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Excerpt From a Roundtable Interview With Personal Finance Columnists and Economic Journalists

April 22, 2003

Federal Reserve Board Chairman

Q. Greenspan done a good enough job to get another term?

The President. Yes. I think Alan Greenspan should get another term.

NOTE: The interview began at 10 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. Participants in the interview were: Amy Feldman, Money Magazine; Knight Kiplinger, Kiplinger's Personal Finance; Lauren Young, Smart Money; John Parker, The Economist; Patricia Guadalupe, Hispanic Business; John Maggs, National Journal; Daniel Kadlec, Time; Matthew Benjamin, U.S. News & World Report; James Cramer, Kudlow & Cramer, CNBC; Susie Gharib, Nightly Business Report, PBS; and Michael Hirsh, Newsweek. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Earth Day

April 22, 2003

Earth Day encourages and celebrates countless acts of stewardship by individuals that improve the quality of our communities, parks, rivers, lakes, and private and public lands. The Government also has an important role to play in protecting our environment.

Three decades after the first Earth Day, our air is cleaner; our water is purer; and our lands and natural resources are better protected.

My administration is building on these accomplishments through new and innovative policies. We will reduce powerplant pollution by 70 percent. We will restore forest health, preventing catastrophic wildfires that devastate communities, wildlife habitat, and the landscape. And we will promote energy efficiency and security and improve and protect water quality, while encouraging economic growth. To help accomplish these goals, I have proposed legislation—Clear Skies, Healthy Forests, and the Hydrogen Fuel Initiative—which I call on Congress to pass this year.

Please join me in celebrating the 34th annual Earth Day by becoming a partner in service. I invite you to visit the USA Freedom Corps web site and EarthDay.gov to find environmental stewardship opportunities in your community. America's citizen conservation efforts play a vital role in preserving our Nation's natural resources, on Earth Day and throughout the year.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

April 22, 2003

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

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period February 1, 2003, through March 31, 2003. The previous submission covered events from December 1, 2002, through January 31, 2003.

As in the past, U.S. officials including Secretary of State Colin Powell, Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston, and Ambassador to Cyprus Michael Klosson joined me in providing intensive diplomatic support to the efforts of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to foster a settlement to the longstanding division of the island. We hoped that the Secretary General's meetings with the two Cypriot leaders in The Hague on March 10–11, 2003, would lead to a breakthrough on the basis of the Secretary General's fair and balanced settlement plan. Unfortunately, that meeting did not result in an agreement. Despite this setback, the United States remains committed to finding a just and lasting settlement for Cyprus.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on United States Individuals Involved in the Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia

April 22, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of March 13, 2003, the end of this reporting period, there were 347 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 324 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during January, February, and March 2003, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Statement on Signing the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003

April 23, 2003

Today I have signed into law S. 380, the Postal Civil Service Retirement System Funding Reform Act of 2003. The Act reforms the funding of benefits under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) for employees of the United States Postal Service.

Under the Appointments Clause of the Constitution, including as construed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 in *Edmond* v. *United States*, statutory authority to make decisions for the United States that are final must be exercised by, or subject to the control of, a principal officer of the United States. Sections 2(c) and 3(b) of the Act vest in certain circumstances in the CSRS Board of Actuaries (Board) authority to reconsider, review, and make adjustments with finality in certain determinations, redeterminations, and computations made by the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Yet, Board members are not principal officers because they have not been appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, as the Appointments Clause requires. They have instead been appointed by the Director of OPM in accordance with law. Moreover, the Board is not subject to the control of a principal officer in conducting the review, reconsideration, and adjustments for which sections 2(c) and 3(b) of the Act provide, because those sections make such Board action final. Accordingly, to the extent that sections 2(c) and 3(b) make the actions of the Board under those sections final, they are inconsistent with the Appointments Clause.

The Director of OPM shall prepare forthwith for submission to the Congress recommended legislation to conform statutes related to the CSRS Board of Actuaries to the Appointments Clause. While awaiting enactment of corrective legislation, I instruct the Director of OPM, who is a principal officer, to receive any results of reconsideration, review, or adjustments by the Board under sections 2(c) and 3(b) of the Act as advice and opinion for the Director's approval, modification, or disapproval. This instruction gives the fullest effect to the Act that is consistent with the Appointments Clause.

Sections 2(e)(1), 3(e)(1), and 3(f)(1)(B) of the Act purport to require officials in the executive branch to submit recommendations to the Congress or an agent of the Congress. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President to submit for the consideration of the Congress