

*Feb. 28 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001*

**Remarks in Little Rock, Arkansas, on the Earthquake in Washington State  
February 28, 2001**

I want to say something about what's taken place in Seattle today. I send my prayers and express our country's concern for our fellow citizens in Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia—areas of the State of Washington. Those folks were affected by a major earthquake today. Our prayers are with those who were injured and their families, and with the many thousands of people whose lives have been disrupted.

Thousands of people in Washington are without power or phone service. Airports are closed, and many buildings have sustained structural damage. My administration stands ready to help in any way we can. I've asked the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Joe

Allbaugh, to travel to Seattle to offer our assistance. He is on his way in a couple of hours, and he'll be traveling with members of the—Washington State's congressional delegation.

I've talked to Director Allbaugh. He told me he felt like Senator Murray would be going. And they're reaching out to other members of the congressional delegation to travel with him. We will work with State and local officials to provide whatever help we can to the people of the State of Washington.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:20 p.m. at Adams Field airport.

**Question-and-Answer Session at Lakewood Elementary School in  
North Little Rock, Arkansas  
March 1, 2001**

*The President.* Anybody got any questions for me?

*President's Goals*

*Student.* When our kids grow up and read about your Presidency in history books, what do you hope they'll read?

*The President.* Well, I hope they read that our country, our politicians are able to discuss differences in a civil way; that there's not a lot of anger in the political process; that you and I might disagree, but we can respect each other when we disagree. So I hope I've been able to help change the tone in Washington so people respect each other. I hope the reading test scores are the best in the world. I hope the world is at peace. I hope that boys and girls who dreamed about owning their own business will be able to do so in Amer-

ica, continue to do so. I hope that our Nation is one in which people who have dreams—regardless of where you're raised, whether you can speak English, whether your parents speak English as a first language or not, no matter what neighborhood you're from—will realize those dreams are possible if you make the right choices in life. So that's my ambitions for the country.

*Decision To Run for President*

*Student.* What made you run for President?

*The President.* Well, I thought I could do a better job than anybody else that was running for President. I was concerned about a country that was becoming too bitter at times. I'm concerned that the American Dream, the idea that you can be—have a dream and work hard to achieve