

*Mar. 3 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001*

after all, is an overcharge of American taxpayers. And on your behalf, I am asking for a refund.

My tax plan reduces income tax rates across the board, giving the largest percentage reductions to working families who need the most help. My plan reduces the marriage penalty and gets rid of the death tax. It will boost the economy and help create new businesses, new jobs, and new growth at a time when we need all three.

When the tax cut takes effect, the typical family of four will save \$1,600 every year. Some say that's not much. But they ought to talk to people like Steven and Josefina Aramos, young parents trying to build a better life for their family. Right now they pay about \$8,000 a year in Federal income taxes. My plan will save this hard-working family more than \$2,000. Steven says, and I quote, "Two thousand dollars is a lot to my family. If we had this money, it would

help us reach our goal of paying off our personal debt in 2 years time."

Well, I want the Aramos family and millions of others like them to meet their goals and to live out their best hopes for themselves and their children. Our Federal budget must be good for the family budget.

That was my message to Congress on Tuesday. And now I hope you'll send a message in favor of tax relief to your Congressman or your Senator. After all, the surplus is your money.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on March 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

### **Statement on the National Guard Aircraft Tragedy in Georgia** *March 3, 2001*

I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of 21 members of the Florida and Virginia National Guard aboard a C-23 transport plane that crashed this morning outside Macon, Georgia. This tragic loss on a routine training mission reminds us of the sacrifices made each and every day by all of our men and women in uniform. The price of freedom is never free. Today's events remind us that it is sometimes un-

speakably high. On behalf of the entire Bush family, I extend our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to all members of the 171st Aviation Battalion of the Florida Army National Guard and the 203d Red Horse Flight of the Virginia Air National Guard. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time.

### **Remarks on Arrival in Hampton, Virginia** *March 4, 2001*

Well, thank you all very much. And thank you for your service to this great land of ours. Laura and I are thrilled to be here. I'm traveling today with members

of my Cabinet: the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and Alma—she is the true general in that family—[*laughter*]*—the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Rumsfeld, and his*