

Remarks on Economic Stimulus Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters February 5, 2002

The President. I was just informed that the Senate will not vote out a stimulus package. I'm very disappointed. There's a lot of workers who hurt, and they need help. Our economy, while there's some good news, needs more stimulus. I still think we need to pass a bill that will help workers and help stimulate the economy. You know, we got a good bill out of the House, and I believe that we had a good chance to get a good bill out of the Senate last fall; there was enough votes to pass the bill. And I'm just disappointed. I think—I think we need a good stimulus package.

Q. [*Inaudible*—for a regular breakfast this week?

The President. No, no, we're meeting next week. But I mean, I don't need to have a meeting, a breakfast to express my disappointment. I'm disappointed. I think people need to—workers need help, and I think we need to stimulate the economy with some wise policy. And we're working

hard on this issue. I talked about it—gosh, I remember going to the Midwest to talk about it; I think I talked about in the Midwest right after the attacks. We've been working with both Republicans and Democrats to try to forge a good package. You know, I'm just sorry it hasn't happened. I hope they do reconsider and pass a good bill.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I can't hear you.

Q. Are you saying they're not listening?

The President. You need to talk to them. I'm just—what I'm saying is, I'm disappointed we don't have a package. Workers need help, and we need to stimulate the economy.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, upon returning from Pittsburgh, PA. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters in New York City February 6, 2002

Assistance for New York City

Q. Can you answer a quick—about the \$20 billion?

The President. Yes, absolutely.

Q. When are we going to get it, and why does there seem a reluctance—

The President. Oh, there's no reluctance. The \$20 billion needs to come to New York. And that's \$20 billion, by the way, not including the Victims' Compensation Fund. And I look forward to working with the New York delegation, the Governor, and the mayor to make sure that the Lib-

erty Zone and the Liberty Bonds become reality. Now, that's one way for us to help New York rebuild herself, and a vital part of our economy and economic growth is to have a vibrant New York City.

And so the \$20 billion is coming. A lot of it has already come; there's more to come. And I look forward to working in a way to get it done.

Q. Have you had any chance to talk to Mitch Daniels and say, "Be a little nicer to New York"?