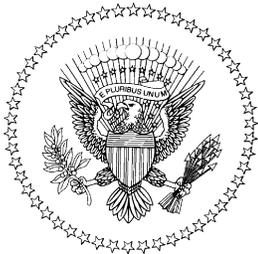


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, February 18, 2002
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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, February 15, 2002

Remarks at a State of Utah Olympic Reception in Salt Lake City, Utah

February 8, 2002

Thank you. Well, Mike, thank you very much. That's a powerful introduction. It must have been the choir. *[Laughter]* It's such an honor to be here. Laura and I have really been looking forward to this spectacular day. I want to thank Mike for your efforts, your hard work to show really the very best of America to the whole world. I want to thank Jackie, as well. Mike and I both married above ourselves. *[Laughter]*

It's an honor to be here with many distinguished citizens of our country, the Utah congressional delegation. Senator Hatch and Senator Bennett, thank you both for being here. We had the opportunity of flying down on Air Force One together. These two men love Utah a lot. I want to thank members of the congressional delegation. Congressmen Matheson, Hansen, and Cannon, thank you all for being here, as well.

I appreciate the mayor. I also appreciate members of my Cabinet, Secretary of State Colin Powell—members of one of the finest teams a President has ever assembled have joined us. Thank you all for coming.

I want to thank Mitt Romney for being such a strong leader, for really kind of willing these games to go forward. I appreciate Jacques Rogge for being here, as well. Thank you, sir. It's my honor to have welcomed you to the—one of the greatest offices on the face of the Earth, the Oval Office. I loved our visit then. Thank you for coming. Thank you, Sandy, as well.

Kofi, it's great to see you, sir, the Secretary-General of the United Nations who does such a fine job of promoting peace and the world interests.

I've put together an official delegation to the Olympics, really fine people—a few reprobrates with them. *[Laughter]* Thank you all for coming. I'm honored that my sister has

joined the delegation, as well. As you know, I love my family a lot, and I love my little sister. She's my favorite one, even though she's my only one. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank all the citizens who have worked so hard to put these games on. You know, as I flew into Salt Lake City, I saw such a majestic part of our country, such a beautiful part of the American landscape. The State of Utah is the perfect site for these games. It's the perfect site because of her beauty. It's the perfect site because of her people. It's the perfect site because of the rich history of this State, from the early Native Americans who gave Utah its name to the mountain men and later settlers who carved cities and towns into this rugged landscape. It was here in Utah that America was connected from east to west by the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869. It is here today that the world is united, in Utah.

It's such an honor to host the Olympics in any year, but it is even more significant in this year. Following the attacks of September the 11th, people from around the world expressed their sympathy and their strong support for our country, and for that we are grateful. They understand that America stands for a great cause, and that is freedom. We love, we cherish, and we will defend freedom at any cost.

This commitment to freedom is inscribed in our Nation's founding documents. The first of those documents, the Declaration of Independence, is right here in Utah in the State Capitol and will be available for viewing throughout the games. The Declaration is here thanks to a program created by Norman Lear. Norman and I don't always agree on politics, but we agree that the Declaration of Independence is fundamental to our Nation. And I want to thank Norman Lear for his vision of providing this document for not only the people of the world to see but for

our fellow Americans to review when they come to these great games.

I hope people do come and read the document because they'll understand why we're so insistent upon defending our values. We defend liberty and freedom for everyone, not just a few, not just people in Utah, but everybody who lives in this country and everybody who lives around the world. These are rights we hold self-evident. These are timeless ideals.

People may wonder, if they don't understand America, "Well, why have we reacted with such determination and patience and resolve?" It's because we believe so strongly in these ideals, liberty and freedom, and we know it is what will make the world live in peace, if we embrace those ideals without falter.

And the Olympics give the world a chance, in the midst of a difficult struggle, to celebrate international peace and cooperation. America's athletes will compete hard and, I know, will make us proud. But at the end of every event, the competitors will join to honor the winners, no matter their nationality. And they will stand at attention to honor the flags of many nations, which will be flying in pride and flying in peace.

