

these trees—[*inaudible*]. They say in Texas that if you were to—if you were to clear land of cedars, you'd increase the water supply by 30 percent. They're real water hogs.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

The President. There is a—they say a species called the—[*inaudible*—uses the old cedar to build nests. So we maintain the old cedar.

Q. Have you ever seen one?

The President. Well, this county doesn't have them, but I'm leaving them anyway. See the big oaks in here? This country is a good part of the ranch.

Here's a little tank that we—[*inaudible*—stock with bass.

Q. So you've got the roads numbered here, right?

The President. Well, these are intersections.

Q. I thought there was. [*Laughter*]

The President. No, no.

Q. Go down to 63 and 34 and get me a—

The President. Exactly. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'm warm now.

The President. Good.

That's a really interesting stand of hardwoods up in there, about 80 acres of them. Great country through here. At the very end of it is the type of canyons we've cleared out. I'd take you back there, but it's really too wet.

Q. Do you hunt here?

The President. I don't, but some of them do. They come up here—I let them come

up here and take deer off and maintain the proper buck-to-doe ratio. You overpopulate, you get—[*inaudible*]. I don't let them shoot the turkeys.

Q. You love the turkeys.

The President. But I do let them shoot the dove. I've shot dove here. The dove season starts Labor Day, and generally we're not here.

Q. Sir, will you let us do a little bit of this before we go in the house?

The President. Yes. [*Inaudible*—don't watch TV. There's my man, Barney, standing guard. [*Laughter*] Do you want to do it right here?

Q. We'll get the camera wherever you want.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:51 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens; ranch foreman Kenneth Engelbrecht; Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan referred to White House Staff Secretary Harriet Miers. Reporters referred to Maxwell Gregory, son of David Gregory, NBC News; Senator John Edwards of North Carolina; John Bridgeland, Executive Director, USA Freedom Corps; John Evert, executive director and director of player development, Evert Tennis Academy; and professional tennis players Chris Evert and Jana Novotna. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters in Crawford January 2, 2003

2004 Election/President's Agenda

Q. Sir, there's another Democrat has thrown his hat into the ring today, John Edwards. What do you think of the Democrat strategy to essentially say that you're

not keeping America safe enough? You've heard some of that from some of the speeches.

The President. Oh, you know, I understand politics, and I'm not paying attention