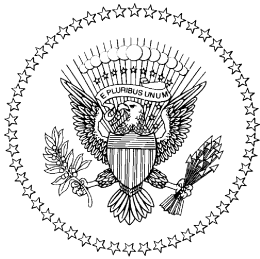


Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, February 19, 2001  
Volume 37—Number 7  
Pages 279–297

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**Editor's Note:** The President was in San Cristobal, Mexico, on February 16, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

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## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, February 16, 2001

**The President's Radio Address**

*February 10, 2001*

Good morning. This past week I have been making the case for tax reductions. I've asked Congress to act quickly on my tax relief plan, so that Americans can face these uncertain economic times with more of their own money. I will continue to make that case until relief has passed.

And next week I will also focus on another important issue, our national security. This is the most basic commitment of America's Government and the greatest responsibility of an American President. Our Nation's ideals inspire the world, but our Nation's ships and planes and armies must defend these ideals and sustain our allies and friends.

American influence is unquestioned, but maintaining it requires work in every generation. The relative peace our Nation enjoys today is not inevitable. Peace is earned by strength and strength begins with the men and women who wear the uniform. New weapons and technologies are important, but they are only as effective as the people who use them.

On Monday I will travel to Fort Stewart, in Georgia, to meet with soldiers and their families. I want to thank them for their service and give my full support in return. They deserve the best training, the latest and best equipment, and long overdue improvements in their pay, housing, and standard of living.

And so, as I promised, I will announce meaningful increases in funding to improve the lives of our men and women in uniform.

There's an old military saying: Soldiers enlist, but families reenlist. We need to treat families well and encourage military careers. All our men and women in uniform, after all, are volunteers. We must make sure our

military is a place where Americans are proud to serve and proud to stay.

On Tuesday I will be in Norfolk, Virginia, for a tour of the Joint Forces Command and a glimpse of the next generation of military weapons. America has some big choices to make as we prepare for the challenges and dangers of modern warfare. Battles will no longer be won by size alone; stealth and speed will matter more. And we must make sure our country, itself, is protected from attack from ballistic missiles and high-tech terrorists.

At week's end I will meet in Washington with Secretary of State Colin Powell and our diplomats at the State Department. I selected General Powell for that post, in part, because he brings a soldier's wisdom to the work of diplomacy. His charge is to help me pursue a clear, consistent, and decisive foreign policy.

Whenever America acts in the world, our principles must be certain, our intentions beyond doubt, our strength beyond challenge. This is how conflicts are avoided. This is how problems are dealt with before they become crises.

Next week's trips signal the priority I place on our military. The highest honor and greatest duty of this office is to serve as Commander in Chief. I want every man and woman in the Armed Forces to know that I respect your service and appreciate your sacrifice.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:41 a.m. on February 9 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders  
Transmitting a Report on United  
States Intelligence Provided to  
Multinational Organizations**

*February 9, 2001*

*Dear Mr. Chairman:*

In accordance with section 308 of the 1997 Intelligence Authorization Act, I am forwarding to the specified committees of the Congress the eighth semiannual report on U.S. intelligence provided to the United Nations and other multinational organizations. This classified report details the types and volume of the intelligence support provided by the United States during the 6-month period ending September 30, 2000, and the purposes for which it was provided.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Richard C. Shelby, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, House Committee on International Relations; and Porter J. Goss, chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 12.

**Executive Order 13200—President’s  
Information Technology Advisory  
Committee, Further Amendment to  
Executive Order 13035, as Amended**

*February 11, 2001*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–194), as amended by the Next Generation Internet Research Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–305), and in order to extend the life of the President’s Information Technology Advisory Committee so that it may continue to carry out its responsibilities, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13035 of February 11, 1997, as amended by Executive Orders 13092 and 13113 (“Executive Order 13035, as amended”), is further amended as follows:

Section 4(b) of Executive Order 13035, as amended, is further amended by deleting “February 11, 2001 and inserting “June 1, 2001,” in lieu thereof.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
February 11, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 13, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 12, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on February 14.

**Remarks to the Troops at Fort  
Stewart, Georgia**

*February 12, 2001*

**The President.** Thank you. Thank you, General Sharp. Before I begin my remarks today, I want to ask for your prayers for those still missing after the tragic accident involving one of our naval submarines and a Japanese fishing vessel off the coast of Hawaii. Please join me in a moment of silence for those missing, their families, and our friends, the people of Japan.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

**The President.** Amen.

Major General, thank you for your kind introduction and your outstanding leadership. Secretary Rumsfeld, Senator Cleland, and Senator Miller—of the great State of Georgia—other Members of the United States Senate; Representative Kingston and other Members of the House, thank you all for traveling with me today.

General Hendrix, Major General Poythress, Command Sergeant Major McFowler, Command Sergeant Major Ruo, soldiers of the 3d Infantry Division, the 48th Infantry Brigade—as importantly, family members—and all those who make up the Fort Stewart home. It’s a great privilege for me to be here today.

You’re among the first in the Army to hear me extend “Hooah!”

**Audience members.** Hooah!

**The President.** I proudly do so, for there is no greater duty for the President and no higher honor than to serve as the Commander in Chief.

I'm especially honored to be here at Fort Stewart with the "dog-faced soldiers" of the 3d Infantry Division. You've written history with your courage, from the forests of the Marne to the frontlines of the cold war, from Casablanca to the Balkans, from Korea to Kuwait.

Today, you carry on this proud tradition, ready to project American power wherever America's interests are threatened. You've been called the most highly trained and rapidly deployable mechanized force in the world. That is high praise, and you have earned it.

I deeply respect your service. I appreciate your sacrifice. And I know what your service and sacrifice achieve for our Nation. In a dangerous world, our men and women in uniform give America safety. In a world of fast changing threats, you give us stability. Because of you, America is secure. Because of you, the march of freedom continues.

The freedom and security you make possible improve the quality of our life every day. Our Nation can never fully repay our debt to you. But we can give you our full support, and my administration will.

We owe you and your families a decent quality of life. We owe you the training and equipment you need to do your jobs. And when we send you into harm's way, we owe you a clear mission with clear goals. You and your families are the foundation of America's military readiness. But while you're serving us well, America is not serving you well enough. Many in our military have been overdeployed and underpaid. Many live in aging houses and work in aging buildings. You see some of this right here at Fort Stewart. Twenty-four thousand troops have been processed through Hunter Airfield in the last 12 months, deploying everywhere from Bosnia to the Bahamas.

