

Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Pension Reform Legislation

April 11, 2002

Employees need more information about their pension plans and more control over them. I commend Chairman Thomas, Chairman Boehner, and Congressman Portman, and the bipartisan majority in the House for passing pension reform legislation that accomplishes these objectives. The

reforms will give employees better access to investment advice, additional notice of blackouts, and increased ability to diversify. Importantly, the reforms adhere to the principle that what is right for executives is also right for workers. I look forward to Senate action on this critical issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 13, 2002

Good morning. Monday is tax day, and this year tax day will be different. This year your tax rates are lower, and you will keep more of your hard-earned money to spend or save as you see fit.

Last year I signed a tax relief bill that will continue to reduce Federal taxes by more than a trillion dollars over the next 10 years. Relief began almost immediately. Single taxpayers received checks for up to \$300. Single parent taxpayers received up to \$500. And married couples received up to \$600. By now, American taxpayers have already benefited from \$57 billion in tax relief.

Yet, when it comes to tax relief, once is not enough. So the best news is that tax relief is continuing this year. The child credit was increased to \$600 and made available to lower income Americans. For a single mom with two kids making \$18,000, this one change alone provides \$800 in tax relief. We're beginning a new low 10-percent bracket this year. We're making it easier for low-income workers to

take their first steps up the ladder of opportunity. And starting this year, you will be able to save more of your money, tax free, whether in an education savings account, an IRA, or a 401(k).

Tax relief helps the working people of our country with more money to provide for their families and pay their bills. And perhaps the best news of all is that even more relief is on the way for many years to come.

The tax bill will continue to increase the child credit up to \$1,000 per child by the year 2010. The marriage tax will be reduced. And the unfair death tax will be completely abolished. Millions of successful small businesses that pay on the personal income tax schedule will find their taxes are going down.

And when the tax cut is fully phased in, 43 million married couples will see their taxes reduced on average by over \$1,700 per year. Thirty-eight million families with children will receive an annual tax cut of almost \$1,500 to help pay for education,

child care, or other expenses. Eleven million single mothers will be able to keep an average of \$770 more of their income each year to care for their children. Thirteen million seniors will see their taxes reduced on average by more than \$900. And 3.9 million Americans will have their income tax liability completely eliminated.

Next week, the House will take up legislation to make this tax relief permanent. And I urge Congress to pass this vital measure.

Tax relief is a crucial part of my administration's overall economic growth agenda, to create more high-paying jobs. Like our

balanced energy plan and our determination to knock down trade barriers, tax relief will help you achieve the economic security you need to realize your dreams.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:55 a.m. on April 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Tax Day in Cedar Rapids, Iowa *April 15, 2002*

Thank you all. Well, thank you for that warm Iowa welcome. It's nice to be here. Bill, thank you for your hospitality. And I want to thank you all for giving me a chance to come and share some things with you about our great country.

First, I want to thank the folks who work here, who spent some time talking to me about how much they enjoy working here in the company, talking about their families, what tax relief meant for them in real terms. I appreciate the Governor of the State of Iowa, Tom Vilsack, for coming. Thank you, Governor, I'm honored you're here. I had the privilege of flying down from Washington with two fine—I mean fine—United States Congressmen, Jim Leach and Greg Ganske, and I'm honored at your presence. I appreciate Mayor Paul Pate for being here, the mayor of Cedar Rapids. I want to thank him for his hospitality today.

And I want to thank my fellow Americans. I want to thank you all for your patience and your determination and your love for freedom. This is a fabulous country, and I want to thank you all.

Today, as you know, is April 15th—*[laughter]*—tax day. Today, at least, we get to call it tax relief day. It was right here in the State of Iowa, when I was running for President, asking people for their votes, that I said if you gave me a chance to be President, I'd work hard to let people keep their own money. I reminded people that the money we're talking about is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And we kept that promise. I say "we," a lot of—more than one guy up there in Washington working on behalf of the working people; I think you noticed that today. I'm going to spend some time talking about it and why it's important, but we've also got other priorities in this country. I want to spend a little bit of time talking about those priorities.

We've got a priority to make sure our homeland is secure. My most important job is not politicking; my most important job isn't to give speeches everywhere. My most important job is to make sure people don't hit America again, is to make sure we're secure.