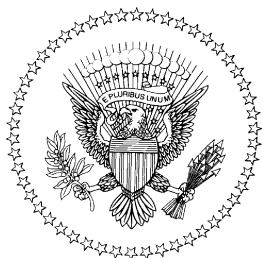


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, August 13, 2001
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Editor’s Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on August 10, 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.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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, August 10, 2001

The President's Radio Address

August 4, 2001

Good morning. This week in Washington we made dramatic progress on health care, and today I want to extend that progress one step further.

On Wednesday I shook hands with Representative Charlie Norwood of Georgia, agreeing to strong patient protection legislation. Representative Norwood is the chief congressional champion of that issue. And together, we broke 6 years of legislative gridlock.

The next day the House of Representatives, based on our agreement, passed a good bill to give patients the care they deserve without encouraging frivolous lawsuits. The legislation protects every patient in all 50 States when a health plan wrongly denies or delays needed care. Patients are guaranteed a quick independent review of their case and new Federal remedies to hold their health plans accountable. They get a strong new set of rights in our health care system without driving up the cost of health insurance and discouraging employers from offering coverage.

This legislation is welcome news for patients. And I want to continue this momentum. Today I'm announcing a new initiative to expand health insurance for the uninsured by making the Medicaid program more accessible. Medicaid is designed to provide low income Americans with medical insurance. It has a noble purpose and some serious challenges.

Medicaid spending is rising dramatically, but the number of low income Americans without insurance remains high. Clearly, this important program needs reform. Yet, States have great difficulty reforming their Medicaid programs because of complex and cumbersome Federal requirements. It is hard for States—much too hard—to navigate the con-

fusing and inconsistent Federal approval process.

Today we are changing that. My administration will adopt new rules that empower States to propose reforms tailored to the needs of their citizens. We will act on proposals quickly without making States wait for months or years for an answer.

In return for this flexibility, we will ask the States to help ensure that their programs broaden coverage for low income Americans. When States are free to try new approaches, the results are encouraging. Just a few months ago, New York State, led by George Pataki, asked for and got permission to try a new idea to cover more people with the same dollars. As a result, as many as 619,000 more New Yorkers will soon have health insurance.

In our new system, we will inform States in advance of the criteria for responsible Medicaid reform. If they meet those conditions, the Federal Government stands ready to help expand health insurance coverage to those who need it most—no uncertainty and no runaround.

The goals of Medicaid are too important to get bogged down in a bureaucracy. My administration cares about results, about getting Americans broader and better medical coverage. And on issues from Medicaid to patient protection, we are seeing results for the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:55 a.m. on August 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 4. In his address, the President referred to Gov. George E. Pataki of New York. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Round of Golf in Waco, Texas

August 7, 2001

President's Vacation

Q. What are you doing?

The President. It's nice to be home, for starters. This is my home; this is where I intend to live after I'm the President. It's good to be back with the people who elected me the Governor of Texas. I'm working a lot of issues, national security matters. I've got some decisions to make—as you know, working on immigration policy, state visit with the President of Mexico.

But I'm getting a lot done, and it's good to be on my ranch. It's good to be home.

Stem Cell Research

Q. Any closer on stem cell research decision?

The President. I'll be making that decision when—I'll be making that announcement when I'm ready to make the announcement.

President's Vacation

Q. How do you deal with the heat here in this area? It's awfully hot.

The President. This is Texas. I know a lot of you wish you were in the East Coast, lounging on the beaches, sucking in the salt air, but when you're from Texas and love Texas, this is where you come home; this is my home. We built a house in the Crawford area; it'll be the house where I live in for the rest of my life. I like my own home, and I don't mind the heat—

Q. Are you taking any naps in the afternoon, sir?

The President. —as a matter of fact, I'm going to get Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News] to come and run with me.

Q. Any time you're ready.

The President. Want to go for a heat run?

Q. Sure. How about this afternoon?

The President. It may be a little too hot, Stretch.

Q. Are you taking any naps in the afternoon, sir?

The President. I'm working, enjoying myself, getting a lot done on the ranch, too. One of the things I find to be, you know, helpful,

is to get outdoors. Washington, DC, is a fine place, and I'm honored to be working in the Oval Office, staying in the compound there, but I'm the kind of person that needs to get outdoors. I like to be outdoors; I like to work outdoors. It keeps my mind whole; it keeps my spirits up. I think it's important for people to get outside and to work.