For centuries, the Olympics have reinforced an important lesson. It's an important lesson for today. No matter how wide our political or cultural differences may be, some things are valued and enjoyed the world over. All people appreciate the discipline that produces excellence, the courage that overcomes difficult odds, the character that creates champions. The feelings and emotions that drive the Olympics are not expressed in any one language; they're expressed with tears and smiles of joy and of pride.

The world has shed many tears, tears of sorrow, over the past 5 months. It now gives the people of the United States and the State of Utah great pride to host these games, which will provide lasting memories of laughter and triumph for people of every nation.

I want to thank you all. Thank you so very much on behalf of our Nation for bringing western hospitality to this global tradition.

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:56 p.m. in the Rotunda at the Utah State Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Michael O. Leavitt of Utah and his wife, Jacalyn S.; Mayor Ross C. Anderson of Salt Lake City; Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Jacques Rogge, president, International Olympic Committee; Sandy Baldwin, president, U.S. Olympic Committee; Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations; the President's sister, Dorothy Koch; and Norman Lear, founder, People for the American Way. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Gordon B. Hinckley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and an Exchange With Reporters in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Mr. Hinckley. We're honored to have you here. We very much appreciate that you've come. We're all here, excited about the Olympics, and we think this is going to be a great thing for this area and for the United States of America.

The President. I agree. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. I'm looking forward to it. I want to congratulate the great State of Utah for putting on the games. It's going to be a—I know it's been a lot of hard work, and now we're here, and I think the world is going to see why we love the West so much here in the United States. People can get things done.

Mr. Hinckley. We're happy that they're here. We hope that all will go well, with confidence that all will go well and that it will be a great season for all of us.

The President. I might answer a few questions. You got anything, Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] or Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters]?

Security at the Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, are you confident about the security situation at the games?

The President. I'm so confident about the security condition, I've come. [Laughter] Fournier, you got anything?

Genealogy

Q. What did you talk about in there?

The President. Well, we just—interestingly enough, we talked about our family heritage, our lineage. The president kindly gave us our family histories, genealogies that have been researched here, and it's a wonderful gift.

And I said, "Before you tell me, are there any horse thieves in there?" [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. I want to tell you that he comes of good stock. [Laughter]

The President. That's right. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. And so does she.

Winter Olympic Games

Q. Mr. President, did you give any advice to the American athletes on carrying the flag from New York, the World Trade Center flag?

The President. No, I didn't.

Q. And is there a danger that an event like this takes on some political overtones, especially with the United States engaged in a war on terrorism?

The President. Well, I think the event is going the—the events are going to strike a proper balance between the patriotism that we all feel here and the international flavor of the games. As I understand it, they've reached what appears to be a reasonable compromise about the flag that flew over the World Trade Center.

And I think it's important for all Americans, obviously, to root hard for our athletes and recognize, however, this is an international event. And one of the things that is important is that there be world unity. And this is a nice place to have world unity, during the competition. You know, an athlete wins, people salute their flag and their anthem. And unfortunately, it's not going to be the American flag every single event. It'll be somebody else's country, but it gives us a chance to cheer for others and celebrate with others, as well.

So it appears to me that the proper balance has been struck. No question that tonight is going to be an emotional moment, though.

I mean, we're the host country, and we're a nation that has been under attack. And this proud country is unified and strong, and when they play the national anthem, I'm sure there's going to be millions of Americans who are proud to hear the anthem played in a unique setting and in an historic moment.

World Trade Center Flag

Q. Were you disappointed, sir, when you first heard that the flag was not going to be allowed in the ceremonies?

The President. I knew that there would be an accommodation reached. I talked to some friends about it. So I'm happy with the outcome of the accommodation. I think it's a nice balance.

Q. Did you weigh in at all on it?

The President. No, I didn't.

Meeting With President Hinckley

Q. Mr. President, why was it important for you to meet with President Hinckley today?

The President. Well, first of all, this isn't my first meeting. I was—it's kind of—

Mr. Hinckley. Reunion.

The President. Reunion, right. Thank you. I was searching for the word. [Laughter]

I was here in the summer of '99. And first of all, President Hinckley represents a great religion. He is a strong part of the American scene, and I wanted to come by and say hello and pay my respects, and I'm glad I did.

Also, by the way, looking forward to hearing the choir tonight. It is going to be a magnificent moment, an incredibly touching experience for all of us, particularly those of us who will be there live.

