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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on June 8, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, June 8, 2001

Statement on the Terrorist Bombing in Tel Aviv

June 1, 2001

I condemn in the strongest terms the heinous terrorist attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening. There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians. This illustrates the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence. I call upon Chairman Arafat to condemn this act and to call for an immediate cease fire. My deepest condolences and those of the American people go out to the victims and their families.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 2, 2001

Good morning. Over the last few months I have often used this radio time to advocate major tax relief. Today I'm pleased to report success. Soon Congress will send me a bill reducing Federal income taxes by $1.35 trillion over the next 11 years, and I will proudly sign it.

Under the new law, more than 98 million Americans who pay income taxes will be owed a refund. This year most single taxpayers will receive checks for $300; single-parent taxpayers will receive up to $500; and married couples will receive a check for up to $600. Over the next 10 years, the per-child tax credit will double from $500 to $1,000; the marriage penalty will be reduced; and the death tax will be completely abolished.

Some other provisions of the tax bill haven't received quite as much attention. But they will make a great difference in the lives of many Americans. For low income families, the child tax credit will now be partially refundable. Right now, many poor families don't qualify for the credit because they don't pay income taxes at all. Soon, they will receive a tax credit to help meet the cost of raising their children.

The new tax law also encourages higher contributions to retirement plans. In years to come, you'll have the chance to put more money into your IRA or 401k. You can better prepare for your later years, sending less of your money to Washington and more into your own savings.

I'm especially pleased by what these reforms will do for families that adopt children. Adoptive parents have a special calling, giving a loving home to children who otherwise would have none. The new law will double the maximum adoption tax credit to $10,000 and make the credit permanent. And regardless of their expenses, parents who adopt children with special needs will be able to claim this tax credit in the year the adoption is completed.

Tax relief is an important bipartisan achievement. And now we must build on that momentum to improve our public schools. We are within reach of historic education reform. So far, the signs are very good. Both parties have been working together, and I hope both parties will vote together, as well.

The plan I have sent to Congress stresses local control of schools, instead of trying to run the schools from Washington. The plan calls for accountability, requiring that every school set high standards and measure results. My plan gives flexibility to schools in meeting these standards and more freedom to parents in making their own choices.

Skeptics may claim that these education reforms are too much to hope for, but that's what used to be said about tax relief. The truth is that real reform is possible, if we lay our partisan differences aside and work together in the interests of the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:45 a.m. on May 31 in the Cabinet Room at the White

House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of King Birenda of Nepal

June 2, 2001

I am deeply saddened and shocked at King Birenda's untimely death. I also mourn the loss of Queen Aiswarya and other family members and extend my deepest sympathies to the King's extended family. I send my condolences to the Nepalese people during this difficult period. Our prayers are with the Government and people of Nepal.

Proclamation 7446—National Child's Day, 2001

June 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our children, who are today dreaming big dreams and who are filled with hope, will someday serve as leaders in government, industry, education, and the arts. For the good of our country and its continued progress and advancement, we must strive to give all young Americans the best possible start in life.

Falling between Mother's Day and Father's Day, Child's Day is celebrated this year on June 3, the first Sunday of the month. This special occasion gives us a unique opportunity to remember the joys and wonder of our own childhood and to reflect on how positive and healthy experiences in one's early years significantly influence later achievements and happiness.

All adults must work together to ensure the safety and well-being of our Nation's most precious resource, our children. Every youngster deserves to live in a safe, permanent, and caring family; but, unfortunately, this is not always the case. Government cannot make people love one another, but it can and must cultivate a climate that helps families, as well as the individuals and groups that support them.

Our Nation must reaffirm its commitment to loving and caring for our children. We must improve the safety of schools and neighborhoods and mobilize faith-based and community groups to fight poverty and addiction. Because many youngsters now grow up in single-parent homes, we must promote responsible fatherhood, in all its aspects, including spiritual leadership, emotional security, and financial support. We must also help families in crisis, protect children from abuse and neglect, and encourage adoption for children who must be removed from their biological parents.

Our responsibility to our young people, however, extends beyond just their physical and emotional well-being. We must also provide them with a quality education, so that no child is left behind in our fast-paced global economy. Adults should also encourage youngsters to always set high goals, make right choices, and stay involved in their communities. By doing so, boys and girls can pursue lives of meaning and fulfillment as contributing members of society.

Every child in every neighborhood has unique gifts to offer. We must nurture our children's dreams, help them develop their talents and abilities, and ensure their healthy development so that they may reach their full potential. Our success in this vital endeavor will affect the direction of their lives and the future strength and vitality of our Nation.

In recognition of the importance of our Nation's children, the Senate, by Senate Resolution 90 approved May 25, 2001, has designated June 3, 2001, as "National Child's Day" and has requested that the President issue a Proclamation calling for appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2001, as National Child's Day. I encourage all Americans to share in the mission of preparing our young people for life's challenges and opportunities. By reading to youngsters, listening to their cares and concerns, and providing

them with safe and loving homes, we can make a positive and lasting contribution to their health, happiness, and well-being.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 5, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 6.

Remarks at Everglades National Park, Florida

June 4, 2001

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you, Brother. [*Laughter*] I love my brother. People in Florida are lucky to have this good man as Governor.

I'm honored to be here with two fine United States Senators; thank you both for being here. Senator Graham, thanks for flying down with us, and Senator Nelson, it was good to see you at the airport today.

Peter Deutsch, this is his district. Congressman, thanks so much for coming. We're honored to have you here. Congressman—I just call her Ileana—[*laughter*]—thanks so very much for being here, Ileana, and same to you, Lincoln. I'm honored that you're here. The two chairmen, Chairman Shaw and Chairman Young, I'm honored that you all are here, as well. I don't see Congressperson Meek. I think she was going to be here. She's not, but Jerry, I appreciate you. I appreciate your staff. I appreciate so very much Maureen Finnerty for giving us the briefing. And I appreciate Larry Belli, as well, for taking time to chopper over this beautiful slice of heaven. Thank you both. And thank all your staff for making this experience such a meaningful experience for all of us. It's an honor to be here, especially in these surroundings.

Visitors from around the world come to this beautiful State to see the coasts and the Keys and the sandy beaches. Today we're standing in just as wondrous a scene in Florida and just as an important part of this State. It commands our care and attention. This area needs our protection. And I am here to join with your Governor in the cause of preserving and protecting the Florida Everglades.

Last week I visited the great Sequoia National Park in California. Just to get there we covered many miles of land that appeared exactly as it did to the first people who saw it. The same can be said of these surroundings and of this park. They are here to be appreciated, not changed. Their beauty is beyond our power to improve.

Our job here is to be good stewards of the Everglades, to restore what has been damaged and to reduce the risk of harm. The Everglades National Park was established more than 50 years ago. It is not just a beautiful place to visit but, as everybody down here knows, is a vital part of south Florida's ecosystem. The park extends nearly 1.4 million acres and is our country's largest remaining subtropical wilderness. It includes most of Florida Bay, mangrove forests, coastal prairie, cypress forests, pine lands, and freshwater streams that form, as they are now called, the River of Grass.

We're also visitors today in the home of 68 endangered species and the only place on Earth where crocodiles and alligators live side by side. We're kind of hoping that's the way it gets to be in the United States Congress one of these days. [*Laughter*]

Over the same half century, since the park was created, south Florida's population has doubled many times over, and it will continue to grow. For ages, the waters of the Everglades have sustained animal life. Today, south Florida's human population relies upon them, as well. Growth and progress are desirable, and environmental destruction is not inevitable. We must build and plan with respect for nature's prior claims.

Lost, if we are careless, are the sparrows and wading birds, panthers and bears who live here, and the chance for future generations to see these creatures in the place that nature gave them. We must meet the demands of growth but without harming the very things that give Florida and the Everglades their beauty.

For its part, the Federal Government carries important responsibilities and stewardship. It is not enough to regulate and dictate from afar. To preserve places like this, we must bring to our work a new spirit of respect and cooperation, what I call a new environmentalism for the 21st century. This was the spirit behind the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, which passed Congress last year with strong bipartisan majorities in both Houses. The late Senator John Chafee of Rhode Island set the law in motion. It was advanced by the good work of a New Hampshire Senator, Bob Smith, and received crucial support from the Florida delegation, especially from former Governor and current United States Senator Bob Graham.

It shows—protecting the Everglades shows that bipartisanship is possible but, more importantly, crucial to doing the will of the American people. When we talk about empowering State and local governments to do more to protect the environment, we do not mean Washington will do less. We mean that the Federal Government will work more closely and effectively with people closest to the problem and, therefore, best equipped to solve it. Everglades restoration is a good example. It is a long-term commitment shared by the Federal Government and by the State of Florida.

Restoration will not take years, but it'll take decades. It will require the best efforts of all involved for a long period of time, from government officials to tribal leaders to landowners and environmentalists. The hard work, patience, and goodwill of these groups have brought us thus far in restoring the Everglades. We will need the same qualities to finish the job in years ahead. For my administration, the people of Florida can count on the commitment to carry out this important project.

My budget for next year proposes an investment of $219 million, a 36 percent increase from last year. Working together, the State of Florida and the Federal Government will provide nearly $8 billion in the coming decades for Everglade restoration.

The Federal Government has clear responsibility for the Everglades, as in each of the nearly 400 other national parks. In recent years, that obligation has sometimes been neglected. Many parks have lacked the resources they need for their basic care and maintenance. My administration will restore and renew America's national parks. Last week I announced our National Parks Legacy Project, a major investment in preserving places such as this. We will clear up nearly $5 billion in maintenance to make our parks more inviting and accessible to all Americans.

We are also the first administration to request full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund provides Florida and other States with the means to set aside new parks, vital habitats, and restore threatened ecosystems.

To protect our parks and their inhabitants, we must have the best available information, so I've directed Secretary Norton to prepare an annual report that describes the condition of our parks and offer specific recommendations to improve them. I've also asked the people who know our parks best, our rangers, to prepare stewardship plans.

As many of you know, Florida was recently voted as America's best State park system. To be the best, you have to assemble the best team for the job. And joining Secretary Norton in that effort will be a new Director of the National Park Service. You know her well. I'm pleased to announce that Fran Maniella, Florida's director of State parks, is my choice to lead the National Park Service.