And I'm making a lot of improvements on the ranch, and I find that to be—I find that to be a good part of keeping me a balanced person.

I'm reading a lot. I just finished "In the Heart of the Sea," by Philbrick. It's a book about the whaler *Essex*. It's a really interesting book. Now I'm into the Adams book by McCullough.

Q. How do you like it?

The President. I like it.

Q. I heard it's a good read.

The President. It is a good read. It's an interesting book. I'm particularly paying attention to that part about John Quincy Adams. You might remember, Quincy and I have got something in common.

Q. How does the heat here compare to the heat of Washington, politically? [Laughter]

The President. Politically? Well, I'm amongst friends in Texas. I think the people of Texas know me; they know what I'm like; they know I can make decisions; they know I'm a person who stands on principles. I really don't worry about polls or focus groups; I do what I think is right. And so there's no political heat here. I'm amongst friends, and it doesn't matter whether they're Democrats or Republicans here in Texas. The people and I got along really well. In Washington, it's a lot more partisan. People up there just like to dig in and fight. You know, Bob Bullock and I showed that you don't have to fight to get things done. Bob Bullock was the old Democratic Lieutenant Governor.

And I think eventually, over time, if I stay persistent, that we'll erode that intransigence in Washington, DC—you know, where people say, "Let's try to score political points; let's don't try to come together and work for what's right." But we'll see. We made a lot of progress the first 6 months—a lot more than a lot of people thought we could do.

Yes, Stretch?

President's Round of Golf

Q. Walking or riding?

The President. Stretch, probably ride, since I want to save my legs for a good run.

Q. What's the rule on mulligans today?

The President. No mulligans—except on the first tee. [Laughter] That's just to loosen up. You see, otherwise—most people get to hit practice balls. But as you know, I'm walking out here; I'm fixing to go hit—tight back, older guy, I hit the speed limit on July 6th. [Laughter]

Q. Who are you golfing with?

The President. I'm golfing with my friend David Sibley. There he is right here, Senator Sibley, the man who helped write the patients' bill of rights in Texas and the man who went to testify in Washington to say those who claim that the Ganske-something-something bill was like the Texas bill were wrong. More like the Texas bill is the Norwood bill, as amended—which I will sign when we get it out of conference.

Right, Sibley?

State Senator David Sibley. That's it.

The President. Okay, got get lost. [Laughter]

[At this point, the President played a round of golf.]

The President. You know, word about the President is supposed to win hasn't gotten here yet. [Laughter]

Q. How did it go?

The President. We came in second place.

Q. In a two-man race?

The President. Very good. [Laughter]

State Senator Sibley. Actually, we split.

The President. We had a lot of fun.

Human Cloning

Q. Mr. President, what do you think of the Italian scientist that wants to clone a human being this fall?

The President. As you know, I supported the anticloning legislation in the Congress. And I'll be making a statement about my views on how life and science should interface when I'm ready.

Iraq

Q. Also today, apparently the Iraqis fired upon some allied planes in the no-fly zone,

and we bombed, apparently, some of the sites there. What do you have on that?

The President. I've been briefed on it. As you know, our military can make decisions as they see fit to protect our pilots. Unless, of course, it's close to Baghdad, in which case it requires my approval. The missions that took place were fully in accordance with established allied war plans.

As I said, Saddam Hussein is a menace. He's still a menace, and we need to keep him in check, and will.

Q. Are they ratcheting it up, though? We've had a lot of incidents lately.

The President. No—are they, the Iraqis? He's been a menace forever, and we will do—he needs to open his country up for inspection, so we can see whether or not he's developing weapons of mass destruction.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Some of our allies in the Middle East, Egypt and Jordan, are increasingly calling for a stronger U.S. presence and role.

The President. Well, I told—I spoke to the King the other day, King of Jordan, and I told him that we're very much involved; our administration is in contact with the Israelis and the Palestinians on a regular basis. We will continue to do so. It is important for both sides to break the cycle of violence. And we have laid out a framework to get to Mitchell. And once into Mitchell, hopefully, sanity will prevail. But we haven't gotten into Mitchell yet, and we can't get into Mitchell until violence stops.

