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Records Management, White House Office of

Subject Files - GI002 (Gifts to the President)

| Stack: | Row: | Sect.: | Shelf: | Pos.: | FRC ID: | Location or Hollinger ID: | NARA Number: | OA Number: |
|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
| W | 11 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 6802 | 19737 | 9117 | 9212 |

Folder Title:

554770

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

| DOCUMENT NO. | FORM | SUBJECT/TITLE | PAGES | DATE | RESTRICTION(S) |
|--------------|--------|---|-------|------------|----------------|
| 001 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 03/10/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 002 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 03/10/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 003 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 03/10/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 004 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 03/10/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 005 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 02/19/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 006 | Letter | [Letter - page 2] - To: POTUS - From: Betsy DeVos | 1 | 01/31/2003 | P6/b6; |
| 007 | Letter | [Letter] - To: Betsy DeVos - From: POTUS | 1 | 02/19/2003 | P6/b6; |

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Records Management, White House Office of

SERIES:
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554770

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

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|--------------|-------|---|-------|------------|----------------|
| 008 | Email | Re: Questions Concerning the NRCC, RNC, Republican... - To: Heidi Marquez - From: Brett Kavanaugh | 1 | 02/17/2003 | P5; |
| 009 | Email | Re: Political Gift Thank You Letter Approval - To: Eleanor Stone - From: Brett Kavanaugh | 2 | 03/06/2003 | P5; |

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554770
61002



LB

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 2003

Mrs. Betsy DeVos

(b)(6)

Dear Betsy:

It was a pleasure to see you during my trip to Grand Rapids. Thank you for the DVDs. I appreciate your kind gesture and thoughtfulness.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Mrs. Betsy DeVos

(b)(6)

MAR 11 2003

March 10, 2003

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Sincerely,

George W. Bush

GWB/DTS/HMS/BC/BP/ES/ws (Corres. #2677947)
(betsy.devos)

cc: WH Gifts, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.
cc: Eleanor Stone, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

Handwritten signature

March 10, 2003

Mrs. Betsy DeVos

(b)(6)

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PRESIDENT TO SIGN

February 19, 2003

Mrs. Betsy DeVos

(b)(6)

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George W. Bush

GWB/(>>)/es (Corres. #2677947)
((>>))

cc: WH Gifts, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.
cc: Eleanor Stone, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.
(>>) PRESIDENT TO SIGN

MAR 7 2003

1/31/03

Mr. President and Mrs. Bush,

This little package contains two DVD's. They are 12 minute spiritual parables communicated by our "senior" pastor, a rather hip 32 year old. This format is a new way to address spiritual ideas. These "NOOMAS" are currently making their way around our military, as well as places where religion is rarely, if ever talked about.

I had intended to give these to you aboard Air Force One on Wednesday - but I forgot.

If you don't enjoy them, I think maybe your girls would. Anyway - not a very elegant way to write about or present these, but it will have to do for today.

Best wishes,

Betsy DeVos

February 19, 2003

Mrs. Betsy DeVos

(b)(6)

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Laura joins me in sending our best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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(>>)

cc: WH Gifts, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.
cc: Eleanor Stone, 9thFL/1800 G Street, N.W.
(>>) **PRESIDENT TO SIGN**

*kind gesture
+ me for support*


*BD
2/20*

[Handwritten signature]

RECEIVED
FEB 04 2003
WH GIFT OFFICE

 Blake Gottesman
02/03/2003 05:54:22 PM

Record Type: Record


To: Sara M. Taylor/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Christa J. Bailey/WHO/EOP@EOP, Sarah M. Garrison/WHO/EOP@EOP, ashley estes/who/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: gift from Betsy DeVos 

pls send directly to the gift unit, attn: christa bailey.

christa - can we pls generate an h/s for this one?

thank you,
blake

Sara M. Taylor

 Sara M. Taylor
02/03/2003 05:51:22 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Ashley Estes/WHO/EOP@EOP, Blake Gottesman/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: gift from Betsy DeVos

Mrs. DeVos tried to hand the President a gift (two 12 minute CDs with spiritual parables) in the photo line at the RNC reception last Friday. It ended up in my hands and so I wanted to know if there is a special person in the gift office that will get a note out quickly? The gift was also addressed to Mrs. Bush - do you want it to go to her office? Or would you prefer, I just bring it over to one of you. Thanks.

