

the right choices in life. See, you're at the age where you're going to be challenged with some tough choices: drugs and alcohol, prejudice and hate. Reject that. Reject those kinds of temptations and continue serving your bodies and your soul well by making right choices in life. You made right choices to get here to compete. Continue doing so. I think it will help you—I know it will help you in your life.

I want to say one other word. I want to welcome the Afghan girls' soccer team who is here. We're glad every country is represented. I think it's especially interesting and an especially poignant and uplifting moment that young girls are here from the country of Afghanistan. Because your country is free, you're here. Because your

country is free, you can now go to school for the first time—many of you can now go to school for the first time.

Freedom is such a powerful part of the world in which we live, and we take great pride in welcoming you all into a free society from a free society.

May God bless you, and may God bless all the athletes and their families and coaches who are here. Enjoy yourselves. Good luck. All my best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:35 p.m. at Cleveland Browns Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to Matt Ghaffari, 1996 Olympic silver medalist, Greco-Roman wrestling; Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio; and Floyd D. Loop, cochair, International Children's Games.

The President's Radio Address

July 31, 2004

Good morning. This week, we received encouraging reports that show our economy is gaining strength. Consumer confidence hit a 2-year high in July. Existing home sales hit an alltime new record in June. The homeownership rate has hit a new alltime high. And since last summer, our economy has grown at a rate as fast as any in nearly 20 years.

These gains in our economy have come at a time when Americans are benefiting from the full effects of tax relief. I have traveled across America meeting small-business owners who are investing tax savings into new equipment, and I have met families who are using tax savings to pay for their children's needs. All of this added economic activity is creating opportunity. Since last August, Americans have started work at more than 1.5 million new jobs, many of them in high-growth, high-paying industries.

The impact of our growing economy is being felt in Washington, where estimates

of Government deficits are shrinking. My administration now forecasts that the combined deficits in 2004 and 2005 will be about \$100 billion less than previously expected, and because of my policy of strengthening the economy while enforcing spending discipline in Washington, we remain on pace to reduce the deficit by half in the next 5 years.

These are hopeful signs, and we must make sure our economy continues to gain momentum. Families are working hard to make ends meet, and these families depend on good policies in Washington that promote growth, new jobs, and new opportunities.

Thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act, we are improving our public schools so students learn basic skills like reading, writing, math, and science. We have expanded Pell grant college scholarships so that more students can attend college, and we are helping community colleges train workers for

the new high-skill jobs being created in our growing economy.

We're giving individuals more control over their health care dollars through newly created health savings accounts, and we must also address the rising costs of health care by enacting commonsense reforms in our medical liability system. We must continue to open up foreign markets to American goods, because on a level playing field, American workers and farmers and entrepreneurs can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere.

We must enact reforms to our legal system so hard-working entrepreneurs are not run out of business by frivolous lawsuits. We must have a national energy policy so we become less dependent on foreign sources of energy. We must have sensible regulations so that America's job creators can focus on satisfying their customers and not bureaucrats in Government.

And we must keep taxes low on American families and small businesses by making the tax relief we have passed permanent. Thanks to tax relief enacted since 2001, a family of four earning \$40,000 a year now pays nearly \$2,000 less in Federal

taxes. That is enough to pay the average home electricity bill for more than a year or fill up the gas tank of two cars for an entire year. To millions of hard-working Americans, tax relief has been the difference in helping make ends meet.

This is a crucial time for our economy. We have emerged from a period of great challenge. Terrorist attacks, recession, and corporate scandal hurt the wallets of millions of Americans, but these shocks to our economy did not damage our spirit. We're a hard-working and resilient nation. Our economy is on a rising path, and together, we will bring our prosperity to every corner of America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:40 p.m. on July 30 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, MI, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 31. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Canton, Ohio July 31, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming. I'm glad so many came out on a Saturday morning. I appreciate the warm welcome. I particularly thank those who are sitting behind me; you've probably got the best view in the house.

We're on the Heart and Soul of America tour. I'm out asking for the vote. I'm out asking for your help. I want to serve this Nation for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Oh, there's going to be big differences in this campaign. You'll hear

big differences on taxes, on how to win the war on terror. There seems to be a difference over the heart and soul of America. My opponents think you can find the heart and soul of America in Hollywood.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. The true heart and soul of America is found right here in Canton, Ohio.

Last night I was in Cleveland; we're heading to Cambridge; I'm heading to Pittsburgh today. We're taking this bus tour. I'm excited about the campaign. The