

Q. If I could remember what I was going to ask—[laughter]—given what the Fed said and the growth numbers for the fourth quarter, are you as convinced that a stimulus package is still needed?

President Bush. One thing I'm—I believe we're still not out of our economic problems. We've still got problems. The economy is still soft. Too many people aren't working. There's not enough job creation. And I believe, like I said in the State of the Union, we need a stimulus package. Until Americans can find steady work, I am going to be relentless in my desire to enhance economic growth, and that means jobs. And we've got to work with Congress to figure out how to enhance economic vi-

ality. There are some positive numbers, but not enough positive numbers to satisfy me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan. The President also referred to the June 13, 2001, Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan negotiated by CIA Director George J. Tenet; and the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Harry James Towey as Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives February 1, 2002

The President. Good morning. Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, welcome to the Roosevelt Room in the White House. We're honored you all came. Thanks for being here.

I know all of you are here today to be a part of a great cause, and that is how best to serve our neighbors in need and to serve our community and our country. Really, it's to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Our goal is to rally all Americans to our cause. I mean all Americans. And I'm proud to have an outstanding man in Jim Towey to join me on this cause. First, I want to welcome the Towey family, all of them. [Laughter] Mary, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, welcome, guys. And I'm glad Mom is with us. Florence, welcome; sure glad to have you here.

And I want to welcome Your Eminence, Cardinal Bevilacqua; sure good to see you, sir. I've had many a good heart-to-heart visit with His Eminence, and I've always

come away a better person after having visited with him. Thank you for being here. And I want to thank everybody else for being here, as well.

A year ago this week, I announced one of the most important commitments of my administration, the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The purpose was to apply the compassion of America to help solve the problems of our country. The purpose of this initiative recognizes the power of faith in helping heal some of our Nation's wounds. The purpose of this initiative is to rally the armies of compassion which are spread throughout the United States of America. The purpose of the initiative is to recognize our greatest strength, the hearts and souls of the American people, and apply that strength to help solve problems which afflict many of our citizens.

Since the attacks of September the 11th, it has become obvious to everyone how essential the community and faith-based groups are to the well-being of our Nation.

They have saved lives. They provide hope. They have helped heal the Nation's wounds.

We have a tremendous opportunity now to take the spirit and apply it to problems like poverty and addiction, abandonment and abuse, illiteracy and homelessness. These are incredibly tough problems. But I believe with the help of faith, we can solve the problems. I have faith that faith will work in solving the problems.

For the past year, the Office of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives has done a terrific job. And I'm proud of the folks that work in the office.

And today I'm honored to name Jim Towey as its new head and new Director. He has served a Republican Senator and a Democratic Governor. He understands there are things more important than political parties, and one of those things more important than political parties is to help heal the Nation's soul. He's run a statewide Department of Health; in other words, he's an administrator. He also worked with Mother Teresa for more than a year—for more than a decade. He brings to the job managerial skills and a servant's heart. He will be a great Director, and I look forward to working with him to advance a bold initiative.

In the next year, Jim will work to eliminate barriers that discriminate against community and faith-based organizations. Government cannot stand in the way of the good works of the people in our neighborhoods. Government must expedite and stand on the side of faith-based programs. We should not discriminate at the Federal level against people who are trying to help us solve the Nation's problems.

He'll work closely with Members of Congress from both parties to pass legislation that will put Government squarely on the side of our faith- and community-based

groups. Jim will have the full support of a new Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, in which he will participate along with five Cabinet Secretaries and Steve Goldsmith, the Chairman for the Corporation of National and Community Service.

The Council will be chaired by USA Freedom Corps Director John Bridgeland. I was proud to announce "Bridge" 2 days ago when he made his national debut, and I must say he handled the pressure quite well. [Laughter] But he's a good fellow who, along with Jim, is going to make an enormous difference about fulfilling a vision that I truly believe is going to help America help herself, is truly going to believe—lift the spirit of this country. After all, that's my job. My job is to unify our country around common, big goals. And there is nothing more important than to help the hopeless see hope, to help the addicted see a better life, to help the collective will of our country to have a better tomorrow, realize its potential.

I'm so proud that Jim has decided to join our team. I'm grateful for your sacrifice to your country. I love your heart. America will be better off by your service. Welcome.

[At this point, Director Towey made brief remarks.]

The President. Good job, Jim. Thank you. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:18 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mr. Towey's wife, Mary, and their sons, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, and Mr. Towey's mother, Florence; and His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Towey.

Remarks at the “Congress of Tomorrow” Republican Retreat Luncheon in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
February 1, 2002

President Bush. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. It is rare that a fellow can give two 50-minute addresses in the same week. [Laughter] I knew you'd be thrilled. [Laughter]

J.C., thanks for those kind words, and thanks for your leadership. One of us didn't get the dress code right. [Laughter]

Audience member. You didn't get the memo.

President Bush. Yes, I didn't get the memo. [Laughter]

At any rate, I'm delighted to be here; I am. First, I want to say something about the leaders of the two bodies represented here. Your Speaker and the majority leader—I call him majority leader—are two really good men to work with. I have loved my experience working with Denny and Trent last year. I really enjoy the candid discussions. But most importantly, what I really appreciate is the desire to work together to do what's right for the country. We're lucky to have two such strong and good men leading the country. And so it's an honor to be with the Speaker and Senator Trent Lott. And I look forward to a fabulous year working with the two men in 2002.

I think this is going to be a great year; I do. I've never been more optimistic about anything in my life. In the Oval Office there's a painting by a friend of mine named Tom Lea. And when you come in the Oval Office, you'll notice it's the western-looking painting right by the door where Logan used to sit. By the way, this is Logan's last day working for me, which is—I didn't fire him; he voluntarily left. But anyway, if you were to work where Logan used to be, there's a painting that shows a great expanse of west Texas. It is the—the guy who painted the painting was the person who wrote the quote I used

at the end of the convention, which I'm sure most of you have memorized by now. [Laughter] It says, “Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone.”

It's so important for a President to see a day that is coming, that is positive. And I do. In clear and vivid ways, I see a day that is much better for not only America and Americans but the world. We have an historic opportunity to fight a war that will not only liberate people from the clutches of barbaric behavior but a war that could leave the world more peaceful in the years to come.

None of us asked for this war. None of us wished that what happened on September the 11th happened, and we continue to pray for the victims. But now that it's happened, this Nation is ready to seize the moment. And I'm so proud that the people in this room and on this podium understand the historic opportunity we have, and I want to thank you for joining this most noble and just cause.

We fight for freedom, and we stand for freedom, and we won't relent until we defend freedom at its core. And that's why the budget I sent up there has got a significant increase in defense spending, because we owe it to the defenders of freedom to give them the best equipment, the best housing, the best training, and another pay raise.

Now in my speech, I tried to educate the American people about what we're up against. I talked about the fact that thousands of people had gone through Al Qaida killer camps, and they're still roaming around. And so long as they're roaming around with the intention of hurting us, this Nation will hunt them down.