Sara

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For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
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FOLDER TITLE:

554770

FRC ID:

6802

OA Num.:

9212

NARA Num.:

9117

FOIA IDs and Segments:

2018-0011-P

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*** TX REPORT ***

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO 0275
CONNECTION TEL 65104
CONNECTION ID
ST. TIME 02/26 18:01
USAGE T 05'18
PGS. SENT 21
RESULT OK

**Fax to Brett Kavanaugh @ Counsel
Pages (with cover): 22**

Memo for: Brett Kavanaugh
Special Assistant to the President and Associate Counsel
456-7984 (phone)
456-5104 (fax)

From: Brian R. Cairns 
Director, Presidential Writers
456-5512 (phone)
456-5426 (fax)

Subject: **Clearance for Draft of Thank you Letters**


Date: February 26, 2003

Please find a draft thank you letters from the President to Mrs. Betsy DeVos, Mrs. Sherry Hickerson, Ms. Larita Nelson, Mrs. Irene Mecklenburg, and Dr. Margarita Gangotena.

Please confirm that the enclosed response is appropriate given the political context in which each gift was given. These letters are for the President's signature and we appreciate your help with this request.

If you have any questions, please call Eleanor Stone at 65514.

Thank you.


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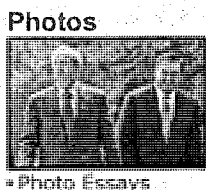
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Printer-Frie

For Inn
Office of the

JAN 29, 2003 Ja

President Calls for Strengthened and Reformed Medicare Program

Devos Performance Hall
Grand Rapids, Michigan

12:40 P.M. EST



VIDEO

President's

view

listen

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you all. I'm anxious to get started. (Laughter.) So I woke morning, and Laura said, "Where are you going? I said, "Grand Rapids, thankfully." (Applause.) And she said, "Home of a great American, Gerald Ford." And home to many great Americans.

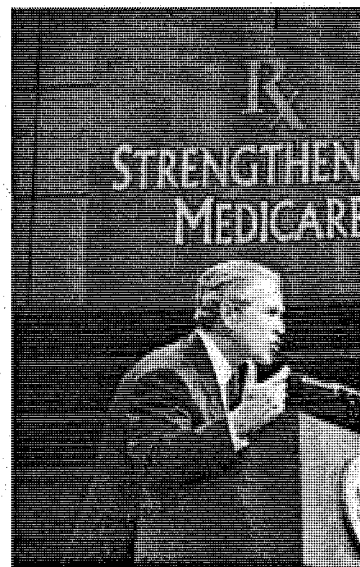
I want to thank you for your hospitality. She said, "I've got a suggestion for you, your speech." (Laughter.) I want to share some of my thoughts about that speech last night. It's important for me to come to parts of our country and explain why I said, so that you and others around our country clearly understand some things country and the problems we face.

First thing I want you to know is that there's no doubt in my mind that we can achieve our objectives, because we're the finest nation, full of the greatest people on the Earth. (Applause.)

Thanks for coming. I also want to thank my friend, Tommy Thompson, who is the Secretary of Health and Human Services, for leaving a comfortable life and serving our nation. You may remember, he was the governor of Wisconsin. Don't hold it against him, here in Michigan. (Laughter.) He's a great governor and he's a great Secretary of Health and Human Service. And I'm honored Tommy is serving with me. (Applause.)

And I want to thank your Governor and Attorney General and Secretary of State for joining us today. I'm honored you all are here. Thanks for taking time out of your schedules to come and greet the President and hear what I have to say.

I travel today from Washington with members of the mighty Michigan congressional delegation -- your Congressman, Vern Ehlers. (Applause.) Neighboring Congressman Peter Hoekstra (Applause.) Dave Camp and Nick Smith, also of the congressional delegation. (Applause.)



west wing
• History

appreciate these members traveling with me. I was honored to speak in their car last night. I talked about things that mattered to the future of this country.

Today, before I came here, I had the honor of going to Spectrum Hospital, where I met with doctors and hospital administrators and Medicare -- folks on Medicare, people who are struggling and heard their stories. I will share some of that with you, because I believe part of what makes sure that we've got a great country is we've got a great health care system that meets the needs of all our citizens.