She's been a steady and conscientious steward of Florida's 500,000 acres of park lands. With the support of Senators Graham and Nelson and their colleagues, I'm hopeful she will soon assume responsibility for America's more than 80 million acres of parkland. Under her leadership, the National Park Service will continue to do its very important work.

I respect our park rangers, the folks who work in our national parks, a lot. Theirs is an incredibly tough job. Many times it's a thankless job. So on behalf of your Government and the people of the United States, thank you for your dedication to America. And thank you so very much for welcoming us to America's River of Grass.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. at the Royal Palm Visitors Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Representatives Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, C. W. Bill Young, chairman, Committee on Appropriations, and E. Clay Shaw, Jr., chairman, Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee; Jerry Belson, regional director, southeastern region, National Park Service; Maureen Finnerty, superintendent, and Lawrence A. Belli, deputy superintendent, Everglades National Park. The President also referred to Title VI, Section 601—Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, part of Public Law 106–541, the Water Resources Development Act of 2000.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Hispanic Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters in Miami, Florida

June 4, 2001

The President. It's been my honor to address community leaders from many nations in our hemisphere. Miami is the international capital of South America and Central America. It's one of the most vibrant cities in our Nation, and another reason why it's so culturally rich.

We had a wide-ranging discussion about different countries in our hemisphere. But I started off with a discussion about this administration's firm commitment to making sure our own neighborhood is free and democratic and trades—actively trades, so that we can promote wealth throughout the hemisphere. The best foreign policy for this country begins with having a neighborhood that's peaceful and free and secure and prosperous.

And I was able to share with the leaders here how pleased I was that the Summit of the Americas went well, particularly the embrace—the fact that 34 democratically elected leaders from our hemisphere, all but one nation, was represented there.

We had a great discussion, and it's so important for the President of the United States to sit at the same table with the leaders of this hemisphere. And they were—in our meetings where we were able just to sit around without a lot of people watching; we were able to have a free discussion. And they—I was able to explain our vision; they were able to share their problems. And many times, this great Nation of ours would be willing to help as much as we possibly can.

I am confident and optimistic that our hemisphere is going to be more free and more prosperous than it's ever been. As we've discussed here, there are some problem areas, but that's what—that's what we need to do. We need to discuss the problem areas and come together to figure out ways to solve them.

Anyway, I'm so thankful and so gracious—I'm gracious that my brother Jeb is concerned about the hemisphere, as well. I'm thankful that Mel Martinez, a product of the State of Florida, has agreed to see the Cabinet. I'm also thankful that these two people from the United States Congress, two great leaders, are—[*applause*].

Thank you for coming.

Cuba

Q. [*Inaudible*].

The President. Yes, we'll talk about Cuba again, of course.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. at the Omni Colonnade Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Tax Relief Celebration in Tampa, Florida

June 4, 2001

The President. Thank you all very much. It is good to be back in the Tampa area. I remember the last time I was here was right around the corner, at the stadium. Many of you were there. Thanks for coming then, and thanks for coming now.

I appreciate my brother giving me credit for the rain, but the truth of the matter is, the current Governor and the future Governor gets credit for the rain, Jeb Bush. He's not only a great brother; he's a great Governor. He's the kind of fellow who does in office what he said he's going to do. We need more of that kind of talk in politics.

I'm honored to be traveling today with the Secretary of HUD, Mel Martinez, from the

great State of Florida. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. We're here with members of the congressional delegation; Congressmen Davis, Miller, Young, and Putnam. And I want you all to give a huge round of applause for those Congressmen who were bold enough to vote for you to have a tax cut. [*Applause*]

They did the right thing. They listened to the people. They heard the people speak loud and clear. And when that bill came up in front of the Congress, some of the members from this congressional delegation didn't blink; they did the right thing. I'm honored to be here, as well, with Speaker Feeney and Senator McKay from the State House, hard-working members of the Florida delegation at the State House.

I want to thank my friends, the Bellamy Brothers, for being here. It's good to see you all again. I want to thank my friend George Steinbrenner, as well, for opening up this beautiful park.

A year ago, tax relief was supposed to be a political impossibility. Six months ago, it was supposed to be a political liability. Today, folks, tax relief is reality. I have the honor of signing the largest tax relief bill in 20 years.

It's thanks to the American people that we're going to have meaningful tax relief. It's thanks to the thousands of hard-working Americans who made it clear at the ballot box, through phone calls, through e-mails, through letting everybody who is elected know that once we meet our needs at Washington, DC, it's important to always remember whose money we're spending. That surplus is not the Government's money. That surplus is the people's money. And in a couple of weeks, we're going to start sending checks back to the American people.

This year, if you're single, you get a $300 check. If you're raising a family, you get a $600 check in the mail. Every taxpayer in America who wrote a check to the Government is going to start getting money back this year, as soon as possible. But that's just the beginning. That's just the beginning.

We're also going to cut all rates. You remember over the course of the campaign, ours was a campaign that made it clear we're going to be fair to the American people, that we didn't believe in the Washington talk about targeted tax cuts, that we felt that a targeted tax cut meant folks in Washington got to decide who won and who didn't win, that the best tax policy—the best tax relief policy was to say, if you pay taxes, you get relief, everybody who pays taxes in America.

All rates will be cut. Everybody who pays taxes is going to get not only tax relief this year but tax relief in the coming years. During the course of the campaign, we said how unfair the marriage penalty was. The marriage penalty is unfair, and we eased the penalty of marriage in the Tax Code coming down the road.

During the course of the campaign, I heard from hundreds of small-business owners and farmers and ranchers, who said loud and clear, "We're sick and tired of having our assets taxed twice," who said loud and clear, "The death tax is unfair." Under the bill I'm going to sign this week, we finally eliminate the death tax in the American Tax Code.

Tax relief is the right thing to do. It's an answer to a prayer, such as this one: "Lead us not into temptation." The big surplus accumulating in Washington was one great temptation for the spenders. And once we met basic needs, with a reasonable growth in our budget, instead of increasing the size of your Federal Government, what we decided to do was to put faith in the American people. We would rather have you spend the money.

It's a fundamental difference of opinion. For those that voted against tax relief, they basically said to America, "We can spend your money better than you can."

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. It's just a philosophical difference of opinion. But one of the things that's loud and clear in this campaign is there is a group of folks in Washington who now understand where the power of this country is; it's with the people.

This bill is more than just tax relief. It is more than just preventing Washington from growing the size of Government. This bill reflects a philosophy that says, we trust the American people more than we trust Government. It's a philosophy represented in the hundreds of tax families that I had the opportunity of campaigning with all across the country.

One such family is here with us today, the Fuller family: Stephen Fuller, Quita Fuller, Andrew, and Anna Fuller. They're folks from this part of the world. He's a business manager. He's a hard-working man and so is she. They're deeply concerned about their family and their family's future.

This family will save $1,925 when the tax relief plan is fully phased in. They will receive an $800 check this year because the child credit kicks in immediately and increases to $1,000 per child.

And here's what the issue is about, folks. It's about, do you want the Fullers spending that $1,900, or do you want the Federal Government?

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. The people who stood on the side of tax relief understand we met our Nation's needs. But when it came down to it, with their aye vote they said, "We trust the Fullers to spend that $1,900. It's their money to begin with." We think they can better allocate that money than the Federal Government. We think they know how best to save for their children. We think they know how best to set aside money to make sure their family has got a safe and secure future. No, this tax relief bill is a victory for the American people.

There's a new attitude beginning to develop in Washington. This wasn't just a Republican bill. There were some wise Democrats that came along, too. And this coming Thursday, when I sit there at the White House and sign the bill, I'll be praising not only the Republicans who helped, but I'll be praising those Democrats who helped, as well. There's a new spirit in Washington, DC. There's a spirit of accomplishment. There's a spirit that says we can show the American people that it's possible to get positive things done. And we're just beginning.

We're working on an education bill that sets high standards for every child in America, a bill that trusts local people to run the schools, a bill that believes in accountability and results, a bill that says loud and clear, no child will be left behind in America.

We're strengthening the military. We will boost the pay for those who wear the uniform. We will improve the housing, we will improve the health benefits. And we will have a clear mission, which is to be trained well enough to fight and win war and, therefore, prevent war from happening in the first place.

Ours is the first administration in a long time that has laid out a vision for a secure energy policy for America. It talks about the need to conserve and to use technologies to bring more efficiencies to the use of energy. But it also talks about a realistic, commonsense way to protect our environment and, at the same time, bring new energy supplies, so consumers will be able to have safe and secure and reliable energy sources.

Ours is an administration that talks about Medicare and Social Security reform. No, there's a new spirit of accomplishment in Washington, DC, and there's a bigger task at hand, as well.

It's one thing to pass legislation, and that's going to be important. But there's a larger calling for this country. Our Nation must come together to unite, to usher in what I call an era of personal responsibility, an era in our country where each of us who is fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad tells our children on a daily basis, "We love you with all our heart;" an era in our country where if you're fortunate, you turn to a neighbor and say to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help, brother? What can I do to help?" We must rally the great faith of America and the faith-based institutions across this land to provide help and care and comfort to people in need.

In order to usher in a period of responsibility, it requires all of us who are in positions of responsibility to understand the awesome responsibility we bear. It is my high honor to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth. I take this responsibility very seriously. I understand people watch the office, and I can promise you, I will not let you down.

We are just beginning to show the American people what's possible. And we're just beginning to help work with you, the moms and dads and hard-working honest citizens, to change our culture in America, so that this great land holds out its promise for every single citizen, so people aren't left behind, so we're united with a common purpose of one land, indivisible, under God.

Thank you all for coming. God bless. It's my honor.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:15 p.m. at Legends Field. In his remarks, he referred to State Representative Tom Feeney; State Senator John M. McKay; country/western singers David and Howard Bellamy; and George Steinbrenner III, principal owner, New York Yankees.

