

do you think it was the right thing to do?

PRES. BUSH: Yeah, I think access is good, it lances the sores that build up if you're unavailable; gives them a chance to...you know, through the questions, get off their chest what's there. I think the American people are better informed of the president's views by the access I have to the White House press corps. I eschewed the formal press conference. At the formal press conference, people in your profession, and I say this respectfully, will put on a beautiful red dress or a nice dark suit with a bright red tie, and hold their hands up and get up there and say..."for your information I'd like to ask this question..." you know that's a political statement. Not always, but I mean you're on stage, on camera, on stage, it's more of a show. Then I'll be up there preening in my red tie and my beautiful suit to answer the question knowing it's going into everybody's living room. We've given...I'm not...I don't do that too well I don't think, although we did it once and got away with it alright. But I prefer the give and take of the press room. I'm the guy that's on the camera, which may or may not be good, for the most part, and then the questions come at you...one, two, three; and it's less for..."I'm asking for your information, I'm asking this question;" it's more...hey what's your answer to this? And...people are less apt to make the statement in asking the question is what I'm saying. So, I think it's a good format; maybe we need to combine the two.

LAMB: Running out of time, let me ask you about hunger. Lots of reports coming out about hungry people and I've asked this of a lot of people, including your secretary of agriculture and can't remember what his precise answer was. But do we have a policy in this country or should we, that everybody in this country that lives here should get a meal or meals everyday and a bed to sleep in?

PRES. BUSH: That certainly is the policy but it is not a right, it's not a given...I mean it's not enshrined in the constitution. But certainly it is an objective and it ought to be the same thing in terms of health care. And some would say, well that means the government has to do it all. They'd say that on hunger, they'd say that on health care. And I think it's a combination, of the generosity of communities, of the creativity of states and of the obligation of the federal government--it's a combination.

But clearly, you can't have on your conscience the thought that one American goes to bed without food, or without shelter, or without medical attention. Where you get into an argument is: who's responsibility...how do you see that those bad things don't happen to people. And of course you go through history and regrettably there have always been homeless, there always have been those hungry, even in affluent countries like ours; and it is a tragedy, and yes I am very much concerned about it.

LAMB: What do you do when you have time...where the cameras aren't around and you're not out playing golf? Do you ever take a day where you just plop down and say I'm not going to do anything today?

PRES. BUSH: No. Too...too hyper.

LAMB: Do you read?

PRES. BUSH: Play horseshoes. You didn't see...I won the...(laughter)...no but, no, I got to exercise.

LAMB: Do you read?

PRES. BUSH: I read. I read a bunch of books. I whipped it out for...a magazine asked me this the other day, and I whipped it out and I've read, oh, about, I think twelve books since March I think it is. But easy reading...Dan Jenkins and other relaxed treatises, you know detective stories or something like that. I read a ton of official papers, the economy, growth, agricultural policy, health care...

LAMB: Do you watch television?

PRES. BUSH: Watch quite a bit. I watch the news, and I don't like to tell you this because you'll think I'm into some weird TV freak here, but...I have a set upstairs that has five screens on it. And I can sit on my desk and whip...just punch a button, if I see one off on the corner that moves in to the middle screen, the other one goes to the side, then I can run up and down the dial. So...and you can record all four going at once while you're watching. I don't quite know how to do that yet. But I cite this because Barbara accuses me of being too much...not too much, but plugged into TV too often, put it that way.

Love sports, though. You asked how I relax? Love to watch a football game. We watched my friend Ivan Lendl lose in a five setter to Chang I think it was last weekend--and I find that relaxing. Take a rest to relax; read some to relax. We watch movies, I love watching movies. And at Camp David we're spoiled 'cause they send us all the good ones. We have a movie theater right down this hall here--and bring the kids, and family and friends over to do that. I think like any other American family...love fishing, that's real relaxing for me--real relaxing. But I think competitive sports still...tennis and golf and once again horseshoes--these are the things I really like. And it's the way I relax. My body feels better and my mind is clear. I still run two miles, three days a week usually--not very fast, but I do it. And all of that comes together and gives you a normal life.

LAMB: We're out of time. I just want to invite you when you

C-SPAN/BUSH TRANSCRIPT -- 11

have time to come talk to our callers. You came to us in 1983 and the callers were able to call up and talk to you and that's something we do best...