Some members of the 3d Infantry Division are now in Bosnia for a second or even third time. In a few months, the 48th Infantry Brigade of Georgia's National Guard will also deploy there. Others in the 3d Infantry are getting ready to deploy to Kosovo.

You are among the most deployed units in the Army. But you live on a base that has some of the least developed infrastructure. Two-thirds of your barracks need renovation. Some of your workshops are housed in wood buildings built in 1941, buildings that were designed to last 10 years, which are now having their 60th birthday. *[Laughter]*

These problems, from low pay to poor housing, reach across our military and the result is predictable: Frustration is up; morale, in some places, is difficult to sustain; recruitment is harder. This is not the way a great nation should reward courage and idealism. It's ungrateful. It's unwise, and it is unacceptable.

We will do better. You deserve a military that treats you and your families with respect. And America needs a military where our best and brightest are proud to serve and proud to stay. I have great goals for our military, to advance its technology, to rethink its strategy. But as always, our strength begins with our people.

Today I'm announcing that our proposed 2002 budget will add \$5.7 billion in new spending on the people of our military. Our budget will include \$1.4 billion for military pay increases—pay increases on top of the increases the Congress passed the last couple of budget cycles; \$400 million in funds to improve military housing; and \$3.9 billion to improve military health benefits.

If our military is to attract the best of America, we owe you the best. You volunteered for this job. You decided to serve a cause greater than yourself. And I'm proud to lead you, and I'm committed to serve you. In the years ahead, I will have the opportunity to visit with thousands of our men and women in uniform. And I look forward to each opportunity to express my thanks on behalf of our Nation.

I'll never forget that my first visit as Commander in Chief was here, to Fort Stewart, home of the "dog-faced soldiers." You are the Rock of the Marne, and America is rock-solid behind you.

God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:12 a.m. at Cottrell Field. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Walter L. Sharp, USA, Commanding General, and Com. Sgt. Maj. George J. Ruo, Jr., USA,

Division Command Sergeant Major, 3d Infantry; Gen. John W. Hendrix, USA, Commanding General, and Com. Sgt. Maj. Andrew McFowler, Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Forces Command; and Maj. Gen. David Poythress, The Adjutant General of Georgia.

### Remarks to the Troops at Norfolk Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia

February 13, 2001

**The President.** Thank you all. Thank you very much. General, thank you for that kind introduction, and thank you for your service to our Nation. I'm honored to be here with the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld. I picked a good man to be the Secretary of Defense.

General Shelton, thank you for accompanying us today. Admiral Perowne, Admiral Mayer, members of the NATO staff. I want to thank the NATO Ambassadors who are here, or the Ambassadors representing NATO countries who are here. I'm honored that you took time out of your day to come down. I'm thankful that members of the congressional delegation from the Commonwealth of Virginia and other States around the Nation traveled with us. I'm particularly pleased that Senator John Warner is here, along with the former Governor of the State of Virginia, now-Senator George Allen.

I also want to recognize not only Members of the United States House of Representatives but also Ed Shrock, the newly elected United States Congressman from this district. I appreciate Ed traveling with us, as well.

Most of all, I want to thank the men and women who wear the uniform for your warm greeting, and thank you for your service to the United States of America. I also want to thank your family members who are here with you. Oftentimes, we talk about the men and women who wear the uniform; it's also important to remember the husbands and wives of those who do, as well.

Just this morning we're reminded of the risks of your duty and the sacrifices that you make. I ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer for the dead, the wounded, and missing crew members of the 25th Infantry

Division who were involved in a training accident on Oahu this morning.

[*At this point, a moment of silence was observed.*]

**The President.** Amen.

We fly 19 flags here. Together, they symbolize one of the supreme achievements of the last century. NATO is the reason history records no world war III. By preserving the stability of Europe and the transatlantic community, NATO has kept the peace, and the work goes on.

When NATO was formed, the great challenge was to prevent conflict in Europe by a system of collective defense among three nations. In a message to Congress sent with the NATO Treaty, President Harry Truman explained his purpose this way: "The nations signing this treaty," he said, "share a common heritage of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law. The security and welfare of each member of this community depend upon the security and welfare of all. None of us alone can achieve economic prosperity or military security. None of us alone can assure the continuance of freedom."

This is still true today. Our challenges have changed, and NATO is changing and growing to meet them. But the purpose of NATO remains permanent. As we have seen in the Balkans, together, united, we can detour the designs of aggression and spare the Continent from the effects of ethnic hatreds.

I'm here today with a message for America's allies. We will cooperate in the work of peace. We will consult early and candidly with our NATO Allies. We will expect them to return the same. In diplomacy, in technology, in missile defense, in fighting wars, and above all, in preventing wars, we must work as one. Transatlantic security and stability is a vital American interest, and our unity is essential for peace in the world. Nothing must ever divide us.

A little while ago I saw an example of that unity in action. From the command center here, I had a glimpse of future threats and of the technology that will be used to meet them. These new systems are impressive, and they're only a beginning in the technologies we will need to deter wars in the decades to come. Because America, NATO, and our

allies have made the world more secure, we have an opportunity today given to few nations in history to prepare for the future, to think anew.

Eleven years after the end of the cold war we are in a time of transition and testing, when it will be decided what dangers draw near or pass away, what tragedies are invited or averted. We must use this time well. We must seize this moment.

First, we must prepare our nations against the dangers of a new era. The grave threat from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons has not gone away with the cold war. It has evolved into many separate threats, some of them harder to see and harder to answer. And the adversaries seeking these tools of terror are less predictable, more diverse. With advanced technology, we must confront the threats that come on a missile. With shared intelligence and enforcement, we must confront the threats that come in a shipping container or in a suitcase.

We have no higher priority than the defense of our people against terrorist attack. To succeed, America knows we must work with our allies. We did not prevail together in the cold war only to go our separate ways, pursuing separate plans with separate technologies.

The dangers ahead confront us all. The defenses we build must protect us all. And secondly, as you know firsthand, we must extend our peace by advancing our technology. We're witnessing a revolution in the technology of war, powers increasingly defined not by size but by mobility and swiftness. Advantage increasingly comes from information such as the three-dimensional images of simulated battle that I have just seen. Safety is gained in stealth and forces projected on the long arc of precision-guided weapons. The best way to keep the peace is to redefine war on our terms.

At my request, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld has begun a comprehensive review of the United States military, the state of our strategy, the structure of our forces, the priorities of our budget. I have given him a broad mandate to challenge the status quo as we design a new architecture for the defense of America and our allies. We will modernize some existing weapons and equip-

ment, a task we have neglected for too long, but we will do this judiciously and selectively. Our goal is to move beyond marginal improvements to harness new technologies that will support a new strategy.