Remarks to Habitat for Humanity Supporters in Tampa

June 5, 2001

Thank you very much. Mel, thank you very much. I'm so honored Mel agreed to become the Cabinet Secretary of HUD. He brings a fresh look and a true spirit of compassion to the job—plus, he's a Floridian. [*Laughter*] He's going to make a big difference.

It's great to be here with the Lieutenant Governor. Tell Governor Bush, I hope he slept in well. [*Laughter*] Here the rest of us are out working for a better Florida and a better America. [*Laughter*]

I'm so honored to be here with members of the congressional delegation: Davis, Miller, Putnam, and Young. Thank you, Congressmen, for being here, and I look forward to flying back to Washington with you today.

Millard, it is an honor to be here with you. I talk about soldiers and the armies of compassion; Millard is the general, and Corporal Bush reported for duty today. [*Laughter*] I did run into Sergeant Doris Meyer. [*Laughter*] I can barely lift my arm. [*Laughter*] What a great, great honor it was to be here with Roger and the leadership of Habitat for this part of the State and all the volunteers, people who work hard, sweat hard, and end up the day with a beautiful smile on your face.

I really wish I could spend more time building. It is one of these moments of life where you realize there is something greater than yourself in life, and that you get the joy of helping somebody help themselves.

Johana, thank you and your family for allowing for this invasion of your privacy. But it is important for America to see the fact that, one, you'll own a home, and two, that you're willing to work for it. And as importantly, there are hundreds of other Americans who are willing to stand side by side with you so that you can enjoy one of the great benefits of America—owning your own property, having a piece of the future of America—so that your future and the future of your *ninos* is very hopeful. And that's what America is about. This is the land of hope and promise and opportunity. And as importantly, it is a land of compassionate people.

I like to tell people that I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would make people love one another. That's not the Government; that comes from something much greater than people, as you all know. This is a land of faith and compassion. It is a land of thousands and hundreds of people who ask the question when they wake up, what can I do to love my neighbor? That is not a Government function. That doesn't happen because of Government, and you and I know that. And that's why it is so important for our Nation to recognize the promise and power of faith in America. And that's why our Government should not fear working side by side with faith-based organizations. Quite the opposite: We ought to fund faith-based organizations so that they can do their duty and love and compassion.

Oh, there are some in our society who are skeptical about funding faith. I hear it all the time in the Halls of Congress, "We can't fund faith-based organizations." If that's the case, are they willing to eliminate the line item for programs such as Habitat for Humanity in the budget? I say they shouldn't. As a matter of fact, I'm submitting a budget next year that triples the amount of money available for programs such as Habitat for Humanity. Should we eliminate college scholarships where a child can go to a faith-based university? Should we say Medicaid or Medicare recipients can't take their Federal money to a religious hospital?

To the skeptics of faith in our society, I say, come to Habitat Humanity building sites—listen to the opening prayer, so eloquently delivered today by a fellow Methodist—listen to the words that are said, that inspire people to take an extra step to help a neighbor in need.

No, those who worry about faith in our society and Government's willingness to stand side by side with faith, don't understand the power of faith and the promise of

faith and the hope of faith. And if this Nation expects to fulfill its promise, we ought to welcome faith-based and community-based programs all throughout America, encourage them to flourish, ask others to come and join, call upon mentors who are willing to put their arm around a child in need, welcome faith-based programs into our prisons, who understand that when you change a heart, you change a man or a woman's life.

No, this is a fabulous Nation because of our people and the compassion buried in the hearts and souls of the American people. And it's such a huge honor to come to a site of love and a site of compassion and a site of care, to work side by side with fellow Americans on kind of a hot day—[*laughter*]—with one thing in mind, to help Johana and, therefore, help our society and help America continue to be the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I'm so honored to be here, thankful for the chance to work. And thank you all so very much for what you do.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at a building site. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan of Florida; Millard Fuller, founder and president, Habitat for Humanity; Doris Meyer, house leader volunteer, and Roger Girson, chairman of the board, Hillsborough County Habitat for Humanity; and Johana Rodriguez, whose home the President helped build.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Senate Education Working Group and an Exchange With Reporters

June 5, 2001

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. It is good to see Members of the Senate coming back from the Memorial Day break. We're here to discuss the education bill that has been passed by the House of Representatives that will be debated soon, I believe. We hope soon—this afternoon on the floor of the United States Senate. And I, of course, am anxious to talk to the chairman of the Education Committee, Senator Kennedy, about getting the bill done.

There's been a lot of discussion about the bill, a lot of agreements that have been made. There's been a lot of hard work from a lot of people around this table, and my hope is, is that we don't try to add to or subtract from the bill after our agreements have been made.

I look forward to hearing from the Members about how best to get this bill complete. I think we have an opportunity—I know we have an opportunity to show the American people that although the structure of the Senate may have been altered somewhat, we still can get things done in a way that's positive for America. So, welcome the Members here.

Secondly, I am deeply concerned, as are Members of the Senate around this table, about the situation in the U.S. steel industry. And we're concerned about unfair trade practices that may be affecting the economics of the steel industry and, therefore, call upon the International Trade Commission under Section 201 to have a full investigation of the industry, the imports coming into the United States, and make sure that our industry is not being affected by unfair trade practices.

I'll be glad to answer a few questions, and then we look forward to a discussion.

Bipartisanship

Q. Mr. President, Senator Kennedy is the chairman of this committee because Senator Jeffords is leaving the party, saying that he could no longer—because of the conservative bent of the party, he could no longer work as well with you and other leaders of——

The President. Why do you have to make the guy feel bad in front of the TV cameras?

Q. Because I get paid good money for it, sir. [*Laughter*] Let's not get into your tax cut proposal now.

What does that say about your ability to oversee a party that's supposedly supposed to have a broad tent and, specifically, your ability to govern as you promised, as a bipartisan leader?

The President. Well, that's what this meeting is all about. And there's going to be an opportunity for us to work on a variety of issues. We did so on the tax relief package. That package got a pretty good Democratic vote out of the Senate and a good Democratic vote out of the House. We'll do so on the education plan.

There's a Patients' Bill of Rights that's working its way through the Senate. I'm confident we'll have a series of discussions on that. As a matter of fact, there's an author of one of the bills here, and there's two authors of a secondary bill—a second bill here. And as you know, we've been working with Senator Frist and Senator Jeffords on that alternative to try to make it conform to some principles that I discussed.

There's going to be a lot of give and take on key issues. And I think when people see the fine print of the education bill, they'll find there's been a lot of give and take in order to get a good bill out that improves public education. So I'm confident we'll be able to work together.

Multilateral Initiative on Steel

Q. And the steel ruling, is this going to anger European allies going into the summit?

The President. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I certainly hope it doesn't anger European allies. As you know, I've told the world that we are going to have an active international—internationalist foreign policy, with U.S. interests at its heart. And it's in our Nation's interests to make sure that if there are unfair trade practices in the steel industry, that we address them in an aggressive way, which this administration will do.

Yes, Jim [Jim Angle, Fox News]. Nice seeing your brother the other day.

Q. Yes, sir. He was happy to see you.

The President. He speaks highly of you. [*Laughter*]

Education Legislation

Q. Sir, do you have any fears that the changeover in the Senate will threaten the education reform? Is that the reason for calling this meeting?

The President. The reason for calling this meeting is because I wanted to touch base with the people that are making the bill move, to let them know how much I appreciate the hard work that has gone into the bill, ask what we can do to help make it move as quickly as possible so that we can sign a bill in time for public districts around the United States to plan for next fall.

And one reason why the Secretary of Education is here is, he is going to be in charge of implementing the new bill. And that's why they're here.

Q. You have more than 100 amendments still to be dealt with, sir. Is that something you would like to ask the Members here to streamline? Is there some way to make the process move a little faster?

The President. That's going to be up to the chairman, and I am sure he will have a few good ideas. He has been around here a lot longer than I have, and he'll have good ideas to move the bill as quickly as possible.

My only request is that we adhere to the spirit of our negotiations as best as possible. I know the Senator is a man of his word. Our administration is, as well. I am confident we can get something done in a positive way.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what are you expecting to accomplish by sending CIA Director Tenet to the Middle East, and what do you feel about the recent events out there?

The President. Well, we believe strongly we need to stop the cycle of violence before anything can happen. And I have been on the phone, and the Secretary of State has been on the phone, urging all parties involved to adhere to the cease-fire. We believe enough progress has been made on the cease-fire that it is time to send George Tenet to the Middle East to start serious discussions at the security level about how to make sure the cease-fire continues.

And we are very hopeful that this will—this step will continue to—will be a part of building confidence in the region, confidence between skeptical leaders. And George is going to be on a very important mission, and we are all hopeful in the United States that the mission begins to achieve the objective.

Once the violence has ceased, once there is a cease-fire in place, once there are strong security arrangements back in place, then we can start having political discussions.

Q. Former——

The President. The Mitchell report was a very good report, and I called former Senator Mitchell to thank him for his contributions. Our Government and our Nation supports the Mitchell report. The Mitchell report clearly says: Step one is to stop the violence. And that is where our efforts are from

our Government. We are doing everything we can to make it clear to all parties that we will work as hard as we can to stop the violence.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator George J. Mitchell, chairman, Sharm al-Sheikh Fact Finding Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on a Multilateral Initiative on Steel

June 5, 2001

This administration is committed to free trade as an engine of growth. As part of our free trade agenda, we are committed to ensuring that American industry and American workers can compete on a level playing field. That is why, today, I am announcing my intent to launch an initiative to respond to the challenges facing the U.S. steel industry. This initiative will be designed to restore market forces to world steel markets and eliminate the practices that harm our steel industry and its workers.

The U.S. steel industry has been affected by a 50-year legacy of foreign government intervention in the market and direct financial support of their steel industries. The result has been significant excess capacity, inefficient production, and a glut of steel on world markets.

My decision to pursue this initiative comes after extensive consultations by members of the Cabinet with our industry, our steelworkers, and interested Members of Congress. We have discussed the challenges facing U.S. steel manufacturers, and we understand that we have a critical stake in a healthy U.S. steel industry.

Thus, I intend to take the following steps. First, I am directing the United States Trade Representative, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the Treasury, to initiate negotiations with our trading partners seeking the near-term elimination of inefficient excess capacity in the steel industry worldwide, in a manner consistent with applicable U.S. laws.

