

Remarks on Departure for Fargo, North Dakota  
*March 8, 2001*

*House Vote on Tax Relief Legislation*

In a couple hours, the House of Representatives will be voting on tax relief. I'm confident they'll do the right thing. The message is loud and clear that we've got ample revenues to fund our priorities, to pay down debt, to set aside money for a contingency, and ample revenues to send money back to the people who pay the bills, the taxpayers. I strongly believe, and I hope the House of Representatives sends the message, that the people of America are overtaxed and deserve a refund. I'm looking forward to hearing the verdict of the vote.

I'm also looking forward to continuing my trip around the country. We're off to North Dakota and South Dakota and Lou-

isiana, and the message is the same: When you have a President and a Congress that works together to set priorities, to set the focus of the country on important matters when it comes to spending, when we stop the growth, the rapid escalation of the growth of the Federal budget, we can meet priorities and have meaningful, real tax relief. And it's needed. It's needed not only to provide a kick-start to our economy; it is needed because many Americans today are struggling to make ends meet. And so I'm confident the Congress will do the right thing.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks at North Dakota State University in Fargo  
*March 8, 2001*

*The President.* Thank you very much. The air may be cold, but the reception is unbelievably warm. Thank you all for that warm reception.

Governor, thank you very much. I appreciate you and Mikey meeting me at the airport. It's good to see public servants, such as your Governor, who are willing to do what they think is right. He follows the footsteps of a good friend of mine, a man who did a fine job as the Governor of North Dakota over the past years, and that's Ed Schafer. It's good to see Ed here, as well.

I don't want to jump the gun on my speech here, but I just got off the phone with the Speaker of the House. He informed me that the House of Representatives just took a major vote on—a vote on a major portion of my tax relief package,

and by the margin of 230 to 198, the tax rate cut passed the House of Representatives. The American people—the American people had a victory today. The American family had a victory today. The American entrepreneur had a victory today. One House down, and now the Senate to go.

I'm here for a lot of reasons. One is to ask for your help. I wasn't sure how many folks were going to show up to hear a budget speech. It seems like a lot of people are interested in the national budget and, more particularly, your own personal budgets. And so I'm here to ask for you, if you like what you hear today, to maybe e-mail some of the good folks from the United States Senate from your State. If you like what you hear, why don't you just give them a call or write them a letter and let them know that the people are