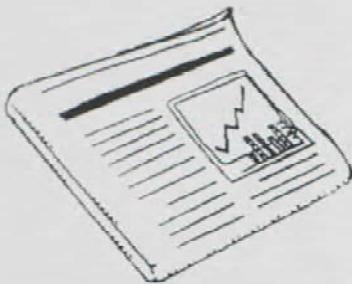
PRES. BUSH: Well you do it well. And I say this not just 'cause you and I are eyeball to eyeball, but I do watch it. I can't say that I see it every night or everyday what you're doing but...I think C-SPAN -- probably get in trouble with others -- but I think you perform a wonderful service because of the substance. Because of the seriousness of the presentations, and I salute you for that. And I wish you and everybody clued in there to a very Happy Holiday, and Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year. I expect we're going to have one...I know we're going to have a good family Christmas.

LAMB: Thanks for the time.

PRES. BUSH: Not at all.

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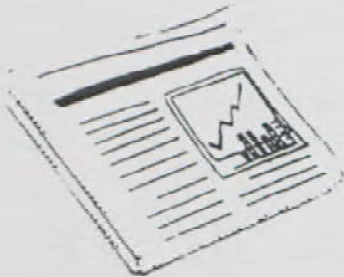
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\_\_\_\_\_ *conversation* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Jean Sandefur* \_\_\_\_\_  
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NOTE: Do you still  
have the tape?  
This quote is from  
pages 5 + 6 of the  
transcript.

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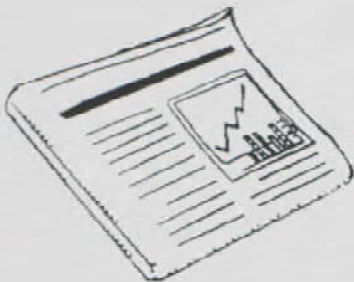
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NOTE: Thought President

Bust's remarks regarding  
his health might be  
timely -

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questions.

Jean Sandefur

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NOTE: THOUGHT

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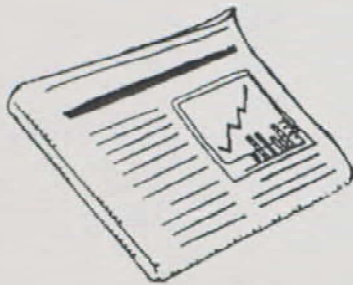
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"Smiley" quote -

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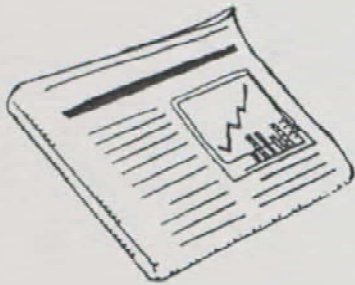
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might be

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thought this  
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of interest -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Rayne Pollack  
(202) 626-4863  
Jean Sandefur  
(202) 626-7975

BUSH REFERS TO HIS HEALTH IN RECENT C-SPAN INTERVIEW

Washington, January 8, 1992 --Excerpt from C-SPAN interview with President George Bush, which aired Sunday, December 22, 1991.

BRIAN LAMB, C-SPAN: "Where do you get your energy?"

PRESIDENT BUSH: "Well, I'm blessed with good health, and when I had that fibrillation...heart fibrillation...I couldn't understand it. 'Cause I'd been in great health and I was running. I'll tell you how it worked; I was out running and I felt out of breath, and I said, strange here, I just started. So I walked a while then ran again and I couldn't get going so good, I felt out of breath. So I said call the doctor, get him over to the medical units at Camp David and I'm going to run over there. And I ran over there, which was a few hundred yards, and I was tired, and suddenly discovered that for the first time I had heart fibrillation. Found out what caused it -- thyroid -- and now I'm a hundred percent. And exercise is very important for me. I really respect what Arnold Schwarzenegger's doing in this country, taking his message...and I live by that code: stay fit. You've got to be physically fit as well as, hopefully, mentally fit. So, I'm blessed with a tremendous amount of energy."

\*

\*

\*

BRIAN LAMB, C-SPAN: What do you do when you have time...where the cameras aren't around and you're not out playing golf? Do you ever take a day where you just plop down and say I'm not going to do anything today?

PRESIDENT BUSH: "No. Too....too hyper."

###

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**C-SPAN**

January 2, 1992

Dear Journalist,


Happy New Election Year! As we enter the year on the presidential campaign trail, I thought you might find useful the enclosed transcript of C-SPAN's recent half-hour exclusive interview with President Bush.

Brian Lamb, C-SPAN Chairman and CEO, interviewed the President from the White House a few days before Christmas. C-SPAN viewers see the President at nearly every official press opportunity, so Brian steered this interview in a more personal direction.

Over the course of the conversation the President discusses his youth and family life, some of his mentors, his health, his television viewing habits, his management style, his thoughts on hunger and homelessness and how he spends leisure time. His responses form a portrait of a man, as well as a president. The AP story outlining other hard news points is also attached.