Second, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative, together with the Secretaries of Commerce and the Treasury, to initiate negotiations on the rules that will govern steel trade in the future and eliminate the underlying market-distorting subsidies that led to the current conditions in the first place. Absent strict disciplines barring government support, direct or indirect, for inefficient steel-making capacity, the problems confronting the U.S. steel industry—and the steel industry worldwide—will only recur.

We see these negotiations—and the goal of restoring market forces—as being in our interest and in the interest of our trading partners and their steel industries. That is why we would like to work cooperatively with our trading partners in pursuing this initiative.

Third, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative to request the initiation of an investigation of injury to the United States industry by the International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action is consistent with our WTO obligations.

This three-part strategy, coupled with further restructuring of the U.S. industry, should help the industry meet the challenges it faces. I look forward to working together with the industry, the steelworkers, Congress, and our international trading partners in support of this important initiative.

Memorandum on Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

June 5, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of Transportation

Subject: Determination Under the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

Section 6 of the Bus Regulatory Reform Act of 1982 imposed a moratorium on the issuance of certificates or permits to motor carriers domiciled in, or owned or controlled by, persons of a contiguous foreign country, and authorized the President to modify the moratorium. The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995

(ICCTA) maintained these restrictions, subject to modifications made prior to the enactment of the ICCTA, and authorized the President to make further modifications to the moratorium. The relevant provisions of the ICCTA are codified at 49 U.S.C. 13902.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) established a schedule for liberalizing certain restrictions on investment in truck and bus services. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(3), I have determined that the following modifications to the moratorium are consistent with obligations of the United States under NAFTA and with U.S. transportation policy, and that the moratorium shall be modified accordingly. First, enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide truck services for the transportation of international cargo between points in the United States. Second, enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be allowed to obtain operating authority to provide bus services between points in the United States. These modifications shall be effective today.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 13902(c)(5), I have determined that expeditious action is required to implement these modifications to the moratorium. Effective today, the Department of Transportation will accept and expeditiously process applications, submitted by enterprises domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico, to obtain operating authority to provide truck services for the transportation of international cargo between points in the United States or to provide bus services between points in the United States.

Motor carriers domiciled in the United States that are owned or controlled by persons of Mexico will be subject to the same Federal and State regulations and procedures that apply to all other U.S. carriers. These include safety regulations, such as drug and alcohol testing; insurance requirements; taxes and fees; and all other applicable laws and regulations, including those administered by the U.S. Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the Department of Labor.

This memorandum shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:27 p.m., June 6, 2001]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia

June 6, 2001

Thank you all very much. At ease, and be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome.

Governor Gilmore, thank you so very much for your friendship and your leadership here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lieutenant Governor Hager and Attorney General Earley, thank you, as well, for your hospitality.

I'm honored to be traveling today with Secretary Principi, Veterans Affairs Department. I'm honored to be traveling today with two fantastic United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Virginia: Senator Warner and Senator Allen. Congressman Goode and Goodlatte are here, as well. Thank you for your presence. The Ambassador from France—it's a pleasure to see him, and thank you for your kind words. Delegate Putney, Chaplain Sessions, Bob Slaughter, Richard Burrow, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans. I'm honored to be here today to dedicate this memorial. And this is a proud day for the people of Virginia and for the people of the United States. I'm honored to share it with you, on behalf of millions of Americans.

We have many World War II and D-day veterans with us today, and we're honored by your presence. We appreciate your example, and thank you for coming. And let it be recorded, we're joined by one of the most distinguished of them all, a man who arrived at Normandy by glider with the 82d Airborne Division, a man who serves America to this very hour. Please welcome Maj. Gen. Strom Thurmond. [*Applause*]

You have raised a fitting memorial to D-day, and you have put it in just the right place, not on a battlefield of war but in a small Virginia town, a place like so many others that were home to the men and women who help liberate a continent.

Our presence here, 57 years removed from that event, gives testimony to how much was gained and how much was lost—what was gained that first day was a beach and then a village and then a country. And, in time, all of western Europe would be freed from fascism and its armies.

The achievement of Operation Overlord is nearly impossible to overstate, in its consequences for our own lives and the life of the world. Free societies in Europe can be traced to the first footprints on the first beach on June 6, 1944.

What was lost on D-day we can never measure and never forget. When the day was over, America and her Allies had lost at least 2,500 of the bravest men ever to wear a uniform. Many thousands more would die on the days that followed. They scaled towering cliffs, looking straight up into enemy fire. They dropped into grassy fields sown with landmines. They overran machine gun nests hidden everywhere, punched through walls of barbed wire, overtook bunkers of concrete and steel. The great journalist Ernie Pyle said, "It seemed to me a pure miracle that we ever took the beach at all. The advantages were all theirs, the disadvantages all ours. And yet," said Pyle, "we got on."

A father and his son both fell during Operation Overlord. So did 33 pairs of brothers, including a boy having the same name as his hometown, Bedford T. Hoback, and his brother Raymond. Their sister Lucille, is with us today. She has recalled that Raymond was offered an early discharge for health reasons, but he turned it down. "He didn't want to leave his brother," she remembers. "He had come over with him, and he was going to stay with him." Both were killed on D-day. The only trace of Raymond Hoback was his Bible, found in the sand. Their mother asked that Bedford be laid to rest in France with Raymond, so that her sons might always be together.

Perhaps some of you knew Gordon White, Sr. He died here just a few years ago, at the age of 95, the last living parent of a soldier who died on D-day. His boy Henry, loved his days on the family farm and was especially fond of a workhorse named Major. Family members recall how Gordon just couldn't let go of Henry's old horse, and he never did. For 25 years after the war, Major was cherished by Gordon White as a last link to his son and a link to another life.

Upon this beautiful town fell the heaviest share of American losses on D-day, 19 men from a community of 3,200, 4 more afterwards. When people come here, it is important to see the town as the monument itself. Here were the images these soldiers carried with them and the thought of when they were afraid. This is the place they left behind, and here was the life they dreamed of returning to. They did not yearn to be heroes. They yearned for those long summer nights again and harvest time and paydays. They wanted to see Mom and Dad again and hold their sweethearts or wives or, for one young man who lived here, to see that baby girl born while he was away.

Bedford has a special place in our history. But there were neighborhoods like these all over America, from the smallest villages to the greatest cities. And somehow they all produced a generation of young men and women who, on a date certain, gathered and advanced as one and changed the course of history. Whatever it is about America that has given us such citizens, it is the greatest quality we have, and may it never leave us.

In some ways, modern society is very different from the Nation that the men and women of D-day knew, and it is sometimes fashionable to take a cynical view of the world. But when the calendar reads the 6th of June, such opinions are better left unspoken. No one who has heard and read about the events of D-day could possibly remain a cynic. Army Private Andy Rooney was there to survey the aftermath. A lifetime later he would write, "If you think the world is selfish and rotten, go to the cemetery at Colleville overlooking Omaha Beach. See what one group of men did for another on D-day, June 6, 1944."

Fifty-three hundred ships and landing craft, 1,500 tanks, 12,000 airplanes, but in the end, it came down to this: Scared and

brave kids by the thousands who kept fighting and kept climbing and carried out General Eisenhower's order of the day—nothing short of complete victory.

For us, nearly six decades later, the order of the day is gratitude. Today we give thanks for all that was gained on the beaches of Normandy. We remember what was lost with respect, admiration, and love.

The great enemies of that era have vanished. And it is one of history's remarkable turns that so many young men from the new world would cross the sea to help liberate the old. Beyond the peaceful beaches and quiet cemeteries lies a Europe whole and free, a continent of democratic governments and people more free and hopeful than ever before. This freedom and these hopes are what the heroes of D-day fought and died for. And these, in the end, are the greatest monuments of all to the sacrifices made that day.

When I go to Europe next week, I will reaffirm the ties that bind our nations in a common destiny. These are the ties of friendship and hard experiences. They have seen our nations through a World War and a cold war. Our shared values and experiences must guide us now in our continued partnership and in leading the peaceful democratic revolution that continues to this day.

We have learned that when there is conflict in Europe, America is affected and cannot stand by. We have learned, as well, in the years since the war that America gains when Europe is united and peaceful.

Fifty-seven years ago today, America and the nations of Europe formed a bond that has never been broken. And all of us incurred a debt that can never be repaid. Today, as America dedicates our D-Day Memorial, we pray that our country will always be worthy of the courage that delivered us from evil and saved the free world.

God bless America. And God bless the World War II generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III, Lt. Gov. John Hager, and former Attorney General Mark L. Earley of Virginia; Francois Bujon de l'Estang, French Ambassador to the United States; Lacey E. Putney, delegate, Virginia House of Delegates; Col. David C. Sessions, USAF, chaplain, 20th Fighter Wing; John Robert Slaughter, chairman, board of directors, and Richard B. Burrow, president, National D-Day Memorial Foundation; and journalist Andy Rooney.

Executive Order 13216—Amendment to Executive Order 13125, Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs

June 6, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in order to change the title of Executive Order 13125 of June 7, 1999, and to extend by 2 years the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that was created by Executive Order 13125, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The title of Executive Order 13125 is deleted and the following title is inserted in lieu thereof: "Increasing Opportunity and Improving Quality of Life of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders."

Sec. 2. Section 9 of Executive Order 13125 is amended by deleting "2 years after the date of this Executive order unless the Commission is renewed by the President prior to the end of that 2-year period" and inserting in lieu thereof "on June 7, 2003, unless renewed by the President prior to that date."

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Proclamation 7447—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2001

June 6, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On June 14, 2001, Americans will observe the 224th birthday of the flag of the United States of America. This special day provides a time for our Nation to reflect on our flag's rich history and its meaning to Americans and people around the world.

The Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of our young republic on June 14, 1777. Describing the new flag, the Congress wrote, "White signifies Purity and Innocence; Red, Hardiness and Valor; Blue signifies Vigilance, Perseverance and Justice." Over time, the flag's design evolved to keep pace with our Nation's development and growth, but its meaning as a symbol of democracy and freedom has remained constant.

Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1877 to mark the centennial of the birth of our national symbol. As so often happens in our communities, a caring teacher encouraging students to develop a love for learning sparked renewed interest in the flag. Wisconsin schoolteacher B.J. Cigrand arranged for his pupils in 1885 to observe the 108th anniversary of the flag's official adoption.

In magazine and newspaper articles and public addresses in the following years, Cigrand promoted an official national celebration of June 14 as "Flag Birthday" or "Flag Day." Groups in Pennsylvania, New York, and Illinois took up the cause. After three decades of State and local celebrations, President Woodrow Wilson officially established Flag Day by proclamation in 1916.

During the darkest hours of World War II, Americans looked to the purity, hardiness, valor, vigilance, perseverance, and justice represented by the flag as ideals worthy of the ultimate sacrifice in order to defeat tyranny. In celebration of the flag's powerful meaning to Americans and its place in our culture and history, Flag Day became a national observance by Act of Congress in 1949 and was signed into law by President Harry Truman.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949 (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested the President to issue an annual proclamation calling for a national observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. In a second joint resolution approved June 9, 1966 (80 Stat. 194), the Congress requested the President to also issue annually a proclamation designating the week during which June 14 falls as "National Flag Week" and called upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2001, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 10, 2001, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings during the week. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to recite publicly the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Remarks on Signing the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001

June 7, 2001

Thank you. Sit down. Behave yourself. You're at the White House. [*Laughter*]

Laura, thank you very much for being here on this historic moment. Mr. Vice President, Secretary O'Neill, Director Daniels, Secretary Evans and Chao are here, as well. Secretary Abraham, Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, Members of the United States Senate, Members of the House of Representatives, fellow Americans, welcome.

Some months ago, in my speech to the joint session of Congress, I had the honor of introducing Steven Ramos to the Nation. Steven is the network administrator for a school district. His wife, Josefina, teaches at a charter school. They have a little girl named Lianna. And they're trying to save for Lianna's college education.

High taxes made saving difficult. Last year they paid nearly $8,000 in Federal income taxes. Well, today we're beginning to make life for the Ramos' a lot easier. Today we start to return some of the Ramos' money and not only their money but the money of everybody who paid taxes in the United States of America.

Across the board tax relief does not happen often in Washington, DC. In fact, since World War II, it has happened only twice: President Kennedy's tax cut in the sixties and President Reagan's tax cuts in the 1980s. And now it's happening for the third time, and it's about time.

A year ago tax relief was said to be a political impossibility. Six months ago it was supposed to be a political liability. Today it becomes reality. It becomes reality because of the bipartisan leadership of the Members of the United States Congress: Members like Bill Thomas of California, Ralph Hall of Texas, Charles Grassley of Iowa, Max Baucus of Montana, Zell Miller of Georgia, John Breaux of Louisiana, Trent Lott of Mississippi, and the entire leadership team in the Senate and Denny Hastert of Illinois and the leadership team in the House of Representatives; some Democrats, many Republicans, who worked tirelessly and effectively to produce this important result.

I also want to pay tribute to the members of my administration who worked with Congress to bring about this day: Vice President Cheney, Secretary O'Neill, Director Daniels, and the team inside the White House of Andy Card and Larry Lindsey, Nick Calio and their staffs.

With us today are 15 of the many families I met as I toured our country making the case for tax relief—hard-working Americans. I was able to talk about their stories and their struggles and their hopes, which made the case for tax relief much stronger than my words could possible convey. And I want to thank you all for coming.

And here at the White House today are representatives of millions of Americans, including labor union members, small-business owners, and family farmers. Your persistence and determination helped bring us to this day. The American people should be proud of your efforts on their behalf, and I personally thank you all for coming.

Tax relief is a great achievement for the American people. Tax relief is the first achievement produced by the new tone in Washington, and it was produced in record time. Tax relief is an achievement for families struggling to enter the middle class. For hard-working lower income families, we have cut the bottom rate of Federal income tax from 15 percent to 10 percent. We doubled the per-child tax credit to $1,000 and made it refundable. Tax relief is compassionate, and it is now on the way.

Tax relief is an achievement for middle class families squeezed by high energy prices and credit card debt. Most families can look forward to a $600 tax rebate before they have to pay the September back-to-school bills. And in the years ahead, taxpayers can look forward to steadily declining income tax rates.

Tax relief is an achievement for families that want the Government tax policy to be fair and not penalize them for making good choices, good choices such as marriage and raising a family. So we cut the marriage penalty.

Tax relief makes the code more fair for small businesses and farmers and individuals

by eliminating the death tax. Over the long haul, tax relief will encourage work and innovation. It will allow American workers to save more on their pension plan or individual retirement accounts. Tax relief expands individual freedom. The money we return, or don't take in the first place, can be saved for a child's education, spent on family needs, invested in a home or in a business or a mutual fund or used to reduce personal debt.

The message we send today: It's up to the American people; it's the American people's choice. We recognize, loud and clear, the surplus is not the Government's money. The surplus is the people's money, and we ought to trust them with their own money.

This tax relief plan is principled. We cut taxes for every income tax payer. We target nobody in; we target nobody out. And tax relief is now on the way.

Today is a great day for America. It is the first major achievement of a new era, an era of steady cooperation. And more achievements are ahead. I thank the Members of Congress in both parties who made today possible. Together, we will lead our country to new progress and new possibilities.

It is now my honor to sign the first broad tax relief in a generation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. H.R. 1836, approved June 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107–16.

Remarks to the Fourth National Summit on Fatherhood

June 7, 2001

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome. It's an honor to be introduced by Tommy Thompson, who not only was an outstanding Governor but, I can assure you, is going to be an outstanding Secretary of Health and Human Services. He is bright, capable, smart, and does everything the President tells him. [*Laughter*] He's my buddy. But thank you, Tommy, very much.

I am so honored Members of the United States Congress are here. I appreciate you all being here, Senator Carper, Senator Bayh, Congressman J.C. Watts. If there are other Members of the Congress here, thank you all for coming, as well. Roland Warren, it's good to meet you, sir. I appreciate your focus and effort. I've got something to say about the other two characters up here in a minute. [*Laughter*]

For 7 years, the National Fatherhood Initiative has been a powerful voice for responsible fatherhood. And for those of you involved, on behalf of our Nation, I say thanks from the bottom of our collective hearts. You have generated grassroots support and important national awareness. You've encouraged public officials like me to think and act on this incredibly important issue.

I worked with many of you on the Texas Fatherhood Initiative. We created a statewide public awareness campaign, mobilized community and corporate leadership, established a Texas Fatherhood Resource Center, and lent support to grassroots organizations all across our great State.

Promoting fatherhood was a commitment I made as Governor; it's a commitment I make as President; and it's a commitment I have made every day since our little girls were born in Dallas, Texas.

Two people who have been a central part of the National Fatherhood Initiative are now a valuable part of my administration, the Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, Don Eberly, and the Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services—and, we hope, a man confirmed soon—Wade Horn. [*Applause*] I was pleased to see Senator Carper leading the applause. [*Laughter*] Thank you, guys, for your service, and thank you for your willingness to work on behalf of the American people.

The intellectual roots of the fatherhood movement reach back to one exceptional public servant who spoke about the importance of fathers earlier, more often, and more eloquently than any other public figure, former United States Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of New York. Now, the fatherhood movement counts amongst its supporters a variety of public officials: Republicans Tom Ridge and Secretary of State Colin Powell; great Democrats, like Al Gore and Joe Lieberman.

Most States now have initiatives that promote responsible fatherhood, and more than

50 mayors are involved in the National Fatherhood Initiative's bipartisan Mayors' Task Force on Fatherhood Promotion. The fatherhood movement is diverse, but it is united by one belief: Fathers have a unique and irreplaceable role in the lives of children.

For our children and for our Nation, nothing is more important than this initiative. Nearly every man who has a child wants to be a good father; I truly believe that. It's a natural longing of the human heart to care for and cherish your child, but this longing must find concrete expression.

Raising a child requires sacrifice, effort, time, and presence. And there is a wide gap between our best intentions and the reality of today's society. More than one-third of American children are living apart from their biological fathers. Of these, five out of six do not see their fathers more than once a week. And 40 percent of the children who live in fatherless households have not seen their fathers in at least a year.

Some fathers are forced away by circumstances beyond their control, but many times when a couple with children splits up, the father moves away or simply drifts away.

We know that children who grow up with absent fathers can suffer lasting damage. They are more likely to end up in poverty or drop out of school, become addicted to drugs, have a child out of wedlock, or end up in prison. Fatherlessness is not the only cause of these things, but our Nation must recognize it is an important factor.

There is a familiar litany that behind every statistic is a child, and a compassionate society can never forget the large place a father occupies in that child's life. Children look to their fathers to provide, even imperfectly, and nurture protection, provide discipline and care, guidance, and most importantly, unconditional love. Fathers are the object of a young child's admiration. They provide their sons and daughters with an example of what it means to be a good man. And many of us believe a father's love, like a mother's love, even imperfectly, mirrors divine love.

The absence of a father can shatter a child's world. One 14-year-old girl put it this way: "My father left me when I learned to say 'daddy.' Even though my father is not around, in my heart he's always there. Every birthday, every Christmas, I cross my fingers in hopes that my father will come home. Does my wish come true? No. But I never quit looking and hoping."

When children quit looking and stop hoping, something terrible happened to them and to us. Over the past four decades, fatherlessness has emerged as one of our greatest social problems. Yet, during this period, we've also made some important social progress. Today, marriages is often a more equal partnership. Many fathers are more emotionally involved in the lives of their children. And our society now recognizes domestic violence for the violent crime it is. These trends are welcome and noble and overdue.

Many families with one parent do well. Single mothers do amazing work in difficult circumstances, succeeding at a job far harder than most of us can possibly imagine. They deserve our respect, and they deserve our support. And millions of children have strong, loving relationships with their nonresident dads. But on the whole, we must never forget children need their dads, and when they're absent, something is lost.

Fatherlessness has public consequences; so public officials have a role to play. My budget, for example, provides $64 million in 2002 and $315 million over 5 years for programs designed to strengthen fatherhood. We have proposed increased funding for promoting safe and stable families program and are taking steps to help make adoption more affordable.

