

Q. Mr. President, so you don't accept Florida's certification of George Bush as the winner?

The President. It's not up for me to accept or reject. There is a legal process here. Both of them have filed lawsuits, and the Supreme Court of Florida, when they issued their opinion a couple of days ago, or a few days ago, actually anticipated a challenge. And if you read the opinion, they explicitly acknowledged that it was almost a certainty. So let's just watch this happen. It will be over soon, and we will be ready for the transition.

Funding for Presidential Transition

Q. Mr. President, to what extent were you, or was anyone in the White House staff, involved in the decision by the General Services Administration to withhold transition funding from the Bush/Cheney team?

The President. I was not involved in it at all, and as far as I know, no one else here was. But there is a procedure that—we actually went back and reviewed the congressional deliberations on this legislation. And I think the General Services Administration believes that it cannot offer transition assistance to both of them, which is what I would otherwise be inclined to do.

I think they're doing what they think the law requires. But I, personally—I can't answer for anyone else in the White House, but I was personally not involved in it. I think they're trying to do what they think the law requires while this election challenge plays itself out. It won't be long now.

Vice President Gore

Q. Have you spoken to the Vice President at all, or—

The President. I talked to him on Thanksgiving, called him and wished him and his family a happy Thanksgiving.

Q. But he hasn't called you for advice or anything?

The President. No.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:16 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush and Vice Presidential candidate Dick Cheney. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13176—Facilitation of a Presidential Transition

November 27, 2000

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including 5 U.S.C. 7301, to further the purposes of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963, as amended, and to assist the transition from this Administration to that of the President-elect, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Presidential Transition Coordination. (a) To assist and support the transition efforts of the President-elect, there is established a Presidential Transition Coordinating Council (Council).

(b) The Council shall be composed of the following officials or their designees:

1. Chief of Staff to the President;
2. Counsel to the President;
3. Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary;
4. Assistant to the President for Management and Administration;
5. Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Personnel;
6. Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
7. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
8. Director of the Office of Personnel Management;
9. Administrator of General Services;
10. Archivist of the United States;
11. Commissioner of Internal Revenue;
12. Director of the Office of Government Ethics; and
13. Such others as the President may select.

(c) The Council shall be chaired by the Chief of Staff to the President or his designee.

(d) The Council shall coordinate assistance to the President-elect in fulfilling his responsibilities and make every reasonable effort to facilitate the transition between administrations. This assistance may include, among other things, providing publicly available information relevant to facilitating the personnel aspects of a presidential transition and such other information that, in the Council's judgement, is useful and appropriate as long

as providing such information is not otherwise prohibited by law.

Sec. 2. Transition Activities and Materials.

(a) The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, shall coordinate orientation activities for key prospective Presidential appointees.

(b) The Administrator of General Services, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Presidential Personnel, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Archivist of the United States, shall develop a transition directory. The transition directory shall include Federal publications and materials that provide information on the officers, organization, and statutory and administrative authorities, functions, duties, responsibilities, and mission of each department and agency.

(c) The White House Office of Presidential Personnel shall coordinate with all departments and agencies of the executive branch of the Government to produce a catalogue of all positions in their respective jurisdictions that are filled by presidential appointment requiring Senate confirmation (PAS positions). The catalogue shall include:

- (1) the legal authority establishing each PAS position;
- (2) a description of duties and statutory authorities of the position;
- (3) the names of Senate committees that review nominees for the position;
- (4) the names of congressional committees with which appointees in the position regularly interact; and
- (5) the name and contact information of an experienced executive in the agency or department, a previous office holder or a White House Liaison, or a comparable individual who can answer questions about the position.

(d) Executive departments and agencies shall prepare a set of orientation materials for new political appointees before the inauguration of the President-elect. Copies of all such materials shall be provided to the Incoming Transition Team upon its request.

Sec. 3. Transition Agreement. To assist and support the transition efforts of the

President-elect, a transition agreement between the current Administration and the Office of the President-elect will be entered into regarding transition procedures and identification of transition contacts.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
November 27, 2000.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 p.m., November 28, 2000]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

**Remarks in a Meeting With
Metropolitan Law Enforcement
Leaders**

November 28, 2000

Well, first of all, you guys look good on the steps here. [*Laughter*] Maybe you should just stay all day. It would be great.

I want to thank you for all the help you've given us these last 8 years, in all my many movements and oftentimes in very crowded times of the day and difficult circumstances. And I'm very, very grateful to all of you, and before I left, I just wanted to have a chance to get everybody together and say thank you.

I've had a wonderful time these last 8 years. And I was able to do my job in no small measure because of what you did, and I hope you'll always be glad that you did it.

I thank you very, very much. Merry Christmas.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. on the steps of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

**Remarks at the White House
Conference on Culture and
Diplomacy**

November 28, 2000

The President. Well, thank you very much, and welcome. I want to, first of all, say how honored we are to have all of you here. This is a remarkable assemblage, and I want to thank Hillary and Secretary Albright and all the others who have worked