

us being able to share that money that we've put in and the Government's going to match for our educations, to go towards our family. I was wondering what you thought of that so we could use—

The President. I'm not sure what the status of that proposal is. I remember discussing it with my OMB Director. I thought it was a good idea when we discussed it; I just don't know where the proposal is right now.

Last question, then I've got to go up to Oregon. Yes, ma'am. Then I've got to go back out to the ranch. There are a couple of cows waiting for me. [Laughter] You know, when I first got back from Washington, it seemed like the cows were talking back. [Laughter] But now that I've spent some time in Crawford, they're just cows. [Laughter]

Yes, ma'am.

Amendment To Prohibit Flag Desecration

Q. What is the status and your feeling on the amendment to prohibit flag desecration?

The President. I don't know what it is. I'm for it. And that's a good question. I just don't know exactly where it stands right now. I need to—okay.

Como esta?

Immigration

Q. *Muy bien.* I'm so proud you came here from the largest State of Texas, and the biggest President of the world.

The President. Thank you.

Q. *Jorge*—

The President. *Si.*

Q. For those of you who don't speak English, it's "George." I have a question. As an American Mexican, we face the problem with immigration.

The President. Yes.

Q. I'm very concerned. And I want to ask you what we can do to help to solve this problem, not only with the illegal immigration but with the millions of people

living in the United States with the proper papers to work.

The President. Right. A couple of things. First, short term, is to make sure that the INS functions, that the INS is able to expedite the paperwork for people who are legitimately here in the country, and expedite the paperwork necessary for families to reunite. If you believe in family values, you've got to have families together, it seems like to me. And yet, we're too bureaucratic when it comes to the INS, and we need to streamline it and make it work.

Secondly, we've got to understand that in the past, at least, there have been people who were trying to hire people and people willing to work. And it makes sense to me to have a system that matches willing employer with willing employee.

Thirdly, the long-term solution is for Mexico to grow a middle class so that people don't feel like they have to come here to work. The long-term solution—family values don't stop at the Rio Bravo. If there's somebody who has got children to feed, somebody, a mom or a dad who has got little ones to take care of, and they make 50 cents in a State in Mexico or they could make \$5 in America, they're going to come to America if they believe in their children, if they have the same values you and I have.

Values don't stop. And so therefore, it seems like to me, the best thing we can do is to have a strong relationship with Mexico, a free trading relationship with Mexico so that Mexico is more likely to grow a middle class, which means that person who is willing to walk miles across Texas desert to work to feed her children will be able to find work close to home.

That's why I said one of the most important foreign policy relations we have is with Mexico. The stronger Mexico is, the less pressure on our border. The stronger Mexico is, the more prosperity there will be in both our countries.

Listen, thank you all for coming. God bless, and God bless America.