

I want to remind the American people that the Congress has been working with us to provide relief. We passed monies for disaster relief, monies to help the people in New York. We passed appropriations to help beef up our security. We passed appropriations to help airlines. Yesterday, I proposed additional expenditures to help workers who have been laid off as a result of the September 11th tragedy. That spending totals about \$60 billion.

And in order to stimulate the economy, Congress doesn't need to spend any more money. What they need to do is to cut taxes. So I propose this: I propose that the United States Congress, as quickly as possible, pass tax relief equal to or a little bit greater than the monies that we have already appropriated.

Tax relief should come in this kind of form: One, that we ought to stimulate demand by cutting—accelerating the marginal tax cuts that we've passed and I've signed; as well as, there ought to be a provision in the tax relief package to make sure that low- and moderate-income workers get tax relief, as well.

And on the business side, we need to stimulate investment by allowing for enhanced expensing of capital expenditures, and we believe they ought to eliminate alternative minimum tax on corporate America.

This is a package which will dovetail nicely with the marginal cuts and the increased child credit that will kick in next year as well. The American people expect us to act, and here is a way for us to act. We've spent money, and that will have a stimulative effect of some kind.

But to make sure that the economy gets the boost it needs, Congress ought to come together quickly and accept the ideas that I've just laid out. We believe that will be the best way to make sure that America recovers from the terrorist attack of September the 11th.

The terrorists attacked us, but they did not diminish our spirit, nor did they undermine the fundamentals of our economy. And we believe if we act expeditiously, that those fundamentals will kick back in, and people will be able to find work again.

I hope you all have a fine weekend. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:36 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Signing Legislation Authorizing United States Payments to the United Nations

October 5, 2001

Today I am pleased to sign into law S. 248, which authorizes U.S. payments to the United Nations. This payment constitutes the second of three payments of arrears. When I met with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan in March, I told him that the United States was committed to paying the arrears it owes to the United Nations. Today, I am glad to take this important step towards fulfilling that commitment.

As the world's preeminent multilateral institution, the United Nations plays a critical role in defusing international crises, resolving longstanding conflicts, and alleviating suffering, poverty, and disease. The United Nations also has a vital role in cracking down on violators of international law and eliminating sources of funding for terrorist operations.

This release of funds will enhance the close bond between the United States and the United Nations, and will help to facilitate the work the United States carries out in concert with other U.N. members.

In making these funds available, Republicans and Democrats in the Congress have again demonstrated their willingness to work together in a constructive manner to address our Nation's challenges at this important time in our history. I would like to pay a special tribute to Senators Helms and Biden, whose leadership has served as a catalyst for U.N. reform, and provided a means for the United States to fulfill its international obligations. I also wish to thank Representatives Hyde and Lantos, who have worked in a bipartisan manner toward making this payment to the United Nations a reality.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 5, 2001.

NOTE: S. 248, approved October 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107-46.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 30

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

October 1

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia. Also in the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sichan Siv to be U.S. Representative to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center: Neal McCaleb, Maureen Patricia Cragin, Sonya E. Medina, and Frances P. Mainella.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust: Donald G. Fisher, Tony Rosenblatt, and Mary G. Murphy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robert R. Reilly as Director of the Voice of America.

October 2

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council. Later, the President traveled to Arlington, VA, and then returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President had dinner with Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC, at Morton's Steakhouse.

The President announced his intention to nominate John B. Brown III to be Deputy Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Leidinger to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cameron R. Hume to be Ambassador to South Africa.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frederick W. Schieck to be Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

October 3

In the morning, the President traveled to New York City, NY.

In the afternoon, he met and had lunch with Gov. George E. Pataki of New York, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City, and firefighters of New York City's Engine Co. 55. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Vicente Fox of Mexico on October 4.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles S. Shapiro to be Ambassador to Venezuela.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the newly created President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education: Terry Edward Branstad, Adela Acosta, Steve Bartlett, Paul C. Butterfield, Jay G. Chambers, W. Alan Coulter, Thomas Albert Flemming, Jack M. Fletcher, Douglas H. Gill, David W. Gordon, Nancy S. Grasmick, Bryan C. Hassel, Douglas Carl Huntt, Michael J. Rivas, Cheryl Rei Takemoto, and Katie Wright. The President also announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as ex officio members of the Commission: Elizabeth Ann Bryan, Edward Sontag, Robert Pasternack, Reid Lyon, and Wade F. Horn.

October 4

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Amir Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland concerning cooperation against terrorism.