

SPOTLIGHT

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable before You, O God." PSALMS 19:15

# Ari Fleischer:

BY BETH PANITZ

**H**e works in the West Wing of the White House, whisks around the world on Air Force One, and gets quoted in the newspapers almost every day. Meet Ari Fleischer—spokesperson for President George W. Bush.

As White House press secretary, Ari values the power of speech. In fact, his communication skills are put to the test each day. During daily press briefings, Ari answers endless questions from reporters who scrutinize his every word. Standing at the briefing-room podium—in front of the official White House seal and under glaring TV camera lights—Ari remains calm, cool, and collected. To get the scoop on what it's like to speak for the leader of the free world, we headed to the White House and met our country's chief spokesperson.

**BABA:** Hi, Ari. Tell us what it's like to work in the White House as the presidential spokesperson.

**ARI:** It's very exciting. It's like constantly playing in the seventh game of the World Series. I spend several hours each day in meetings with the president, listening to what he says. The best way to speak for the president is to listen to him.

**BABA:** What's the hardest part of your job?

**ARI:** The hardest part of my job is knowing what *not* to say, because there are times when I can't say all that I know. On the other hand, the most important thing about my job is knowing what *to* say, because the public has a right to know. So it's like walking a tightrope without a safety net.