

these trees—[*inaudible*]. They say in Texas that if you were to—if you were to clear land of cedars, you'd increase the water supply by 30 percent. They're real water hogs.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. There is a—they say a species called the—[*inaudible*—uses the old cedar to build nests. So we maintain the old cedar.

Q. Have you ever seen one?

The President. Well, this county doesn't have them, but I'm leaving them anyway. See the big oaks in here? This country is a good part of the ranch.

Here's a little tank that we—[*inaudible*—stock with bass.

Q. So you've got the roads numbered here, right?

The President. Well, these are intersections.

Q. I thought there was. [*Laughter*]

The President. No, no.

Q. Go down to 63 and 34 and get me a—

The President. Exactly. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'm warm now.

The President. Good.

That's a really interesting stand of hardwoods up in there, about 80 acres of them. Great country through here. At the very end of it is the type of canyons we've cleared out. I'd take you back there, but it's really too wet.

Q. Do you hunt here?

The President. I don't, but some of them do. They come up here—I let them come

up here and take deer off and maintain the proper buck-to-doe ratio. You overpopulate, you get—[*inaudible*]. I don't let them shoot the turkeys.

Q. You love the turkeys.

The President. But I do let them shoot the dove. I've shot dove here. The dove season starts Labor Day, and generally we're not here.

Q. Sir, will you let us do a little bit of this before we go in the house?

The President. Yes. [*Inaudible*—don't watch TV. There's my man, Barney, standing guard. [*Laughter*] Do you want to do it right here?

Q. We'll get the camera wherever you want.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:51 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens; ranch foreman Kenneth Engelbrecht; Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan referred to White House Staff Secretary Harriet Miers. Reporters referred to Maxwell Gregory, son of David Gregory, NBC News; Senator John Edwards of North Carolina; John Bridgeland, Executive Director, USA Freedom Corps; John Evert, executive director and director of player development, Evert Tennis Academy; and professional tennis players Chris Evert and Jana Novotna. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters in Crawford January 2, 2003

2004 Election/President's Agenda

Q. Sir, there's another Democrat has thrown his hat into the ring today, John Edwards. What do you think of the Democrat strategy to essentially say that you're

not keeping America safe enough? You've heard some of that from some of the speeches.

The President. Oh, you know, I understand politics, and I'm not paying attention

to politics. I'm going to continue doing the job the American people expect, which is to safeguard America and Americans.

We've got a war on our hands. There is a terrorist network that still is interested in harming Americans, and we will hunt them down. There are countries which are developing weapons of mass destruction, and we will deal with them appropriately.

One country is Iraq. Obviously, we expect them to live up to the U.N. Security resolutions and disarm. And if they won't, we'll lead a coalition to disarm them.

Another country is North Korea. And we are working with friends and allies in the region to explain clearly to North Korea it's not in their nation's interest to develop and proliferate weapons of mass destruction. It was right here at this spot where Jiang Zemin, the leader of China, and myself got together, and we put out a joint declaration that we expect for the Korean Peninsula to be nuclear-weapons-free. That was a serious statement. I believe the situation with North Korea will be resolved peacefully. As I said, it's a diplomatic issue, not a military issue, and we're working all fronts.

North Korea

Q. Can I follow that up? You said it could be resolved diplomatically. You were quoted not long ago saying that you loathe Kim Chong-il. How can you—

The President. Well, what I worry about with a leader like Kim Chong-il is somebody who starves his people. The United States of America is the largest—one of the largest, if not the largest donor of food to the North Korean people. And one of the reasons why the people are starving is because the leader of North Korea hasn't seen to it that their economy is strong or that they be fed. We've got a great heart, but I have no heart for somebody who starves his folks.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, when you look forward and think about economic stimulus—we're beginning a new year—and the stock market people nursing some losses, what are your views about that? And secondly, are you sensitive to the idea that a stimulus is too weighted toward helping the wealthiest Americans, and are you making choices based on that, to help the middle income—

The President. Well, what I'm worried about is job creation. And I'm worried about those who are unemployed. I am concerned about those who are looking for work but can't find work. And so next week when I talk about an economic stimulus package, I will talk about how to create jobs, how best to create jobs, as well as how to take care of those who don't have a job.

I'm concerned about all the people. And I don't view the politics of—you know, I understand the politics of economic stimulus—that some would like to turn this into class warfare. That's not how I think. I think about the overall economy and how best to help those folks who are looking for work.

Q. Do you—will you propose new tax cuts? Do you think they're necessary now for the economy?

The President. I'm looking at all options. And of course, if I knew the answer, I probably wouldn't tell you now, because I'd like for you to come and pay attention to the speech.

Q. I'll do that.

The President. I know you'll do that.

North Korea

Q. Can I go back to Korea?

The President. Sure.

Q. You're talking about a diplomatic solution, and you believe that there is one. How do you think you can bring some of

the other countries in the region that are reluctant right now—

The President. Well, I don't think the countries are reluctant to—

Q. —reluctant to put pressure on.

The President. They may be putting pressure on, and you just don't know about it. But I know that they're not reluctant when it comes to the idea of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. And we are in constant contact with the Japanese and the South Koreans and the Chinese and the Russians. As I said—and the decision to cut off fuel oil was a joint decision. It was not a U.S. decision; it was jointly made with the South Koreans and the Japanese and the European Union, for that matter.

It's important for the American people to remember the history of Kim Chong-il. He created some international tension, and the United States of America went and signed an agreement with him. And the agreement was that we'd provide—along with others, we'd provide fuel oil and help, and in return, he would not enrich uranium. But it turns out he was enriching uranium. And we blew the whistle on the fact that he was in violation of the '94 agreement. And the parties to that agreement came together and said, "Well, in return for him making that decision, in terms of him abrogating the agreement, there will be a consequence." And that's where we stand right now.

