

There's a lot of faith-based programs that want to be involved with educating people about how to buy a home. And we're going to have an active outreach from HUD.

And so this ambitious goal is going to be met. I believe it will be, just so long as we keep focused and remember that security at home is—economic security at home is just an important part of—as homeland security. And owning a home is part of that economic security. It's also a part of making sure that this country fulfills its great hope and vision.

See, I tell people—and I believe this—that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. You know, they thought they were attacking a country so weak and so feeble that we might file a lawsuit or two, and that's all we'd do. [Laughter] That's what they thought. We're showing them a different face of America. We're showing them that we're plenty tough. When it comes to taking—somebody trying to take away our freedoms, we're tough, and we're going to remain tough and steadfast.

But I also want people to see the deep compassion of America as well. I want the world to see the other side of our character, which is the soft side, the decent side, the loving side. I want people to know

that when we talk about dreams, we mean big dreams. And when we talk about a free society, we want a society in which every citizen has the chance to advance, not just a few.

And part of the cornerstone of America is the ability for somebody, regardless of where they're from, regardless of where they were born, to say, "This is my home. I own this home. It is my piece of property. It is my part of the American experience." It is essential that we stay focused on the goal and work hard to achieve that goal. And when it's all said and done, we can look back and say, "Because of my work, because of our collective work, America is a better place. Out of evil came incredible good."

Thank you all for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his remarks, he referred to Lawrence L. Thompson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The National Homeownership Month Proclamation of June 4 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on Senate Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

June 18, 2002

Terrorism insurance is critical to promoting and protecting jobs and America's economic security. I am pleased that the Senate has now passed a bill that will help give businesses access to reasonable terrorism insurance. The final terrorism insurance package must include reasonable liti-

gation procedures so that Americans who are victimized by terrorism do not also fall victim to predatory lawsuits and punitive damages. I look forward to working with the House and Senate conferees so that I can sign responsible terrorism insurance legislation into law.

Statement on the Death of J. Carter Brown
June 18, 2002

Laura and I are saddened by the death of J. Carter Brown. Carter had a profound influence on the arts and architecture of Washington, increasing the prominence of the National Gallery of Art and presiding

over some of the most significant developments to our Nation's Capital in the 20th century. He committed his life to service and will be sorely missed. We express our deepest sympathies to Carter's family.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation To Create the Department of Homeland Security
June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit to the Congress proposed legislation to create a new Cabinet Department of Homeland Security.

Our Nation faces a new and changing threat unlike any we have faced before—the global threat of terrorism. No nation is immune, and all nations must act decisively to protect against this constantly evolving threat.

We must recognize that the threat of terrorism is a permanent condition, and we must take action to protect America against the terrorists that seek to kill the innocent.

Since September 11, 2001, all levels of government and leaders from across the political spectrum have cooperated like never before. We have strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We have stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism and improved our ability to combat weapons of mass destruction. We have dramatically improved information sharing among our intelligence agencies, and we have taken new steps to protect our critical infrastructure.

Our Nation is stronger and better prepared today than it was on September 11. Yet, we can do better. I propose the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s by creating a new Department of Homeland Security.

For the first time we would have a single Department whose primary mission is to secure our homeland. Soon after the Second World War, President Harry Truman recognized that our Nation's fragmented military defenses needed reorganization to help win the Cold War. President Truman proposed uniting our military forces under a single entity, now the Department of Defense, and creating the National Security Council to bring together defense, intelligence, and diplomacy. President Truman's reforms are still helping us to fight terror abroad, and today we need similar dramatic reforms to secure our people at home.

President Truman and Congress reorganized our Government to meet a very visible enemy in the Cold War. Today our Nation must once again reorganize our Government to protect against an often-invisible enemy, an enemy that hides in the shadows and an enemy that can strike with many different types of weapons. Our enemies seek to obtain the most dangerous and deadly weapons of mass destruction and use them against the innocent. While we are winning the war on terrorism, Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations still have thousands of trained killers spread across the globe plotting attacks against America and the other nations of the civilized world.