

These packages will brighten the lives of Afghan children not only during Ramadan but throughout the winter. It is a reminder that we are at war with the Taliban regime, not with the good, innocent people of Afghanistan.

We've been made painfully aware of the plight of the Afghan children. One in three Afghan children is an orphan. Almost half of Afghan children suffer from malnutrition. One in four Afghan children won't live beyond their fifth birthday.

This first shipment represents the good will of the American children. It also represents our hope and desires that the plight of the Afghan children improves, that life can be better for all children in the world. It contains some interesting surprises and vital supplies.

Tomorrow we ship 1,500 winter tents to provide shelter for Afghan children and their families; 1,685 winter jackets to help keep children warm; 10,000 gift parcels, including hats and socks and school supplies, toothbrushes and hairbrushes, candy and toys, that we hope and know will bring joy to children who have suffered such incredible hardship.

Each gift parcel is marked this way: "A Gift to Afghan Children From American Children." It's spoken in several—it's written in several local languages. But one

thing is, when spirit is a part of each package, and it says love knows no bounds or boundaries.

Americans of all ages care deeply about our fellow citizens, because we're a truly compassionate nation. We're a nation of heart, a nation of decency, and a nation that loves freedom. Removing the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is one way to help the children and women of Afghanistan. It's one way to make sure the children and women of Afghanistan are able to have a more decent and hopeful life. And the Afghan Children's Fund is another way to help.

And so today I come to this warehouse full of love and decency and, on behalf of America, say thank you from the bottom of our heart.

May God bless all the children in the world, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:50 a.m. at the Brethren Service Center. In his remarks, he referred to Harold Decker, interim chief executive officer, American Red Cross; David J. Bronczek, president and chief executive officer, FedEx Express; and Kristen Thompson, a seventh grader at New Windsor Middle School.

## **The President's Radio Address** *December 8, 2001*

Good morning. Earlier this week I flew to Florida to meet with people who had lost their jobs because of the September 11th attacks. Then I took part in a townhall meeting in Orlando. I listened to people's concerns and answered their questions.

I heard Americans are proud of our Armed Forces, and Americans are grateful for their sacrifices. Our country is on alert, and we are not intimidated. And as we

wage war against terror, Americans made it clear they are also worried about the challenges we are facing here at home. Americans want action that will strengthen the economy and create jobs. They want greater energy independence, and they want reforms in our public schools.

As I listened to the concerns of these Americans, I hoped Congress was listening, too, because it became clear the American

people want action on an agenda of economic growth, energy independence, patients' rights, education, faith-based legislation—all of which are important issues that are stuck in Congress.

I heard hard-working people say they're worried about losing their jobs or seeing their hours cut. They know the terrorist attacks of September the 11th hurt our economy. That's why in the weeks just after the attacks, I proposed help for those who need it most, immediate help in the form of extended unemployment benefits and cash grants for workers who have been laid off. I also proposed the most important help for American workers, a long-term strategy to accelerate economic growth to create more opportunities and more jobs. It's now early December. The House acted quickly on my proposals to aid the unemployed and create jobs; the Senate has not.

Americans at the townhall meeting in Florida seemed to agree on the importance of America becoming less reliant on foreign oil. Last spring I sent Congress a comprehensive energy plan that encourages conservation and greater energy independence. The House has acted; the Senate has not.

At this season of the year we're especially reminded of the importance of compassion. I sent Congress a bill to encourage charitable giving and to support the good work done by people of faith without entangling government and religion. The House has acted; the Senate has not.

I know that the Senate is closely divided among Republicans and Democrats, but the American people expect the Senate and its

leaders to find a way to work together and bridge their differences. Now is not the time for partisan politics; now is the time for leadership. It's time to act.

Congress has other important business to finish before it goes home for the holidays. Education is vital to our country's future. We need a new emphasis on reading, higher standards, more flexibility, and greater local control. Congress has made great progress toward the most comprehensive education reform in a generation, so no child is left behind. But this important education reform is stuck in a conference committee. And the Patients' Bill of Rights passed by both Houses of Congress also remains unfinished. These are important measures. They have bipartisan support. They should be law. I am ready to sign them.

I hope you'll let Congress hear from you. Let them know you want action not just on national security or homeland security; you want action to protect America's economic security, as well.

I thank you for listening. And during this holiday season, I wish Americans of Jewish faith a happy Hanukkah.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:03 a.m. on December 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks on Lighting the Hanukkah Menorah and an Exchange With Reporters *December 10, 2001*

*The President.* Tonight, for the first time in American history, a Hanukkah menorah

will be lit at the White House Residence. It's a symbol that this house may be a