

armies of compassion, how you can put your good heart to work to make America a hopeful and strong and decent country for all of us.

We've made progress. There's no question the doors of opportunity that were shut and sealed have now been opened. Ask some of the folks on the stage here. They had that door slammed in their face, and now it's open, and there's a brighter day ahead.

Yet, there is no acceptable level of despair and hopelessness in America. We will not leave people in need to their own struggle, and we will not leave them to their own fate.

The success of the past few years should not make us complacent as a nation. They prove what is possible when we press for-

ward, and I am determined to press forward to build a single nation of justice and opportunity.

May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:53 p.m. in the gymnasium at St. Luke's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Robert L. Woodson, Sr., founder and president, National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise; Curtis Watkins, executive director, East Capitol Center for Change; Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; Gov. Bill Owens of Colorado; and Gov. Don Sundquist of Tennessee. He also referred to Public Law No. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation *February 26, 2002*

I applaud Senators Tim Hutchinson, Trent Lott, and Judd Gregg for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. This legislation would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, better access to sound investment advice, and is consistent with the retirement security principles I previously out-

lined. This bill also assures that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1969, the "Pension Security Act of 2002."

Statement Following a Meeting With Southern African Leaders *February 26, 2002*

Today I met with three Presidents who can help bring peace and prosperity to southern Africa. Presidents dos Santos of Angola, Chissano of Mozambique, and Mogae of Botswana and I discussed our common interests in working with each other and through the Southern African

Development Community to bring greater peace, prosperity, and stability to the region.

I reiterated that expanding trade is the surest path to sustainable development. I commended the three Presidents' leadership in developing a regional strategy to