

President Bush. Yo le comprendo. Vamos a comer. [Laughter] I told him I understood him. We're going to go eat. Thank you very much. Appreciate you. *Gracias.*

Q. What's on the menu? What's on the menu?

President Bush. Carne.

Q. Carne.

President Bush. Necesito preguntar a mi esposa. I've been thinking about business. She's been thinking about the food.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:47 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In

his remarks, he referred to National Aeronautics and Space Administration Administrator Sean O'Keefe; Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad and senior Al Qaida associate; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. President Uribe referred to Columbia's Ambassador to the U.S. Luis Alberto Moreno Mejia, President-elect, Inter-American Development Bank. President Uribe spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter, except where noted above.

The President's Radio Address August 6, 2005

Good morning. As families across the country enjoy the summer, Americans can be optimistic about our economic future.

In the past 4 years, our economy has been through a lot. We faced a stock market decline, a recession, corporate scandals, an attack on our homeland, and the demands of an ongoing war on terror. To grow the economy and help American families, we acted by passing the largest tax relief in a generation. And today, thanks to the tax relief and the efforts of America's workers and entrepreneurs, our economy is strong and growing stronger.

This past week, we learned that America added over 200,000 new jobs in July. Since May of 2003, we've added nearly 4 million new jobs. The unemployment rate is down to 5 percent, below the average of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. And more Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history.

Recent economic reports show that our economy is growing faster than any other major industrialized nation. Small businesses are flourishing. Workers are taking home more of what they earn. Real disposable personal income has grown by over

12 percent since the end of 2000. Inflation is low, and mortgage rates are low. And over the past year, the homeownership rate in America has reached record levels.

The tax relief stimulated economic vitality and growth, and it has helped increase revenues to the Treasury. The increased revenues and our spending restraint have led to good progress in reducing the Federal deficit. Last month we learned that the deficit is now projected to be \$94 billion less than previously expected. I set a goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009, and we are ahead of pace to meet that goal.

To continue creating jobs and to ensure that our prosperity reaches every corner of America, we're opening markets abroad for our goods and services. This past week, I was proud to sign the Central American-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. This historic agreement will level the playing field for America's workers and farmers and open up a market of 44 million customers for products made in the United States.

To keep our economy growing, we also need affordable, reliable supplies of energy.

Next week in New Mexico, I'll sign a bipartisan energy bill that encourages conservation, expands domestic production in environmentally sensitive ways, diversifies our energy supply, modernizes our electricity grid, and makes America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. And next Wednesday in Illinois, I'll sign a highway bill that will improve the safety of our roads, strengthen our transportation infrastructure, and create good jobs.

Our economy is strong, yet I will not be satisfied until every American who wants to work can find a job. So this coming Tuesday, I will meet with my economic team in Texas to discuss our agenda to keep the economy moving forward. As Congress considers appropriations bills this fall, we will work with the House and the Senate to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely or not at all.

We need to make the tax relief permanent, end the death tax forever, and make our Tax Code simpler, fairer, and more pro-growth. We'll continue working on Social Security reform. Social Security is

sound for today's seniors, but there's a hole in the safety net for our younger workers, so I'll work with the Congress to strengthen Social Security for our children and grandchildren. I'll continue to press for legal reform to protect small businesses, doctors, and hospitals from junk lawsuits. And we will work to make health care more affordable and accessible for all Americans.

The American economy is the envy of the world, and we will keep it that way. We will continue to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of America so more of our citizens can realize the American Dream.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:25 a.m. on August 5 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Waco, Texas, on the Death of Peter Jennings *August 8, 2005*

Laura and I were saddened to learn about the death of Peter Jennings. Peter Jennings had a long and distinguished career as a news journalist. He covered many important events, events that helped define the world as we know it today. A lot of Americans relied upon Peter Jennings for their news. He became a part of the lives

of a lot of our fellow citizens, and he will be missed. May God bless his soul.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:52 a.m. at Texas State Technical College. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.