

they need not overspend and should not overspend. It's going to affect economic growth; that all of us in Washington need to be thinking about how to grow the economy.

And I've laid out an economic growth plan, starting with tax relief. I hear there are some up here that are now second-guessing tax relief, and surely they're not advocating a tax increase, because if they are, they will find mighty resistance in the White House. Plus, that's bad economics. So for those who criticize the tax relief

plan, the next step is, what do you have in mind? And if it's a tax increase, that would be bad for America.

Good to see everybody. Thank you. Fournier, we missed you in Crawford.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:47 p.m. in the Executive Office of the President Library in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to White House Webmaster Jane Cook; Little League player Danny Almonte; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Message on the Observance of Labor Day, 2001 *August 31, 2001*

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing Labor Day on September 3, 2001.

The great strength of our Nation's economy is our workforce. From teachers and entrepreneurs to factory workers and scientists, hardworking Americans serve in a wide and diverse range of professions that are vital to protecting our health, well-being, and quality of life. By providing important goods and services and building and generating wealth, American workers help lay the foundation for our continued progress and advancement.

Falling on the first Monday in September, Labor Day serves as a time to honor and celebrate the achievements of our workforce and to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring opportunity for every American worker. Workers must have the education and training they need to succeed, and they are entitled to expect fair treatment from their employers. We owe workers the chance to build a nest egg that will help them maintain a high stand-

ard of living in their retirement years. The last barriers to full participation in the workplace for Americans with disabilities must be removed. The Office of the 21st Century Work Force at the Department of Labor and my New Freedom Initiative reflect my Administration's commitment to furthering these important goals.

As our Nation observes Labor Day this year, I salute every hardworking American for your role in helping this country to grow and thrive and for your innovation, creativity, and energy on the job. I also encourage you as you strive to keep in balance the demands of work alongside vital responsibilities to family, friends, and the community. Your efforts carry on the proud traditions of past generations of American workers and demonstrate your adaptability and enthusiasm for meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

Best wishes for a memorable observance.

GEORGE W. BUSH