

shipped out when you sell overseas.” And then I went to see some farmers in Missouri. And I told them that I was coming down to New Orleans in Louisiana, which ships out a lot of the product that they grow.

The reason I’m here is because I want America to understand how our economy works. We’re worried about jobs in our country. We want everybody who wants to find work to be able to have work; everybody who wants a job should be able to provide for their family. I’m worried about the loss of jobs. Our economy is interconnected. What happens in Moline, Illinois, and in Missouri affects the people who work here in New Orleans, in the port. And therefore, good public policy recognizes that. And good public policy asks the questions, how do we make sure that what affects one affects the other in a positive way? How do we make sure people can find jobs as we head into the year 2000?

The best way to make sure that our economy recovers from the attack—I think one of the most important things I can do is to make sure that they don’t hit us again. We suffered a lot on September the 11th, and one of the things that we suffered was the lack of confidence in the future. But as every day goes by, the American people are getting more and more confident in our ability to protect ourselves and the ability for our Government to respond in a positive way to make sure that families are safe in America.

I fully understand the enemy still lurks out there, and the enemy still would like to hit us. But America has changed since September the 11th. We’re now more alert. We’ve got a Coast Guard that’s now actively patrolling our coasts, trying to make sure nobody comes in to hurt us. We’ve got an FBI—major function now is to prevent further attack. We’ve got better intelligence-sharing around the world to make sure that we find people before they come to our country. We’re on full alert. I’m so proud of the law enforcement officials

all across America who are working endlessly—who are working endlessly to make sure that we’re safe.

This is a strong country. It’s an alert country, and it’s a patient country when it comes to achieving the ultimate objective, which is keeping America safe by finding terrorists where they live and bringing them to justice. And that’s exactly what’s happening in the first theater in the war against terror. I have unleashed a mighty military, and the mighty military of America is making us proud.

For those of you who wear our uniform, I want to thank you. For those of you who have got families—family members of those who wear the uniform, I hope you’re as proud of them as I am.

We set a clear objective—several clear objectives. One of them was is that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you’re guilty. That’s the doctrine. The objective was to make sure that the Taliban no longer harbored Al Qaida. The Taliban no longer rules in Afghanistan. We met that objective, and in so doing, we liberated a group of people that had been terrorized—we liberated women and children. I’m so proud of the United States military.

It brings me such joy—such joy—to know that not only are we pursuing the objective—and that is to bring the murderers to justice—but this great Nation is liberating people and feeding people. We’re not only a tough nation, but we’re a compassionate nation. And the world has seen the greatness of America as we pursue our objective.

And we’re making some progress against Al Qaida. We’re hunting them down, one man at a time. I just want to tell you that I’m patient, and our military is patient; that I don’t care how long it takes. I don’t care where they hide; we’re after them. And we’re after them and will remain after them until they’re brought to justice.

Oh, I know there are some who are saying, “Gosh, I wish this ended yesterday.”