We do not know yet the exact shape of our future military, but we know the direction we must begin to travel. On land, our heavy forces will be lighter; our light forces will be more lethal. All will be easier to deploy and to sustain. In the air, we will be able to strike across the world with pinpoint accuracy, using both aircraft and unmanned systems. On the oceans, we will connect information and weapons in new ways, maximizing our ability to project power over land. In space, we'll protect our network of satellites essential to the flow of our commerce and the defense of our common interests. All of this will require great effort and new spending.

The first budget I will send to Congress makes only a start. Before we make our full investment, we must know our exact priorities, and we will not know our priorities until the defense review is finished. That report will mark the beginning of a new defense agenda and a new strategic vision and will be the basis for allocating our defense resources.

As I announced yesterday, my 2002 defense budget will increase spending on the people of our military immediately with better pay, better housing, and better—[*applause*]. This need is urgent, and it's obvious. [*Laughter*] You give the best, and we owe you the best in return. My 2002 budget will also include \$2.6 billion as a downpayment on the research and development effort that lies ahead.

Yet, in our broader effort, we must put strategy first, then spending. Our defense vision will drive our defense budget, not the other way around.

Vice President Cheney often points out that the military itself is like a ship that cannot be turned around in a moment. It has a dynamic and momentum all its own, set in motion by events and decisions long ago and turning only in a wide, long arc. Change will not come easy for America's military and for our allies. But we must know our direction and make our turn. You can count on

me to lead these changes in a spirit of respect and gratitude for the military and its traditions.

Some things about America's Armed Forces must never change. In times of trouble and in times of peace, the men and women who wear the uniform are the military's greatest asset. Without your hard work and heroism, your discipline and personal courage, the finest of technologies cannot defend us.

Our NATO Allies have brought their own character and courage to the defense of liberty. We're cast together in a story of shared struggle and shared victory. Here, where three ships from England once passed on their way to Jamestown, we carry on the alliance that joined the old world and the new. We're allies, and we are friends. As long as we stand together, power will always be on the side of peace and freedom.

God bless the United States military. God bless NATO, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. outside the headquarters building of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. William F. Kernan, USA, NATO Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command; Gen Henry H. Shelton, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. Sir James F. Perowne, KBE, United Kingdom Navy, NATO Deputy Supreme Commander, Atlantic; and Rear Adm. Martin J. Mayer, USN, Deputy Commander in Chief, U.S. Joint Forces Command.

### Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One

February 13, 2001

**The President.** Glad to see you all again. It's been a while since I've been able to emerge out of the—are you doing okay?

#### Tax Cut/Legislative Agenda

**Q.** We wondered what your thoughts were on the retail sales jumping seven-tenths of a percentage point last month, and does that still speak to the need for a tax cut?

**The President.** Oh, I think it's one good statistic amongst a sea of some pretty dismal statistics. I am concerned about the economy. I strongly believe the combination of

monetary policy, fiscal policy will help ease whatever economic pain is on the horizon. I'm obviously very pleased about those numbers and hope that other numbers bear out that piece of good news.

**Q.** Are you going to try anything beyond what you've done already to try to get Congress to move up? I know you oppose retroactive, but they still have to pass to pass it.

**The President.** No, we've got to get it through, and I understand that. It's just, you know, the calendar is what it is, and we'll work with the Congress to get all our bills moving as quickly as possible. They're in charge of the timeframe, and I believe we're going to get a good hearing on our pieces of legislation as quickly as possible. But it will take a while.

#### U.S.S. Greenville

**Q.** Are you concerned about the allegations from the Japanese that the crew of the *Greenville* stood by and did not offer assistance?

**The President.** I called the Prime Minister today. That's why I was 3 minutes late, on the on-time administration. [Laughter] But I spoke to Prime Minister Mori. I assured him that we will do everything we can to try to recover and find—find or recover the bodies. He did not bring up that allegation to me. I have yet to hear all the facts from Secretary Rumsfeld, and I look forward to what he has to say. I am—I did assure him—I apologized on behalf of the country.

#### Marc Rich Pardon

**Q.** Are you distracted at all by the furor over the Marc Rich pardon and the former President?

**The President.** Not at all.

**Q.** Not a distraction?

**The President.** Not at all. I will tell you one thing, just in terms of the former President. All the allegations that they took stuff off of Air Force One is simply not true, for example. But no, I'm not the—sit down; I'll come back.

**Q.** Thank you, Mr. President.

[At this point, the President left the press area. Later, he returned.]

**The President.** As promised. [Laughter]

### **Strategic Vision Reassessment**

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]—talked about modernizing the military a number of times. Should Members of Congress who are trying to promote their own program, like the F-22 or some of these older programs, should they be worried at this point?

**The President.** Well, I think they ought to wait until we have—the Secretary presents a strategic vision. I said during the campaign—as you know, Tom—I worry about defense spending based upon politics and not based upon a strategic vision. I said that again today. I said the strategy and the spending ought to follow. I don't think Members ought to worry about that. I think they ought to be pleased with that type of approach to budgeting.

**Q.** Will you be shutting down some major weapons programs?

**The President.** Let's wait until the review is finished.

### **President's Meetings With the Military**

**Q.** Mr. President, as you've been talking to the soldiers and sailors the last couple of days, what kind of response do you feel like you've gotten? What have you learned from them?

**The President.** First of all, I think the men and women who wear the uniform respect the office of the Presidency, for which I'm grateful. I think they're just honored that the President would come and say hello.

I was taken aback by the—"taken aback" isn't the right word. I was—there was a lot of concern about overdeployments yesterday at Fort Stewart.

**Q.** About what?

**The President.** Overdeployments, it was on people's minds. I'm not surprised that was—talking about pay, and they were pleased to hear there were going to be some more pay increase coming. But there was a lot of talk about extended trips overseas. It's really not one trip; it's the multiple trips; and it's the time away from base, the training required.

You know, people are deployed to the Balkans. They go through training to prepare for the mission in the Balkans. They go to the Balkans. They then come back and have to be retrained for the mission that they used

to be a part of. And sometimes the training exercises are not at the base in which they're—you know, their main base. And so there was just a lot of time away from their homes, and that was a concern.

I was touched by the ceremony when I reviewed the troops, to look in the eyes of the men and women who wear the uniform. It's a pretty powerful feeling, and it reminded me that we need to be very judicious and careful about committing our troops.

And today's incident—they called me early this morning about the Blackhawks that had crashed over Oahu. And it was right on the heels of the visit when I got to see, stare people in the eyes, realize how precious the lives are of everybody, of course—the soldiers are my direct responsibility as the Commander in Chief.

