

you set, stand out as models of compassion and integrity.

The victims' rights movement has touched the conscience of this country, and our criminal justice system has begun to respond, treating victims with greater respect. The States as well as the Federal Government have passed legal protections for victims. However, those laws are insufficient to fully recognize the rights of crime victims.

Victims of violent crime have important rights that deserve protection in our Constitution. And so today I announce my support for the bipartisan crime victims' rights amendment to the Constitution of the United States. As I mentioned, this amendment is sponsored by Senator Feinstein of California, Senator Kyl of Arizona—one a Democrat, one a Republican, both great Americans.

This amendment makes some basic pledges to Americans. Victims of violent crime deserve the right to be notified of public proceedings involving the crime. They deserve to be heard at public proceedings regarding the criminal's sentence

or potential release. They deserve to have their safety considered. They deserve consideration of their claims of restitution. We must guarantee these rights for all the victims of violent crime in America.

The Feinstein-Kyl amendment was written with care and strikes a proper balance. Our legal system properly protects the rights of the accused in the Constitution, but it does not provide similar protection for the rights of victims, and that must change.

The protection of victims' rights is one of those rare instances when amending the Constitution is the right thing to do. And the Feinstein-Kyl crime victims' rights amendment is the right way to do it.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building. In his remarks, he referred to John Walsh, host of the television series "America's Most Wanted." He also referred to S.J. Res. 35, the proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Remarks to the Leaders of the Fiscal Responsibility Coalition *April 16, 2002*

Well, thank you all very much. I appreciate you coming and giving me a chance to discuss the budget of our country.

First, I want to thank Ted Fowler and Grady Rosier for leading this noble effort to make sure that Congress gets the message that fiscal sanity and discipline is important as we fight our war against terror. I want to thank the members of my administration who are here, the Deputy Director of the OMB; I don't know where "The Blade" is, but—[laughter]—he's traveling. But I want to thank you all very much for making up the Fiscal Responsibility Coalition.

Now, last night was not only the night people were supposed to file their taxes, but Congress was supposed to file its budget. The House has, and the Senate hasn't acted yet. But I want you to know that we fulfilled our responsibility.

And I want to talk about budgeting in the face of the war against terror and budgeting in the face of a slowdown in our economy. It's an important issue because sound budgeting is going to determine whether or not—and sound appropriating is going to determine whether or not people are going to be able to find work.

First, I think it's important on any budget to set priorities. And I want to share with you the three priorities that I've set and why I did it. Homeland security: We've doubled the amount of money available for homeland security, because my most important job is to protect our homeland. I need to be able to say to the American people that you can go about your lives because we're doing everything we can to protect you. And we are.

We've got money in our budget for first-time responders—those are your police and your fire and your emergency medical teams—so that they can have a capacity to respond to any emergency that may occur, if one does. We've got money for bioterrorism in our budget. We've got medicines available. We're beefing up the public health units around the country. We've got money in our budget for border security. I mean, let's be frank about it, we've got to know—do a better job about knowing who's coming in and why they're coming into America, how long they intend to stay, and whether or not they're staying for as long as they say they're staying.

We beefed up our Coast Guard to make sure that our ports and—ports of entry are better protected. We're doing a much better job here in America of communicating between law enforcement agencies. We've got money in our budget to modernize the capacity for the FBI to communicate internally, as well as with other law enforcement agencies around the country.

You just need to know that anytime we get any hint that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're responding. We're chasing down every possible lead to make sure the homeland is secure.

But the reality is, is that the way to secure the homeland is to find these killers, wherever they try to hide, and bring them to justice. That's the best way to secure America. I know some Americans wonder what is—how long this is going to go on. The answer is, for however long it takes.

History has called us into action. We're not going to blink. We're not going to get tired. We're going to do what is necessary to defend our freedoms.

I like to tell people in these speeches I'm giving that I can't imagine what went through the mind of the killers. They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-absorbed, that all we were going to do was file a lawsuit. [Laughter] They found out that we think differently here.

And so my budget prioritizes our national defense. It's the biggest increase in the defense budget in 20 years. And there's a couple of reasons why. First, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they've got to have the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay. I mean, we owe it to our soldiers that it be this way.

And secondly, the size of the budget request ought to indicate to the American people that we're in it for the—and the enemy, by the way—that we're in this for the long pull; that there is no calendar on my desk that says, "Oh, by the way, this thing must end by such-and-such a moment." That's just not the way I'm thinking, and it's not the way our military is thinking. And the Congress needs to understand that as well, that it's expensive to fight for freedom, but it's not too expensive because it's freedom we fight for.

