

you love them every single day; make sure they turn off the TV so they become good readers. [*Laughter*] And always remember that we're lucky to live in such a fabulous nation, the nation called America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. on the factory floor of John Deere Harvester

Works. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jose Moreno of East Moline; Mayor Stanley F. Leach of Moline, IL; Robert W. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer, Deere & Co.; John S. Gault, general manager, John Deere Harvester Works; Chuck Thompson, president, United Auto Workers Local 865; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks in Springfield, Missouri *January 14, 2002*

The President. Thank you all. I appreciate it. Thanks for coming. I thought the Senator—I thought the Senator was going to offer me a pretzel. [*Laughter*] Not one of those ones that are hard to chew. Now, I see a lot of the students who are here. This gives me a chance to give you some good advice: Always listen to your mother. [*Laughter*] Mine used to say, “Never swallow your pretzel until you’ve chewed it.” [*Laughter*] I guess I wasn’t listening.

But it’s great to be back here in the great State of Missouri and Springfield. I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event. It gives me a chance to share some of my thoughts with our fellow citizens as I work my way down the heartland of America. I started earlier in Moline, Illinois, at a factory that makes John Deere tractors. I am here to talk to farmers. I’m on my way down to New Orleans to remind people that much of what we grow and produce in America is shipped overseas, out of that port. I’m really here to remind people of the great values of our country, lived in your everyday lives.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I’m grateful for a fine United States Senator and a good friend of mine, Kit Bond, for being here. Thank you for coming, Kit. I appreciate my Secretary of Commerce as well as the Secretary of Agriculture for joining me on this trip. Thank you both

for coming. I want to thank Kenny Hulshof and Todd Akin, of the United States Congress, for being here today. I want to thank those two fine Members of the House of Representatives for coming. I see my good friend Jim Talent is here. I appreciate you coming, Jim; I’m looking forward to visiting with you on the way out to the next stop. I want to thank so very much Roseann Blunt for being here, the wife of your Congressman. The first lady of your fine State met me at the airport, and I want to thank Lori Holden for coming out to say hello.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for taking time out of your day to be here to greet me. It’s been an unbelievable experience to be your President.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Thank you. I’m so proud to come and be able to share some thoughts about how to make sure America remains strong and to make sure people who are trying to find work are able to do so. You know, my view about this is that the role of Government is not to try to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risks, in which the entrepreneur is willing to expand through capital investment. The job of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to create jobs, so people who want work can find work. And that starts with