

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE
UNITED STATES

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Foreword

This volume contains my speeches, messages, major statements, and press conferences from the first 6 months of 2001. This was a period of significant and shared accomplishment on a range of important issues.

My Administration set out to provide a new tone of civility and cooperation. I worked closely with congressional leaders of both parties to pass needed reforms.

Together, we defined an entirely new role for the Federal Government in American education. In the past, Federal authorities often imposed extensive mandates on States and local schools, without requiring high standards and proven outcomes for children. We reversed this approach—proposing greater local control and authority while expecting measured progress for children, proven by regular testing and revealed to parents. My education plan rested on a simple principle: Every child deserves an equal chance to grow in knowledge and character so that no child will be left behind.

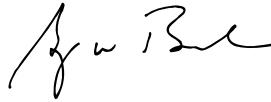
I came to office believing the American people deserved tax relief—and I submitted a plan that offered more than a trillion and a half dollars in tax relief over the next 10 years. This tax relief proposal was combined with a plan to fund national priorities while limiting the growth in Government spending to a reasonable rate. Having inherited an economy that was in recession, it was clear that aggressive action on taxes was needed—and we took that action.

I also came to office believing there is real suffering in the shadow of America's affluence, and that we are called by conscience to respond. Faith-based and community organizations are meeting human needs that no government can hope to address. To assist them in their good works, I created the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and submitted a plan that would put the Federal Government squarely on the side of America's armies of compassion.

In the first 6 months of my Administration, we made essential progress on other key issues. My trade agenda reflected a commitment to open markets around the world for the benefit of American workers and to provide lower prices and greater choice for American consumers. To improve our environment, we accelerated the cleanup of toxic brownfields, proposed full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and proposed almost five billion dollars over 5 years for the upkeep of our national parks. And to offer our seniors better health care coverage, I proposed doubling funding for Medicare over the next decade and endorsed a framework for its reform. At the core of this reform was a plan to make sure that every senior has access to affordable prescription drugs and that working families could use refundable tax credits to make health insurance more affordable.

In an address to a Joint Session of Congress on February 27, 2001, I said our Nation needs “a clear strategy to confront the threats of the 21st century, threats that are more widespread and less certain. They range from terrorists who threaten with bombs to tyrants in rogue nations intent upon developing weapons of mass destruction.” To meet these emerging threats, I called for a significant increase in our defense budget, the development of an effective missile defense, and a technological transformation of America’s Armed Forces. American military strength is the key to preserving peace, protecting human dignity, and extending human freedom.

The Presidency has been called the “vital center of action.” It is an office of great influence and great responsibilities. Yet the success of our Nation ultimately depends on the character of its citizens. During my first 6 months in office, while meeting with countless people and traveling across our country, I saw the decency, compassion, and courage of the American character. Soon these virtues would be tested by terrible events.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 43d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period January 20–June 30, 2001. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not

printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Herbert Hoover, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald R. Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, and William J. Clinton are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwendolyn J. Henderson, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Karen Howard Ashlin, assisted by Brad Brooks, Gwen H. Estep, Kathleen M. Fargey, Stephen J. Frattini, Christopher Gushman, Margaret A. Hemmig, Maxine Hill, Alfred Jones, Loretta C. Jones, Jennifer S. Mangum, Stacey A. Mulligan, Michael J. Sullivan, and Karen A. Thornton.

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Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

John W. Carlin
Archivist of the United States

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Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Chief of Staff	Andrew H. Card, Jr.

Administration of George W. Bush

2001