So the parties have come together. There has been a joint declaration of intent. And we will continue working to resolve the situation.

Yes, Holly [Holly Rosenkrantz, Bloomberg News].

Iraq/National Economy

Q. Thank you, sir.

The President. I'm tired of these people calling you Heidi.

Q. I appreciate you—

The President. And I will correct them—*[laughter]*—particularly on camera.

Q. If we do have to go to war and—

The President. With which country?

Q. With Iraq. And if—and with our economy stagnating, what makes you confident that we can afford—

The President. First of all, you know, I'm hopeful we won't have to go war, and let's leave it at that.

Q. But if we do, though, what—

The President. Until Saddam Hussein makes up his mind to disarm—see, it's his choice to make. See, you need to ask him that question, not me.

Q. But the White House is drawing up plans to pay for the war, if we come to that. So why—

The President. Well, let's leave it at "if," for a while then, until it happens.

Q. So you don't want to talk about whether our economy could sustain it, if that's a possibility?

The President. I thought that was the question I answered yesterday, so we'll go back to that question, Heidi. I mean, Holly.

Q. Thank you, sir.

2004 Election

Q. How do you size up the Democrats who are in line to oppose you? What do you think of Senator—

The President. Not paying attention to it yet, not paying attention to the race yet. I've got a lot on my agenda and a lot on my platter. And I understand politics. I know there's going to be a lot of verbiage and a lot of noise and a lot of posturing and a lot of elbowing. To me, that's just going to be background noise. My job is to protect the American people and work to create confidence in our economy so that people can find work.

Q. On some level, were you getting ready for a rematch and hoping for a rematch with Al Gore?

The President. Really wasn't paying much attention to it, Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News]. I seriously was—I've got my mind on the peace and security of the American people. And politics will sort itself out. And one of these days, somebody

will emerge, and we'll tee it up and see who the American people want to lead. And until that happens, I'm going to be doing my job.

National Economy

Q. One more thing, any thoughts for the American investor going into this new year?

The President. Well, hopefully the American investor realizes that the—this economy is pretty darn strong, given the fact that we have been through a recession and a terrorist attack, a breach of corporate confidence because of some malfeasance. And yet the economy still grows. That's very positive.

Now, I recognize that there are some uncertainties. But one thing is certain, that the economy of the United States is strong and resilient. And we must put policies in place to enhance that resiliency and enhance that strength.

Border and Homeland Security

Q. Sir, you asked or you talked the other day about authorizing an APB for those five people that were wanted by the FBI for coming into this country. Today one guy from Pakistan says that he is one of those people on those pictures, and he has never been to the United States.

The President. Well, we need to follow up on forged passports and people trying to come into our country illegally. The American people need to know that anytime we get a hint that somebody might be coming into our country to cause harm, we'll follow up on it. And you know, if we think there's a smuggling ring that's willing to smuggle people in that might harm America, we'll deal with it.

And there's—you know, and if this fellow is one of them—and I think they're trying to check that out right now. And as I recall, the story—I haven't fully read it all—but as I recall, it said he had a false passport. I'm kind of curious to know why he needs a false passport. We like things aboveboard here in America.

We want people coming to our country that wants to take—that wants to either visit this great country or study in this great country or see relatives in this great country and do so in a peaceful and lawful way. And people have a feeling like they've got to travel here with false passports sends a pretty alarming signal to those of us who are involved with the security of the country.

Q. Do you have the suspicion that there is a smuggling ring that may not have specific terrorist ties, but that there's a ring of—

The President. I'm not sure what the—you know, how to detail. All I can tell you is that we were concerned and alerted to the fact that somebody might be coming into the country. There are—having said that, there are a lot of smuggling rings that we're dealing with. The INS needs to deal with that. And the new Homeland Security Department will be dealing with smuggling rings, like the “coyotes” right south of here that are smuggling people across and treating those poor people—stuffing them into these trailers and abusing them. They need to be dealt with as well. Most of the smuggling rings are not terrorist related, but if we get a hint, a whiff that some of them are, we'll deal with them.

All right, let's go get some coffee.

Situation in Iraq

Q. One more. Are you satisfied that the inspectors are getting to Saddam's weapon scientists?

The President. He is a man who likes to play games and charades. The question is, will Saddam Hussein disarm? The world has asked him to disarm from weapons of mass destruction. The first indication isn't very positive that he will voluntarily disarm. After all, he put out a declaration that the world realized was false. And the inspectors are there to verify whether or not he is disarming. You hear these reports about Iraqi scientists being interviewed, but there's a “minder” in the room.

You know, Saddam Hussein—hopefully he realizes we're serious, and hopefully he disarms peacefully. He's a danger to the American people. He's a danger to our friends and allies. For 11 long years, the world has dealt with him. And now he's got to understand, his day of reckoning is coming. And therefore, he must disarm voluntarily. I hope he does.

All right, let's go get a coffee.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:14 p.m. during a walking tour of the Bush Ranch. In the exchange, the President referred to President Jiang Zemin of China; Chairman Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Libya *January 2, 2003*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Libya emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 7, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on January 4, 2002 (67 FR 637).

The crisis between the United States and Libya that led to the declaration on January 7, 1986, of a national emergency has not been resolved. Despite the United Nations Security Council's suspension of U.N. sanctions against Libya upon the Libyan government's hand-over of the Pan Am 103

bombing suspects, Libya has not yet complied with its obligations under U.N. Security Council Resolutions 731 (1992), 748 (1992), and 883 (1993), which include Libya's obligation to accept responsibility for the actions of its officials and pay compensation.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Libya and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Libya to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 3. The notice of January 2 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.