It was just—it was a very necessary trip, because it really personalized the job. I take the responsibilities incredibly seriously. I do want to see more of the military, meet more of the troops. I want to see more of the missions. I get a much better feel for what's happening in different—specialties.

**Q.** [*Inaudible*]—really respect the office. Did you get some feedback that they appreciate you or appreciate what you are going to do for the military?

**The President.** I think they've got high hopes for me and my administration. I felt like yesterday's statement, that first things first are the people who wear the uniform and that the first public statement I made since—or the first speech I gave on a military installation had to do with better pay and better housing and better medical care.

There is going to be—you know, redesigning the strategic vision of the military is going to take some time. But we must do it. There are going to be some tough choices to make, but that's why you get elected.

### **U.S.S. Greenville**

**Q.** Mr. President, on the *Greenville*, U.S.S. *Greenville*, would you support a salvage effort?

**The President.** We've got an unmanned sub heading out there to determine exactly what the status is. I need to find the facts. I think we need to do what we need to do to get the bodies out of there, if they're there.

**Q.** You said you had apologized to Prime Minister Mori, but you got cut off.

**The President.** Oh, I'm sorry. Well, I did. I said I was—I apologized on behalf of our Nation for the accident that took place and the lives that are missing.

**Q.** Did he ask you to do anything or did he—

**The President.** He asked me to do everything I could—which we are doing—to find, to locate the missing folks.

**Q.** As a former military man yourself, sir, know the absolute preeminence of safety—every operation. Were you comfortable, as a former military officer that—were taken?

**The President.** John, I haven't seen the full briefing yet. And that's going to go up through the proper chain of command. I know the Secretary of Defense has asked that question and, once the facts have surfaced, I will—I'm sure it will be brought to my attention, and I'll be able to answer that question better after I hear the facts.

#### **President's Upcoming Visit to Mexico**

**Q.** [Inaudible]

**The President.** Well, I'm looking forward to be with my friend Vicente Fox to make sure that he understands that when I say friends, that we'll be friends. I mean it. There will be a lot of discussions, a lot of issues. Trade is a big issue, energy a big issue, immigration a big issue. And I look forward to discussing them.

It's really a continuation of a chat we had in Dallas. He had been elected; I hadn't been. But we had stopped off in Dallas, had a chance to visit with him. I've known him from before, and I've got a good relationship with him. It's why I'm going to Mexico. I think it's going to be a good signal to the Mexicans and others in our hemisphere that the best foreign policy starts at home. We've got to have good relations in the hemisphere.

I assured the Prime Minister of Canada that my vision of the hemisphere goes both north and south. We had a really good visit, by the way. Chretien is a very interesting man, a down-to-earth fellow.

#### **Mexico and California Energy Shortages**

**Q.** He's the only politician who speaks out of one side of his mouth, and he's admitted

that, himself. [Laughter] Do you think a potential solution to California's energy crisis lies in Mexico?

**The President.** Could be. You know, you've been reading talk about, well, Mexico needs to import natural gas. But every mcf of newly discovered gas in our hemisphere helps the overall supply picture throughout the hemisphere. Now, that sounds obvious, but somehow people are writing that, "Well, you know, the idea of maybe working with Mexico to attract foreign capital, develop natural gas really won't help in the United States." Of course it will help in the United States. It means that there will be less exports from the United States to Mexico. There's an issue evolving right now in California about natural gas going from California to the Mexican powerplant. I don't know exactly what the status is. It's conceivable that that gas will be interrupted, and it will create, obviously, a problem for our neighbors to the south. But gas can flow both ways. And any gas down in Mexico that improves the Mexican situation will help America.

Secondly, the idea of—I am going to discuss this with the President, about improving the powerplants to be able to help additional power get into the western grid. That would obviously be farther west than where we're going to be. But yes, I think with an opportunity—potential.

**Q.** [Inaudible]—natural gas prices. Is there something the Government can do? Some people really need to—

**The President.** Yes, they are. We supported LIHEAP, of course. But what the natural gas price will end up doing is attracting more investment, more capital, more exploration, which we surely need. We've got a shortage of gas and a growing demand. That's why the price is where it is. The issue in the State of California, they didn't increase the supply of energy, but the demand for energy increased in a significant way. It turns out the Internet, while it created a brand new economy, also created a huge need for power. We need more power, pure and simple. That's part of the discussions with the President of Mexico will be, to determine whether or not there is the ability to jointly work on the ability to generate more power.

**Investigation of Presidential Pardons**

**Q.** Sir, I just wanted to follow up on the previous question. You had mentioned—you've often said, about your predecessor, that you want to look forward, and not the past. Do you think it's a good idea for Congress to be investigating pardons or for the Justice Department to do that? Or should they just let it go?

**The President.** I think it's time to move on. And——

**Q.** Will you ask Chairman——

**The President.** No, the Congress is going to what they're going to do. They've already started the process.

**Q.** What about your Attorney General?

**The President.** I haven't talked to the Attorney General about it. I read something about it today, but——

**Q.** He would consider——

**Press Secretary Ari Fleischer.** The Attorney General just simply said that he would look at what Congress was doing.

**The President.** Yes, I don't think—didn't investigate; he was responding to a congressional inquiry. You know, the Congress is going to do what they're going to do. My attitude is, you know, all this business about the transition—it's time to move on; it is. It's time to stay looking forward, and that's what I'm going to do.

**Q.** Are you concerned that there's an—the appearance of a quid pro quo with all of the money flowing into the Democratic coffers?

**The President.** That's up for the able journalists in America to determine.

Always a pleasure. Sorry we don't get to spend so much quality time like we used to in the campaign.

**Baseball**

**Q.** Are you warming up for opening day? It's only 6 weeks.

**The President.** Down in Houston? [Laughter]

**Q.** Are you going to work with Tony Williams to bring a ball team to Washington?

**The President.** You're not going to believe this. It was one of the first topics he brought up during our conversation—seriously. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. en route from Norfolk, VA, to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of the District of Columbia. The President also referred to LIHEAP, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

**Remarks on Departure for Charleston, West Virginia**

February 14, 2001

**Situation in the Middle East**

Good morning. I strongly condemn the terrible act of violence in Israel this morning. I have called Prime Minister Barak to express my condolences to the families of the people killed and to all the Israeli people.

As I told the Prime Minister, the tragic cycle of violent action and reaction between Israel and the Palestinians, particularly the escalation this week, needs to stop. I'm urging all parties to do their utmost to end the violence.

