

Aug. 9 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

Federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult, and animal stem cells which do not involve the same moral dilemma. This year, your Government will spend \$250 million on this important research.

I will also name a President's council to monitor stem cell research, to recommend appropriate guidelines and regulations, and to consider all of the medical and ethical ramifications of biomedical innovation. This council will consist of leading scientists, doctors, ethicists, lawyers, theologians, and others and will be chaired by Dr. Leon Kass, a leading biomedical

ethicist from the University of Chicago. This council will keep us apprised of new developments and give our Nation a forum to continue to discuss and evaluate these important issues.

As we go forward, I hope we will always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience. I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one.

Thank you for listening. Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President's Radio Address *August 11, 2001*

Good morning. This week I made a decision on a complex and difficult issue, the Federal role in embryonic stem cell research. Based on preliminary work, scientists believe these cells, which may have the ability to replace diseased or defective human tissue, offer great promise. They could help improve the lives of those who suffer from many terrible diseases, from juvenile diabetes to Alzheimer's, from Parkinson's to spinal cord injuries.

While stem cells come from a variety of sources, most scientists, at least today, believe that research on stem cells from human embryos offers the most promise because these cells have the potential to develop into all the tissues of the body. This research offers great hope for treatments and possible cures. Research on embryonic stem cells also raises profound ethical questions, because extracting the stem cell destroys the embryo and thus destroys the potential for life.

Some argue this small cluster of cells is not yet a human life because it cannot develop on its own. Yet an ethicist argued, this is the same way you and I started

our lives. "One goes with a heavy heart if we use these," he said, "because we are dealing with the seeds of the next generation."

At its core, this issue forces us to confront fundamental questions about the beginnings of life and the ends of science. It lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages. As the genius of science extends the horizons of what we can do, we increasingly confront complex problems about what we should do.

In recent weeks we learned that scientists have created human embryos in test tubes solely to experiment on them. This is deeply troubling and a warning sign that should prompt all of us to think through these issues very carefully. We recoil at the idea of growing human beings for spare body parts or creating life for our convenience. I strongly oppose cloning. And while we must devote enormous energy to conquering disease, it is equally important that we pay attention to the moral concerns

raised by the new frontier of human embryo stem cell research. Even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

Embryonic stem cell research offers both great promise and great peril, so I have decided we must proceed with great care. As a result of private research, more than 60 genetically diverse stem cell lines already exist. They were created from embryos that have already been destroyed, and they have the ability to regenerate themselves indefinitely, creating ongoing opportunities for research. I have concluded that we should allow Federal funds to be used for research on these existing stem cell lines where the life and death decision has already been made.

Leading scientists tell me research on these 60 lines has great promise that could lead to breakthrough therapies and cures. This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human

embryos that have at least the potential for life.

I also believe that great scientific progress can be made through aggressive Federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult, and animal stem cells, which do not involve the same moral dilemma. This year the Government will spend \$250 million on this important research.

As we go forward, I hope we'll always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience. I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:40 a.m. on August 10 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters in Meridian, Texas *August 13, 2001*

President's Vacation

Q. How are you doing, sir?

The President. I'm doing great, thank you.

Terrorist Attack in Israel

Q. What's your response to the suicide—

The President. I'll see you at the ranch—my response to what?

Q. The latest suicide bombing in Israel.

The President. Ask me at the ranch. We're going to have a little press avail after I sign the bill.

President's Round of Golf

Q. How's it going?

The President. Really good.

Q. How's your swing?

Q. No flaws?

The President. You saw it—needs a little work.

Q. Don't we all.

The President. I'm glad you asked who's winning the contest. Team sport.

Q. Is this a rematch?

The President. Yes, it is.

Q. And who won last time?

The President. Tie. If I hit every shot good, people would say I wasn't working.
[Laughter]