

dividend income as part of their retirement. If you get rid of the double taxation of dividends, you help seniors in their retirement, and that makes sense. That's good public policy, it seems like to me.

The average tax savings for taxpayers 65 and older who receive dividends will be \$936 per year, per tax return. That's—that will help. That will help people. Abolishing the double taxation will increase the return on responsible investing, which will draw more money into the markets, which will make it easier for people to have capital to build plant and equipment, which means more people will find work.

I mean, this is a plan to encourage growth, focusing on jobs. And the Council of Economic Advisers has predicted that these proposals will create 2.1 million new jobs over the next 3 years. That's good for the American people. It's good for our economy.

See, I want people who need to put bread—food on the table to be able to do so, more people working. They're looking for work and can't find work. That's—that's sad.

I signed a bill yesterday, by the way, to extend unemployment benefits. I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats, Senator Allen and others, for getting that done. See, they showed yesterday that when they get their mind to something and forget politics and focus on the good of the American people, we can get some things done. And I signed the bill yesterday. They hadn't been in town but 2 days and got the bill to my desk, and that's good.

They need to be thinking the same way about this jobs package. They need to understand that the proposal I made will put \$59 billion out the door in 2003 alone, which is short-term stimulus. They need to understand that we've got to be thinking long-term for the United States of America, that the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be

a big business, in which people are comfortable about investing, in which people have the ultimate confidence in our system.

We got a lot of big problems ahead of us here in America. We're fighting a war, and the war goes on. I knew that the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more likely it would be that I would continue to have to convince people that we live in a dangerous world, and we do.

And this year, the year '03, we're going to do like we did last year; we're just going to keep hunting them down, one at a time. It doesn't matter where they try to hide. We'll find them and bring them to justice. We'll be dealing with weapons of mass destruction in order to make the world more peaceful.

And here at home, we've got some obstacles to overcome as well. And one of those obstacles is to make sure people can find work, make sure this economy is strong and vibrant and hopeful, that the future is optimistic for every single citizen.

But there's no doubt in my mind we'll overcome these obstacles. There's no doubt in my mind that the world is going to be a more peaceful place because of the United States of America. There's no doubt in my mind that we'll prevail in the war on terror, no matter how long it takes. And there's no doubt in my mind, when Congress does the right thing, that more of our Americans will have a more hopeful future, because they'll be able to find work.

Thank you, Al, for giving me a chance to come by. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 a.m. in the company's sewing room. In his remarks, he referred to Albert Ulmer, Jr., president, National Capital Flag Company, his wife, Joanne, and their daughter, Caitlin; Vice Mayor William Cleveland of Alexandria; and Wayne and Candi Page, and Joseph and Kristen Pappano, who participated in a roundtable