We will continue to work with all parties to try to restore calm to the region.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel.

**Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion With Employers of National Guard Personnel and Reservists in Charleston**

February 14, 2001

**The President.** The Secretary and I are thankful you all are here; very thankful that the good Senator from this great State has traveled with us. It's an honor to be in his presence. He is an eloquent spokesman on what's right about America, and a pretty darn good spokesman about what's needed in West Virginia, I might add. [Laughter]

I appreciate the newly elected Congresswoman as well, Shelley Moore, for being

here. I want to thank the other members of the delegation.

I'm so pleased to come and talk about the Guard and reservists. I used to be in the Guard, and one of the best things about being the Governor, Governor, is to be the commander in chief of the Guard in Texas, and in your case, West Virginia. It's an honor, and I know you're going to take it and do a good job. You've got a pretty darn good start with a general leading the troops here in West Virginia.

I want you to know, Colonel Raney, I would have come back whether I won or lost. [Laughter] I fell in love with West Virginia during my time here. But now is not the time for politics. This is a visit about public policy, and that's the defense of our Nation. I'm going to give a more formal speech later on, but the purpose of this visit is to listen some but also to assure you.

I understand a couple things that are important: One, the role of the Guard and reservists not only abroad is important but, as importantly, at home. Part of our job is to assess real threats to the Nation and address those threats with corresponding defense policy. I'm worried that we are trying to be all things to all people around the world and, therefore, creating the tension that you accurately described. It's not only a tension for employer to employee; it's tensions, often-times, between husband and wife. And over-deployments, constant deployments really create a severe issue for morale all throughout the military. And we're going to address that by starting with redefining the mission or clarifying the mission of the United States military. And that's this: to be trained and prepared to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Our administration will keep our commitments, and we've got a lot of commitments to keep. There will be no precipitous withdrawal from the commitments we inherited, but as we go forward we will be careful about troop deployment, judiciously use our troops. We understand that overdeployments not only affect those on active duty but also affect those in the Reserves and Guard. And I appreciate you bringing that up so very much.

I also appreciate very much the opportunity to highlight the patriotic role not only the guardsmen and reservists play but the patriotic role that the employer plays in America. It's a two-way street, and our Nation needs to be grateful for those who understand the bottom line is more than just profit and loss; the bottom line is also service to the country.

There's all kinds of ways employers can do that. They can give generously of health care; they can give generously of contributions and dollars to help in the communities in which they live. But employers also give incredibly generously when it comes to supporting the Guards and reservists—guardsmen and reservists who are now fulfilling much of the mission that is now taking place overseas.

It's a huge honor to be the Commander in Chief. I take the responsibility very seriously. We're going to have a foreign policy that's strong and consistent and clear, with a military that is focused and prepared to keep the peace. And the guardsmen and reservists will play a major role.

Now, Colonel Raney, I'm told that there are some other folks who may want to say something, in which case I'm prepared to listen or answer questions if you have any. If I don't know it, the Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld will. [Laughter]

[At this point, the discussion continued.]

**The President.** I think it's important for the Nation to understand the critical role the Guard and reservists play in today's mix. And this mission—or this trip today is to clarify the mission, to not only say thanks to the folks of West Virginia but, hopefully, to get people around the country paying attention to reality. And reality is, the Guard and reservists carry quite a bit of the load overseas and also serve—set up some of these good employers as examples for others to look at and to follow.

So, thank you, Governor. Good luck on your speech tonight. You'll do great.

[The discussion continued. A participant stated that letting everyone know about the opportunities available and having employers encourage people to take advantage of them

would contribute to a viable force in the future.]

**The President.** John, I appreciate that. The good news is, in your State, is you've got more folks applying for jobs than exist in the Guard and Reserve. So evidently, word-of-mouth advertising is pretty darn effective.

**Q.** Our general helps us with that. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** We've got an overall issue of recruitment and retention throughout all the military. The Secretary and I will address that. It starts with better pay but also requires our Nation to have a focused mission. So it's clear about what the mission of the military is.

And I keep saying this over and over again, and we'll work with our allies to help them understand that our Nation is a nation of peacemakers; we'll help make the peace. But we're going to be reluctant to put troops on the ground to keep people apart, warring parties apart. It's a concern of me and the Secretary and others. And we will work with our allies to make sure they understand what our position is before we take any action.

[*The discussion continued. A participant stated that, given the energy situation, the United States had no choice but to be involved in the Middle East to ensure a continued oil supply.*]

**The President.** I appreciate you saying that. It reminded me of what Senator Byrd told me the other day. I can't quite put it as eloquently as he did, but he reminded me that we need a national energy policy of which coal needs to be an integral part.

**Q.** We are importing 60 percent of our oil daily—

**The President.** Which is a national security concern.

**Q.** —and about 12 million barrels a day.

**The President.** It is up to all of us to remind folks that we can safely mine coal, and we can cleanly burn it with the right technology. As a matter of fact, the Senator and I—Senator Stevens—were not only talking about the use of technology at home, clean coal technologies here at home, but also being able to have clean coal technology as part of an export policy, so that nations that

have not developed like we have will be able to utilize the technologies that have been developed, much of which have been developed right here in the State of West Virginia.

The energy situation in the country is very serious. Demand is greater than supply. And we can affect demand, and will. We'll work on conservation measures. But we also have got to understand that we need to work on the supply side, Senator, and coal is in abundant supply here in America.

And my job and the job of others will be to convince many in the country who don't believe we can have a clean air policy and burn coal at the same time. I believe we can, and many of the experts know we can. And we've got to do it; we've got to sell the country on that.

In the meantime, we've also got to make sure that we're less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. The lack of an energy policy and national security concerns go hand-in-hand. And I'm very aware of that, sir.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Armory at the West Virginia Army National Guard Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, Adjutant General, and Col. William R. Raney, Director of Facilities and Engineering, West Virginia Army National Guard; and Gov. Robert E. Wise of West Virginia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## Remarks to National Guard Personnel and Reservists in Charleston

February 14, 2001

**The President.** Thank you all. Sit down, please. Well, thank you very much, General. I appreciate those kind words, and I appreciate your warm welcome. I'm glad I came back to West Virginia. This is a State of good people, good folks, down-to-earth folks. And I'm glad to be in your midst again.

I particularly want to say thanks to General Tackett for his leadership. He's one of the finest Guard Generals in the United States of America. All you've got to do is look at his record.

Secretary Rumsfeld and I, we're looking at the General's record. It's because of your service that he looks good—[*laughter*—because of his leadership that the record is good. So Secretary Rumsfeld and I say thank you, General, for your leadership. It's an honor for us to be here in your midst.

