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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Yanes, Raul - Speech Files

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Folder Title:

Close Hold Statement [on the Economy], 09/19/2008 [775690] [2]

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	Close Hold Statement	30	09/19/2008	P5; Transferred
002	Speech	Close Hold Statement	30	09/19/2008	Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Yanes, Raul - Speech Files

FOLDER TITLE:

Close Hold Statement [on the Economy], 09/19/2008 [775690] [2]

FRC ID:

14288

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Records Not Subject to FOIA

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Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Speech	Close Hold Statement	30	09/19/2008	P5; Transferred

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FOIA IDs and Segments:

2014-0222-F

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Close Hold Statement
Friday, September 19, 2008
Draft #1520

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9/19/08

P

Good morning. I thank

Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson,

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke,

and SEC Chairman Chris Cox for joining

me.

This is a pivotal moment for America's
economy. Problems that originated in the
credit markets – and first showed up in the
area of subprime mortgages – have spread
throughout our financial system.

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This has led to an erosion of confidence
that has frozen many financial transactions
– including loans to consumers and to
businesses seeking to expand and create
jobs. As a result, we must act now to
protect our Nation's economic health from
serious risk.

There will be ample opportunity to
debate the origins of this problem. Now is
the time to solve it. In our Nation's history,
there have been moments that require us to
come together across party lines to address
major challenges. This is such a moment.

Last night, Secretary Paulson,

Chairman Bernanke, and Chairman Cox

met with Congressional leaders of both

They had a pos. five meeting
parties – and I appreciate the willingness of

the Congress
these leaders to confront this situation head

on.

They had good meeting

Our system of free enterprise rests on
the conviction that the federal government
should intervene in the marketplace only
when necessary. Given the precarious
state of today's financial markets – and
their vital importance to the daily lives of the
American people – government intervention
is not only warranted but essential.

In recent weeks, the federal government
has taken a series of measures to help
promote stability in the overall economy.

To avoid severe disruptions in the financial
markets and to support home financing,
we took action to address the situation at
Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

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The Federal Reserve also acted to prevent
the disorderly liquidation of the insurance
company AIG. And in coordination with
central banks around the world, the Fed
has injected much-needed liquidity into
our financial system.

These were targeted measures
designed primarily to stop the problems of
individual firms from spreading even more
broadly. But more action is needed. We
must address the root cause behind much
of the instability in our markets – the
mortgage assets that have lost value during
the housing decline and are now restricting
the flow of credit. America's economy is
facing unprecedented challenges, and we
are responding with unprecedented action:

Secretary Paulson, Chairman Bernanke,
and Chairman Cox have briefed leaders on
Capitol Hill on the urgent need for Congress
to pass legislation approving the federal
government's purchase of illiquid assets,
such as troubled mortgages, from banks
and other financial institutions.

This is a decisive step that will address the
underlying problems in our financial system)
It will help take pressure off the balance
sheets of banks and other financial
institutions. And it will allow them to
resume lending and get our financial
system moving again.

God Family

In addition to this extraordinary action,

the federal government is taking several

other steps to address the trouble in our

financial markets.

P

The Department of the Treasury is
acting to restore confidence in a key
element of America's financial system –
money market mutual funds. In the past,
government insurance was not available for
these funds, and the recent stresses on the
markets have caused some to question
whether these investments are safe and
accessible.

The Treasury Department's actions address
that concern by offering government
insurance for money market mutual funds.

For every dollar invested in an insured fund,
you will be able to take a dollar out.

The Federal Reserve is also taking
steps to provide additional liquidity to
money market mutual funds, which will help
ease pressure on our financial markets.

These measures will act as grease for the
gears of our financial system, which were at
risk of grinding to a halt. And they will
support the flow of credit to households
and businesses.

The Securities and Exchange

Commission has issued new rules

temporarily suspending the practice of short
selling on the stocks of financial institutions.)

This is intended to prevent investors from
intentionally driving down particular stocks
for their own personal gain.

The SEC is also requiring certain investors
to disclose their short selling, and it has
launched rigorous enforcement actions to
detect fraud and manipulation in the
market. And anyone engaging in illegal
financial transactions will be caught and
prosecuted.

Finally, when we get past the immediate
challenges, my Administration looks
forward to working with Congress on
measures to bring greater long-term
transparency and reliability to the financial
system – including those in the regulatory
blueprint submitted by Secretary Paulson
earlier this year.

Many of the regulations governing the
functioning of America's markets were
written in a different era. It is vital that we
update them to meet the realities of today's
global financial system.

The actions I have just outlined reflect
my considered judgment after consulting
closely with Secretary Paulson, Chairman
Bernanke, and Chairman Cox. We believe
that this decisive government action is
needed to preserve America's financial
system and sustain America's overall
economy.

These measures will require us to put a significant amount of taxpayer dollars on the line. (This action does entail risk.)

But we expect that this money will be paid

back over time. (The vast majority of assets

the government is planning to purchase

have good value over time, because the

vast majority of homeowners continue to

pay their mortgages) And the risk of not

acting would have been far higher.

Further stress on our financial markets
would cause massive job losses ...
devastate retirement accounts ...
further erode housing values ...
and dry up loans for new homes, cars,
and college tuitions. These are risks
America cannot afford to take.

In this difficult time, I know many
Americans are wondering about the
security of their finances. Every American
should know that the federal government
continues to enforce laws and regulations
protecting your money.

Through the FDIC, every savings account,
checking account, and certificate of deposit
is insured by the federal government for up
to 100,000 dollars. The FDIC has been in
existence for 75 years, and no one has
ever lost a penny on an insured deposit.
This will not change.

America's financial system is intricate
and complex. | But behind all the technical
terminology and statistics is a critical
human factor – confidence. | Confidence in
our financial system and its institutions is
essential to the smooth operation of our
economy, and recently that confidence has
been shaken.

Investors should know that the United
States government is taking action to
restore confidence in America's financial
markets so they can thrive again.

In the long term, Americans have good
reason to be confident in our economic
strength. America has the most talented,
productive, and entrepreneurial workers in
the world. This country is the best place in
the world to invest and do business.

Consumers around the world continue to
seek out American products, as evidenced
by record-high exports. And we have a
flexible and resilient system that absorbs
challenges, makes corrections, and
bounces back.

We have seen that resilience over the
past eight years. Since 2001, our economy
has faced a recession ... the bursting of the
dot-com bubble ... major corporate
scandals ... an unprecedented attack on
our homeland ... a global war on terror ...
and a series of devastating natural
disasters. Our economy has weathered
every one of these challenges, and still
managed to grow.

We will weather this challenge too, and
we must do so together. This is no time for
partisanship. We must join to move
urgently-needed legislation as quickly as
possible, without adding controversial
provisions that could delay action. I will
work with Democrats and Republicans alike
to steer our economy through these difficult
times and back to the path of long term
growth. Thank you.