But our administration—I talked to Condi this morning, we're in touch with—constantly in touch, you know, our Ambassador went to see Prime Minister Sharon yesterday. And we'll be having—we'll continue with high-level contacts with both sides. I spoke to—I've written a letter to Prime Minister Mubarak today—President Mubarak, today, and—

Q. What did you tell him?

The President. Well, I told him we're still very much engaged in the process, obviously, that we take violence very serious in the Middle East. The Middle East is one of our top foreign policy—peace in the Middle East is a top foreign policy priority and that we need

to work together to convince both sides to break the cycle of violence.

See you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:17 a.m. at Ridge-wood Country Club. In his remarks, the President referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; King Abdullah II of Jordan; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and authors Nathaniel Philbrick and David McCullough. The President also referred to the Report by the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, which was chaired by former Senator George J. Mitchell. A reporter referred to Italian fertility doctor Severino Antinori. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to Participants in Habitat for Humanity's "World Leaders Build" in Waco, Texas

August 8, 2001

Thank you, all. Please be seated, before you melt. *[Laughter]* Mel, thank you very much. Laura and I had the honor of welcoming Mel and Kitty to our little slice of heaven last night in Crawford, Texas. He's doing a fabulous job. I don't know if you know the story about Mel Martinez, but as a young boy, his parents put him on a boat from Cuba, hoping that he could find freedom—and did, and now is a Cabinet Secretary in the Cabinet of the 43d President, and he is doing a fabulous job on behalf of America. And Mel, it's a lot cooler here in Texas than it is in Tampa, Florida. *[Laughter]*

I'm honored to be here with Laura. She is—I know most of my Texas friends know this was going to be the case, but she is a great First Lady. I want to thank the Gowan family for your hospitality. I asked him about that New York Yankee hat. *[Laughter]* He said it was the only one he could find. *[Laughter]* Either that or he was showing off for the national press corps. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank, as well, the Evans family, Bubba and Destini and Gladys. I told Bubba, if he wanted some advice, it's always to listen to his mother, something I understand quite well. *[Laughter]* But Bubba and Destini promised Laura and me that they're going to go to college. They're going to use that

home as a place to study. You're now on record, Bubba. *[Laughter]*

Tom, it's good to see you again, sir. Thank you for coming down from Washington today. I had the honor of welcoming Jimmy Carter to the Oval Office the other day, and he asked me about the international home build, and I said I was going to participate—in God's country. *[Laughter]* He said, "I didn't realize you were going to be in Georgia." *[Laughter]* I said, "No, Texas." *[Laughter]* And so it's an honor to be participating today along with President Carter, who is in South Korea, and other world leaders all around the globe.

I want to thank my fellow Texans who are here, as well. I particularly want to thank David Ward, and I want to thank the Baylor University Habitat for Humanity crowd. It's one of the oldest in the country. I think it's the first Habitat for Humanity college building program, and I want to thank the Baylor students who are here today and those who have kept the tradition alive up to now.

I'm glad to welcome the Governor. It's good to see you, Gov, I'm glad you're here. I played golf with my State senator, David Sibley. You're supposed to play: President wins. *[Laughter]* I guess you know me too well. I know you better now. *[Laughter]* It's good to see you and Pam. It's good to see Kip and Dianne, thank you all for both coming over. I miss you. I miss the—they're both members of the State house. Sibley is in the Senate.

Dealing with the United States Congress is an interesting experience compared to dealing with our legislature. It seems like people there want to harden their positions pretty quickly because they're, a lot of times, more interested in politics than they are in good policy. I want to assure you all I'm working hard to change that attitude. I'm trying to erode the old bias, the old prejudice of putting politics ahead of what's right for America. I think we're making good progress. I do miss the days when Democrat and Republican could sit down together here in Texas and work things out.

I was telling David yesterday that we're making some pretty good progress on the Patients' Bill of Rights by focusing with people to find common ground. It's an experience

he and I had together. I gave him some pretty good lessons on how to get positive things done.

