

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:20 a.m. on January 4 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 4

but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at Parkrose High School in Portland, Oregon January 5, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for such a gracious and warm welcome. It's nice to be back here in Oregon. I'm impressed by the Mighty Ducks; they're awfully good. I wasn't a believer; now I am. [Laughter] They're good. Of course, they gave my Texas boys a good lesson last year, as I recall. [Laughter]

But thanks for coming out on a Saturday afternoon to say hello. I was earlier in California, and then I'm here—went to a community college. You've got a wonderful community college here in the Portland area, which is worried about helping people find work. And I went by and saw the good instructors there that are trying to help people help themselves. And I come in here to be able to share some thoughts with you. And then I'm going to hustle on home for dinner—[laughter]—right there in Crawford, Texas.

I want to thank Katie Harman for being here. It was a pleasure to meet your mayor. Mayor Katz, thank you for coming. It's very gracious for you to be here today.

I picked a good man from Portland to represent us in New Zealand; that's my friend Butch Swindells, who is now the Ambassador to New Zealand.

I spent a little time with some people that work for a company called InFocus, which is a company—[applause]—John, it sounds like you packed the crowd. [Laughter] Either that, or you've got a big family. [Laughter] But I want to thank John Harker and his team for coming to talk to me about how best they think we can

stimulate growth. I want to thank them for employing people in this part of the world, for trying to figure out how to grow their economy, for worrying about their workforce, as well as making a quality product. I'm going to share some thoughts that John shared with me in a little bit. But I do want to thank you for coming.

I also want to thank my friends Senator Gordon Smith and Greg Walden. They were hitchhiking in California, and they needed—[laughter]—they were looking for a free ride, and Air Force One happened to be available. [Laughter] But they did fly down with me. I'm impressed by these two good men. We spent a lot of time talking about Oregon. They're deeply concerned about the fact that a lot of people aren't working; I am, too. They're deeply concerned about the fact that parts of your State are not being treated very well. We spent time talking about the Klamath Basin. I share their concern about people who make a living off the land. And I told these two good men that we'll do everything we can to make sure water is available for people who farm.

I also want to thank two of the Congressmen from this area, Earl Blumenauer and Darlene Hooley, for being here as well. Thank you so much for coming; I appreciate you being here. I know you had better things to do on Saturday afternoon, and here you are, stuck with me. [Laughter] Thanks for coming; it means a lot.