And we have tried to set an example by creating an atmosphere favorable to families in the White House, in the workplace, as should all of us who have responsibility for employees. Democratic Senator Evan Bayh has taken the lead on fatherhood legislation in the last Congress, and will do so again this year. And he deserves our gratitude.

I look forward to working with him and Senator Domenici, as well as other key supporters of fatherhood legislation, like Nancy Johnson, to secure passage this year of a bill that provides financial support to community based fatherhood programs all across the country.

I'm asking my Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives to develop resource materials to guide urban congregations and

other community groups in finding role models for young men who have been raised without fathers. And we will be working with the Office of National Drug Control Policy to enlist dads in our national campaign against drug use.

We have a responsibility to help children who have been born into harsh circumstances and fractured families. As a society, we must work to promote mentors—committed, caring adults in the lives of children. I always like to say, I wish I knew the law that I could sign that would cause people to love one another. I'm confident these Senators, and I know this Member of the House, would sponsor it. I can assure you the President would sign it.

But governments can't cause people to love one another. Love comes from the hearts and souls of citizens who want to help. And we must gather up the great compassion of our society, to encourage loving citizens to put their arm around a child who may not have a dad and say, "Somebody in this country loves you, and somebody cares for you."

There's no substitute for a dad. I recognize that. But there's sure a lot of hope when a child has a mentor. Just look at the record of Big Brothers and Big Sisters in America. They've had an incredible positive effect on the lives of children. Children who meet with a Big Brother and Big Sister regularly for a year are 46 percent less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 32 percent less likely to assault somebody. They are less likely to skip school, and more likely to realize a dream.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America is an amazing story. And I want you all to hear this. There are estimates that more than 14 million children in this country could benefit from having a mentor. To begin addressing the need, my budget proposes a $67 million initiative to mentor children whose parents are incarcerated. Our law should encourage responsible fatherhood; when children are abandoned, our society should encourage mentoring.

But ultimately, fatherhood is a deeply personal calling. Our own children are given to our care, and they depend on our love. Every parent knows that raising a child is among the most affirming experiences a human being will ever know. So many of my generation had the same—had this experience. When we held our children for the first time, we really found ourselves. We found a world of duty and love that changed our lives. And since that day—since that day, "dad" has been the most important title I have ever had. [*Applause*] Thank you very much. Thank you.

Children need a father's love and attention. And they also need a loving family. To paraphrase my friend Josh McDowell, a child's greatest source of security today is not only knowing my mom loves me and my dad loves me, but also that mom and dad love each other.

If we are serious about renewing fatherhood, we must be serious about renewing marriage. Ultimately, this, too, is a deeply personal calling. Renewing marriage depends on renewing the inward things of the heart, mutual respect and cooperation, support and affirmation, love and devotion.

Healthy marriages are not always possible. But we must remember, they are incredibly important for children. Our hearts know this, and our Nation must recognize this. "What greater thing is there for two human souls," George Eliot wrote, "than to feel that they are joined for life to strengthen each other in all labor, to rest on each other in all sorrow, to be one with each other in silent, unspeakable memories at the moment of the last parting."

None of us is perfect. And so no marriage and no family is perfect. After all, we all are human. Yet, we need fathers and families precisely because we are human. We all live, it is said, in the shelter of one another. And our urgent hope is that one of the oldest hopes of humanity is this, to turn the hearts of children toward their parents and the hearts of parents toward their young. This is the hope of the Fatherhood Initiative. And because of your hard work, America will be a better place.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Ticonderoga Room at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred

to Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania; Deputy Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Don Eberly, chairman and founder, Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Wade F. Horn, president, and Roland Warren, executive vice president, National Fatherhood Initiative; Josh McDowell, founder, Josh McDowell Ministries; and former Vice President Al Gore.

Remarks Honoring the 2001 Super Bowl Champion Baltimore Ravens

June 7, 2001

Thank you. Please be seated. It seems like we drew quite a crowd here today. It's been a big day here at the White House. I got to sign the most significant tax relief in a generation, recycling a few tax families here. [*Laughter*] Then, of course, I get the high honor of welcoming the Super Bowl champs, the Baltimore Ravens.

First, I do want to thank the Members of the United States Congress from the State of Maryland who are here. It seems like they have got a particular interest in this event. Thank you all for coming. Cardinal, thank you for being here, as well. With you on the side of the Ravens, I can now understand why teams like the Cowboys didn't do very well.

Art, welcome, and congratulations. Some of you may know, or don't know, I used to be an owner in the professional leagues. It happened to be in baseball. I never had the thrill of receiving a trophy like you and your family have done. It's a great tribute to good ownership, to win a trophy such as this. And I congratulate you for being here. And I congratulate you for putting together a fine organization. Big Ozzie, congratulations, sir. I'm your age. [*Laughter*] You look younger. [*Laughter*]

I also want to congratulate the coach. Brian, it's good to see you again. I think the players know this, that you can't win a championship without a good coach, without a good leader. And it's pretty hard to inspire a group of strong-headed, great athletes—[*laughter*]—but you did. I congratulate you.

I want to congratulate all the players who are here. And I want to congratulate your families, too. It's sometimes not easy to be the wife of a football player or a baseball player. There's a lot of time away from the home. And while the players, of course, deserve the great credit for winning on the field, the wives deserve a lot of credit, too, by standing behind the players. So congratulate to the family members.

This is a team that is blessed by five native—having five native Texans on the team. [*Laughter*] Very wise of you. [*Laughter*] So to my fellow Texans, welcome to the White House, it's good to see you. [*Laughter*]

A couple of points I want to make. First, I realize it's been 30 years since the Lombardi Trophy rested in Baltimore, Maryland. It's clear by bringing it back home, Art, that you have indelibly etched your team and your style and the team's culture in the hearts of the people of Baltimore.

I also want to use this opportunity—as you know, I'm going over to Europe, and one of the discussions there in Europe will be about defense—[*laughter*]—Senator Sarbanes. [*Laughter*] I think our Allies need to look at the Baltimore Ravens. [*Laughter*] They'll realize good defense wins. A good defense is one which adjusts to the times. A good defense is modern. A good defense is clear. And if Secretary Rumsfeld gets tired of his job, Secretary Marvin Lewis sounds pretty good—[*laughter*]—Secretary of Defense. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, congratulations for winning. I also want to congratulate Michael McCrary. I do, because he recently received the NFL Player's Association highest honor of humanitary achievement. That's important. It's important to be a champ on the field, and it's important to be a champ off the field. And Michael, I want to thank you for your work with the Special Olympics.

I don't know if any of you have ever had a chance to go to see the Special Olympics, but if you do, and somebody offers you a chance to be a hugger—which means you're standing on the other side of the finish line to hug somebody who comes running across—do it. It touches your heart. And Michael, thank you for that. And thank you for setting a good example.

Thank you all for coming to the White House. Thanks for being champs. And on behalf of the American people, I congratulate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:25 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore; and owner Art Modell, vice president of player personnel Ozzie Newsome, head coach Brian Billick, defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis, and defensive end Michael McCrary, Baltimore Ravens.

Proclamation 7448—Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day

June 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

All of America's service personnel and veterans deserve our gratitude, and it is fitting to pay tribute to the United States Asiatic Fleet.

The United States Navy's presence in the Far East dates to 1822. The Asiatic Fleet was formed in 1902, reestablished in 1910, and continued to serve into 1942. Through years of unrest and disturbance, the Fleet protected American lives and interests along the China coast and the Yangtze River, bearing responsibilities that were as much diplomatic as Naval. The Fleet also assisted civilian areas devastated by the forces of nature and by internal warfare.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor thrust the United States into World War II, the Asiatic Fleet played a key role in the defense of the Philippines. Outnumbered and outgunned at sea and in the air, the Fleet was joined by ships of the British, Dutch, and Australian navies to oppose the Japanese advance through what is now Indonesia. The Fleet's destroyers hit the Japanese at Balikpapan and Badung Strait, and the cruiser *Marblehead* fought her way through massive air attacks off Bali while submarines, short of fuel and torpedoes, struck Japanese supply lines.

The battle for the "Malay Barrier" reached its climax in the Java Sea. In the opening hours of March 1, 1942, the American cruiser *Houston* and the Australian cruiser *Perth*, outnumbered and outgunned by the Japanese, fought to the last in the Sunda Strait. They went down with their guns still firing and were followed hours later by the British cruiser *Exeter*. The remaining Allied ships were then ordered to make their way to Australia.

The Asiatic Fleet was no more, but its heritage of courage and selfless dedication helped spur our Navy to victory in World War II. Since then, the Seventh Fleet has carried on the Asiatic Fleet's duties, earning honor in Korea and Vietnam and helping to preserve peace and stability in East Asia. The men and women of our Naval services who saw the Cold War to a peaceful conclusion and won victory in Operation Desert Storm are worthy descendants of the sailors and Marines who earned glory in the Java Sea. As we pay tribute to the memory of the Asiatic Fleet, I call on all Americans to join me in saluting its proud heritage of bravery and honor.

The Congress, by Public Law 105–261, on October 17, 1998, has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in commemoration of the United States Navy Asiatic Fleet.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 1, 2002, as U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:54 a.m., June 8, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

Remarks at a Tax Relief Celebration in Dallas Center, Iowa

June 8, 2001

Thank you all very much. It's nice to be back on the farm. [*Laughter*] I want to thank the Barretts for their hospitality. I was here before. I'm going to make mention of that in a minute, but it's great to be back here again. Tom and Judy and their family represent what America is all about—family values, family love, hard work, tradition, history, generations. So it's an honor to be back here and be able to talk a little bit about what's going on in the Nation's Capital.

I am so honored to be traveling today with members of the Iowa congressional delegation, at least those who had the wisdom to support tax relief for the hard-working people of Iowa.

The Senator was really effective. I know you were proud of him before this piece of legislation passed. But if you had seen him like I saw him, working hard on behalf of people, you'd really be proud. This is a monumental legislative achievement, because the chairman from the great State of Iowa worked diligently on behalf of the American people. This happened because Chairman Grassley made it happen, and I am so grateful.

