

I also believe that—in the power of faith in people’s lives, and that when we find people who have lost hope, maybe as a result of addiction or despair, that one way to help change America is to encourage those who have heard the call to love a neighbor to go love their fellow citizen. See, I’ve got great faith in America because I know our society can change one heart, one person at a time. And I know there are millions of soldiers in the armies of compassion who are willing to do just that. The Faith-Based Initiative that you’ve probably read about means this: Our Government should not fear programs which exist because of—a church or a synagogue or a mosque has decided to start one; we should not discriminate against programs based upon faith in America; we should enable them to access Federal money, because faith-based programs can change peoples lives, and America will be better off for it.

I urge the Congress to get the bill on my desk that does two things: One, allows for faith-based programs to compete for taxpayers’ money to help change people’s lives; and secondly, allows nonitemizers to receive a deduction on their income taxes when they give money to a charity. We need to do everything we can to encourage the strength of America, to help change America for the better.

Now, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good here. I believe it. I believe that our citizens, many citizens are now hearing the call that a true patriot is somebody who serves something greater than themselves. A true patriot is somebody who asks a neighbor in need, “What can I do to help?” A patriot is somebody who understands that life is more—that life is complete when you make a sacrifice for somebody else.

That certainly came home to a lot of Americans when Flight 93 was driven into the ground by citizens, normal, everyday citizens, who realized the plane they were on would be a weapon. And I want to remind you of what happened on that flight. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer, and they made the ultimate sacrifice for somebody else. That’s the American spirit, as far as I’m concerned, the notion that in order—[*applause*].

And it is that spirit which is exhibited every day in our country when people say, “I think I want to mentor a child,” and do so, and when people help an elderly shut-in, when people deliver food. It’s the millions of acts of kindness and decency which define America, which show the true face of this great country. And I mean a great country.

It’s a great honor to be the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you for coming today, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:29 a.m. at the Playhouse Square Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jane L. Campbell of Cleveland; Fannie M. Lewis, Cleveland City councilwoman, ward 7; and Alex Machaskee, board chairman, United Way of Greater Cleveland. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Clear Skies Initiative

July 1, 2002

Today Environmental Protection Administrator Whitman released important new information about the unprecedented health and environmental benefits of the Clear Skies Initiative that I proposed in February. For the last several months, EPA has been working to generate new information about how Clear Skies will dramatically improve air quality in every region of the country. Clear Skies will bring Americans much cleaner air and healthier forests, lakes, and estuaries. Many cities and towns will meet air quality standards for the first time in years. We will virtually eliminate the problem of acid rain, which affects so many lakes and forests in the Northeast. We also will dramatically reduce urban smog and nitrogen and mercury deposition. Clear Skies will reduce air pollution from powerplants by 70 percent—the most significant step America has ever taken

to address this problem—while using a market-based system to keep electricity prices affordable for hardworking Americans. Administrator Whitman and I look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the Clean Air Act through the passage of Clear Skies so we can improve air quality for all Americans.

Statement on Representative J.C. Watts, Jr.'s Decision Not To Seek Reelection

July 1, 2002

Congressman J.C. Watts has served the people of Oklahoma and the United States with honor and distinction as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

J.C. will leave behind a legacy of compassion and commitment to public service. He has been a leader in highlighting the success of faith-based and community-based organizations, and thanks to his efforts, these organizations may soon have additional resources in their fight against abuse, addiction, and poverty. His leadership was recognized by members of his party, and as Chairman of the House Republican Conference Committee, J.C. has effectively promoted the positive agenda of the Republican Party.

Though his tenure in the House is ending, he still has many talents to offer his country, and I know he will continue to contribute. J.C. is a good friend, and Laura and I wish J.C. and his wife Frankie and their family the best and thank him for his dedicated service.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on Reallocation of Funds Previously Transferred From the Emergency Response Fund

July 1, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In order to fulfill urgent requirements for civil aviation security, I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred to the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency (FEMA) from the Emergency Response Fund. These funds will now be allocated to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in accordance with 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.

In addition, I am further revising my request for supplemental funding originally transmitted on March 21st to account for this transfer by adjusting my Administration's request for supplemental funding for FEMA and for TSA. This will ensure that FEMA has the full resources necessary to meet my commitment to the recovery of New York.

As provided in Public Law 107-38, the \$270 million to be transferred will be made available immediately to TSA to continue its civil aviation security responsibilities.

This is the second time I have arranged a "bridge loan" from FEMA to TSA to allow the Congress to complete action on my March 21st emergency supplemental request. This option will not be available a third time, since FEMA has no additional remaining unobligated funds from Public Law 107-38. It is imperative that the Congress quickly pass an acceptable emergency supplemental bill to prevent a disruption of commercial air travel.

I hereby designate the revised requests contained in the accompanying material as emergency requirements pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2.