

World Trade Center Bombing

Q. Mr. President, I'm wondering if you and perhaps Mayor Dinkins could update us on the investigation in New York of the World Trade Center bombing. Yesterday you indicated you'd have more to say after the arraignment of this one suspect.

The President. Anything else I can say is something I've already read in the morning press. You now know more about the profile of the person who was arrested, and you've seen the speculation about it. I do not want to feed that speculation. I will say again I am very impressed with the work done by the law enforcement officials. They got on this. They did it in a hurry. They would admit there was a break or two in their inquiry, but they also, I think, did a very commendable job.

I think it is very important not to rush the judgment here, not to reach ahead of the facts which are known to reach broad conclusions about who was behind this or what happened. When I know who was behind this and what happened, I will then determine what the appropriate course for the United States is, and I will say it. But I think it is very, very important, and this is a delicate matter, that we reassure the American people in terms of what law enforcement did in response to the incident.

But we ask them not to jump to conclusions. We have massive resources at work on this case, massive. And we are doing everything we can to get as many facts as quickly as we can. When we know the facts and when I can state them to you with real confidence so that it's not conjecture or opinion, I will be glad to make a very forthright statement about it.

Thank you.

Dave, do you want to say anything else?

Mayor David Dinkins. The President has said it all. As a matter of fact, the Department of Justice has requested that the New York City Police Department and all others involved in this effort stay within the confines of the complaint. And while it is easy to go a little beyond that because you think it won't be harmful, you really get to a slippery slope situation, and some unfortunate comment can impede an otherwise very successful investigation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:46 a.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Bill Althaus, Mayor of York, PA.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Catholic Bishops

March 5, 1993

Bosnia

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us any more about the Bosnian sanctions that you're putting on today?

The President. No, we'll have more to say.

Q. Are these going to be unilateral or through the United Nations?

The President. We'll put it out—I'm not—everything we've done on the sanctions so far is, and all of the things I've explored with our allies has pretty well been supported by everyone.

Q. Are the Russians sending arms to Serbia, sir?

The President. I'm in a photo op. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:21 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks Welcoming the Super Bowl Champion Dallas Cowboys

March 5, 1993

The President. It's about time we had somebody with real popularity in here. [*Laughter*] I want to say it is a great pleasure and honor for all of us to have the Dallas Cowboys in the East Room. Four years ago they were about 1 and 15, and 4 years later they won the Super Bowl. In the parlance of Washington we call that deficit reduction. [*Laughter*]

I want to say a special word of appreciation to Jimmy Johnson and Jerry Jones. I watched them win a national championship for Arkansas 30 years ago before most of the players

were born. And I've been cheering them on ever since. Most of the people in our State were Cowboy fans even before Arkansas got its hands on the Cowboys.

I also want to say something very serious. I watched this team over the last year win the way I think Americans win best. They hung in there. They were strong. They were dedicated. They started a lot of games slow, and they always finished fast. And that's what we have to do as a country. We have to endure. We have to never quit, and we have to finish fast. And I think that the country was very thrilled just to watch the renaissance of the Cowboys over the last couple of years.

Let me also say I had a very great political dilemma because the Super Bowl occurred the night I hosted the state dinner for the Governors. So, I had the Governor of New York and the Governor of Texas sitting on either side of me in the beginning of the game before it was obvious what the outcome would be. I was tested as never before in trying to maintain a poker face about the game. [Laughter] But you made it easy for us after a couple of quarters.

Let me say, again, on behalf of the Vice President and myself to you, Jerry, and to you, Jimmy, and to all the Cowboys, we're grateful to have you here.

And I understand that this is Michael Irving's birthday, is that right?

Jimmy Johnson. He probably just made that up. [Laughter]

The President. Is that right? Is that right? Is it your birthday? Come up here. How old are you? I said, "How old are you?" He said, "27, but tell them 24." [Laughter] Have you ever considered running for office? [Laughter] Can you imagine that, 27 years old and wealthy enough to retire the national debt. [Laughter] Well, happy birthday. I hope you'll have many more. You may not be able to have any years better than this one, but I hope you have many more at least as good.

[At this point, Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones made a statement.]

Mr. Johnson. Mr. President, it is a tremendous thrill and tremendous honor for all of us to make you an official member of the Dallas Cowboys as a reserve quarterback.

The President. Thank you. I'm just going to sit around now and wait for my number to be called. [Laughter] I'm going to start practicing this afternoon. You know, it's never too late.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Announcement of Nomination for Two Sub-Cabinet Posts

March 5, 1993

The President today announced his intention to nominate Bruce Vladek to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services and Norma Cantu to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education.

"I am very pleased to make these nominations today to two extremely important positions," said the President. "Bruce Vladek and Norma Cantu are highly talented individuals with unique qualifications for the leadership roles that I have asked them to take."

Vladek has been president of the United Hospital Fund of New York since 1983. Prior to that, he was assistant vice president of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. From 1979 to 1982, he was the State of New Jersey's assistant commissioner of health planning and resources development. He has also been an associate professor of political science at Columbia University and an associate social scientist with the New York City-Rand Institute. He earned his B.A. from Harvard University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan.

Norma Cantu is the southwestern regional counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), a position she has held since 1985. She has also served MALDEF as the national director of a Carnegie endowment-funded education, litigation, and advocacy project and as a staff attorney on the Chicana Rights Project. In addition, she has also worked with the nursing home task force of the Texas attorney general's office and has been an English teacher in San Antonio and Brownsville, TX.