will emerge, and we'll tee it up and see who the American people want to lead. And until that happens, I'm going to be doing my job.

National Economy

Q. One more thing, any thoughts for the American investor going into this new year?

The President. Well, hopefully the American investor realizes that the—this economy is pretty darn strong, given the fact that we have been through a recession and a terrorist attack, a breach of corporate confidence because of some malfeasance. And yet the economy still grows. That's very positive.

Now, I recognize that there are some uncertainties. But one thing is certain, that the economy of the United States is strong and resilient. And we must put policies in place to enhance that resiliency and enhance that strength.

Border and Homeland Security

Q. Sir, you asked or you talked the other day about authorizing an APB for those five people that were wanted by the FBI for coming into this country. Today one guy from Pakistan says that he is one of those people on those pictures, and he has never been to the United States.

The President. Well, we need to follow up on forged passports and people trying to come into our country illegally. The American people need to know that anytime we get a hint that somebody might be coming into our country to cause harm, we'll follow up on it. And you know, if we think there's a smuggling ring that's willing to smuggle people in that might harm America, we'll deal with it.

And there's—you know, and if this fellow is one of them—and I think they're trying to check that out right now. And as I recall, the story—I haven't fully read it all—but as I recall, it said he had a false passport. I'm kind of curious to know why he needs a false passport. We like things aboveboard here in America.

We want people coming to our country that wants to take—that wants to either visit this great country or study in this great country or see relatives in this great country and do so in a peaceful and lawful way. And people have a feeling like they've got to travel here with false passports sends a pretty alarming signal to those of us who are involved with the security of the country.

Q. Do you have the suspicion that there is a smuggling ring that may not have specific terrorist ties, but that there's a ring of——

The President. I'm not sure what the—you know, how to detail. All I can tell you is that we were concerned and alerted to the fact that somebody might be coming into the country. There are—having said that, there are a lot of smuggling rings that we're dealing with. The INS needs to deal with that. And the new Homeland Security Department will be dealing with smuggling rings, like the "coyotes" right south of here that are smuggling people across and treating those poor people—stuffing them into these trailers and abusing them. They need to be dealt with as well. Most of the smuggling rings are not terrorist related, but if we get a hint, a whiff that some of them are, we'll deal with them.

All right, let's go get some coffee.

Situation in Iraq

Q. One more. Are you satisfied that the inspectors are getting to Saddam's weapon scientists?

The President. He is a man who likes to play games and charades. The question is, will Saddam Hussein disarm? The world has asked him to disarm from weapons of mass destruction. The first indication isn't very positive that he will voluntarily disarm. After all, he put out a declaration that the world realized was false. And the inspectors are there to verify whether or not he is disarming. You hear these reports about Iraqi scientists being interviewed, but there's a "minder" in the room.