

Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the 2004 Republican National Convention; Gov. Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of

the Iraqi Interim Government; Theresa May, Member of Parliament for Maidenhead, United Kingdom; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

## Statement on the Millennium Challenge Account September 16, 2004

The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) is a groundbreaking initiative that encourages all nations to embrace political and economic reform and has enjoyed bipartisan support since I announced it 2 years ago. The powerful combination of trade, open markets, and good government is history's proven method to defeat poverty on a large scale, to vastly improve health and education, to build a modern infrastructure while safeguarding the environment, and to spread liberty and enterprise.

Already, the MCA has encouraged countries to govern justly, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. The MCA will support these efforts, helping the poorest countries seize the opportunities of the global economy and meet the needs of their people for better health and education, cleaner water, and a brighter future. I urge Congress to ensure that the MCA can fulfill its promise as a bold new vision for international development and a powerful expression of the generous spirit of the American people.

## Remarks at a Victory 2004 Reception September 17, 2004

*The President.* Thank you all for coming. I want to thank you all for coming. Thanks for being here.

Al, thanks for your hard work. I appreciate your gathering up a little help here, as we're coming down the stretch. [*Laughter*]

I feel great about the election. I want to thank you for your help. We're making good progress. I want to thank you all here. I know we've got a lot of Latinos here. *Gracias por su apoyo.*

*Audience member.* [*Inaudible*]

*The President.* *Si. Vamos a ganar, con su apoyo.* Thank you all for coming.

You know, Laura and I are traveling our country a lot, and it's exciting to get out amongst the people. It really is. I'm enjoying it. The crowds are big. The enthusiasm

is high. Came off a bus trip in Minnesota yesterday, which was very successful; heading down to North Carolina today. [*Applause*] Yes. My energy level is high. My vision is clear, and we're going to win.

So I said to Laura—so when I asked Laura to marry me, she said, "Fine, just so long as I don't have to give any political speeches." [*Laughter*] I said, "Okay, you won't have to give any." Fortunately, she didn't hold me to the promise. [*Laughter*] You know, in New York City the people got to see Laura. You know, there's a lot of pressure on, and she gave a great speech. She's a compassionate, decent soul. She's a wonderful mother, a great wife. I'm telling the people around the country that the reason to put me back in is so Laura