

budget focuses on the pressing needs of our country and on the basic needs of our citizens. I am committed to building a strong economy that spreads its benefits to everyone. This goal reaches beyond politics or party, and I'm confident that Congress will join me in the work ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:20 p.m. on January 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks on Departure for East Moline, Illinois, and an Exchange With Reporters *January 14, 2002*

### *President's Health*

*The President.* My mother always said when you're eating pretzels, chew before you swallow. Listen to your mother. I feel great—looking forward to a good trip.

*Q.* What happened?

*The President.* I hit the deck and woke up, and there was Barney and Spot showing a lot of concern. I didn't realize what hap-

pened until I looked in the mirror and my glasses cut my side of my face.

I feel great. I had good blood pressure last night, good blood pressure this morning.

*Q.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* Yes, yes. Anyway, going to have a great trip. Good to see you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Remarks to Employees of John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois *January 14, 2002*

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. I thought for a while, when they told me that I was going to receive a gift here, that old Chuck was going to bring a pretzel—[laughter]—those kind that are easy to chew. [Laughter] If my mother is listening, Mother, I should have listened to you. Always chew your pretzels before you swallow. [Laughter] When I work the ropelines, people bring their children, and I always turn to the child, especially the teenagers, and say, "Listen to your mother. It's the

best advice I can give you." I obviously needed to do the same thing last night.

But I'm feeling great and so honored to be here. Thank you very much for letting me come to this fantastic plant. I'm impressed by the size of these monsters. [Laughter] It kind of makes me think I need a bigger ranch. [Laughter]

I'm also impressed by the quality of the work. It's a great tribute to the men and women who work the floor here, which is a great tribute to the country, that we've