I appreciate the good Governor of this State's kind words. Good luck to you, Governor. He asked me today if he had any advice—if I had any advice to him about his state of the State address tonight. I said I did: Just keep it short. [*Laughter*] But I want to thank you for your hospitality, Governor.

I'm honored to be traveling from the Nation's Capital with one of the most eloquent public servants our Nation has had in a long time, somebody who not only represents the great State of West Virginia well but cares deeply about our country, its standing in the world—a guardian of what is right, protector of the grand traditions in the United States Senate. And that's, of course, the great United States Senator, Senator Robert Byrd.

You all sent somebody who is plenty capable to take the Governor's place in the Halls of Congress, somebody who will represent West Virginia well in the House of Representatives, somebody who brings a lot of class to the office. And that is Shelley Moore Capito.

And traveling with us are two Members of the United States Senate, Senators Stevens and Inouye, as well as Chairman Jerry Lewis. And I want to thank those Members for traveling with us. It just goes to show how powerful—it just goes to show how powerful Senator Byrd is. [*Laughter*] He said, "I think you fellows may need to come over and pay a visit to West Virginia." All of us said, "Yes, sir, we're on our way." [*Laughter*]

I also want to thank Command Master Sergeant Leonard, the senior enlisted man for the Guard and Reserves. Sergeant Leonard, thank you for coming.

Finally, I don't want to embarrass the fellow, but I'm going to. In 1968, July of '68, I was stationed in Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

**Audience member.** Hooah! [*Laughter*]

**The President.** You don't sound old enough to have been there. [*Laughter*]

But today when I got off the airplane, Master Sergeant David Eshbaugh from West Virginia was there to greet me. He and I shared the same dorm in Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. And David, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for greeting me at the foot of the stairs when I got off the airplane. And thank you for your service, too.

There is an old saying that example is the true language of men. The example of this State speaks of duty and honor. The people of West Virginia have always answered the call to military service. There are an awful lot of mountaineers who have made this country proud. And the men and women of the West Virginia National Guard and Reserves continue that tradition. When it comes to readiness, as the Governor mentioned, the State's Army and international Guard units are ranked at the top of our Nation, and the West Virginia National Guard has more people than openings. It's a darn good sign that things are right in the ranks here in this important State.

I also want to recognize the employers of the National Guardsmen and reservists, especially those who are here today. Citizen soldiers have always depended on selfless employers. The generosity of the employers in West Virginia wasn't learned in MBA textbooks or in business schools. It was learned because these folks are patriotic. They care about their State, and they care about their country. You put love of country above love of profit, and you have the gratitude of our Nation.

This is the National Guard's Year of the Employer, and it's a recognition that the employers of the guardsmen and the reservists justly deserve. National Guardsmen and reservists are a part of a great and enduring American tradition. The National Guard itself is the oldest part of America's Armed Forces, with a history reaching back more than three and a half centuries.

During the American Revolution, volunteers and minutemen earned our freedom. Today, our Guard and Reserve help preserve it. The National Guard has a unique role. It serves America within our borders and beyond our borders. You assist your neighbors in times of natural disaster, in flood and storm and fire. The West Virginia National

Guard, for example, has been activated for disaster relief 15 times in the last 6 years. All Americans have learned to count on the National Guard in times of crisis to lend a strong and helping hand.

The Guard reservists also provide for the common defense. This has always been so, but it has never been more important than today. During the last few years, American active forces have been reduced in size, even as American commitments have increased. The Guard and Reserves have stepped up to the challenge.

More than ever, you find yourselves a part of overseas missions, serving with your active duty counterparts. In Bosnia and Kosovo, reservists make up 15 to 20 percent of the force. You know firsthand. Less than 2 months ago, a number of airmen from the 130th Airlift Wing came home from Operation Joint Force after flying missions from Germany to the Balkans.

During my tenure as Governor of Texas, hundreds of National Guardsmen and reservists were sent to Bosnia, and I was enormously proud of them. They did what they always do: They performed their duty, just as you performed your duty.

As threats to America change, your role will continue to change. The National Guard and reservists will be more involved in homeland security, confronting acts of terror and the disorder our enemies may try to create. I welcome the important part you will play in protecting our Nation and its people. The National Guard and Reserves are a vital part of America's national defense. And I want you to know that you not only have a former guardsman in the White House; you have a friend.

Beyond the role you play in the Armed Forces, America's citizen soldiers display values that are central to our Nation: character, courage, and sacrifice. You demonstrate the highest form of citizenship. And while you may not be full-time soldiers, you are full-time patriots.

In his book "Citizen Soldier," the distinguished historian Stephen Ambrose wrote this: "At the core, the American citizen soldiers knew the difference between right and wrong. And they didn't want to live in a world in which wrong prevailed. So they fought,

and they won. And we, all of us living and yet to be born, must be forever profoundly grateful."

Professor Ambrose was writing about the soldiers of World War II. But his words apply to this audience and to the men and women around the world who proudly wear the uniform. Your uniform shows that you are living your life for others, for your fellow West Virginians in time of suffering and crisis, for your fellow Americans when our safety is threatened, and for the values and ideals our country represents when our allies and friends ask for help.

All Americans benefit from your service, and we'll always be grateful. Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. at Yeager Field at the West Virginia National Guard Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tackett, Adjutant General of West Virginia; Gov. Robert E. Wise of West Virginia; Com. Sgt. Maj. John J. Leonard, Jr., Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs; and M. Sgt. David (Mike) Eshbaugh, 167th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard.

### Telephone Remarks on Former President Ronald Reagan's 90th Birthday

February 15, 2001

**The President.** Mrs. Reagan, hi, how are you today?

**Former First Lady Nancy Reagan.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Good, thank you. Listen, I'm honored. I'm here in the Oval Office—

**Mrs. Reagan.** [*Inaudible*]

**The President.** Well, thank you. And I'm getting ready to sign a birthday card to the President, my first document I'll sign as the President, which is a joint resolution from the Congress—

**Mrs. Reagan.** Oh, how nice.

**The President.** —which expresses our deep gratitude and admiration for President Reagan.

**Mrs. Reagan.** How nice.

**The President.** We honor him with his greatness and his goodness. And we honor

you, as well, for your strength of character and your service.

So I'm getting ready to sign right now—

**Mrs. Reagan.** Oh, this is very exciting.

**The President.** Well, thank you, ma'am. It's exciting for me, as well. It's an honor. And I look forward to sending the document and the pen that I use to you.