As you know, we Bushes are used to taking orders from people named Barbara. [*Laughter*] That's right, it is her birthday. I want you to note, those in the press corps, I called her first thing this morning and wished her a happy birthday.

But Senator Grassley listens to someone named Barbara, as well, and she is with us today, Barbara Grassley. Thank you for coming, Barbara.

Four Congressmen from Iowa stood fast with the people of Iowa. Congressman Ganske—some say he might be thinking down the road. If he is, I hope everybody gives him a serious look, because he was steadfast when it came to worrying about the working people in the State of Iowa and the farmers in the State of Iowa.

And you've allowed others from the great State of Iowa to come into the greater Des Moines area: Latham, Leach, and Nussle. Fine Congressmen, honest, decent Americans. And by the way, Congressman Jim Nussle was the head of the Budget Committee, who did a superb job, an unbelievably good job of shepherding through a budget that not only helps the Nation meet our priorities but a budget that also included some of the surplus going back to the people that pay the bills. Congressman Nussle distinguished himself on behalf of all Americans and, particularly, the people of the State of Iowa. So I am so honored that the three—four Congressmen are with us.

You may have heard that I'm on my way from here to chunk out the first pitch at the College World Series. As you know, it's in Nebraska. I see a man with a Nebraska—there you go, yes—Nebraska hat on. Well, we've got a Congressman from Nebraska, as well, with us, Congressman Lee Terry. I appreciate you coming, Lee, as well; thanks for being here.

I haven't decided whether or not I'm going to go with the fastball or slider today. [*Laughter*] I just hope it's not the same pitch I used in Milwaukee to open the stadium, where there was a nice little bounce to it before it got to the plate. [*Laughter*] At any rate, I'm so honored to be here. Kay, I appreciate you being here. I remember well the speech I gave to the Greater Des Moines Partnership. And I want to thank all the Chamber of Commerce members who are here.

I also want to recognize two former Governors, friends of mine who were steadfast in their support, Bob Ray and Terry Branstad. Thank you both for coming. They still remember you. And I know the Speaker of the House is here, as well. Where's Brent? Brent, thanks for coming. It's great to see you, sir. Thank you.

The last time I was here, we were talking about foreign policy, and there were two people who were here then that aren't here now. And I'm so sad that Herb Plambeck and Bob Lounsberry are not here with us. But I can assure you that they're smiling when they've heard that we had gotten rid of the death tax.

I also want to thank the tax families who are here. For those of you who paid attention to the campaign, one of the things I tried to do in the course of the campaign, in order to build public will for good public policy,

was to talk about how tax relief would benefit real-life families, how tax relief would make a difference in the lives of hard-working Iowa citizens—the Kozol family, the Skiles family, and the Barrett family are here with us.

Thank you all so very much for coming. Thanks for letting me use you as a live example. You should take special pride in knowing that your hard work, along with the hard work of millions of others, convinced the United States Congress to do the right thing. Tax relief is real, and tax relief is on the way.

Somebody said, "Well, why are you going back to the farm to talk about the joint accomplishment that happened in Washington?" Well, it's the place where I made the promise. It was here that I talked about the agricultural policy that I felt was good for the Nation. It was here where I, amongst other things, said two things loud and clear. One, my administration will support ethanol not only during the campaign but afterwards.

We believe in value-added processing. I haven't changed my mind since I got elected. I still strongly believe that ethanol is important, not only to reduce dependency upon foreign sources of energy but also as a source and a way to clean the air.

And secondly, I said, if given a chance to be the President, I would do everything I could to get rid of the death tax. The bill I signed yesterday gets rid of the death tax over time. The bill I signed yesterday recognizes that, when you tax a person's assets twice, it's unfair. The bill we worked on and I signed recognized the importance of the family farmer in America.

I heard somebody say, "Well, you know, the death tax doesn't cause people to sell their farms." I don't know who they're talking to in Iowa. I've talked to people who were forced to sell their farms in order to pay for the death tax.

But I'll tell you what else the death tax used to do. It used to cause generation after generation to bear debt, to live under the heavy onus of having to borrow money to pay their taxes. Now, in some cases, they may not have transferred the assets out of the family, but in many cases the death tax caused one generation after another to try to climb out from underneath heavy debt, and those days are ended, as far as we're concerned, in America.

And then I went over—that was September 1st, '99. And to complete the circle, I went—and December 1st—Kay mentioned—and talked about tax relief beyond just the death tax. I laid out some principles. I said, first and foremost, I believe our Government can afford tax relief. Then the economy turned a little south on us, and I began to say, not only can we afford it, we cannot afford not to have it. It's important for us to have made a case, and I think people listened, that tax relief will provide a second wind to our economy. I said that a principle that needed to be—this needs to be a tax cut that was fair.

We said in the course of the campaign—the Chairman embraced the idea—that if you pay taxes, you get tax relief. That instead of having this business about Washington, DC, targeting people in or targeting people out, we didn't think that was fair. We said, everybody who pays—the only fair way to deal with tax relief is to reduce all rates on all taxpayers, so that Washington doesn't pick and choose winners and losers. And that's what this bill did.

It said, we're going to be fair about tax relief. And as the Senator mentioned, this is the first reduction in all rates in 20 years—as a matter of fact, since World War II, it has only happened twice: President Kennedy had the honor of signing the tax relief plan; President Ronald Reagan had the honor of signing an overhaul of the Tax Code and overall tax relief plan. And now President George W. Bush has that honor, and I'm in distinguished company, I might add.

We also said in the campaign that it was important to make the code respond to people who make good choices. A good choice is being married. [*Laughter*] And we did something about the marriage penalty in the Tax Code. We say, if you're struggling hard to get ahead, that we ought to—and you're raising kids, we recognize that in tax relief. And so part of the tax relief package has raised the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child.

And we also said in this bill, which I supported and I know the Chairman supported,

that there is some who may not have qualified for the tax credit in the past, that we ought to have a refundable tax credit for the poor citizens in our society. And that's a part of the bill, as well.

This tax legislation is good for the country. It's good for the economy. And as importantly, it embodies a principle that is embedded in my political soul. And it says that our Government, at all times, ought to trust the people—that we ought to trust the people of this country. It says, once we meet our priorities, that we ought to trust the people with the surplus. After all, it's the people's money; it's not the Government's money. I would much rather have the tax families making the decisions with their own money than the Federal Government deciding what's best for American families.

No, the core principle of this tax relief plan says, we trust people. We trust the American people. And all of us in public office should, because the American people are the finest people on the face of the Earth.

This tax relief plan is also important because it's the beginning of the change of the tone in Washington, DC. You know, a lot of us that weren't in Washington in the past and used to look up there and weren't really pleased with the bickering that was going on and the name calling and the unnecessary shrillness that were echoing through the Halls of the Capitol. There is still some of that. Sometimes I catch some of those elected officials, maybe not saying things about me that my mother would like to hear. [*Laughter*] But the tone is changing. It is. We're working hard to change it.

The chairman worked hard with his counterpart, with the Democrat in a western State, to get this bill done. Tax relief is important for the economy. Tax relief is really important for the American people. Tax relief is going to be evident pretty quickly, by the way, when married couples start getting a $600 check this summer. Single head of the household, $500 check. Single folks, a $300 check, followed by reduction in rates.

But tax relief also shows what can happen with the right spirit and right attitude in our Nation's Capital. It shows the American people that, if you set aside partisanship and focus on good public policy, we can accomplish things on behalf of the American people, instead of kind of worrying about your own standing or focusing on a focus group, taking a poll to figure out what to believe in. If you put the interest of the American people ahead of self-interest or political interest, we can get positive things done in the Nation's Capital. This is the beginning of a lot of reform that's going to take place.

And I'm excited about what's coming down the pike. We're fixing to get a good education bill out—I hope the Senate moves it quickly—one that sets high standards, trusts local people to make the decisions for their children; one that embodies an Iowa concept of accountability, right in the core of the education bill.

I'm excited about the progress we're making as far as our military. I said, loud and clear, when I came to Iowa, it's important for our military to be of high standing, high morale. The first thing we're going to do is pay our troops more money and make sure they're better housed.

I'm going to Europe and looking forward to my trip, going to Europe. But I cannot wait to describe to the people of Europe, the leaders in Europe, how important it is for freedom-loving people to think differently about how to keep peace. Now, Russia is not our enemy. Russia is no longer our enemy, and therefore, we shouldn't be locked into a cold war mentality that says we keep the peace by blowing each other up. In my attitude, that's old; that's tired; that's stale.

Our United States and our allies ought to develop the capacity to address the true threats of the 21st century. The true threats are biological and informational warfare. The true threats are the fact that some rogue nations who can't stand America, our allies, our freedoms, or our successes, would try to point a missile at us. And we must have the capacity to shoot that missile down. It's time to think differently about defense.

We're making progress. We're not only making progress and changing the tone, we're making progress of convincing people that some issues require a different way of thinking.

I'm so excited to be the President. It is an incredible honor, because we also have

a chance to work together to change our Nation's culture, to usher in a period of personal responsibility, to say, loud and clear, to citizens who need help,"Somebody loves you."

You see, Government can spend money, and we will. Our budgets reflect the compassion of America. But compassion isn't measured in dollars and cents. Compassion is measured in acts of kindness, in decency. One of the most important initiatives we're working on is what I call a Faith-Based and Community Initiative. It says, in order to make sure people aren't left behind, not only do children need to be educated, but our Nation must rally mentors to say to children whose parents may be in prison, "I care for you. I want to provide you with hope."

Or that we've got to understand—I'll never forget going to Colfax, Iowa, to understand that sometimes in order to get a person off alcohol or drugs, the most effective way is to change the person's heart.

Government can't cause people to love one another. But what Government and leaders can do is gather up the great compassion of America, encourage faith-based programs to flourish, welcome community-based programs in neighborhoods, all aimed at making sure no citizen in this land is left behind.

And I believe we're on our way. I believe we're on our way to a much better America. We're great. We can be even greater. And it begins by understanding where the strength of this country is. The strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of loving, decent, honorable citizens.