If you have any questions or require other information, please contact me at: (202) 626-4863. And, don't forget to watch C-SPAN's weekly series "Road to the White House"; Fridays, 5:00 PM (ET) and Sundays, 9:30 PM (ET), for all of the latest campaign action from now until election day.

Sincerely,



Rayne Pollack  
C-SPAN Press Information

For Release 6 p.m. EST. Time set by source  
Bush Says '91 a Year of Mixed Emotions

By CHRISTOPHER CONNELL

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush says "the agony of a very slow economy" has made 1991 a year of mixed emotions after victory in the Gulf War and the growth of democracy in Eastern Europe.

"Trying to cope with this economy is extraordinarily difficult," Bush told C-Span, the cable television industry's public service channel.

But Bush, in an interview taped Friday and broadcast Sunday, cautioned critics not to count him out, despite his recent plunge in the polls.

That decline has just gotten "the competitive juices" flowing, said Bush. "I like the combat."

Bush, who has already raised millions of dollars for his 1992 re-election race, said: "I've been underestimated before and they ought not to underestimate me again because I'm going to take my case out to the American people, get this economy turned around and I'll be ready."

The president described 1991 as "a year of mixed emotions. ... A year of up and down."

Dramatic changes abroad made this "a more peaceful world for our kids to grow up in," he said, adding that there was also "the agony of a very slow economy at home that hurt a lot of good people."

Bush called the Federal Reserve Board's 1 percentage point cut in the discount rate, to 3.5 percent — its lowest level in 27 years — "very good news ... which should have a stimulative effect on the economy."

Bush said he relishes the challenges of the presidency.

"Trying to cope with this economy is extraordinarily difficult," he said. "I'm determined to succeed, but I learned firsthand in 1991 that the buck does stop there on that desk — and properly so."

On other topics, Bush:

—Said he wouldn't trade the American system for Britain's parliamentary government.

"I count my blessings for the fact I don't have to go into that pit that John Major stands in, nose-to-nose with the opposition, all yelling at each other."

—Crowed about his good health and said he's "too hyper" to sit still.

"Exercise is very important for me. ... I'm blessed with a tremendous amount of energy," he said.

"I love competitive sports," added the 67-year-old president. "I can't wait for Christmas Day at Camp David to whip up on the Marines up there with my three sons as the Bush wallyball team goes back into action."

"Wallyball" is volleyball played indoors on a racquetball court.

And, the president vowed: "I'm not going to be driven off the golf course. ... I can do two things at once: mind the country's business and then every once in a while, play golf."

Former President Richard Nixon has suggested that Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle spend too much time on the links.

—Shrugged off New York Gov. Mario Cuomo's decision to skip the Democratic presidential race. The other Democrats, Bush said, were never going to "roll over and play dead" for Cuomo.

"I respect his decision. And in spite of the fact we yell about each other from time to time, we get along all right," he said.

—Said he likes frequent, informal news conferences: "It lances the sores that build up if you're unavailable."

—Called hunger in America "a tragedy," but said, "there have always been homeless, there always have been those hungry, even in affluent countries like ours."



January 2, 1992

Dear Journalist,

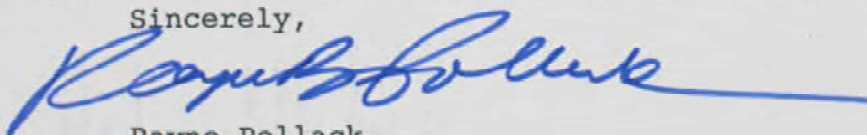
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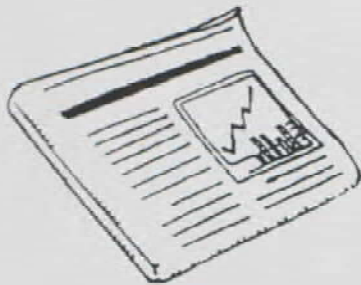
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TO: Martin Fletcher - London Times

FROM: MONIQUE LLANOS  
(202) 626-7975

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*F. Y. I.*

NOTE: See page 2 for  
quote by President Bush  
on Prime Minister John  
Major & Parliamentary  
Procedures.

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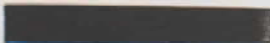
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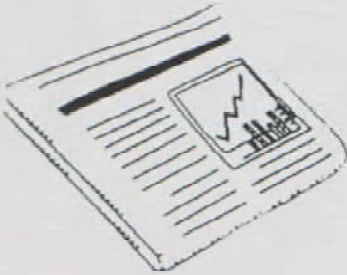
NOTE: See Page 2 for  
quote by President Bush  
on John Major, and  
Parliamentary System.  
F.Y.I.  
- tried to send before  
the holidays.