It's great to have the statewide office-holders here, members of the supreme court—Phillips and Enoch, thank you all for coming. And new judge, too—thank you, Judge, for being here. We've got one-third of the court here. *[Laughter]* Almost enough for a quorum. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank the railroad commission for being here: Garza, Williams, and Matthews, it's good to see all three of you. You're looking pretty darn good, in spite of the fact that I know you're working hard. It's also good to see Greg Abbott and David Dewhurst. Thank you all for coming, as well; we're honored that you're here. I appreciate you taking time to be here.

One of the things I love to remind people around our country is that the great strength of America is not in our government. It may be in the form of government but not in the halls of government. The great strength of America is in the hearts and souls of citizens all around our country. And we have a chance to see that today here in Waco, Texas, people who have heard the universal call to help a neighbor in need and have come out in 100-degree temperature to do so, people that understand that owning a home is part of the American Dream. Owning something is what America is all about. The ability to own a piece of property, regardless of who you are or how you were raised or where you're from, is the thing that really has made America so unique and so different.

But the thing that makes it more interesting to people from around the world is that we've got hundreds of citizens who are willing to help those who may not be able to afford a house to be able to move into a house. It's the beauty of America.

You know, I've told the people of the Nation's Capital there that I was coming back to the heartland to herald the values of the heartland, the values that make America so different and so unique. And one of those values is neighbors helping neighbors. It's a value that has existed for a long period of time. But no President should ever take that value for granted. And so that's why Laura and I are so honored to thank the volunteers

who are here and to remind our fellow Americans that, if we're interested in a decent tomorrow for every citizen, if we want the American Dream to extend its reach in every community, that all of us must work hard in our communities to help a neighbor in need.

One of the most interesting initiatives that we have proposed is a Faith- and Community-Based Initiative. There's great debate in Washington about the process, the legalities of the initiative. What my administration talks about is, the results of the initiative. If a faith-based program helps a family find a home, then we ought to welcome it and nourish it. And Secretary Martinez talked about how we're going to do that, by putting more money in our budget.

If a faith-based initiative helps someone kick drugs or alcohol, we ought to welcome that initiative and welcome that program and say to the folks who are involved, "Government stands squarely on your side." In our society, we should not fear faith and the power of faith and the volunteers who are motivated by faith. We need to welcome it. And as far as I'm concerned, the Federal Government will be a welcoming agency, will put money up to allow faith-based programs to compete, side by side, with secular programs, all aimed at making sure America is the greatest country possible for every single citizen.

And it's going to happen in this country. I've had the honor of traveling the world for our country. I went to Europe. And we're different in a positive way; we're unique in an incredibly positive way. It's important for our Nation to never lose sight of that. And for those who worship in houses of faith, regardless of their religion, whether it be Christian or Muslim or Jewish, and you want to help a neighbor in need and you want to access grant money, as far as I'm concerned, please come on. Please come on and hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved, yourself.

We're making great progress in Washington changing the tone of our country. We're making great progress reminding people that the values of the heartland are the values that make America unique and different.

I want to thank all the volunteers here in Waco, Texas, and all the volunteers all across this State and all across our Nation who, on a daily basis, make this country so wonderful and so different. I also want to thank my fellow Texans for coming out to give me a warm welcome. It's great to see you all again.

May God bless Texas, and may God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the home of Otis and Thresa Gowan, which was a Habitat for Humanity project 11 years ago. In his remarks, he referred to Kitty Martinez, wife of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel R. Martinez; Gladys Evans and her children Edwinn "Bubba" and Destini, whose home the President helped build; Diana Ward, board chair, Waco Habitat for Humanity; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Pam Sibley, wife of State Senator David Sibley; State Representatives Kip Averitt and Dianne White Delisi; Chief Justice Thomas R. Phillips, and Justices Craig T. Enoch and Wallace B. Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court; Chairman Michael L. Williams and Commissioners Tony Garza and Charles R. Matthews, Texas Railroad Commission; and Greg Abbott and David Dewhurst, candidates for Texas Lieutenant Governor.

Exchange With Reporters Following the "World Leaders Build" in Waco, Texas

August 8, 2001

President's Construction Injury

Q. Mr. President, how's your finger?

The President. It must be a slow news day if you're worrying about my finger.