**Mrs. Reagan.** Oh, how nice. How nice.

**The President.** At any rate, it's great to talk to you.

**Mrs. Reagan.** Well, it's great to talk to you, too. And I can't thank you enough.

**The President.** Well, thanks a lot.

**Mrs. Reagan.** It's wonderful. Wait until I tell Ronnie.

**The President.** Give the President a hug and a kiss.

**Mrs. Reagan.** I will.

**The President.** Thanks a lot.

**Mrs. Reagan.** Thank you.

**The President.** Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. H.J. Res. 7, approved February 15, was assigned Public Law No. 107-1.

## Remarks to State Department Employees

February 15, 2001

**The President.** Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. It's an honor to be here with you, and thank you all for that warm welcome.

As the Secretary mentioned, I'm focusing this week on America's national security. And few are more important to that mission than the people of the State Department, both foreign service and civil service. Our gathering here will be seen by some 10,000 State Department personnel in the Washington area. It will be seen by 37,000 committed men and women, including many foreign service national employees in 250 posts all over the world.

So to those in this room, those around the town, those across the world, thank you for what you do on behalf of the American people. You do so much to sustain America's position in the world and so much to foster freedom. And for that, we are grateful.

In a few moments I'll go upstairs to witness the swearing-in of 38 new foreign service officers. Our hope is that they draw strength and inspiration from your example, because you all are the finest diplomats in the world.

The flags that surround us here represent every country with whom the United States has diplomatic relations. They are a powerful reminder that you are one department of our Government that literally never sleeps. America's commitments and responsibilities span the world in every time zone. Every day you fulfill those responsibilities with quiet excellence. You solve problems before they become headlines. You resolve crises before a shot is fired. And when tragedy or disaster strikes, you are often the first person on the scene.

The other markers that surround us speak even more directly of your devotion to duty. They memorialize your colleagues who gave their lives to our country. The earliest are from the 18th century, understanding your long record of service and the long march to freedom. Others are all too recent, bitter reminders of the dangerous times we live in, like the ones marked Kenya. I know the example of these American heroes inspires you, just as seeing you all here today inspires me.

It's sometimes said that State is the one Federal department that has no domestic constituency. Well, whoever said that is wrong. Let me assure you that between me and Secretary Powell, you do have a constituency.

Speaking of the Secretary, I chose him to be our Secretary of State because he is a leader whose dignity and integrity will add to the strength and authority of America around the world. He is the absolute right man for the job.

The Secretary and I are counting on you, on your help, as we pursue a clear and consistent and decisive foreign policy, a foreign policy that serves both our vital interests and our highest ideals. Our goal is to turn this time of American influence into generations of democratic peace. This requires America to remain engaged with the world and to project our strength with purpose and with humility.

America will set its own priorities, so that they're not set by our adversaries or the crisis

of the moment. We must work closely with our democratic friends and allies in Europe and Asia. We must engage Russia and China with patience and principle and consistency. We must build our trade relations across Africa and help nations that are adding to the freedom and stability of their continent.

And closer to home, we must work with our neighbors to build a Western Hemisphere of freedom and prosperity, a hemisphere bound together by shared ideals and free trade, from the Arctic to the Andes to Cape Horn. Building this hemisphere of freedom will be a fundamental commitment of my administration. Our future cannot be separated from the future of our neighbors in Canada and Latin America. Our bonds of language and family and travel and trade are strong, and they serve us all well.

Some look south and see problems; not me. I look south and see opportunities and potential. When I travel to Quebec in April and meet with other hemispheric leaders at the Summit of the Americas, I look forward to doing this: I look forward to discussing how we can build a century of the Americas. And I'll carry this message with me tomorrow when the Secretary and I go to Mexico for my first foreign trip as the President.

These are exciting times in Mexico, times of change and times of possibility. Mexico has seen a new birth of freedom, and trade is creating hope and economic progress. The door is open to a closer partnership with the United States. But nothing about this new relationship is inevitable. Only through hard work will we get it right.

President Fox and I will get started at his ranch tomorrow. I'm looking forward to hearing his ideas on expanding trade throughout the hemisphere, on safe and orderly migration, on expanding educational opportunity for all our children, and what we can do together to fight drug trafficking and other types of organized crime.

President Fox and I met as Governors, and I look forward to renewing and deepening our friendship. But I look forward even more to forging a deeper partnership between our two great nations, a partnership characterized by cooperation, creativity, and mutual respect.

I want to thank you all for welcoming me here today. I'm glad the Secretary invited me. I'm glad I responded positively. [*Laughter*] Oftentimes, those of us who hold high offices don't stop and say thank you as much as we should. So, today I'm doing just that. On behalf of the American people, thank you for the service to this great country, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:28 p.m. in the main lobby at the Harry S. Truman Building. In his remarks, he referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

### Remarks at the Swearing-In Ceremony for State Department Foreign Service Personnel

February 15, 2001

Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. I'm so honored that you invite me to your place of business. [*Laughter*] Ambassador Davis, you remind me of my mother. [*Laughter*]

Thank you, Director General Grossman, as well. Family members, it is my honor to be here with you as you watch your loved ones get sworn in. And on behalf of every American, congratulations. You have just become a part of the best diplomatic corps in the world.

In the months and years ahead, Secretary Powell and I will be counting on you, and so will your fellow citizens. Throughout the decades of your career, we'll all be counting on you, even as you go about your work with little fanfare. When you succeed, most Americans, most of the time, will never hear about it. A crisis that is averted just doesn't make a headline; a problem that is solved hardly ever leads the evening news. I have confidence—I have confidence—and so does the Secretary, that you will hold up the legacy of excellence found in this building.

As you take up your first assignments overseas, I want you to remember that you will be the image of America, the face and voice of her values. You will represent the strength of America, our compassion, and our humility. This is a high calling and a difficult one, and your country appreciates your work.

It is the duty of America to support you, as well. This room honors one of America's

greatest diplomats, Ben Franklin. Franklin once wrote, “Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee.” Today you join America’s diplomatic shop. Our job is to support you as you support and sustain America’s interests and ideals around the world.

So once again, congratulations to you all. God bless you, and God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the Harry S. Truman Building. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, former First Lady Barbara Bush; and Ruth A. Davis, Director, Foreign Service Institute.

### Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

February 15, 2001

#### Federal Budget

**The President.** It’s my honor to welcome Members of the United States Senate and Members of the United States House up here in the Cabinet Room to discuss the budget.

