

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:46 a.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the Emergency Conservation

Program (ECP) administered by State and county Farm Service Agency committees. H.R. 2646, approved May 13, was assigned Public Law No. 107-171.

Statement on Signing the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 May 13, 2002

I am today signing into law H.R. 2646, the “Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.” This Act will provide a safety net for America’s farmers, who feed America and much of the world. The Act also will expand nutrition programs and improve the conservation and effective use of our natural resources.

A few provisions of the Act raise constitutional concerns. The method of appointment of the board of trustees of the fellowship program prescribed in section 4404 of the Act is inconsistent with the requirements of the Appointments Clause of the Constitution. I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation to cure this constitutional defect before the effective date of the program.

Sections 6027 and 6028 of the Act establish and continue multi-member regional authorities to implement development pro-

grams. Serious doubts arise concerning the constitutionality of these regional authorities because the members are likely Federal officers for purposes of the Appointments Clause, but many of the members are not appointed in the manner required by that Clause. Again, I am prepared to work with the Congress to enact legislation that will cure this constitutional shortcoming by establishing the role of the members as advisory only, or by providing for appointment of all the members in accordance with the Appointments Clause.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
May 13, 2002.

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Remarks on the Russia-United States Strategic Offensive Reductions Agreement May 13, 2002

The President. Good morning.

The Press. Good morning.

The President. Today I’m pleased to announce that the United States and Russia has agreed to a treaty which will substantially reduce our nuclear arsenals to the agreed-upon range of 1,700 to 2,200 warheads. This treaty will liquidate the legacy of the cold war.

When I sign the treaty with President Putin in Russia, it will begin the new era of U.S.-Russian relationships. And that’s important. The new era will be a period of enhanced mutual security, economic security, and improved relations.

I look forward to going to Moscow to sign this treaty. It is—it will be the culmination of a lot of months of hard work and a relationship built on mutual trust that

I established with President Putin in Slovenia.

This is good news for the American people today. It'll make the world more peaceful, and put behind us the cold war once and for all.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:32 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, prior to his departure for Chicago, IL. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks in a Discussion on the Welfare to Work Program in Chicago,
Illinois
May 13, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. Mr. Mayor, I'm honored to be in your presence. This man is a great mayor of a great city. I've learned one thing: I'd rather have him for me than against me. [*Laughter*] And the good news is, he is for the people of Chicago, and that's important, Mr. Mayor.

Michael, thank you very much for having us here. We're honored to be able to come and to talk about how to make America a more compassionate and better place for all people.

I want to thank Rodney Carroll, who is the president of the Welfare-to-Work Partnership, for being here. He has helped recruit thousands of businesses across the country, which have employed over 1.1 million citizens who were formerly on welfare, who are now independent and free to realize their dreams. Rodney, thank you for your leadership. I want to thank my two new friends who are here, with whom we'll be discussing their lives and how important work is for the future of their family.

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who are joining us today: Senator Peter Fitzgerald—thank you, Peter, for coming. Congressman Rod Blagojevich—thank you, Rod, for being here. The chairman, Henry Hyde—thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad you're here.

I'm looking forward to flying back to Washington with the Chairman on Air

Force One. I announced this morning at the South Lawn of the White House that we've reached an agreement with Russia on a treaty that will substantially reduce our nuclear weaponry, so that we can enter into a new era of relations with Russia. I can't wait to explain it to you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate your support.

I want to thank Judy Biggert for being here. Judy, thank you for coming. I appreciate Mark Kirk as well for coming. Thank you, Congressman. Jerry Weller—thank you, Jerry. I appreciate you being here. Finally, the attorney general of the State of Illinois, Jim Ryan—thank you, Jim.

I want you to know that we're here to talk about how to make America better. Before we talk about that, I want to remind you of one thing: My job is also to make sure America is safer. And the best way to make America safe is to not only have a homeland security strategy that will support our mayors and our police and fire and EMS teams all across America; but to make America safe, we've got to hunt these killers down one by one and bring them to justice.

And much to the chagrin of the enemy, we are a united country. The security of America has nothing to do with our political parties; it has everything to do with doing our jobs. We are a united nation; we are a patient nation. And we're plenty tough when it comes to protecting that