Our biggest need at home, seems like to me, is to make sure that anybody who is looking for a job and can't find one -- and if they can't find a job, we've got a problem. We've got to make sure this economy is as strong as it possibly can be.

My philosophy is the role of government is not to create wealth, but an environment in which the small business owner can grow to be a big business owner; in which the entrepreneur feels confident about the future; in which people are willing to take risks and invest, which will equal jobs. And that's why I feel so strongly about making sure people get to keep more of their own money. (Applause.)

We've come out of a recession. We've withstood terrorist attacks. We had some citizens think they could fudge the books, and we're routing them out and bringing justice, because we believe in honesty in America. And our economy is still kind of moving along, in spite of those setbacks. But there's more we need to do.

When a fellow American has more money in his or her pocket, they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace which we have in America, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is more likely willing to produce a good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, it means somebody is more likely to find work. That's why tax relief is such an important component of creating the environment for economic growth. It is important for the people of Michigan and America to know that when I talk about tax relief, it equals jobs. (Applause.)

You hear a lot of rhetoric in Washington, D.C. about tax relief. You hear a lot of rhetoric about tax relief in Washington, D.C., the old rhetoric of class warfare. My attitude is you pay taxes, you ought to get relief; the government ought not to try to pick and choose. (Applause.)

Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small business owners. It makes sense to try to create an environment in which the small business owner feels confident about the future, is willing to take risks and expand jobs. It just so happens that businesses in America pay taxes at the income tax level because they're sole proprietorships or limited partnerships or sub-chapter S's.

So when you hear me talk about tax relief, I want you to know that that will help small business growth in America. More money in the pockets of our small business means it's more likely somebody in western Michigan is able to find work. (Applause.)

We're trying to get rid of the effects of the marriage penalty. It doesn't make any sense to me that we tax marriage. (Laughter and applause.) It seems like we ought to encourage marriage in America. (Applause.) We ought to accelerate the increase of the child tax credit from \$600 to \$1,000 as quickly as possible. (Applause.) We ought to drop that tax rate from 15 percent to 10 percent. (Applause.) All these measures have been passed. What I'm talking about today is what I argued for to Congress two years ago. The law. Congress decided these were good measures. It's just that they phased them out over three or five or seven years. We need some life in this economy. We've got people looking for jobs who can't find them. If the tax relief is good five years from now, it makes

for jobs who can't find them. If the tax relief is good five years from now, it makes sense to put the tax relief in today. For the sake of our economic vitality, Congress act. (Applause.)

Ten million seniors receive dividends. It's a part of their retirement package. It's making sure the quality of life is high. A dividend is a part of a dollar that has gone through our system that has been taxed twice. A company first pays taxes on profits, and then they distribute the money out to a shareholder, somebody who has an investment in that company, and then the shareholder gets to pay it again. The double taxation of dividends is not fair, it hurts our seniors. Congress needs to end the double taxation of dividends, for the sake of capital formation and for the sake of the quality of life for seniors in America. (Applause.)

These measures will help our economy grow, and that's important for the federal government. It's important for state budgets. If you're worried about budgets, which we should be, worried about budgets, the first question you ask is, how do you create growth in our economy? The more growth there is, the more likely it is you'll have tax revenues. That's why that stimulate growth ought to be the centerpiece of public policy, not policies that discourage growth. And the growth packages I talk about will encourage economic growth. It means more tax revenues at the federal level.

But there's two equations when it comes to deficits and balanced budgets. There's the revenue side, and then there's the spending side. I call upon the United States Congress to set clear and important priorities and not overspend the people's money. (Applause.)

And we have some important priorities that's reflected in my budget, not only for this year, but the budget the last couple of years. A significant, important, vital part of that budget is education. Our federal government has substantially increased the amount of federal money we have spent on education, particularly over the last two years. We've increased it another 6 percent in the budget I've submitted to Congress.

Spending money is important for education, but so is making sure that every child is educated. It's important to spend money on priorities. It is essential that we set high standards for our children; that we challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations; that we insist that states measure so we can determine whether programs are working, whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And it's also important, it is essential that when we find children trapped in schools which will not change, we give parents different opportunities for their children. (Applause.)