Q. Let's see it.

Q. Does it hurt much?

The President. Hurt? [Laughter] No. As I said, I dropped a little blood for voluntarism.

Q. From a hammer or a nail?

The President. It's the real world. It's part of keeping one's perspective. Washington's a wonderful place, but it's not exactly the real world, if you know what I mean.

President's Vacation

Q. Some of these folks say you're—when you're in Texas—you're taking too long of a vacation.

The President. They don't understand the definition of work, then. I'm getting a lot done. Secondly, you don't have to be in Washington to work. It's amazing what can happen with telephones and faxes.

Q. What are you doing the rest of the day?

The President. Karen Hughes is coming over. We're working on some things. And—

Q. Any in particular?

The President. She'll be over here; we'll work on a few things that matter.

Q. Oh, come on, you can tell me.

The President. I'm working on some initiatives. You'll see. There will be some decisions that will—I'm here, and we'll be announcing them as time goes on.

Stem Cell Research/National Security Issues

Q. Stem cell next week, maybe?

The President. It's a possibility.

Q. Where do you want to make that decision? Where do you want to announce it? Have you decided?

The President. I've got a lot of national security concerns that we're working on—Iraq, Macedonia, very worrisome right now. Kind of a blowup last night, and yesterday it looked like we had a peaceful resolution. It's now in doubt. Urge all—we're urging all the parties to get back to the table and renounce the violence. The Secretary of Defense and I are working on some projects. There will be some announcements.

Q. Have you thought about the kind of forum you'd like to announce the stem cell—what do you think would be appropriate?

The President. You're trying to get me to talk about it. My answer is still the same as it was the last 2 months.

Q. If I keep trying, you might slip.

The President. Well, I might—[laughter]—but I'm getting better disciplined than that. That was during the campaign that you caused me to slip. Now that I've figured you out—[laughter].

All righty, listen, it's good to see everybody. I hope everybody is enjoying themselves here. It's not that hot compared to Washington.

Q. That's actually true.

The President. What?

President's Run

Q. [*Inaudible*—before you run?

The President. When it gets to be 100. We ran yesterday around noon, which was good. And I'm probably not going to run today.

Q. Does the heat slow you down?

The President. A little bit, but the wind—there's wind on the prairie, and we go down the canyons. It's pretty cool down there.

Upcoming Travel

Q. Mr. President, any plans to go back to Austin anytime soon?

The President. No, not this trip. Laura is going down, I think, to see some friends, but I'm not going. I'm going to Denver and Albuquerque next week, be going to Milwaukee, another city that we haven't announced yet after Milwaukee. [*Laughter*] Hint. [*Laughter*] And then giving a speech in San Antonio.

President's Vacation

Q. Tell us why you like the heat down here.

The President. I like the State. I love Texas; it's my home. And as I explained to people yesterday, this is where we're going to live. And just because my office is in Washington, doesn't mean my home is not still in Texas. I love the people. I love the culture. I told the people in Midland when I left, I said, "We may have changed address, but my heart will still be in Texas." And you probably realize that we haven't spent much time in our new home, and there's kind of a settling-in period. And this is part of the adjustment to our new home, and the house is adjusting to us. And our builder is adjusting to our phone calls to come over and fix—parts of the new home. [*Laughter*]

Look, I'm sure it's going to be 95 in DC when we get back there in September, late August. I don't make my decisions based upon the temperature; I make my decisions based upon where I can get my job done and the fact that I'd like to be back in Texas. And I'm never going to leave Texas. This is where I like to go. Some people like to go to the East Coast; some people like to go to the West Coast; I like to come to Texas. It's where I rest. It's where I do my work.

It's where I see my friends. And that's just me, and people are going to have to adjust to it.

President's Construction Injury

Q. Sir, did you hit your finger while you were hammering?

The President. I may have hit it, or somebody may have hit it. I'm not telling. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've got good hand-eye coordination.

The President. You noticed—did you see that? Seven pounds per nail.

Q. Is that right?

The President. Yes.

Want a picture? All right, let's do it. We've got to get a family picture.

