

Sept. 25 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Emergency
Funding for Air Carriers
September 25, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, I am providing up to \$5 billion to the Department of Transportation's Compensation for Air Carriers account. These funds are urgently needed to enable the Nation's air carriers to meet the challenges resulting from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

I designate the entire \$5 billion as an emergency requirement in accordance with section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. In addition, I have delegated the authority vested under section 101(a)(2) of the Air Transportation Safety and System

Stabilization Act to the Secretary of Transportation.

The funds contained in this designation are intended to stabilize the air transportation industry and compensate air carriers for direct losses resulting from the Secretary of Transportation's order to ground all aircraft immediately following the attacks, as well as any similar orders that may be issued in the future.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Sikh Community Leaders
September 26, 2001

It's my honor to welcome citizens from all across our country here to the Roosevelt Room and the White House to discuss our common commitment to make sure that every American is treated with respect and dignity during this period of—during any period, for that matter, of American history, but particularly during this time.

An American Sikh has been killed, unjustly so. These citizens bring their hearts with them, and I can assure them that our Government will do everything we can to not only bring those people to justice but also to treat every human life as dear and to respect the values that made our country so different and so unique. We're all Amer-

icans, bound together by common ideals and common values.

So I want to welcome you all here. We're honored that you're here in the White House, and I look forward to a good, frank discussion.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Balbir Singh Sodhi, an Indian immigrant who was killed September 15 in Mesa, AZ, in a suspected hate crime.