

people will understand where I'm coming from but not too long so they go to sleep.

Q. Mr. President, you've acknowledged that you're going to have to make cuts to the budget to some extent. What do you say to those who are saying that you're telling the American people, essentially, they can have their cake and eat it, too?

The President. What I'm going to say to the American people is that, had we kept spending at the rate we were spending last year, there would be no surplus, that the size of growth in the Federal budget that—and the budget we inherited was way too high, that we can meet our needs by slowing down the rate of growth in our budget. But it requires a President to set priorities. And I'm going to set clear priorities in the budget.

I readily concede some appropriators may not like the fact that we're asking for there to be fiscal sanity in the Federal budget, but that's one of the reasons I became the President, because I said, "Give us a chance, and we will have fiscal sanity

in our budget." And I'll look forward to making the case.

The people are going to hear in plain spoken words why I believe, strongly believe, when we meet priorities, pay down debt, protect Social Security, and as importantly, make sure that people get some of their own money back so to make sure that the economy is strong, help people pay for high energy bills, to help people manage their own personal debt, we need to have tax relief—tax relief that the people can feel. And I will make the case tomorrow night that it's within our grasp to do so. And people will hear as plainly as I can say it what the facts are.

Q. It sounds like your speech will be shorter than ones we're used to in the last 8 years. [Laughter]

The President. I don't know. [Laughter] It depends on how loud you clap.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:07 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization February 26, 2001

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I transmit herewith the 6-month report required under the heading "International Organizations and Programs" in title IV of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-107), relating to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization. The report, which was prepared by the previous Administration, covers the

period from August 13, 2000, through January 27, 2001.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Ted Stevens, chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, House Committee on Appropriations.