So thank you for tuning them up. [Laughter]

Mr. Hinckley. They're all ready to go.

The President. Thanks.

Mr. Hinckley. Thank you very much.

The President. Good to see you, sir.

NOTE: The remarks began at 3:20 p.m. at President Hinckley's office in the Church Administration Building. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the United States Winter Olympic Athletes in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

Well, thank you very much. I'm not deserving, but I'm proud to wear this jacket. I want to congratulate our great country's Olympic team. I want to thank you all for your efforts. I want to thank you for your hard work. The whole country is pulling for you, and we're really proud of you.

I want to thank all those who've worked to make these Games go well: Mitt Romney, Sandy Baldwin, Lloyd Ward, Dwight Bell, Bernie Machen. I want to thank your coaches and your families.

Today we're joined by three Port Authority Police Officers from New York City: Tony Scannella, Curt Kellinger, Frank Accardi. Where are they? There they are. [*Applause*] Thank you all for coming.

And as you know, they brought with them one of the flags that flew in front of the World Trade Center on September the 11th, which will be carried into the Olympic Stadium today. This flag serves as a symbol of this Nation's strength, of our resolve, of our determination to fight for freedom. These Games come at a perfect time for the country. In our time of sadness and determination and resolve, our Olympic athletes will represent the best of America. I can't wait for Americans to see our flag fly. It is such a proud moment for all of us. This Nation is steadfast and unified, and you, the athletes, are going to represent us with such class and dignity and courage.

It's a chance for the world to see that in times of war, we can come together in friendly competition to promote the peace. So not only you represent the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, you represent a spirit that is much bigger than evil and terror: You represent peace.

A lot of people are going to be watching you, particularly a lot of kids. You'll become heroes overnight. That's an awesome responsibility. I know you'll handle it with grace. I know you'll set the best example possible.

And so we're here to wish you all the best, to congratulate you. Let's roll. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Gymnasium A of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Complex at the University of Utah. In his remarks, he referred to Mitt Romney, president and chief executive officer, Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 winter Olympic games; Sandy Baldwin, president, Lloyd Ward, chief officer, and Dwight Bell, cochair, International Relations Committee, U.S. Olympic Committee; and J. Bernard Machen, president, University of Utah. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks Opening the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City

February 8, 2002

On behalf of a proud, determined, and grateful nation, I declare open the games of Salt Lake City, celebrating the Olympic winter games.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:10 p.m. at Rice-Eccles Olympic Stadium. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

February 9, 2002

Good morning. Recently, I had the honor of welcoming Coretta Scott King and her children to the White House to observe Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday. Shortly after the holiday I visited the school that young Dr. King attended in Atlanta, Booker T. Washington High School. It was a moving experience to see the place where this great American began his life of learning.

February is Black History Month, a time of learning for all of us. Ever since the historian and educator Carter Woodson put Black history on the calendar back in 1926, February has been a time to reflect on the contributions of African-Americans and the need to remember and celebrate all of our history.

Nobody can understand this country without understanding the African-American experience. It began when America began. And throughout our history, the experience of Black Americans has challenged every American to live up to the best ideals of our country: freedom, equality, and justice.

We have come far, and we have a way yet to go. But our goal is the same goal that Dr. King set for us, to be one people in fact as well as in name. And one way to realize this goal is the same way that Carter Woodson showed us, education.

Education is the beginning of opportunity. Through the historic education reform bill I recently signed, we are returning high standards and accountability to all our public schools. And my administration strongly supports the work and the mission of our historically Black colleges and universities.

My first budget pledged a 30 percent increase over 4 years and Federal support for historically Black colleges and universities and Hispanic-serving institutions. And my new budget, even in a time of recession and war, keeps us on track to reach that target. These are schools like Morehouse College in Atlanta, where Dr. King earned his first degree, schools like Howard University in Washington, DC, where Carter Woodson was dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Our historically Black colleges and universities opened the door to knowledge when other doors were barred. And today, they offer exciting opportunities to young people to contribute to their country.