I’ll be submitting a budget to the Congress in short order, and I wanted to brief the members of the budget-writing committees about our priorities, our intentions, and of course, get the feedback. I get to propose a budget, and these folks get to write the budget. And we look forward to having a good discussion on it.

Inherent in the budget, of course, is our desire to make sure we protect Social Security—I think there is unanimity around the table for that—that we set clear priorities, that we fund the priorities. In our budget, we’re going to prove to the American people that we can pay down debt, fund priorities, protect Social Security, and there will be money left over, which we strongly believe ought to be passed back to the taxpayers.

I look forward to the discussion with the chairman, near-chairman, and thank you all for coming.

I’ll be glad to answer a few questions. Yes, Jim.

**Q.** Mr. President, will you be telling the Members of Congress that you hope to hold spending to below 4 percent, the increase in spending?

**The President.** We’re not going to give a specific number today, but we are going to argue, make the case that we can slow the rate of spending down; that our spending will be based upon priorities, the priorities I campaigned on; that we will meet the objectives that I talked about in the campaign, which is protecting Social Security, funding public education, strengthening the military, paying down debt—and we’ll be paying down debt; but that we believe the right number for the tax relief package is \$1.6 trillion.

#### Tax Cut Plan

**Q.** Mr. President, if the Senate were to vote today on your tax package, the vote would probably be 51–49 against you, given that there are two Republicans who have said they’re not in favor of it as is. What can you say to Democrats to try to bring more of them on board in the Senate?

**The President.** I can say, wait until you see our budget. You’ll see that it’s well thought out, that we meet important priorities. And I—we’ve got a lot of work to do; I understand that. But this is a democracy; people have different opinions about the subjects.

The people I want to talk to, though—first, before there is any vote—is the American people. And I will; I’ll take my case to the American people about why I think tax relief makes sense. I’ll remind Members of both the Senate and the House that there is a lot of debt at the Federal level, but there is a lot of debt at the private level. We’ve got a lot of people struggling to pay off credit card consumer debt. I’ll tell people that if you’re a family of four making \$50,000, you get an additional \$2,000, so you can decide what to do with your money.

So I’ve got a lot of work to do, but I’m convinced that when the American people hear our plan, they will support it. I think we’ve got a very good chance of getting the tax package through.

#### Representative Cynthia McKinney

**Q.** Mr. President, Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, who serves on the Armed Services Committee in the House, feels that she was snubbed because she didn’t go with you during your defense tour this week.

What do you say to her and some of the other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, especially after you met with them saying that you're into an inclusive era?

**The President.** We had a very good meeting here and discussed a wide range of issues. I'm glad their Members came up, sat right here at this table, and expressed their opinion. My administration certainly never attempts to leave anybody out. And to the extent that Members—any Member feels left out, I'm sorry that that's the case. But we took the Members on that trip, and there will be other trips.

**U.S.S. Greenville**

**Q.** Mr. President, were you surprised to learn that there were civilians at the helm of the submarine that sank the Japanese fishing boat?

**The President.** Well, I think what is going to be necessary is for Secretary Rumsfeld and the Defense Department to review all policy regarding civilian activity during military exercises. I look forward to the Defense Department review of the policies, their current policies, particularly in light of the recent tragedy that took place in Hawaii.

I want to reiterate what I said to the Prime Minister of Japan. I'm deeply sorry about the accident that took place. Our Nation is sorry that the accident happened, and we will do everything we can to help recover the bodies.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori of Japan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Memorandum on Expediting Federal Decisions Relating to the Siting and Operation of Power Plants in California**

*February 15, 2001*

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency*

*Subject: Expediting Federal Decisions Relating to the Siting and Operation of Power Plants in California*

Governor Davis of California has directed State and local agencies to expedite the review and licensing of new power generation facilities, and he has requested that Federal agencies do the same.

The Federal Government should make every effort to work with California and to help its citizens. I hereby direct all relevant Federal agencies to expedite Federal permit reviews and decision procedures with respect to the siting and operation of power plants in California. All actions taken must be consistent with statute and ensure continued protection of public health and the environment while preserving appropriate opportunities for public participation.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 16. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

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#### ***February 11***

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

#### ***February 12***

In the morning, the President traveled to Fort Stewart, GA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Lee Armitage to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dov Zakheim to be Under Secretary of Defense and Comptroller.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thelma J. Askey to be Commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kenneth I. Juster to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Faryar Shirzad to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore William Kassinger to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

The President announced his intention to nominate Scott Whitaker to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Legislation.

The President announced his intention to designate Laura S. Unger as Acting Chairwoman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### ***February 13***

In the morning, the President traveled to Norfolk, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gov. Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the U.S. to Canada.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael P. Jackson to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate John M. Duncan to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Legislative Affairs.

#### ***February 14***

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, WV, where he visited the West Virginia National Guard's emergency operations center to watch a simulated emergency flood response exercise. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Ivan Grdesic of Croatia, Emmanuel Touaboy of the Central African Republic, Juan Jose Bremer Martino of the United Mexican States, Milan St. Protic of Yugoslavia, Kanat Saudabayev of Kazakhstan, Meret Orazov of Turkmenistan, and Carlos Alzamora Traverso of Peru.

The President announced his intention to nominate Larry D. Thompson to be Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Theodore B. Olson to be Solicitor General of the United States.

The White House announced that the President will have a working visit with President Andres Pastrana of Colombia at the White House on February 27.

#### ***February 15***

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. James to be Assistant Attorney General overseeing the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel J. Bryant to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will have a working visit with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea at the White House on March 7.

**February 16**

In the morning, the President traveled to San Cristobal, Mexico, where he participated in a joint press conference with President Vicente Fox of Mexico. In the evening, he traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Howard Taft IV to be Legal Advisor to the Secretary of State.

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**Nominations  
Submitted to the Senate**

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The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

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**Submitted February 13**

Bill Frist,  
of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

**Submitted February 15**

Sean O'Keefe,  
of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, vice Sylvia M. Mathews.

Paul D. Wolfowitz,  
of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, vice Rudy F. de Leon.

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**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

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The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

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**Released February 14**

Statement by Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Pastrana of Colombia

**Released February 15**

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Republic of Korea President To Visit Washington

Announcement on signing the joint resolution recognizing Ronald Reagan's 90th birthday

**Released February 16**

Remarks by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer in a question and answer session with the travel pool on U.S. airstrikes on Iraq

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and Mexican Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique Berruga on the President's meeting with President Vicente Fox of Mexico

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**Acts Approved  
by the President**

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**Approved February 15**

H.J. Res. 7 / Public Law 107-1  
Recognizing the 90th birthday of Ronald Reagan