So how long have you been in this house, for 12 years? It's a beautiful home. You've got a new neighbor, Gladys. I volunteered Bubba to come and mow the lawn. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:55 a.m. in front of the Gowan family home. In his remarks, the President referred to Habitat for Humanity homeowners Otis Gowan III, and his wife, Thresa, and their neighbors Gladys Evans and her son, Edwinn "Bubba," whose home the President helped build. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters at the Coffee Station Restaurant in Crawford, Texas

August 8, 2001

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. I've got some of the local farmers here; I'm going to explain to them the 5.5 supplemental I'm signing here pretty soon. Emergency supplemental for—

President's Vacation

Q. How does it feel to be here with the people of Crawford?

The President. It's great to be here with the people of Crawford.

Q. What did you order, sir?

The President. I ordered a cheeseburger and some onion rings. And I'm not sharing any with you. [*Laughter*]

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News], you order something up. You're getting paid too much money anyway.

Q. I'll have a bite of your cheeseburger. How's that?

Q. Sir, did the sign make you decide to come inside?

The President. What did it say?

Q. Did the sign outside make you decide to stop?

The President. I didn't see it. What did it say?

Q. It said, "George and Laura, come by."

Agriculture Economic Assistance Bill

The President. No. What made me decide to stop was the wonderful people who own the place—and the cheeseburger. [Laughter]

One of the things that I'm talking about here is how hard it is for a lot of these farmers to make a living. And one of the things about the farm program that we've got to make sure happens is that when there's emergency aid, like the bill I'm going to sign here next week, it gets to the farmers who are farming.

A lot of times that money goes to people who aren't farmers. We want to make sure it goes to help the farmers who are actually farming the land. There's a lot of medium-sized farmers that need help, and one of the things that we're going to make sure of as we restructure the farm program next year is that the money goes to the people it's meant to help.

I'm also going to tell them that part of the supplemental—some folks tried to increase the supplemental, but that money wasn't going to the farmers. The extra money they tried to put on that would have busted the budget wasn't going to farmers; it was going to other matters. And what I'm interested in is, giving payments to the people that, like the corn farmers here at the table, that are working hard to make a living.

Having said that, now we can eat. [Laughter]

President's Vacation

Q. [Inaudible]—are you going running this afternoon?

The President. I'm not going to run today, but I'll get you out there one of these days. I'm not going to run today.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:40 a.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of Maureen Reagan

August 8, 2001

Laura and I are deeply saddened to learn of Maureen Reagan's death. Maureen was a devoted, caring daughter and mother. She fought tirelessly to increase funding for Alzheimer's research and raise public awareness of the disease. Our thoughts and prayers are with Maureen's husband, Dennis, their daughter, Rita, and the entire family.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Jerusalem

August 9, 2001

I deplore and strongly condemn the terrorist bombing in downtown Jerusalem today. My heartfelt sympathies and those of the American people are with the victims of this terrible tragedy and their families.

Nothing is gained through cowardly acts such as this. The deliberate murder of innocent civilians is abhorrent to all, a threat to peace, and inconsistent with the parties' signed agreements to put aside violence. Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat must condemn this horrific terrorist attack, act now to arrest and bring to justice those responsible, and take immediate, sustained action to prevent future terrorist attacks.

I urge the parties to return immediately to the cease-fire commitments they have previously made and to renew effective security cooperation so this kind of terrorism will not happen again. The United States stands ready to assist the parties in this effort, as it has in the past, but the effort must begin with the parties acting to fulfill their obligations under the Tenet work plan.

The United States remains committed to implementation in all its elements of the Mitchell Committee Report, which provides

a path to return to peace negotiations based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and the Madrid Conference. To get to Mitchell, the parties need to resume effective security cooperation and work together to stop terrorism and violence.

I call upon the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and Israel to demonstrate foresight and responsibility by choosing the path toward a better future for their people.

Address to the Nation on Stem Cell Research From Crawford, Texas

August 9, 2001

Good evening. I appreciate you giving me a few minutes of your time tonight so I can discuss with you a complex and difficult issue, an issue that is one of the most profound of our time.