February is a month rich in important anniversaries. It is the month in which Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born, two men, very different, who together ended slavery. It is the month of the birth of W.E.B. DuBois, whose eloquent histories opened our country's eyes to its own past and possibilities, and of the birth of Rosa Parks, who courageously refused to yield to injustice on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus.

Today, we are fighting for freedom in a new way and on new battlefields. And we continue to press for equal opportunity for every American here at home. We want every American to be educated up to his or her full potential. We salute the accomplishments of our historically Black colleges and universities. And I hope all Americans will draw inspiration from the message of Black History Month.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:30 a.m. on February 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February

9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 8 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 Princess Margaret of the United Kingdom

February 9, 2002

Laura and I are deeply saddened to learn of Princess Margaret's death. Princess Margaret was a proud mother and grandmother whose compassion and support for charities helped better the lives of many in need. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, grandchildren, and the entire royal family.

Remarks at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

February 11, 2002

Well, thank you very much, Tommy; I appreciate your introduction. Your heart may be in Wisconsin, but you've got to keep your address where it is right now. *[Laughter]* I'm counting on you. He's doing a fabulous job. I love Wisconsin for a lot of reasons. One, you produced Thompson. I love you so much I even come in the winter, which is hard for a Texan. *[Laughter]*

It is an honor to visit this distinguished place of learning which trains so many outstanding physicians. I happen to know something about Wisconsin doctors. I'm pretty familiar with them. After all, the White House physician is Colonel Richard Tubb, raised right here in Wisconsin. He's not only a fine doctor; he fortunately got special instructions on pretzel-related conditions. *[Laughter]* My advice is, swallow after you chew. *[Laughter]*

But the Medical College of Wisconsin represents the future of health care, here and throughout our country. It's a fitting place to address the great opportunities and challenges that the future will bring our country. Our health care system is in need of important reform and on the verge of amazing discovery. We must seize the moment for the benefit of all Americans.

And that's why I want to thank Scott McCallum for welcoming me here, and I appreciate his leadership for the State of Wisconsin. I want to thank the members of the congressional delegation, Barrett, Petri, Ryan, Sensenbrenner, for coming, as well. It's good to see all of you. I'm looking forward to working with you to do what's right for the citizens in terms of health care.

I appreciate Michael, his leadership, and his hospitality. I want to thank the docs who gave me a briefing. And I want to thank all of you for your warm welcome.

I want to talk about two things, and they both have to do with the challenges we face. I briefly want to talk a little bit about the challenge we face abroad. And then I want to talk about the challenge we face at home, particularly with health care.

First, the enemy made a bad mistake. They don't understand us. Let me rephrase that—they didn't understand us. They do now. We are patient. We're resolved people. But we are absolutely determined to defend freedom.

I'm pleased to report that out of the evil have come some good, one of which is that in Washington, there is no difference between Republicans and Democrats as to who is the most patriotic or who wants to win the most. All of us want to win the war against terror, for which I am grateful.

But I want to tell you all that we're just beginning, that I see this as a unique moment in history. And this Nation must seize the moment. And it's this: Either we defend freedom, so that our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world, or we blink. And if we blink, the rest of the world will blink as well. I don't believe we have that luxury. I believe we must find terror wherever it hides and bring it to justice.

And so the Afghan theater is the first theater in the war against terror, and we've done a lot in a quick period of time. I laid out a doctrine that said, if you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists. And the Taliban found out what I meant. Not only have we thrown them out, but in doing so, we liberated—we liberated women and children from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, thank you, and I know you're proud of that relative, as well.

There's a lot of focus on one individual in this war on terror, but this is much bigger than one person. Oh, the guy, he can hide, and he can run, but there's no cave deep enough for the arm of justice of the American people. And it's just a matter of time. I have no artificial date deadlines. I really don't care if it's tomorrow or a month from now or a year or a couple of years. But Mr. bin Laden is going to meet his fate.

And in the meantime, the United States of America will continue to rally our coalition, to continue to cut off money from terrorist organizations, continue to share intelligence so we can react better, continue to defend our homeland, and continue to insist that freedom-loving nations find, incarcerate, and bring to justice anybody who would harm America, our allies, and our friends.

There was some concern amongst some that the farther we got away from the horrible day of September 11th, America would waver in our determination. They don't need to be concerned. We are determined. We are patient. We are tough. We're compassionate. We will not yield to terror.