Yesterday, I talked about an immeasurable part of America's strength, and that is our hearts. Compassion in this country runs deep. It's one of the really great blessings of being President of a country where people love their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves -- and it doesn't even require a government program. (Laughter and Applause.)

I do think there's a role of government, though, when it comes to helping people who cannot help themselves. The government ought to help people who cannot help themselves. And we need to recognize in Washington that there are pockets of despair and hopelessness all across the country; that in this land of plenty there are those who hurt, there are neighborhoods where the concept of the American Dream just doesn't exist. There are people who need love, affection and direction. There are people who are hopelessly addicted to drugs.

The government can spend money, and should. But government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when a fellow neighbor puts their arm around somebody who hurts and says, I love you, can I help you, what can I do to help you, young lady or young man, understand that this country belongs to you and your future if you make the right decisions, and I'm here to help you make those right decisions.

Yesterday, I talked about the need to rally the great compassion of America to for those who hurt. Think about what it must be to be a child whose mother or dad is. Imagine what kind of life that would be, growing up in this society. I have hope for citizens because I know there is somebody there in our society who can provide love and direction and guidance to make sure that child has a chance to succeed.

Today, I came out -- when I landed here at the Ford Airport, I had the honor of meeting Jerry Nienhuis. He works for Kids Hope USA. I want my fellow -- (applause.) Hi, Jerry. His program, as Vern Ehlers was telling me, is an inspiration to many here in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I think Vern said it started right here. It shows the great social entrepreneurial spirit of our country. It's a faith-based program. It's a program -- a call went out to churches in the area; they said, if you truly love the Almighty, help somebody who needs to mentor a child. Mentor a child.

I said last night that we can save our society one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Each of us can be somebody helping. I urge you to mentor, just like Jerry has done. Find those who are addicted to find a program that will help heal your heart. People can help you in our society. A better America is a compassionate America, where we save one country, one person at a time. And I'm confident it will happen. (Applause.)

A better America is one in which our health care systems work. One of the commitments we have made to our seniors is that they get good health care. This system is called Medicare has been used as a political football, however. It's old -- it's important -- it hasn't changed. I like to remind people, medicine has changed, and Medicare has gotten stuck in the past. It requires all kinds of bureaucracies to allow new medicines to come to so our seniors can take advantage of the technologies and changes in medicine.

I urged the Congress last night to put aside all the politics and to make sure the Medicare system fulfills its promise to our seniors. I believe that seniors, if they're happy with the current Medicare system, should stay on the current Medicare system. That makes sense. If you like the way things are, you shouldn't change. However, Medicare must be more flexible. Medicare must include prescription drugs. Medicare must be available to seniors in a variety of forms.

The Congress has got a good health care system for themselves and their employees and other federal employees, which is fine. It's based upon trusting each member of Congress to make decisions for his or her family. There's a variety of plans from which to choose. I believe it's very important for seniors to be given the same opportunities that members of the Congress, members of the Senate have. They ought to be able to choose their own health care plan, including fee-for-service plans. If it's good enough for the Congress, it's good enough for the senior citizens of America. (Applause.)

Any good plan provides options, and any good plan makes sure seniors who cannot help receive help from the federal government. I proposed a budget where the discretionary spending grew at 4 percent. Within that budget I proposed last night is a substantial increase in Medicare funding of \$400 billion on top of what we already spend, over 10 years. This is a commitment that America must make to our seniors. A reform, a strengthened Medicare system, plus a healthy dosage of Medicare spending in the future will make us say firmly, we fulfilled our promise to the seniors of America. (Applause.)

We want health care to be affordable and accessible for all our citizens, of course. One of the problems we have in our society is we've got too many junk lawsuits. (Applause.) Too many lawsuits against docs and hospitals; too many frivolous lawsuits which cause doctors to practice preventative medicine. Procedure after procedure, just in case they get sued. Too many people being forced to settle out of court just to get rid of the lawsuits.

too many people being forced to settle out of court just to get rid of the lawsuits drives up your cost, and drives doctors and nurses out of the practice of medicine (Applause.)

And it's a problem. I visited states where it's a real problem, where I've had docs see me and say, I can't practice medicine anymore. I remember a baby doc that see me when I was in Pennsylvania. She had tears in her eyes. She said, I love to babies, I can't do it anymore. I'm being sued so much, my premiums are out of s

It is essential, it is essential that Congress understand what excessive litigation is patients. It's driving up the cost. It makes it hard for people to get access to care there's fewer providers.

