

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. at the Ontario Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mario Rodriguez, member, board of directors and advisers, the Latino Coalition, who introduced the President; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida ter-

rorist organization; Sfc. Nathan Ross Chapman, USA, who was killed January 4 by hostile fire in Afghanistan; Carlo Moyano, president and chief executive officer, JCM Corp.; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

The President's Radio Address *January 5, 2002*

Good morning. The events of September the 11th left America sadder and stronger, and they clarified some important goals for our country. We have a war to wage and a recession to fight. Defending our country and strengthening our economy are great priorities for 2002. We must be determined, and we must keep our focus.

This Saturday, I'm traveling in Oregon and California, talking with people who have been hit hard by the economic downturn. When I return to Washington on Monday, I will be meeting with my economic advisers and other officials to discuss the latest economic data and work for a quick recovery for our economy.

My administration has offered our ideas for creating new jobs. I've proposed speeding up the tax reductions Congress passed last year because the faster tax rates come down, the faster our economy will grow. I have proposed tax refunds for lower and moderate income families to put money in the hands of people with kids to support and bills to pay. I have proposed reforming the alternative minimum tax so employers and entrepreneurs no longer see their taxes rise as their profits shrink. In tough times, we need to encourage entrepreneurship and small-business growth, not punish it. I've proposed better tax treatment for employers and entrepreneurs who invest in new equipment, which will help the hard-working people who use the equipment, and those who manufacture the equipment. The Council of Economic Advisers esti-

mates that these ideas could save at least 300,000 threatened jobs.

I'm also calling on Congress to act immediately to help the unemployed workers. I've proposed extending unemployment benefits by 13 weeks, and I've supported tax credits to protect the health insurance of workers who've been laid off.

But we can't stop there. It is important to help workers who've lost their jobs. It is even more important to help workers find new jobs. In tough times, people need an unemployment check, but what they want is a paycheck. Americans want the independence of a job and the satisfaction of providing for their families, themselves. A job is more than a source of income; it is a source of dignity.

I made my proposals to create new jobs and help dislocated workers on October the 4th, 3 months and 943,000 lost jobs ago. The House of Representatives accepted my proposals, but the Senate Democratic leadership would not even schedule a vote. Some in the Senate seem to think we can afford to do nothing, that the economy will get better on its own, sooner or later. I say that if your job is in danger or you have a loved one out of work, you want that recovery sooner, not later.

We need a plan to lengthen unemployment benefits; we need a plan to shorten the recession. The Senate should act on both. America's workers cannot afford more delay.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:20 a.m. on January 4 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 4

but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon January 5, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for such a gracious and warm welcome. It's nice to be back here in Oregon. I'm impressed by the Mighty Ducks; they're awfully good. I wasn't a believer; now I am. [Laughter] They're good. Of course, they gave my Texas boys a good lesson last year, as I recall. [Laughter]

But thanks for coming out on a Saturday afternoon to say hello. I was earlier in California, and then I'm here—went to a community college. You've got a wonderful community college here in the Portland area, which is worried about helping people find work. And I went by and saw the good instructors there that are trying to help people help themselves. And I come in here to be able to share some thoughts with you. And then I'm going to hustle on home for dinner—[laughter]—right there in Crawford, Texas.

I want to thank Katie Harman for being here. It was a pleasure to meet your mayor. Mayor Katz, thank you for coming. It's very gracious for you to be here today.

I picked a good man from Portland to represent us in New Zealand; that's my friend Butch Swindells, who is now the Ambassador to New Zealand.

I spent a little time with some people that work for a company called InFocus, which is a company—[applause]—John, it sounds like you packed the crowd. [Laughter] Either that, or you've got a big family. [Laughter] But I want to thank John Harker and his team for coming to talk to me about how best they think we can

stimulate growth. I want to thank them for employing people in this part of the world, for trying to figure out how to grow their economy, for worrying about their workforce, as well as making a quality product. I'm going to share some thoughts that John shared with me in a little bit. But I do want to thank you for coming.

I also want to thank my friends Senator Gordon Smith and Greg Walden. They were hitchhiking in California, and they needed—[laughter]—they were looking for a free ride, and Air Force One happened to be available. [Laughter] But they did fly down with me. I'm impressed by these two good men. We spent a lot of time talking about Oregon. They're deeply concerned about the fact that a lot of people aren't working; I am, too. They're deeply concerned about the fact that parts of your State are not being treated very well. We spent time talking about the Klamath Basin. I share their concern about people who make a living off the land. And I told these two good men that we'll do everything we can to make sure water is available for people who farm.

I also want to thank two of the Congressmen from this area, Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley, for being here as well. Thank you so much for coming; I appreciate you being here. I know you had better things to do on Saturday afternoon, and here you are, stuck with me. [Laughter] Thanks for coming; it means a lot.