

Statement on Senator Jesse Helms' Decision Not To Seek Reelection
August 22, 2001

The Senate is losing an institution with the decision of Jesse Helms to retire after three decades of distinguished public service. Senator Helms went to Washington but never became a part of Washington. He has always remained true to his conservative principles and to the people of North Carolina who elected him five times. Senator Helms is a true gentleman, known for treating his colleagues with the utmost respect and courtesy, regardless of party or policy differences.

As chairman and ranking Republican of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms has been a tireless defender of our Nation's freedom and a champion of democracy abroad. When Senator Helms retires, the Senate will have lost a respected leader, but I have no doubt we will continue to seek his counsel as a senior statesman.

Laura and I extend our best wishes to Jesse, his wife, Dot, and the entire Helms family.

Exchange With Reporters in Waco, Texas
August 23, 2001

President's Schedule

The President. Good morning. I'll see you all at the school.

Q. Uh-oh, what does that mean?

The President. In Crawford.

Q. For what?

Q. You're going to drop by?

The President. I'm going to drop by the school after, so we'll have a little chance to visit then, to thank them for letting you all stay at the elementary school. Obviously, nobody told you.

Q. Thanks for the heads up.

The President. We're going to have an impromptu stop. I will decide on my way home to stop by the school. [*Laughter*]

Roland Betts, my good friend from New York City.

Let's go. Hit them up.

And we'll—we can have a little visit there, if you like. That way, it won't ruin my golf game. [*Laughter*]

Q. Looking forward to your game?

The President. Yes, I'm looking forward to getting out here.

Had a nice visit with Mitch Daniels this morning.

Q. He down here?

The President. No, I called him.

Q. Is that a Masters souvenir, your glove?

The President. I think somebody must have sent me that. I haven't been there in a while. Beautiful course.

All right, excuse me.

[*At this point, the President played a round of golf.*]

President's Round of Golf

The President. So, I won't be a professional golfer.

Q. I'm going to go find that ball. I'm going to find that one.

The President. The first one? If you can find that first one, you're a pretty good bird-dog. [*Laughter*]

Is everybody enjoying themselves here?

Q. I only just got here, so—

The President. Yes, I know. Where have you been?