

We—so I get out a coffee—of course, got Laura some coffee first thing in the morning. And I look out my window, and there's the Prime Minister ready to go for a stroll. So I hustled and got dressed, and we went for a good walk. And I'll tell you something, the guy—I'm a pretty good athlete—he walks a good clip. I was breathing hard, and Barney was breathing harder. [Laughter] We had trouble keeping up with him.

But one of my favorite things to do is to show this place to friends. And so the Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard and Laura and I went—traveled the ranch. And I took him to my favorite spot, which is this canyon, and there's a waterfall. It rained a couple of days ago—actually last night—so the water was moving pretty good. And it's just a special part of the ranch.

We've got a lot of different variety of hardwood on this ranch. It's hard to tell it from this spot, but north of here, and—there's a creek and intersection to a river, and there's some just fantastic trees in these bottoms. And John and I went and spent some time down there.

We visited a lot about our mutual interests. He's obviously very knowledgeable about a lot of the world. And we spent a lot of time talking about Indonesia and the threats that emanate out of Indonesia and what the Australian Government is doing to work with the Indonesian Government to make Australian people—and America, for that matter—more secure.

We had a pretty good dinner last night—a little beef. And fortunately, the Prime

Minister wanted to go to bed early, because I did too. [Laughter] And we had a great visit. We'll go and have a lunch—one more tour of the ranch and have a lunch. The one thing I regret is he didn't go fishing with me yesterday afternoon. He wanted a little rest, but I love having him here.

I can't tell you what a comfort it is to talk to him on the phone. He's steady. You know, times get tough when you make tough decisions, and we both made a tough decision, but there was never any doubt in his mind. He was steady under fire. He stood his ground when he needed to stand his ground, because he understands the difference between right and wrong. And he knows the difference between slavery and freedom. And I'm honored to call him friend, and really am glad he's here.

Thank you all very much. Hope you enjoy your stay in this part of the world. By the way, they tell me Australia and Texas, they've got a lot in common. Having to watch this man perform, I agree. [Laughter] The biggest compliment you can pay to somebody, at least in this part of the world, is you're kind of like a Texan. [Laughter] Thank you.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you.

President Bush. Okay, Barney, come on. Quit showing off. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:17 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein, former Information Minister Muhammad Said Kazim al-Sahhaf (Baghdad Bob), and former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz of Iraq.

Statement on the Earthquake in Turkey's Bingöl Province May 3, 2003

I extend my condolences to those injured and to the families of the victims of the recent earthquake in Turkey's Bingöl Prov-

ince. I am particularly saddened by the number of children who were killed and injured. The thoughts and prayers of the

American people are with those directly affected by this tragedy and with the entire

Turkish nation. The United States stands ready to help in any way possible.

Remarks in Little Rock, Arkansas
May 5, 2003

Thank you so very much. So I'm on my way back from Crawford to Washington, and what the heck, I thought I'd stop into Arkansas. [*Laughter*] It's great to be back in Arkansas, a land full of really decent people. And it's—as you know, I was honored to be the Governor of the great State of Texas, and some of my best trips were into the State of Arkansas when I was down there. And I'm glad to be back. And thank you all for coming.

Before we begin, I do want to say how—I express my sincerest condolences to the victims of the tornadoes that ripped through Arkansas and Kansas and Missouri, Tennessee, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Our prayers—and I hope your prayers—are with those who—loved ones who lost life or those who lost their home. The Federal Government—the local—State and local authorities need to know the Federal Government will be moving as quickly as we possibly can to provide help where help is needed and where help is justified. Nature is awfully tough at times. And the best thing we can do right now is to pray for those who have suffered.

I had a good time on our ranch. One of the guests that we had down there was the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard, and his wife. The reason why we welcomed them there is because Australia is an important ally of ours. Australia is a strong friend of the United States of America. The Australians fought beside our forces in Iraq. They were a part of our coalition, a coalition that believes in peace and security, a coalition which believes every person ought to be free. They rose to their responsibilities as a free nation.

Because of their hard work and because of the bravery and skill of our military and because of the bravery and skill of our coalition, America is more secure; the world is more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are free.

When I get back to Washington, Congress has got important business to finish. I want to talk about some of that business here today. Four months ago, I sent the United States Congress a jobs-and-growth package that would provide tax relief to American workers and families.

Last Friday, we got some troubling economic news. The unemployment rate is now at 6 percent. This news ought to serve as a clear signal to the United States Congress that we need a bold economic recovery plan, so people in America who want to work can find a job. And part of a good economic plan must understand the importance of small business. And that's why I went to a roundtable discussion that Richard talked about, so I could hear from small-business owners and employees of small businesses, the entrepreneurs of America that make this economy go.

By far, the vast majority of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners, so we spent time listening to small-business owners here in the State of Arkansas. And I want to thank you all very much for sharing your stories and talking about your hopes and your aspirations and your dreams for your companies.

I also want to thank Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, for joining us here today. Hector, I'm glad you're here. You're doing a fine job of making sure the ownership