I've come to the conclusion that this is a federal issue, because excessive lawsuit driving up the cost of health care at the federal level. Medicare costs more, Medicaid more, veterans benefits cost more. We need a national, federal medical liability p (Applause.)

We can get one, but I need your help. The trial lawyers are powerful. They don't problem the way we see it. You need to write your senators and make it clear to you, like me, expect people who have had injury to be able to have their day in c that's what we want. We want a judicial system that works.

If somebody is hurt, they ought to have their day in court. But we need reasonable We need to make sure that this lottery, this lawsuit lottery doesn't ruin the health citizens all across our country. It's an important piece of legislation, to help get c costs that are running out of sight here in the medical industry today.

Domestic policy is incredibly important, and I'll spend a lot of time on it. But there more important than protecting the American people from harm. (Applause.) I know challenges was going to be to make sure people understood that distance between September the 11th, 2001, did not necessarily mean war had ended and your go can relax. War has not ended. The war that people brought to our soil still goes c

We're doing everything we can in Washington to protect our soil. We've got a new Department of Homeland Security that will be up and running here pretty quickly better way to coordinate all the assets at our disposal, to protect our borders and our airports, protect our infrastructure -- if need be, respond in an efficient way c behalf.

Our intelligence services, FBI, are working a lot better than ever before. The FBI's culture has changed from one that, we will haul you in, to one that says, we'll prevent danger from happening in the first place as best we can. In other words, we're or

We know that there is still an enemy which lurks -- and there is; there is. And there nothing but a bunch of cold-blooded killers, by the way. (Applause.) You know, they don't value life like we do. The great thing about America is we say every life is precious everybody counts. (Applause.) Everybody has worth. And they just don't view it that way. They kill in a name of a false ideology based upon hatred.

And as I told the Congress last night, and the country, we're winning this war. We're chasing them down one by one and bringing them to justice. (Applause.) Make no doubt about it, we are slowly but surely dismantling their organization.

Yesterday, some of them bunched up in parts of Afghanistan. They, unfortunately United States military, had to. (Applause.) Unfortunately for them. (Applause.)

United States military head on. (Applause.) Unfortunately for them. (Laughter.) I bring that up is our troops are still in Afghanistan, and they're doing a great job country needs our presence and will have our presence -- needs our presence to sure that those remnants of al Qaeda that still lurk around the area are brought And they will be, they will be:

Our coalition is still strong. The doctrine says that either you're with us, or you're enemy, that still exists. (Applause.) And there are a lot of good people working h across the world to bring these people to justice. The Brits hauled in a bunch the You'll see the Spanish. We're sharing intelligence, and we're watching them. And pop their heads up, we're getting them, one by one. (Applause.)

And it doesn't matter how long it's going to take. It just doesn't matter. Slowly b we will bring them to justice. Because this country understands and this generati understands, we have an obligation to protect our land. That's our most importar do.

And by the way, in Afghanistan, we're not leaving for another reason. We didn't c Afghanistan as conquerors, we went in as liberators. (Applause.) We liberated pe the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes imaginable. And we're helping t schools and health care centers. Tommy was telling me they're fixing to open on couple of months in Afghanistan. And we're building highways. We're helping the people get back on their feet.

That's the great compassion about our country. We're strong in our might, we're compassionate in our vision. Everybody matters. Everybody has worth in the eye American people. It doesn't matter where you're from, the nature of your religior everybody counts. (Applause.)

Including the millions who suffer from AIDS in Africa. This is a moral nation, we'r nation. We have a chance to use our wealth and our abilities to help cure that ep plagues a group of people. I call upon the generosity of the American people, at l tragedy, where thousands are dying, where thousands of children are being orph join in a great cause, a great humanitarian cause, a cause beyond all imaginable to solve unimaginable problems, to help the people who are needlessly dying. We a huge difference, a significant difference in the lives of thousands of our fellow b beings. I want people to step back at some point in time and say, thank God for and our generosity as lives were saved. (Applause.)

My point is, our presence in the world is more than just our might; but our might in the world right now to make the world a more peaceful place. The war on terr confined strictly to the al Qaeda that we're chasing. The war on terror extends be shadowy terrorist network. The war on terror involves Saddam Hussein because c nature of Saddam Hussein, the history of Saddam Hussein and his willingness to himself.

