

Remarks During a Walking Tour of the Bush Ranch and an Exchange With Reporters in Crawford, Texas
January 2, 2003

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Q. Good morning, sir.

The President. Let's go. I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll walk about 3 or 4 miles, and then we'll end up having coffee. Mrs. Bush wants to say hello to everybody.

Q. All right.

The President. Come on. Come on, Barney. We'll walk out—it's a little muddy. I need somebody walking up here with me. I can't be—Reed, get out of the pictures. [Laughter] Come on, Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News], get in here.

Q. How are you? Happy New Year.

The President. Same to you all. We're trimming a lot of underbrush, still. Come on, Barn. Are you going to make it, Heidi [Holly Rosenkrantz, Bloomberg News]?

Q. I'll be fine.

The President. We've got a truck for you back there.

Q. Don't worry about me.

Q. Who's going to carry Barney?

The President. He's coming.

Q. He can walk 4 miles?

The President. Oh, yes, he'll walk 4. Where is he? Come on over, Barney.

Q. I don't remember—you've had the guesthouse all along, right?

The President. That's the Secret Service.

Q. That I know, but I mean, last time I actually saw this was 2000—

The President. Oh, really?

Q. —when it was still a shell. Remember, you walked us through that in July?

The President. Turn right here, guys. That's a little—right over there is another little house we refurbished, got a gym in there, and one bedroom. And then that's a little guesthouse over there, a garage.

Q. That was part of the original—

The President. Yes.

Q. Look at Barney trying to make it through the woods there.

The President. Come on, boy.

Q. Lot of legs.

Q. He's trying to get to you. [Laughter]

The President. This is pretty good—[inaudible]—in there.

Q. Is this manmade, sir?

The President. Manmade.

Q. How many acres?

The President. About 11 acres lake, 17 foot deep, the deepest spot. I put 600 black bass in there a few years ago, and about 30,000 bait fish. And they're about 2½ to 3 pounds now. A bad time to fish, because the fish are lethargic during the cold. We've got bluegill and shad and perch.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Oh, it's fantastic. We got up yesterday—Laura and I have got a tradition of—we go for a sunrise walk on the first day of the year. So yesterday we popped about of bed about 7:20 a.m., and we started moving, walked 4 miles.

Q. Great.

Q. Wasn't as chilly yesterday.

The President. No, it wasn't.

Q. You'll get up and run in this cold, won't you?

The President. Oh, absolutely. Start over there at the house. We've got different running—come on, Barn.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes, maybe. This is an old dirt road, so we put—[inaudible]—on it, to withstand the—we're going to walk—[inaudible]—then we're going to go down