There are a lot of challenges we face. We fight a recession. I'm optimistic we'll recover. But one of the big challenges is our health care system. I like to put it this way: We face a huge challenge of making sure that we're still the world's greatest health care system. That's our challenge. How do we maintain our edge? How do we make sure the American people get the best health care in the world?

And it starts by making sure that we attract the best and brightest to the medical profession. And that can start with the President saying, thank you for dedicating your lives to such a great calling. America appreciates the fact that you've chosen a profession that is so profound and so important. It's a model of service and excellence. And the achievements of our medical professionals set the standards for the entire world.

Life expectancy in America today is 8 years longer than it was in 1950 and 29 years longer than it was in 1900. That's a lot of progress.

And for millions, those extra years are more active and more healthy than anybody could have imagined. We're making great progress against many diseases, such as breast cancer and colon cancer and childhood leukemia. The death rate from coronary disease is down 40 percent since 1980. Our country leads the world in Nobel Prizes for science and medicine and in the invention of new drugs and medical devices.

I truly believe that this progress is one of America's greatest contributions to mankind. It is a tribute to the outstanding efforts of the medical profession and to a system of private medicine that encourages innovation and rewards hard work.

Yet our doctors and patients know that our system is far from perfect. Too many patients feel trapped by the system, with decisions about their health dictated by HMOs or Government bureaucracies. Too many doctors feel buried in paperwork. I've heard it said that some doctors feel they don't practice medicine, they practice insurance. At the same time, health care costs are rising sharply, and many people worry they won't be able to afford the treatments they need. Some procedures are overused, often as defensive measures to avoid litigation. And about 40 million Americans still have no health insurance at all.

We must reform health care in America. We must build a modern, innovative health care system that gives patients more options and fewer orders and strengthens the doctor-patient relationship.

Government has got to take an active role in reform. Yet it's important that Government's role is not to centralize, nor is Government's role to control the delivery of medicine. Other nations have tried this route, and it has led to long waits for treatment, low-quality care, and lagging technologies. And for many patients, their experience with centralized Government-controlled medicine leads them somewhere else, often right here to America, where they can get the treatment and care they need.

The role of Government in health reform is to fix the system where it's failing, while preserving the quality and innovation of a private, patient-centered medical system. All reform should be guided by some goals.

The first goal: All Americans should be able to choose a health care plan that meets their needs at affordable prices. When people have good choices, when people are given different options, health plans have to compete for business, which means higher quality and better coverage.

Most Americans get their health care coverage at work. Yet, higher costs are causing some employers to cut back on benefits or insist that the employee pay more, especially if they want to choose their own doctor or to avoid the complications of managed care. Many families end up in a health plan whose monthly premium puts a strain on their budget, and when they require care, they find what they need really isn't fully covered.

So here's what I propose: I propose we give workers more choice. I propose we reform the system to make the system more individualized by creating personal health accounts. Instead of paying a large premium every month for services you may not use, I believe we ought to have an account that allows a person to pay a much smaller premium for major medical coverage and then put the savings into a health account, tax free.

The money is your money. It's your money in the health account, not the Government's money. And you can use it for whatever health care need that arises. If you don't use it, it's yours to keep. And the more affordable—and for the more affordable premium, you also get catastrophic care, protection in case of serious illness.

The tendency for Government is one size fits all. If part of reform is to restore the patient-doctor relation and to give patients more choices, we have to change the tax system, too, and allow for patients to make decisions that is in their best interests.

I also propose to help workers get better and more affordable choices in health plans at work. Now, some large companies are—you're okay; you've got some choice. But many small businesses are unable to afford health insurance. And so—and that's because there's not much purchasing power. A stand-alone small business does not have purchasing power in the marketplace. Either they can't afford to cover, or they have to allow their employees to settle on a high premium, high-dollar single plan.

And so what I propose is that we ought to allow employers to pool together, through an industry association or perhaps the Chamber of Commerce, so that they can get the best deal for their workers, just as large corporations are allowed to do.

