

"What mattered to me most in the White House was integrity and responsibility. Public service has been damaged by people who don't have the judgment to place the public's business above their own self interest, and unethical conduct should not be tolerated at any level of government."

Mr. Bush went on to say that he was determined—at all times—to treat the office of the presidency with respect and not do anything that would cheapen or diminish it.

"I still take pride in the fact that my administration was clean and free of scandal," he says. "We had not been hounded by people using government jobs for personal gain. We came to the White House with high ethical standards and we left with heads high in that regard."

And what did George Bush learn from his years in the White House that has made a lasting impact on him?

"I learned that the power to get things done is less than some people believe," he remembers. "Yes, the presidency is magnified out of proportion. You can get some things done, but you can't wave a wand to have everything work the way you want it. The presidency is too complicated."

"I also learned that the White House is surrounded by history, and I left there with even more respect for America's principles, more respect for the institution of the presidency, and more respect for the civil servants, including the staff of the executive residence and the uniformed Secret Service officers, who make that magnificent museum of a place into a real home for whoever is President of the U.S. as well as for his family and guests."

And since he departed the White House, in 1993, how, in his view, has the presidency evolved?

"Like many Americans, I have worried about the recent happenings in and around the White House," George Bush told me. "But the presidency is a vital and strong and resilient institution. Just as (former President) Jerry Ford instantly restored honor to the Executive Mansion—after Watergate—so will whoever is elected President in the year 2000."

"Respect for the office is important and character and behavior in that office do count. The office is not too big for any individual, provided he or she can make tough decisions and give credit to bright and experienced people who should surround the Chief Executive."

If George Bush could leave but one legacy, he wants it to be a return to the moral compass that must guide America through the next century.

"And," he adds, "I hope historians will say that I and my Administration left the world a little more peaceful by the way we handled the unification of Germany, the liberation of Eastern Europe and the Baltics, as well as the way we worked with the Soviet leaders to bring about change there, and to get their support when we had to fight the Gulf War."

"I also hope my legacy will include the Madrid peace conference (1992); our key role in NAFTA, the Brady Plan (plan for debt relief for Latin America), and the way we handled China after Tiananmen Square 10 years ago."

"On a personal level, I hope my legacy will be that 'George Bush did his best and served America with honor.'"

If he could have one wish on this birthday, what would it be?

"I am not sentimental," he says, "but, yes, there is a certain special quality to this milestone. For myself, I have no wishes for my birthday. I have everything a man could want. But, for the world, I would wish more peace; and for America, I wish for stronger families and better values."

And George Bush's vision for the next century?

"I am optimistic about the 21st century," he told me. "With no superpower confrontation on the horizon, I believe the next century can be one of peace—though there will always be regional conflicts. But I, for one, am still hopeful."

And to share that hope, he likes to recount the time that his wife, Barbara, was planting a flowering bush. She was instructed to dig a deep bed, fill it with fertilizer and firmly plant the bush by covering it with water and soil.

"We were told that the plant would not bloom right away, but that it would, after a year or so, and then for a long time to come," he mused. "Soon, we realized that she was planting that flowering bush for our kids and grandkids and great-grandkids."

"So despite the vicissitudes we face now, and will face in the future, I believe that that planting was not in vain. Sure, we have problems in the U.S. and overseas, and the world has the weapons to blow itself up. Yet my inner self tells me that our great-grandkids will be around to enjoy those flowers."

AID FOR RUSSIAN AND ROMANIAN ORPHANS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, before the recess, with the help and support of my colleagues Mr. HELMS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. MCCONNELL, I offered an amendment to Senate Bill 1234, which would provide some relief for the hundreds of thousands of orphans who find themselves confined to institutions and have no one to provide the love, affection and guidance that they so desperately need. Sadly, the disruption and extreme poverty which followed the end of the Cold War Era has had a devastating impact on the lives of the children in the Eastern block. In both Russia and Romania, it is the children, the future of democracy, who are struggling to survive. It is my hope that the funds designated by this amendment will allow the governments in each of these two countries to protect the health, safety and well being of their children and in doing so, build for a stronger and brighter tomorrow.

Specifically, this amendment ensures that \$2,000,000 of the funding appropriated for aid to Russia and the Independent States is used to further the innovative efforts of nongovernmental organizations, such as Christian World Adoption Agency, to provide vocational and professional training for those children who are about to "age out" of orphanages. When this body created Independent Living, it recognized that such training and support is essential to the future of the young adults who have, for whatever reason, grown up in an institution rather than in a family. With the help of help organizations like Christian World, these children can be given the tools they need to become confident and successful adults.

Further, my amendment provides that \$4,400,000 of the funds provided for aid to Eastern Europe and the Baltic States will be used to support the Romanian Department of Child Protec-

tion and their work to save the lives and improve health of the more than 100,000 Romanian children in orphanages. Just the other day, myself and several of my colleagues met with the present Secretary of the Department of Child Protection, Dr. Cristian Tabacaru. With great passion, Dr. Tabacaru painted for me a picture of the dire circumstances faced by his country's children. At present, Romania has the highest infant mortality rate in Europe. What is worse, is that 60% of these deaths are from preventable causes such as malnutrition and premature births.

The Romanian Department of Child Protection is working desperately to save their most precious resource, their children. They have instituted programs that provide nutritional supplements to these children, they have developed their first ever in-home foster care program and are working to improve the services available for those with special needs. While they have made a great deal of progress in very little time, they need and deserve our help. This small amount of money will help them out of their present crisis and to build a child welfare system of which they can be proud.

In closing, I want to again thank Mr. HELMS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. MCCONNELL for their support of my amendment. As we continue to aid the children of this world, we can be confident that we are building the hope of a bright and wonderful future, a future in which few children will grow up without a family to call their own.

REPORT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET REQUEST ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 46

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 202(c) of the District of Columbia Financial Management and Responsibility Assistance Act of 1995 and section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Governmental Reorganization Act, as amended, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Request Act.

This proposed Fiscal Year 2000 Budget represents the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority. For Fiscal Year 2000, the District estimates revenue of \$5.482 billion and total expenditures of \$5.482 billion, resulting in a budget surplus of \$47,000.

My transmittal of the District of Columbia's budget, as required by law, does not represent an endorsement of its contents.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.