

Remarks at a Presidential Luncheon in Little Rock November 18, 2004

Thank you all. Mr. President, thank you very much, sir. Senator Clinton and Chelsea, Mother and Dad—it works every time when I say “Mother,” you know? [*Laughter*] President Zedillo and Prime Minister Peres and distinguished guests: Laura and I are really pleased to be with you this afternoon. Thanks for such gracious hospitality. It is our honor to join in dedicating this magnificent library. The tour was fantastic. The people of Arkansas are going to love having the library here. The people of America are going to love coming here. It’s really well done.

I know many here today were involved in creating this impressive library. I want to thank you for contributing and helping. And I know many here who served in the administration that is chronicled here. All of you were drawn to the talent and the vision and the energy of President Bill Clinton.

Today we recognize the first person from Arkansas to serve as the Chief Executive of our country, the first in his party to win reelection since Franklin Roosevelt, and a leader who filled the White House with energy and with joy.

During 8 eventful years, Bill Clinton applied tremendous gifts to the service of this country and for the cause of peace, and we’re grateful for his service. Americans trusted their future to a man who deeply

believed in our future. And Americans continued to like the man that he so clearly liked.

One man’s journey from Hope, Arkansas, to the White House, the story told in this library, is an American story. It’s a story of talent recognized early and lifelong friendships and hard work that was rewarded. The boy who shook the hand of John F. Kennedy in the Rose Garden has shaken the hands of many young people and inspired them with his idealism. And this library will carry that message into the future.

Americans look to our former Presidents as elder statesmen. In the case of President Clinton, the elder statesman is about one month younger than I am. [*Laughter*] His public service came early, and his service to America has not ended. So on this special afternoon I ask you to join me in a toast: To the past and to the future of our Nation’s 42d President.

God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in a pavilion at the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park. In his remarks, he referred to former President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico; and former Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Budget Amendment for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program November 19, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2005 budget amendment for the

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program in the Department of Health and Human Services. I designate \$300 million

in requested contingency funding for this program as an emergency requirement.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

Remarks Following Discussions With President Hu Jintao of China in
Santiago, Chile
November 20, 2004

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for this very frank exchange. I told the President that I look forward to working with him over the next 4 years to continue our close work on keeping peace—peace on the Korean Peninsula and peace throughout the Pacific region—and to spread peace throughout the world. And I'm looking forward to working with him on those matters.

We also spent time talking about our economic relationships, about how we'll work over the next 4 years to continue to spread prosperity to both our people, to make sure the relationship is fair and equitable on both sides.

I invited President Hu to come and visit the United States as soon as he can, and he invited me to China. Neither of us committed because we don't have our schedules in front of us, but nonetheless, we did commit to make sure our relationship is healthy and strong.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Hu. Friends from the press, I just had a talk with President Bush through which we covered many grounds. I first re-offered my congratulations to him on his reelection to the—Presidency of the United States. We together reviewed how much this relationship has come in the past 4 years. We expressed satisfaction over the

positive programs made in a constructive and cooperative relationship between the two countries.

We agree that the second term of President Bush will be an important period for continued development of China-U.S. relations. We are also committed to stronger coordination and cooperation between the two countries on economic matters and in terrorism, as well as important international and regional issues.

We also exchanged views on the question of Taiwan. I expressed my high appreciation to President Bush's adherence to the one-China policy and the three communiques and to his opposition to Taiwan independence.

We also discussed the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. Both sides expressed the hope that the issue can be solved peacefully through dialog.

I would like to thank President Bush for inviting me to visit the United States, and I have also invited him to visit China. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:18 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Santiago. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.