

And so I met the Krissoffs. Mr. Krissoff is a 60-year-old guy—I shouldn't be calling him "mister" because I'm a little older than he is—[laughter]—but he's a baby boomer just like me and a successful doctor. He said something very interesting to me. He said that he wanted to honor his country and honor his son by joining the military. I looked at the guy and said, yes, okay. [Laughter] I said, "Why don't you?" He said, "Well, some of the folks think I'm a little old." [Laughter] I said, "I don't," with him being a younger fella. [Laughter] So I helped him. And in the—Laura's box at the State of the Union sat Lieutenant Commander Bill Krissoff, serving the United States of America.

Ours is a fabulous country. We are a dedicated, compassionate people, aiming to lay the foundation of peace for generations to come. I told you early, some see the world and tremble; I see the world and see opportunities. And the great opportunity before us is to lay the foundation of peace, and that is exactly what we're doing. God bless.

Thank you all. Okay, I got a little bit of business to do. If you don't mind sitting down for just a second, I am now going to sign this 15-day extension to give Members of the House and the Senate time to get this bill to my desk for the sake of our security. And thank you for witnessing this.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

Thank you all very much. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. at the Emerald at Queensridge. In his remarks, he referred to Ranson W. Webster, chairman of the board of directors, and Sharon J. Rossie, president, Nevada Policy Research Institute; Gov. James A. Gibbons of Nevada; former Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. He also referred to Executive Order 13457, which is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume; and H.R. 5104, approved January 31, which was assigned Public Law No. 110–182.

Remarks on Signing the American Heart Month Proclamation in Kansas City, Missouri February 1, 2008

The President. Joyce, thank you for joining me.

Joyce Cullen. Thank you.

The President. Joyce is here to join me as I sign a proclamation declaring February American Heart Month.

Part of the reason she is here is because she understands what Laura understands and what a lot of Americans are coming to understand, is that heart disease is the number-one killer of both women and men—

Ms. Cullen. Yes.

The President. —and that through awareness of this disease, people are more

likely to be able to recognize symptoms and deal with it.

And so there's what we call the Heart Truth Campaign, the Red Dress Campaign. And Laura is very much involved with that. She's in New York today at a fashion show heralding the Heart Truth Campaign. Joyce is with me because when Laura was here last in Kansas City, she went to St. Luke's Hospital and talked about the importance for people to recognize the symptoms of heart disease. Joyce had such symptoms, went to the hospital, and prevented a serious heart disease and heart attack and sits here with the President.

Ms. Cullen. How about that.

The President. But more importantly, she's very much a part of the Heart Truth Campaign here in Kansas City.

Ms. Cullen. Yes.

The President. And she's helping people understand two things: one, to be able to recognize the symptoms, and secondly, be able to prevent the symptoms from happening in the first place.

Now, people need to have screenings and checkups; people need to live healthy lives, through exercise and no tobacco. In other words, the decisions we make will affect whether or not our hearts remain strong.

And so I want to thank you for being a strong leader—

Ms. Cullen. Thank you.

The President.—in the campaign for awareness. And so it's my honor, Joyce, to join you in—as you watch me sign this proclamation declaring February American Heart Month.

[At this point, the President signed the proclamation.]

Thank you. You bet. Thank you for being here. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:28 a.m. at the InterContinental Kansas City Hotel. The American Heart Month proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at Hallmark Cards, Inc., in Kansas City February 1, 2008

Thank you all. Thank you for letting me come by to say hello. A couple of observations: One, you work for a fabulous company of caring people. I appreciate, Don, your hospitality. I am still trying to recover from the kindergarten experience. [Laughter] I mean, you talk about sapping a person's energy. [Laughter] But it was a fabulous experience.

I got to see Hallmark cards being made, and the fella kindly made me one that said, "For your daughters." It was sweet; it just didn't have any warning in there about how to conduct myself for the upcoming wedding. [Laughter]

I'm here in Kansas City for a couple of reasons. One, I do want to spend a little time on the economy. I had breakfast this morning with entrepreneurs, small-business owners. I want to find out what's on their mind. I will tell you that there's a sense of optimism, I was pleased to hear. People are confident about the future—at least, these businessowners were—and they should be. Interest rates are low; inflation

is low; productivity is high. But there are certainly some troubling signs. There's serious signs that the economy is weakening and that we got to do something about it.

Today we got such a sign when after 52 consecutive months of job creation, we lost 17,000 jobs. The unemployment rate went down, but nevertheless, a serious matter is, is that for the first time in 52 months that we didn't create jobs.

And so the question is, what do we do about it? Does Government have a responsibility, and if so, what is it? I do think Government has a responsibility. I think Government can take decisive action to help us deal with this period of uncertainty.

One such action is to help people stay in their homes. We got—some of our citizens purchased mortgages that they can't afford now. Hopefully, the reason—hopefully, they didn't get deceived, and if they did, the Government has a responsibility to take care of that. In other words, we don't want people buying a mortgage and