NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

DAILY NEWS, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2001

W for N.Y.C.

Let's be blunt. Even some of the people who voted for George W. Bush weren't that sure he was up to the job. If they're honest with themselves, they'll admit it. Would anyone like another helping of crow?

In the days since Sept. 11, President Bush has shown the nation and the world the caliber of his leadership. It is not a case, as some have said, of his "growing into the job" in a moment of crisis. Nobody grows that fast to stand this tall. It is not simply a matter of his having expert advisers. Advisers in the wings can do little to help the figure at center stage, alone, under a glaring spotlight and before a world audience of billions.

Our President is not merely rising to the occasion; he is proving, daily, how much of a statesman he is. His tour-de-force address to the nation Thursday night said *everything that needed to be said.* More than anything, though, the man delivering it was completely believable. This was not an exercise in saber-rattling. It was a mad-as-hell American channeling the national anger away from emotional mayhem into absolute purpose: eradication of the terrorist networks that had visited abominations upon the United States.

Bush also used the opportunity to offer balm to our stricken city. Not only did he graciously acknowledge Mayor Giuliani and Gov. Pataki for their leadership through this heartwrenching time, but he made this vow: "We will rebuild New York City."

Which puts an emphatic end to the perception of an arm's-length relationship between this President and the world's greatest city — a place that gave him only 19% of its vote last November.

There is nothing to debate: Bush is New York City's President. Day by day, our bond grows stronger. He is there for us — as he was after the disaster when he immediately agreed to Sen. Chuck Schumer's request for $20 billion in direct federal aid for the city on top of $20 billion *to wage the war on terrorism.*

Last week the President headed to Ground Zero, disregarding the fears of his security detail. When he stood atop the rubble, his arm around a rescue worker, that wasn't grandstanding. It was a show of compassion. And a show of unity with this city — New York — which is now his city.

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