Saddam Hussein has terrorized his own people. He's terrorized his own neighborl a danger not only to countries in the region, but as I explained last night, becaus Qaeda connections, because of his history, he's a danger to the American people got to deal with him. We've got to deal with him before it is too late. (Applause.)

Before September the 11th, during a period when a lot of us thought oceans wou us forever from gathering threats far from our land, the thought of containing so like Saddam Hussein made sense -- so we could step back in America and say, g don't worry, he's only a threat to somebody in the neighborhood, and we might p choose whether or not we're going to help in the neighborhood.

But, see, our fellow citizens must understand that September the 11th, 2001 changed the equation. It's changed the strategic outlook of this country, because we're not just oceans. The battlefield is here. And therefore, we must address threats today as they gather, before they become acute.

There's a reason why the world asked Saddam Hussein to disarm -- for 12 years. (Laughter.) And the reason why is because he's dangerous. He's used them. He's used his own people. He's gassed his own people. He's attacked people in the neighborhood.

What's changed for America -- besides the fact that he's still dangerous and can do havoc with friends in the neighborhood -- is that there's now a shadowy terrorist which he could use as a forward army, attacking his worst enemy and never leaving a fingerprint behind, with deadly, deadly weapons. And that's what's changed.

We're having an honest debate in this country, and we should, about peace and how to achieve the peace. It should be clear to you now, though, that in my judgment you cannot contain Saddam Hussein. You don't hope that therapy will somehow change his behavior (laughter) -- that you deal with Saddam Hussein. I hope we can do this peacefully.

I went to the United Nations for a reason. One, I wanted the United Nations to be something other than an empty debating society. (Applause.) I wanted it to address this through the 15-0 vote in the Security Council, they said, yes, it's a problem and he must disarm. A fundamental question is, when. There's a lot of focus on the inspectors, and we've done well. But the role of the inspectors is not to play hide-and-seek with Saddam Hussein in a country the size of California. There's 108 inspectors running around a country trying to stumble into something; 108 people who are being misled by a person who's master of fooling inspectors.

See, the role of the inspectors are not to play "gotcha." He's better at playing "gotcha" -- obviously -- for 12 years he's played "gotcha." The role of the inspectors are to watch him disarm. That's the role of the inspectors. They're to report back and say, gosh, he's getting rid of all his mustard gas or sarin gas. He started getting rid of these weapons of mass destruction. He's now getting rid of the biological laboratories. That's the role of the inspectors.

And it's clear he's not disarming. I'm convinced that this still can be done peacefully, certainly hope so. The idea of committing troops is my last option, not my first. I understand the terrible price of war. I understand what it means to put somebody in combat. I know what it means to hug mothers and wives. But I've got to tell you I've thought long and hard about this. The risks of doing nothing, the risks of assessing the best from Saddam Hussein, it's just not a risk worth taking.

So I call upon the world to come together and insist that this dangerous man/disarm. Should they choose not to continue to pressure Saddam, and should he continue to threaten the world, for the sake of our peace, for the sake of the security, this country will lead a coalition of other willing nations and we will disarm Saddam Hussein. If need be, we will be brought upon us like I said last night, I want to assure you, particularly those who are in uniform and those who have a loved one in the military, we will commit the full force and might of the United States military. And for the name of peace, we will prevail. (Laughter.)

We will free people. This great, powerful nation is motivated not by power for power's sake but because of our values. If everybody matters, if every life counts, then we should care for everybody. Everybody has the great God's gift of freedom. We go into Iraq to disarm the country. We will also go in to make sure that those who are hungry are fed, those who need help

will have health care, those youngsters who need education will get education. But all, we will uphold our values. And the biggest value we hold dear is the value of (Applause.) As I said last night, freedom and liberty, they are not America's gifts world. They are God's gift to humanity. We hold that thought dear to our hearts.

This is a great nation. America is a strong nation. America is a nation full of people compassionate. America is a nation that is willing to serve causes greater than ours. There's no question we face challenges ahead of us -- challenges at home, challenges abroad. But as I said last night, history has called the right nation into action. History called the United States into action, and we will not let history down.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless. (Applause.)

END 1:22 P.M. EST

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