These people, these terrorists still want to hit us. They're coldblooded murderers. That's just what they are, and we're denying them places to hide. And slowly but surely, we're going to get them. And just ask their chief operating officer, Abu Zubaydah, what it's like to be on the wrong side of the United States of America. We got him, and America's safer for it, but there's more out there.

I feel the same way, by the way, about nations that are going to develop these weapons of mass destruction, who have got a history of hating America, hating freedom, and using these weapons against their own people, for example. I've got one

country in mind, as I laid out that characteristic. [*Laughter*]

But we can't, for the good of our children and for the sake of our future, allow them ever to team up with an Al Qaida organization and try to hold us hostage or hold the free world hostage. And it's just not going to happen. I'm going to be patient and deliberate, be steady. And our budget reflects that.

And so—and the third priority has been to make sure that we promote economic vitality and growth. And so the priority in the budget was the tax cut that many of you worked on and is now in place. And I will tell you that I remember giving speech after speech after speech saying our economy needs a tax cut. It's important to let people have their own money so that they can spend. And when they do, demand increases, and then somebody will meet that demand with a good or a service, and then somebody will be able to find work. And it made a huge difference in our—in the vitality of our economy that we cut the taxes. Those taxes need to be permanent, by the way. And I look forward to working—[*applause*].

And the budget also included a blueprint for the economic stimulus plan that I signed. And again, I want to thank some of you in this room for working on this—a good thing.

And so I urge Congress to get moving on the appropriations process, particularly when it comes to the Defense bill. Generally, here in Washington, they wait and put the Defense bill out last. I'm not going to read any reasons why into that; it just happens. I'll let the experts tell you why.

It seems like to me, if we're at war—and we are at war—that they ought to get the Defense appropriations bill out first and not play games with the Defense appropriations. And so I'm asking Congress to do that. I've made this clear to the leadership. I had a breakfast; they were—seemed to be very responsive. And now it's time for the appropriators to act.

I also ask Congress to pass the supplemental that we submitted. It's emergency funding for defense and homeland security and economic security, and we'd like to get that done by Memorial Day. It's time for them to get that supplemental passed.

The key, however, in making sure that this all fits together is that Congress understand the consequences of excessive spending beyond the priorities. The budget we submitted sets our priorities, but areas outside of our priorities will increase in expenditure by 2 percent, which is a pretty darn healthy increase in times of war. It means that we're going to meet other obligations. The education bill, for example, is an increase, after a substantial increase from last year.

And one of the things that I'm urging Congress is to make sure that when they begin to think about programs and what they're going to spend the money on, is to think of the lessons of the past. We must not repeat the mistakes in the sixties, when increased spending required by war was not balanced by slower spending in the rest of Government, that the appropriators thought, "What the heck, we'll just spend it on everything without any fiscal discipline in Washington, DC." And as a result, in the seventies, we faced unemployment and growing deficits and spiraling inflation.

In times of—now is the time for us to be responsible when it comes to spending the people's money. That's not to say that it's not always time to be responsible when it comes to spending the people's money, but it's a time to be disciplined. The lesson ought to be clear that when you have excess spending, it's going to cost people their jobs, and Congress has got to be very careful about that.

The recession—no question, I remember when I was campaigning, I said, would you ever deficit spend? Or—and I said, "Yes, only if there were a time of war, or recession, or a national emergency." Never thought we'd get—[*laughter*]. And so we

have a temporary deficit in our budget, because we are at war, we're recovering, our economy is recovering, and we've had a national emergency. But never did I dream we'd have the trifecta. [Laughter]

But the key is to make sure it's as small as possible and to make sure it doesn't last very long. And so you'll hear some who will say, "Well, let's raise taxes as the way to deal with this temporary deficit." That, of course, would slow the economy down. It would make deficits worse.

The best way to make sure that we get rid of this deficit, this short-term, temporary deficit, is to continue stimulating our economy—more jobs, more growth equals more tax revenues—and at the same time, have strong fiscal discipline here in Washington, DC.

If we restrain spending, even though we're at war, even though our economy is still clunking along, if we react responsibly, we can return to a balanced budget—something I want—as early as 2004. But tough choices on Capitol have to be made.

