

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.

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 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.