My job is to call upon the best, and it's my honor to do so. It also starts with understanding the awesome responsibilities of the collective offices we hold. I'll never forget that I hold the highest office of the land and, with it, comes an awesome responsibility, and I accept it gladly, and I'm not going to let you down.

Thanks for coming. Thanks for having me back. I'm honored to have your hospitality. God bless you all and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. at the Barrett Farm. In his remarks, he referred to his mother, Barbara Bush; farm co-owners Tom and Judy Barrett; Barbara Grassley, wife of Senator Charles E. Grassley; Kay King, president and founder, Travel World; and Speaker Brent Siegrist, Iowa General Assembly.

Statement on the Vietnam Bilateral Trade Agreement

June 8, 2001

Free trade and open markets are at the foundation of my administration's efforts to promote prosperity and opportunity around the world. Our free trade agenda is designed to engage our trading partners at the global, regional, and bilateral level and to expand economic integration and political cooperation. The history of the previous century teaches us that trade is a powerful tool for improving and reforming economies and opening up entire societies.

Today I am sending to the Congress the Vietnam bilateral trade agreement, an important part of my administration's trade agenda. This agreement will increase opportunities for U.S. firms by requiring Vietnam to dismantle a wide range of trade barriers, open its services markets, and provide comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights. Expanding ties between the United States and Vietnam will continue the historic process of normalizing our relations—a process that began during the first Bush administration and advanced in the Clinton administration with the negotiation of this agreement.

This agreement enjoys broad bipartisan support in the Congress, including from many Members who are Vietnam veterans. Enactment of the agreement will provide a solid bipartisan foundation for action on other trade issues.

I recently extended the Jackson-Vanik waiver for Vietnam for one year, based on my belief that Vietnam is making progress on liberalizing its emigration statutes. My administration will continue to press for improvements in Vietnam's overall record on human rights and religious freedom.

At the dawn of a new millennium, the United States stands ready to shoulder its leadership role throughout the world. Engaging other nations in trade is a vital part of U.S. leadership, and it is a key element of promoting economic growth at home and

abroad. I urge the Congress to approve this agreement.

Proclamation 7449—To Implement the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations

June 8, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to the authority vested in the President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and acting through duly empowered representatives, the United States entered into negotiations with representatives of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam ("Vietnam") to conclude an agreement on trade relations between the United States and Vietnam.

2. These negotiations were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*) (the "Trade Act").

3. As a result of these negotiations, an "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations" (the "Agreement"), including annexes and an exchange of letters which form an integral part of the Agreement, the foregoing in English and Vietnamese, was signed on July 13, 2000, by duly empowered representatives of the two Governments, and is set forth as an annex to this proclamation.

4. The Agreement conforms to the requirements relating to bilateral commercial agreements set forth in section 405(b) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(b)).

5. Chapter VII, Article 8:1 of the Agreement provides that the Agreement shall enter into force on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance by the two Governments.

6. Section 405(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(c)) provides that a bilateral commercial agreement providing nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of a country denied such treatment prior to the date of enactment of the Trade Act, and a proclamation implementing such agreement, shall take effect only if a joint resolution described in section 151(b)(3) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2191(b)(3)) that approves of the Agreement is enacted into law.

7. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the provisions of that Act, of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including, but not limited to, sections 404, 405, and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) This proclamation shall become effective, the Agreement shall enter into force, and nondiscriminatory treatment shall be extended to the products of Vietnam, in accordance with the terms of the Agreement, and after Congress approves the Agreement by joint resolution, on the date of exchange of written notices of acceptance in accordance with Chapter VII, Article 8:1 of the Agreement. The United States Trade Representative shall publish notice of the effective date in the *Federal Register*.

(2) Effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date provided in paragraph (1) of this proclamation, general note 3(b) to the HTS, enumerating those countries whose products are subject to duty at rates set forth in Rates of Duty Column 2 of the tariff schedule, is modified by striking out "Socialist Republic of Vietnam."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 12.

Message to the Congress on Trade With Vietnam

June 8, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with section 407 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2434) (the "Trade Act"), I am transmitting a copy of a proclamation that extends nondiscriminatory tariff treatment to the products of Vietnam. As an annex to the proclamation, I also enclose the text of the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations," which was signed on July 13, 2000, including related annexes and exchanges of letters.

Implementation of this Agreement will strengthen political relations between the United States and Vietnam and produce economic benefits for both countries. It will also help to reinforce political and economic reform in Vietnam.

I believe that the Agreement is consistent with both the letter and spirit of the Trade Act. The Agreement provides for mutual extension of nondiscriminatory tariff treatment, while seeking to ensure overall reciprocity of economic benefits. The Agreement includes safeguard arrangements designed to ensure that imports from Vietnam will not disrupt the U.S. market.

The Agreement also facilitates and expands the rights that U.S. businesses will have in conducting commercial transactions both within Vietnam and with Vietnamese nationals and business entities, and includes provisions dealing with settlement of commercial disputes, investment, financial transactions, and the establishment of government commercial offices. Vietnam also agrees to adopt standards for intellectual property protection that match the standards set forth in the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

On June 1, 2001, I waived application of subsections 402 (a) and (b) of the Trade Act with respect to Vietnam. I urge that Congress act as soon as possible to approve, by a joint resolution referred to in section 151 (b) (3) of the Trade Act, the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Vietnam as provided for in the Agreement.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 8, 2001.

Memorandum on a Determination Under Section 405(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended, Concerning the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

June 8, 2001

Presidential Determination No. 2001–18

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Determination under Section 405(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, Concerning the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2431 *et seq.*) (the "Trade Act"), I determine, pursuant to section 405(a) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2435(a)), that the "Agreement Between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Trade Relations" will promote the purposes of the Trade Act and is in the national interest.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 3

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC, where he and Mrs. Bush hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

June 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Everglades National Park, FL.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Miami, FL, where he met with the Most Rev. John Clement Favalora, Archbishop of Miami. Later, he traveled to Tampa, FL.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laurie Rich to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Frances P. Maniella to be Director of the National Park Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick M. Cronin to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for Policy and Program Coordination.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides beginning May 15 and continuing.

June 5

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 6

In the morning, the President traveled to Bedford, VA, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patrick Francis Kennedy to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador.

June 7

In the morning, the President participated in a telephone interview with the Omaha World-Herald from the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Thomas Schieffer to be Ambassador to Australia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nancy Jo Powell to be Ambassador to Ghana.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas J. Miller to be Ambassador to Greece.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael E. Guest to be Ambassador to Romania.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Parker to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The President announced his intention to nominate Reginald Jude Brown to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ronald M. Sega to be Director of Defense Research and Engineering.

The President announced his intention to nominate Josefina Carbonell to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin Kennedy to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development for the Bureau of Humanitarian Response.

The President announced his intention to nominate Laura E. Kennedy to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate John P. Stenbit to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Command, Control, Communications, and Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Judith Elizabeth Ayres to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for International Activities.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jo Anne Barnhart to be a Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude M. Kicklighter to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Policy and Planning.

The White House announced that the President has invited President John Kufuor of Ghana, President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, and President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali to the Oval Office for a working visit on June 28.

June 8

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas Center, IA, and later, traveled to Omaha, NE, where he threw the first pitch at the College World Series Game 1.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Susan Schmidt Bies to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System representing the Seventh District.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Miguel Angel Rodriguez of Costa Rica on July 13.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Alfonso Portillo of Guatemala at the White House on July 5.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Chok Tong Goh of Singapore on June 11.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 5

Vicky A. Bailey,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy), vice David L. Goldwyn, resigned.

Rebecca O. Campoverde,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Department of Education, vice Scott Snyder Fleming, resigned.

Deborah J. Daniels,
of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Laurie O. Robinson, resigned.

William A. Eaton,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Assistant Secretary of State (Administration), vice Patrick Francis Kennedy.

Robert S. Martin,
of Texas, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, vice Diane B. Frankel, resigned.

Mark B. McClellan,
of California, to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers, vice Robert Z. Lawrence.

Diane K. Morales,
of Texas, to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness, vice Roger W. Kallock.

Richard R. Nedelkoff,
of Texas, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, vice Nancy E. Gist, resigned.

Janet Rehnquist,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, vice June Gibbs Brown, resigned.

Mercer Reynolds,
of Ohio, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Alexander R. Vershbow,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

John P. Walters,
of Michigan, to be Director of National Drug Control Policy, vice Barry R. McCaffrey, resigned.

Submitted June 7

Alex Azar II,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, vice Harriet S. Rabb, resigned.

Sheila C. Bair,
of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Gregory A. Baer, resigned.

Ellen G. Engleman,
of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Kelley S. Coyner, resigned.

Steven John Morello, Sr.,
of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army, vice Charles A. Blanchard, resigned.

William A. Navas, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice Carolyn H. Becraft.

Clark T. Randt, Jr.,
of Connecticut, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the People's Republic of China.

C. David Welch,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Submitted June 8

Josefina Carbonell,
of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of Aging, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Jeanette C. Takamura, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 4

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law H.R. 581, providing wildland fire management reimbursement authority to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture in connection with the National Fire Plan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to West Virginia

Transcript of a remarks by Deputy Superintendent of Everglades National Park Larry Belli to the press pool

Released June 5

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed into law H.R. 801, the Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001

Released June 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming trip to Europe

Released June 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting with Ghanaian President Kufuor, Senegalese President Wade, and Malian President Konare

Advance text of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Council on Foreign Relations on Foreign Policy Priorities and Challenges of the Administration

Released June 8

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Portillo of Guatemala

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Prime Minister Goh of Singapore

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Rodriguez of Costa Rica

Announcement: President's Commission To Strengthen Social Security To Hold First Meeting

Fact Sheet: Background on the U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 3

H.R. 581 / Public Law 107–13
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appropriated for wildland fire management in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, to reimburse the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management

Approved June 5

H.R. 801 / Public Law 107–14
Veterans' Survivor Benefits Improvements Act of 2001

H.R. 1727 / Public Law 107–15
Fallen Hero Survivor Benefit Fairness Act of 2001

Approved June 7

H.R. 1836 / Public Law 107–16
Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001