

billion over the next 5 years, on top of the grants that are already in place.

And so the fundamental question is, will there be enough local authority, enough flexibility at the local level to meet what I hope Congress passes, which are new work requirements. See, I think work ought to be the core of welfare reform. I think in order to make sure that welfare reform works, that there's flexibility at the States, that there's recognition people need training or drug rehabilitation, but work ought to be the centerpiece of a good welfare law.

And the bill I'm going to outline tomorrow, with Tommy at my side—where are you, Tommy? There he is—is going to take the positive pieces of the '96 welfare law, changing welfare as we know it, and we're going to make it better. There's more to do, and we look forward to working with you on that, as well.

And so those are the things that are on my mind. I know you've got things on your mind, and I look forward to hearing them. And we can have a good discussion today.

I want to welcome you back. I recognize I'm not exactly Bernadette Peters—[laughter]—but she did a fabulous job last night to fill this hall. It was such a joyous night, and it's particularly joyous for me and Laura to be with our old friends, the Governors.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. John Engler of Michigan; Gov. Paul E. Patton of Kentucky; and entertainer Bernadette Peters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with Public Law 95–384 (22 U.S.C. 2373(c)), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period December 1, 2001, through January 31, 2002. The previous submission covered October 1 through November 30, 2001.

On January 16, Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash began direct talks on the island under the auspices of the United Nations. As in past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston and U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus Donald K. Bandler continued to provide diplomatic support to the process. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Reallocation of Emergency Response Funding

February 25, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107–38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund to the Department of Defense. This reallocation reflects revised requirements in light of changing security needs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As provided in Public Law 107–38, \$33 million will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal for continued deployment of the National Guard at our Nation's airports through the end of March.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 26.