The issue of research involving stem cells derived from human embryos is increasingly the subject of a national debate and dinner table discussions. The issue is confronted every day in laboratories as scientists ponder the ethical ramifications of their work. It is agonized over by parents and many couples as they try to have children or to save children already born. The issue is debated within the church, with people of different faiths, even many of the same faith, coming to different conclusions. Many people are finding that the more they know about stem cell research, the less certain they are about the right ethical and moral conclusions.

My administration must decide whether to allow Federal funds, your tax dollars, to be used for scientific research on stem cells derived from human embryos. A large number of these embryos already exist. They are the product of a process called in vitro fertilization, which helps so many couples conceive children. When doctors match sperm and egg to create life outside the womb, they usually produce more embryos than are implanted in the mother. Once a couple successfully has children, or if they are unsuccessful, the additional embryos remain frozen in laboratories. Some will not survive during long storage; others are destroyed. A number have been donated to science and used to create privately funded stem cell lines. And

a few have been implanted in an adoptive mother and born and are today healthy children.

Based on preliminary work that has been privately funded, scientists believe further research using stem cells offers great promise that could help improve the lives of those who suffer from many terrible diseases, from juvenile diabetes to Alzheimer's, from Parkinson's to spinal cord injuries. And while scientists admit they are not yet certain, they believe stem cells derived from embryos have unique potential.

You should also know that stem cells can be derived from sources other than embryos, from adult cells, from umbilical cords that are discarded after babies are born, from human placentas. And many scientists feel research on these types of stem cells is also promising. Many patients suffering from a range of diseases are already being helped with treatments developed from adult stem cells. However, most scientists, at least today, believe that research on embryonic stem cells offer the most promise because these cells have the potential to develop in all of the tissues in the body.

Scientists further believe that rapid progress in this research will come only with Federal funds. Federal dollars help attract the best and brightest scientists. They ensure new discoveries are widely shared at the largest number of research facilities and that the research is directed toward the greatest public good.

The United States has a long and proud record of leading the world toward advances in science and medicine that improve human life. And the United States has a long and proud record of upholding the highest standards of ethics as we expand the limits of science and knowledge. Research on embryonic stem cells raises profound ethical questions, because extracting the stem cell destroys the embryo and thus destroys its potential for life. Like a snowflake, each of these embryos is unique, with the unique genetic potential of an individual human being.

As I thought through this issue, I kept returning to two fundamental questions: First, are these frozen embryos human life and, therefore, something precious to be protected? And second, if they're going to be

destroyed anyway, shouldn't they be used for a greater good, for research that has the potential to save and improve other lives?

I've asked those questions and others of scientists, scholars, bioethicists, religious leaders, doctors, researchers, Members of Congress, my Cabinet, and my friends. I have read heartfelt letters from many Americans. I have given this issue a great deal of thought, prayer, and considerable reflection. And I have found widespread disagreement.

On the first issue, are these embryos human life? Well, one researcher told me he believes this 5-day-old cluster of cells is not an embryo, not yet an individual, but a pre-embryo. He argued that it has the potential for life, but it is not a life because it cannot develop on its own. An ethicist dismissed that as a callous attempt at rationalization. "Make no mistake," he told me, "that cluster of cells is the same way you and I, and all the rest of us, started our lives. One goes with a heavy heart if we use these," he said, "because we are dealing with the seeds of the next generation."

And to the other crucial question, if these are going to be destroyed anyway, why not use them for good purpose, I also found different answers. Many argue these embryos are byproducts of a process that helps create life, and we should allow couples to donate them to science so they can be used for good purpose instead of wasting their potential. Others will argue there's no such thing as excess life and the fact that a living being is going to die does not justify experimenting on it or exploiting it as a natural resource.

At its core, this issue forces us to confront fundamental questions about the beginnings of life and the ends of science. It lies at a difficult moral intersection, juxtaposing the need to protect life in all its phases with the prospect of saving and improving life in all its stages.

As the discoveries of modern science create tremendous hope, they also lay vast ethical minefields. As the genius of science extends the horizons of what we can do, we increasingly confront complex questions about what we should do. We have arrived at that brave new world that seemed so distant in 1932, when Aldous Huxley wrote about human beings created in test tubes in

what he called a "hatchery." In recent weeks, we learned that scientists have created human embryos in test tubes solely to experiment on them. This is deeply troubling and a warning sign that should prompt all of us to think through these issues very carefully.

