to the President for Economic Policy;
- (19) Assistant to the President, Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (20) Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the Vice President, or an appropriate designee thereof;
- (21) Deputy Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs; and
- (22) Such other officials of executive departments and agencies as the President may, from time to time, designate.

Section 2. Meetings of the Working Group. The Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy or the Director, Domestic Policy Council, may convene and preside over meetings of the Working Group.

Section 3. Functions. The principal functions of the Working Group are to:

(a) Identify initiatives that promote principles of Federalism, such as:

- (1) Federal endeavors which may more appropriately be carried out by State or local authorities;
- (2) Opportunities for flexible funding streams, regulatory waivers, and other opportunities that increase State and local flexibility, innovation, and accountability;
- (3) Measures for improving Federal responsiveness to State and local concerns; and
- (4) Enforcement of rules, orders, and procedures that advance Federalism.

(b) Draft a new Executive Order on Federalism, which will require departments and agencies in the executive branch to adhere to principles of Federalism;

(c) Consult, as appropriate, with State and local officials on issues pertaining to Federalism, including, but not limited to,

the issuance of the new Executive Order on Federalism; and

(d) Produce a report to the President on recommendations for promoting principles of Federalism no later than 6 months after the issuance of this directive.

GEORGE W. BUSH

## Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters February 26, 2001

*The President.* I want to thank our Cabinet for coming in today. Amongst a variety of topics, one of which is going to be—we're going to talk about the budget and my speech tomorrow night to the Congress. And I want to thank all of the Cabinet officers for their hard work in helping us prepare a realistic budget that is going to enable our Nation to meet its priorities and at the same time not only set aside money for contingencies and pay down debt but to leave enough money left over so that people can get a real, substantial tax relief package that they will feel.

I would be glad to answer some questions.

### *Upcoming Address to Congress*

Q. Mr. President, in your speech tomorrow night, what will be your message to the American people, and will you begin addressing reforms in the Social Security system?

*The President.* Of course, we'll be talking about Social Security. Secondly, I will be making the case as to why our budget makes sense for the country and for the people who pay the bills of our country. It is a commonsense approach to what our Nation ought to do with the tax revenues that are coming into the Treasury.

Q. Do you expect to propose Social Security reforms this year?

*The President.* I will see.

### *Miami Herald's Florida Vote Recount*

Q. Mr. President, what are your thoughts about the final Florida recount that put you over from the Vice President, and what do you say to those who now have to call you the legitimate President that didn't call you that? [*Laughter*]

*The President.* Good. [*Laughter*] Hopefully, all the focus on the past is over with. It's time to move forward. And tomorrow night's speech is a part of moving forward. We've worked hard here in this administration to reach out to people that may not have supported me. I think we're making pretty good progress to say that the discussions that take place around this table, for example, are what's best for America, not what's best for a political party but what's best for the country.

### *Upcoming Address to Congress*

Q. Sir, in your speech, will you have specific areas in the budget where spending will slow down, and will you specify those areas in your speech?

*The President.* No. In my speech I will talk about the budget. And in the budget is where people will see all the particulars. If I tried to review every particular in the budget, I would set the all-time record for the amount of time in front of the Congress. And as you know, I'm the kind of person who likes to try to get to the point. I will spend enough time speaking so that