I intend to help them make those choices. I want them to—[applause]. I think we can do so in the spirit of cooperation, focusing on what's best for America. This doesn't have to be a time for harsh partisanship, where people are trying to advance their own political agendas as opposed to focusing on what's best for the country.

What's best for the country is winning the war on terror, buttoning up the homeland, and keeping this economy growing so people can find work. That's what's best for the country. And we don't have to get into needless partisan screeching over the budget. We've got to be wise and reasonable with the people's money.

And we've got to have some goals, and I've set the goals in terms of the war and set the goals in terms of the homeland. Our economy needs to get growing. But we also can focus on making sure we end this deficit. And we can do so, if the United States Congress does not overspend. And

that's what I'm here to ask for your help on.

I know you're interested in our country. I know you're most interested in the budgeting process. And we need your help, to help them hold the line on spending. You've got a tool, and that's called your voice, and the people you work with. And I've got a tool, and that's called a veto. [Laughter] And perhaps—and together—[applause]—I don't think that's going to be necessary, because I believe, in this difficult time for America, there's a common spirit on Capitol Hill and one that we can promote and use for the benefit of the people.

And let me conclude by telling you, as people who've got influence in your communities and around the country, that there is a way you can help fight in this war against terror beyond trying to affect the budget, make sure you keep employing people. And that is, to love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; that if you're interested in fighting evil, do some good. Mentor a child; tell your own children you love them every single day; help a shut-in; get your church or synagogue or mosque to feed the hungry. Always remember there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in America, pockets of—places where—but a place that can be changed, as a result of a loving soul entering someone's life.

The best way to fight evil in America is, do some good. And it's those collective acts of kindness and decency and compassion which will not only—stands America squarely in the face of evil, but which will turn the evil acts done to us as incredible good for people, people all around the country.

This is a great country. There's no doubt in my mind that not only will we be able to achieve peace, but we'll achieve a hopeful America for everybody.

Thank you all for coming, and may God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Fiscal Responsibility Coalition members Theodore M. Fowler, Jr., chairman of the board, National Restaurant Association, and W. Grady Rosier, chairman of the

board, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors; Deputy Director Nancy Dorn and Director Mitchell Daniels, Jr., Office of Management and Budget; and Abu Zubaydah, a leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization who was captured March 28.

Remarks at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia April 17, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. At ease. Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. General Myers, thank you. General Bunting and General Casey, Secretary Marsh, Congressman Goodlatte, Albert Beveridge, members of the corps of cadets, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to thank you for your warm welcome and thank you for inviting me to one of America's great institutions. I brought along a little graduation present. I'm sure you'll like it; some of you will need it. [Laughter] As Commander in Chief, I hereby grant amnesty. [Applause] General Bunting, I'm sure you can tell who needed it. [Laughter] And I know you'll be generous in the interpretation of this doctrine. [Laughter]

I want to congratulate the winners of the George C. Marshall ROTC Award. The more than 260 young men and women who represent—the winners represent the best of our country and the best future for the United States Army. You stand out among the nearly 30,000 young Americans who are today enrolled in the Army ROTC, the officers who will serve in the military of the future and one day will lead it.

A majority of the Army's current officers started out in the ROTC. For nearly 90 years, this great program has developed leaders and shaped character. Those looking for idealism on the college campuses of America will find it in the men and women of the ROTC. ROTC's traditions

and values are a contribution and a credit to every college and every university where they're found.

Secretary of State Colin Powell was in the ROTC at City College of New York, an experience that helped set the course of his life. In his own words, he said this: "The order, the self-discipline, the pride that had been instilled in me by our ROTC prepared me well for my Army career or, for that matter, any career I might have chosen." Colin Powell's career has taken him from service in Vietnam to the top rank in the military and now on a peace mission to the Middle East. America is fortunate and I am proud to have ROTC graduate Colin Powell serving our country.

Only one other Army general has gone on to serve as Secretary of State, and that was George Marshall himself, VMI's highest ranking cadet in the class of 1901.

As Army Chief of Staff, General Marshall became the architect of America's victory in the Second World War. He fought tenaciously against our enemies and then worked just as hard to secure the peace. President Truman considered George C. Marshall the greatest man he knew. Above all, said Winston Churchill, Marshall "always fought victoriously against defeatism, discouragement, and disillusionment." The key to morale and to victory, Marshall said, is "steadfastness and courage and hope."

And today, we are called to defend freedom against ruthless enemies. And once