

Mad Cow Disease

Q. Your administration has announced some measures with regard to mad cow.

The President. Did we do what?

Q. With regard to mad cow, do you think there is more that needs to be done, and——

The President. Well, I've talked to Secretary Veneman about this issue. I told her that I want her to take the steps necessary to make sure that the food supply is safe and that the American consumer can be confident. And she is looking at different ways to do that. As a matter of fact, she announced some measures the other day.

Q. How much time do you think Americans can feel safe eating beef?

The President. I think they should be. As a matter of fact, I ate beef today and will continue to eat beef.

Thank you all very much.

President's New Year's Resolution

Q. What are you going to do for your New Year's resolution?

The President. Oh, my New Year's resolution this year is to work—stay physically fit to the point where I can run—in other words, rehab my knee. I miss running. The elliptical machine is good, but it just doesn't have that same sense of—that running gave me. So that's one of my resolutions, which may require eating less desserts, kind of getting a little trimmer, to take the pressure off the knee.

I wish everybody a happy New Year, and 2004 is going to be a great year for this country. It's going to be a year in which the world will become more peaceful and more people will be able to find work, and that's important.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:32 p.m. at the Brooks County Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and President Hu Jintao of China. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

*Statement on Representative Ralph M. Hall's Joining the Republican Party
January 2, 2004*

I welcome Congressman Ralph Hall to the Republican Party. Ralph is a close friend of the Bush family. He is a well-respected leader of the highest integrity

and a tireless advocate for the people of Texas. We have worked closely together on the important challenges facing our Nation. I strongly support his re-election.

*The President's Radio Address
January 3, 2004*

Good morning. Two years ago this month, I signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, the most important reform of public education in a generation.

In that landmark law, we made our expectations clear: Every child in America will learn to read, write, add, and subtract

at grade level. Schools are now required to test children regularly to make sure students are learning and that schools are teaching well.

And when schools do not show progress toward high standards, we're giving parents better options, including tutoring for their