

McWherter, who actually purchases your trucks. At least, that's what he tells me. [Laughter] The first time I met Ned McWherter, I talked to him for 30 seconds, and I wanted to reach in my back pocket and make sure my billfold was still there. [Laughter] But they're not making many like him anymore, and I'm glad to see him looking so thin and fit. Looks like a new morning. [Laughter]

I want to thank Joe Scattergood and Wayne Wooten for going through the plant with me. And thank you, Bobby Lee, for what you said and for being here. And thank you, Tom Plimpton, for the wonderful tour. And let me say also, I want to thank these retirees who are back here, and I want to mention I met two people today who work here and this is their last day on the job. And I want to acknowledge them because I think Al Gore and I should have shown up for their retirement parties.

The first person has been here 25 years, Mr. Bill Douglas. He's over there. [Applause] Thank you. And I met a lady on the line. I don't know where she is, but she's been here 19 years, and she's leaving today. Her name is Dorris Skaggs. Dorris, where are you? Give her a hand. [Applause]

I want to say one word—before I talk about where we are with the big budget fight in Washington and the economy, I want to say a word about one other issue that involves three people from this plant. As the Vice President said, as soon as I leave you here in Nashville today I am going to Bosnia to visit the men and women who are helping to secure the peace agreement there. With our help the people of Bosnia, who for 4 long years were denied the simple chance to go to work and raise their children in peace, now have an opportunity to rebuild their lives and their country.

Bosnia is the country where World War I began. Bosnia is a country that's so closely tied to others that if that war were to spread, it could cause many Americans and many other people from freedom-loving countries around the world to lose their lives trying to stop it. So we have worked hard not to try to fight a war but to bring a peace for the humanitarian reasons that involve the people there and to keep that war from spreading in ways that could hurt the United States and our friends and allies in Europe. This is a very good thing the American people and our friends from around the

world are doing. And all Americans should be proud of what they are doing in Bosnia.

Three of your own coworkers are in Germany right now with their National Guard units supporting that mission. A lot of Americans don't know this, but you can't just send soldiers to Bosnia. We have people in Hungary supporting them, people in Croatia supporting them, and people in Germany supporting them. And the people that you have are Emmett Northington, who puts these world-class trucks together, Charles Hobson, who paints them, and Richard "Lightning" Maxwell, who actually gets to test drive these machines. Give them a hand. Let's give them a hand. [Applause] Most of the time these people work right beside you. Today they are a long way away, working for a better, safer world. I know they and their families will remain in your prayers until the day when they all come back here to work again.

What they are doing, to me symbolizes what the great issue of our time is all about. The United States, if you just look at the rest of the world with the cold war over, it is tempting for us to say, "Boy, we ought to just shut down our defense and come home and hope nothing bad happens." But the truth is that, as Nashville, as this area perhaps more than any other area of the South knows, we are tied in with the rest of the world today whether we like it or not. And we have a profound interest in seeing the United States be the world's leading source of energy for peace and freedom and democracy. It helps us economically, and it helps us to be more secure.

I am proud of what our country has been able to do in the last couple of years in Bosnia and the Middle East, in Haiti and Northern Ireland and southern Africa. I am proud of the fact that with the leadership of the Vice President, for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, there is not a single nuclear missile pointed at an American child today. I am proud of that.

With terrorism threatening people all around the world, both homegrown terrorism—we've seen that—and terrorists coming into our country to make mischief and kill people—we've seen that—I am proud of the fact that because we're cooperating with other countries, we have actually seen them help us arrest, apprehend, and send back to this country people who came into our country and killed innocent people for