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Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Fiscal Year 2006 Budget Legislation
March 17, 2005

I applaud the House for passing a budget that protects America, promotes economic growth, supports our priorities, and keeps us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. It closely follows my budget proposal and reflects our shared commitment to be wise with the people's money and restrain spending in Washington, DC.

Statement on the Theresa Marie Schiavo Case
March 17, 2005

The case of Terri Schiavo raises complex issues. Yet in instances like this one, where there are serious questions and substantial doubts, our society, our laws, and our courts should have a presumption in favor of life. Those who live at the mercy of others deserve our special care and concern. It should be our goal as a nation to build a culture of life, where all Americans are valued, welcomed, and protected—and that culture of life must extend to individuals with disabilities.

Remarks in a Discussion on Strengthening Social Security in Pensacola, Florida
March 18, 2005

The President. Thank you, Governor. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. I am glad to be back under better circumstances. It was my honor to come and represent our Government during what was a terrible tragedy, and that was Hurricane Ivan. I want to thank the mayors of the communities here. I want to thank the base commanders. I want to thank people responsible for helping people get their lives back in order.

I still saw a lot of blue roofs flying in. So I know there's still a lot of work to do. But I—it was such an honor to work with Jeb and Congressman Miller and members of the delegation and the mayors to try to do our duty to get resources to people who need help. And so I want to congratulate the stalwart citizens of this part of the world. I was struck by the devastation. I was pleased by the sense of spirit when we came down here, a spirit that has been manifested in what is obviously an ongoing recovery. But we're still paying attention to you. And again, I want to thank you for your courage.

Before I talk about a big issue, I've got some other things to say. They used to say, "Well, you know, he's got his daddy's eyes but his mother's mouth,"—[*laughter*]—which means I'm about to talk a lot. No—[*laughter*]—I do want to thank our panelists, including my mother. What a great honor that Mom is here. We're going on from here to Orlando. I'm going on to Crawford, and Mom is headed over to work with Jeb on raising money for literacy. And it's—I'm sorry Laura is not with me.

Audience members. Aw-w-w!