

Statement Urging Senate Action on the Economic Security Package
December 7, 2001

Today's unemployment numbers are troubling, and they underscore that we must act to ensure America's economic security. The most important thing we can do for unemployed workers and those who are concerned about their jobs is to get the economy growing. The Senate has not acted on the economic security package I

proposed in October, and since then, over three-quarters of a million Americans have lost their jobs. Today's important economic warning demonstrates that American workers have already waited too long, so I urge the Senate to take immediate action to help workers and our economy.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2001
December 7, 2001

Laura and I send our warmest greetings to all those celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

The celebration of Hanukkah is inspired by the story of the miracle of the lamp: how a ration of oil sufficient only for one day burned for eight. It is a holiday of hope that encourages trust in God's providence and God's purposes, even when we are threatened by darkness and destruction.

Hanukkah commemorates the reconsecration of the ancient temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees and their followers, after it had been desecrated. Hanukkah celebrates the liberation of the an-

cient kingdom of Israel from foreign occupation. It teaches us that freedom must sometimes be fought for—a message that continues to resonate today.

We join all people of Jewish faith in thanking God who has “sustained us and enabled us to reach this season.” May the candles of Hanukkah light our memories of those lost on September 11. And may this be a season of joy for us all.

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks in New Windsor, Maryland, on America's Fund for Afghan Children
December 8, 2001

The President. Well, thank you all very much. Good morning.

Audience members. Good morning.

The President. First, Harold, thanks a lot for the introduction, and thanks for your leadership for the Red Cross. It's a joy to know that we're part of a country that houses such a great institution as the Red

Cross, that intends to help people. And I want to thank you, and I want to thank all the Red Cross volunteers who are here to make sure that this warehouse functions well and that the mission of helping Afghan children is fulfilled.

Laura and I are thrilled to be here. First, I want you to tell your neighbors that we