“Moving to a Wartime Footing”

Interviewee: Judd Gregg
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Judd Gregg, former U.S. senator from New Hampshire, describes personal changes he noticed in President George W. Bush following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. With the nation grieving and frightened, the president tried to reassure Americans as the country moved to a wartime footing.

Judd Gregg: In the time immediately after 9/11 there was no question that he [President George W. Bush] was tense beyond any comparison before. He realized he was holding the responsibility of the United States’ future, and it was really tense. There was high intensity and there was the attempt to bring the nation together, give the nation a sense that we’d get through this as a nation and as a people. Clearly his statement on the ruins of the World Trade Center captured it perfectly, and then throwing out the ball at Yankee Stadium, things like that. But I’m sure it was also true for FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] that moving to a wartime footing is a very complex and difficult exercise for a democracy. We do it well once we get started, but it takes a while to do it, and we were moving to a wartime footing.

End of excerpt.

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