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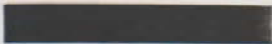
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TO: Peter Ridelle - Financial Times

FROM: Rayne Pollack-Press Information  
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NUMBER OF PAGES: 13  
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NOTE: See Page 2 for  
quote by President  
Bush on Prime Minister John  
Major of the Parliamentary Systems  
F. Y. I.  
- tried to send before  
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**- TRANSCRIPT -**

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH  
PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH**

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Taped Friday, December 20, 1991 in the White House  
Airing Sunday, December 22, 1991 at 6:30 PM, 9:30 PM and 12:30 AM (ET)

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE  
UNTIL 6:00 PM (ET)  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1991**

**C-SPAN**

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TRANSCRIPT  
C-SPAN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

BRIAN LAMB, C-SPAN: Mr. President, 1991, what did you think of the year?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Up and down, it started with trauma, to go or not to go, in terms of the use of military force in Kuwait, the Persian Gulf area, in order to kick Saddam Hussein out, and so that started with tension and shortly thereafter, fantastic conclusion to that war. And then a long, kind of slow, sluggish economy that hurt a lot of people and ended . . .oh, and of course, inside of that, the change, the coup in the Soviet Union this summer. And then all the changes in the republics, fascinating, guaranteeing, I think, a more peaceful world for our kids to grow up in. All positive in that sense. The emergence of Democracy strengthening up Eastern Europe and all, but nevertheless, all the time the agony of a very slow economy at home that hurt a lot of people. So it was a year of mixed emotions, and ending with good news today on the economic front, but still, with a very sluggish economy, good news in the sense that the Fed has lowered the rates to almost historic lows, which should have a stimulative effect on the economy.

So, its been a year of up and down. On a personal side, of course, great happiness for me and Barbara, sadness in that our house got clobbered, but when I look at that and think of some of the hardship of the American people and I can say we've been very lucky.

LAMB: Were you surprised at anything about yourself during the year?

PRES. BUSH: Oh, no, I'm old enough to be not surprised by myself anymore. 67 -- I've been around the track for a while. . . .

LAMB: What do you think of this job?

PRES. BUSH: . . . I think I'm a better, I hope I'm a better president at the end of what I think most would concede is a very difficult year, because I . . . get tested by fire and, I think that, hope that makes you a better person.

LAMB: What do you think of this job?

PRES. BUSH: Well, I must tell ya, I like it. I still get the same emotional feeling when I walk into the Oval Office as I did when I first maybe peeked my head in as a tourist to the White House. And I go to work over there early; walk out that door over there and get to work at seven in the morning. I work long hours. I'm blessed with good health. I forgot to mention the up and down on the health front there last spring. I'm blessed with good health and so, I find the job tremendously challenging. I can't tell you that it's not without some baggage, I mean, trying to cope

with this economy is extraordinarily difficult. I'm determined to succeed, but, I learned firsthand in 1991, that the buck does stop there on that desk--and properly so. It's only the president who can commit forces and it is the president who must bear his share of the responsibility when things aren't going well on the economy. So, I have a kind of a tranquil approach. Determination is greater than ever. But, I'm not out looking for sympathy or anything, there. I feel too privileged to be president.

LAMB: As you know, our audience looks at a lot of other governments. We televise the British House of Commons every week...

PRES. BUSH: And, it's very good, too, I might add. And, I count my blessings that we have the presidential system and not a parliamentary system.

LAMB: That's what I wanted to ask you about. We saw Mr. Kaifu go very quickly...

PRES. BUSH: Yes.

LAMB: ...Mrs. Thatcher go very quickly, and others. What do you think of our system, compared to the parliamentary system?

PRES. BUSH: I think it's a good, stable system. And, you know, dealer's choice. Let them choose what they want for their system, I'm not going to criticize the British or the Australians or anybody else. But, we've got a stable system, in the sense of presidential leadership, continuity, and I wouldn't trade it at all. Besides that, I count my blessings for the fact I don't have to go into that pit that John Major stands in, nose-to-nose with the opposition, all yelling at each other. He and I have talked about that, incidentally. I think he does very, very well. But I think that's for him, not for me.

LAMB: There are a couple of your opposition members up on Capitol Hill who have a bill in to create a Question Time to bring Administration people up there. What's wrong with that?

PRES. BUSH: Well, I think they're up there all the time. I wish I had the exact figure to tell your listeners of how many treks to Capitol Hill is made by Administration spokesmen. Very candidly, they overdo it. Several committees doing the same kind of hearings, so that the Congressman who wants to get his or her name in the paper can get it in by calling up witnesses -- it goes on all the time. But the idea that they want to change the Constitution to drag some Secretary into the well of the House to go through questioning, I don't think that makes much sense. As I say, I think we've got a good stable system now and we're very responsive to the legitimate inquiries from Congress.