Embryonic stem cell research is at the leading edge of a series of moral hazards. The initial stem cell researcher was at first reluctant to begin his research, fearing it might be used for human cloning. Scientists have already cloned a sheep. Researchers are telling us the next step could be to clone human beings to create individual designer stem cells, essentially to grow another you, to be available in case you need another heart or lung or liver.

I strongly oppose human cloning, as do most Americans. We recoil at the idea of growing human beings for spare body parts, or creating life for our convenience. And while we must devote enormous energy to conquering disease, it is equally important that we pay attention to the moral concerns raised by the new frontier of human embryo stem cell research. Even the most noble ends do not justify any means.

My position on these issues is shaped by deeply held beliefs. I'm a strong supporter of science and technology and believe they have the potential for incredible good, to improve lives, to save life, to conquer disease. Research offers hope that millions of our loved ones may be cured of a disease and rid of their suffering. I have friends whose children suffer from juvenile diabetes. Nancy Reagan has written me about President Reagan's struggle with Alzheimer's. My own family has confronted the tragedy of childhood leukemia. And like all Americans, I have great hope for cures.

I also believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator. I worry about a culture that devalues life and believe as your President I have an important obligation to foster and encourage respect for life in America and throughout the world. And while we're all hopeful about the potential of this research, no one can be certain that the science will live up to the hope it has generated.

Eight years ago, scientists believed fetal tissue research offered great hope for cures and treatments, yet the progress to date has

not lived up to its initial expectations. Embryonic stem cell research offers both great promise and great peril. So I have decided we must proceed with great care.

As a result of private research, more than 60 genetically diverse stem cell lines already exist. They were created from embryos that have already been destroyed, and they have the ability to regenerate themselves indefinitely, creating ongoing opportunities for research. I have concluded that we should allow Federal funds to be used for research on these existing stem cell lines, where the life and death decision has already been made.

Leading scientists tell me research on these 60 lines has great promise that could lead to breakthrough therapies and cures. This allows us to explore the promise and potential of stem cell research without crossing a fundamental moral line by providing taxpayer funding that would sanction or encourage further destruction of human embryos that have at least the potential for life.

I also believe that great scientific progress can be made through aggressive Federal funding of research on umbilical cord, placenta, adult, and animal stem cells which do not involve the same moral dilemma. This year, your Government will spend \$250 million on this important research.

I will also name a President's council to monitor stem cell research, to recommend appropriate guidelines and regulations, and to consider all of the medical and ethical ramifications of biomedical innovation. This council will consist of leading scientists, doctors, ethicists, lawyers, theologians, and others and will be chaired by Dr. Leon Kass, a leading biomedical ethicist from the University of Chicago. This council will keep us apprised of new developments and give our Nation a forum to continue to discuss and evaluate these important issues.

As we go forward, I hope we will always be guided by both intellect and heart, by both our capabilities and our conscience. I have made this decision with great care, and I pray it is the right one.

Thank you for listening. Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. at the Bush Ranch.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

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.

August 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Bethesda, MD, where he had his annual physical examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital. In the afternoon, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 7

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX, and later returned to Crawford.

The White House announced that the President will send U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick to Indonesia on August 10–11 to meet with President Megawati.

August 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Waco, TX, and later returned to Crawford.

August 9

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson concerning the President's decision on stem cell research. In the afternoon, he had a telephone conversation with Dr. Leon Kass of the University of Chicago, also concerning the President's decision on stem cell research.

August 10

The President announced his intention to nominate Ralph Leo Boyce to be Ambassador to Indonesia.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Ong to be Ambassador to Norway.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

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.

Released August 6

Announcement: HHS To Give States New Options for Expanding Health Coverage: New Initiative Promotes State Innovations To Expand Access for the Uninsured

Released August 7

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Ambassador Robert Zoellick to Indonesia

Released August 9

Fact Sheet: Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released August 10

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: Northern Ireland

Transcript of a press briefing by Counselor to the President Karen Hughes and OMB General Counsel Jay Lefkowitz on the President's decision on stem cell research

**Acts Approved
by the President**

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.