

too good a people to allow that to continue. But what Government cannot do is change hearts. Government can't inspire. We're good for law. We can spend money, but money isn't the only answer. In many cases, the lost soul needs somebody to say, "I love you," or to put your arm around you and say, "America is meant for you." We need mentors all across America saying to young children whose parents may be in prison, for example, "I care about you. I want you to understand somebody cares."

And so one of the most important initiatives that we're discussing in Washington is how do we unleash the great passion and compassion of America. How do we unleash those who have heard the call to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves; those not inspired by Government, necessarily, but inspired by a higher calling. The people of faith who live in every neighborhood across America must not be feared by our Government, but energized and welcomed when it comes to healing those lost souls. It's a powerful initiative because it taps the great strength of America. And the great strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizenry.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to represent the people of this country. My dream is for us to be a more responsible nation, a nation when the moms and dads of the world understand their most important job is not their day job, but the job of loving the children they happen to have brought into this world, and love them with all their hearts and all their souls.

But a responsible nation also requires corporate America to be responsible. It requires all of us to be responsible to shepherd our resources well. And as importantly, it requires all of us to ask the question, if we see a neighbor in need, shall we not—shall we make sure we don't cross to the other side of the road? Shouldn't we as a responsible citizen help a neighbor and not expect Government to do so? Shouldn't we find out areas where we can help somebody who's crying out for help? And the answer is, in this country, absolutely. But responsible societies begin with responsible leaders.

And that's why I'm so proud to support Pete Domenici for the United States Senate

again. He understands responsibility. He lives it every single day. And my hope is that the good people of New Mexico don't make a terrible error. My hope is the good people of New Mexico send this good man back to Washington, DC, with a resounding victory.

Thank you all for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Walter Bradley of New Mexico; John Dendahl, chairman, Sherolyn Smith DeSantis, second vice chairman, and Ken Zangara, Bernalillo country chairman, New Mexico Republican Party; Nancy Domenici, wife of Senator Domenici; Rick Alvidrez, board of directors member, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce; Archbishop Michal J. Sheehan, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, who gave the invocation; Bill Keleher, campaign chairman, People for Pete Domenici; and Phyllis Hunter, consultant, Texas Reading Initiative. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Statement on the Floods in Thailand**

*August 16, 2001*

I am very saddened to learn of the tragic deaths that have occurred as a result of ongoing flooding in northern Thailand. This disaster, which has already claimed more than 100 lives, is particularly cruel because it occurred during a holiday weekend, when many Thais had traveled to their hometowns and villages. The American people join me in sending our condolences to all those in Thailand who have lost loved ones, suffered injury or other loss as a result of the flooding. Our sympathy for the Thai people at this difficult time is heightened by our common experience with recent flooding, casualties, and destruction.

The United States stands ready to assist the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people to respond to the effects of the flooding. Our Embassy in Bangkok is in the process of providing emergency support, through the Thai Red Cross, to the initial relief efforts. I hope that our assistance, and the lasting friendship of the United States with the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, will be helpful as Thailand works to overcome the tragic effects of the flooding.

### **Statement on the Report of the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives**

*August 16, 2001*

On January 29, 2001, I signed an Executive order creating Centers for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, Justice, and Education. I charged each Center to conduct a Department-wide audit and identify all existing barriers to the participation of faith-based and community organizations in Federal social service programs.

Over the past 6 months, five Cabinet Offices for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives have examined administrative procedures, programs, and policies. Today the White House Office on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives reported their findings.

The report, entitled "Unlevel Playing Field," highlights the funding gap between the Government and the grassroots. It points out significant barriers organizations face in obtaining Federal support for their compassionate work. And it shows clearly how much work needs to be done to mobilize the armies of compassion.

The Cabinet Centers have done vitally important work in examining Federal social service programs. We now see exactly what kind of obstacles stand in the way of a more compassionate America. Our emphasis must always remain on getting compassionate results. We look forward to addressing these inequities through legislation, administrative action, and education. Americans in need are depending upon it.

### **Statement on the Death of Representative Floyd Spence**

*August 16, 2001*

I am deeply saddened by the loss of my friend Floyd Spence. He was a leader of great courage and determination, especially since his double-lung transplant surgery 13 years ago. As a Congressman, he will be remembered as a true friend of the men and women in our armed services and a steadfast

servant of his fellow South Carolinians. Laura and I send our prayers to his wife, Debbie, and Floyd's children and grandchildren.

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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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#### **August 13**

In the morning, the President traveled to Meridian, TX, and later returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

#### **August 14**

In the morning, the President traveled to Rocky Mountain National Park, CO.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where he attended a Major League Baseball game at Coors Field in the evening.

The President announced his intention to designate Patrick Henry Wood III as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

#### **August 15**

In the morning, the President traveled to Albuquerque, NM. In the evening, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Megawati Sukarnoputri of Indonesia to Washington for an official working visit on September 19.

#### **August 16**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss the recent violence in the Middle East.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Joseph McGuire to be Ambassador to Namibia.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Marshall to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Management.