Too many workers get no coverage at all through their jobs. This is especially true among minorities, part-time employees, and seasonal workers. For those with limited means, my budget will provide new credits to afford health coverage, up to \$1,000 for an individual or \$3,000 per family. And they won't have to wait for tax time to get these health credits. We'll make them immediately available for qualifying families, giving them the help they need when they need it. And at the same time, we'll work with our Nation's Governors to create purchasing groups to negotiate with insurers for the people who use these health credits.

In other words, people who don't have insurance must be given incentive to purchase insurance; the States can help them pool, in order to get decent—decent coverage; but it's not a Government program. In other words, we trust the people. The Government incents individuals to make decisions in the marketplace. If the goal is to increase quality care by encouraging individual choice and a doctor-patient relationship, health credits is one way to help the uninsured do so.

I also strongly believe that the legislation that I proposed to help unemployed workers makes a lot of sense. And it's this: As soon as a person qualifies for unemployment benefits, the Government would cover 60 percent of the cost of continuing their health care. That's a proper role for the Federal Government. The role of the Federal Government is to help people who have been unemployed, not only with benefits but also with their health care costs.

And the same principle of encouraging choice and helping people help themselves must apply as well to two Government-sponsored programs, Medicaid and Medicare.

Medicaid and the SCHIP program provide essential coverage for low-income families and seniors and persons with disabilities. These Americans also deserve more choices. My budget gives States more flexibility to provide better options in Medicaid and

SCHIP and makes additional funds available for States to improve the coverage.

And the Medicare program is a source of security and dignity for tens of millions of our seniors. It is an incredibly important commitment that our Federal Government has made. I strongly support Medicare because it is so crucial in the lives of older Americans, but I understand that Medicare is antiquated. It has not kept pace with advances in medicine. For instance, when Medicare was established in 1965, health care usually meant hospital care. Today, we understand how important it is to prevent people from getting sick in the first place; yet Medicare does not fully cover preventive medicine.

In the past 37 years, many new medicines have arrived to replace invasive treatments and surgeries. These drugs can be more effective than surgery and are far less expensive. A serious stomach ulcer, for instance, once required a lengthy stay in the hospital and many thousands of dollars in medical bills. Today, the ulcer can be cured with prescriptions costing only hundreds of dollars. Yet Medicare would only cover the surgery, not the prescription.

We must bring Medicare into the 21st century, to expand its coverage, to improve its services, to strengthen its financing, and to give seniors more control over the health care they receive. I think we're making progress in Washington, progress toward convincing the Congress that all wisdom doesn't exist in Washington bureaucracies when it comes to health care for the elderly. We've got Republicans and Democrats and an independent from the United States Senate working on Medicare reform.

Seniors who are happy with the current system should be able to keep the coverage just the way it is. In other words, if there is a senior living in America who says, "I love Medicare just the way it is," nothing changes, and that's an important—it's important for a lot of Americans to hear that. But all seniors should be offered different options, a range of options from which to choose, in both the private sector and private markets, as well as a better Government plan with better Medigap options. And all of these choices—

all of them, however, must include prescription drug coverage.

The second goal of reform is quality, the ability for a patient to get the best care from the doctor of our choice.

Managed care plans have done a lot to make health care more affordable for many people. They can also unfairly deny coverage and step between the doctor and the patient. When such basic rights are lost, they've got to be restored by law. And that's why I urge Congress to get a Patients' Bill of Rights to my desk.

We're close to an agreement on this issue. I've given a message to Congress: Please send me a bill that protects all patients, not just a fortunate few. Send me a bill with comprehensive patient protections. No one should be charged extra, for example, for simply visiting the nearest emergency room. No one should have to run a bureaucratic gauntlet before he or she can see a specialist. And if health plans deny care, every patient should have the right to a prompt review by an impartial panel of doctors.

Finally, we should be serving the interests of the patients, not the self-interest of trial lawyers. There will always be matters that can and will be resolved in a courtroom, but with a strong review process, most disagreements between patients and health plans will end up in medical care, not in the courtroom.

Needless litigation does not—needless litigation does incredible harm to our health care system. It costs everyone time and money, especially patients who need care quickly, and can destroy the bond of trust between physician and patient. Frivolous lawsuits drive up insurance premiums for everybody and discourage employers from offering employee coverage at all. It is really important to remember that we want to help doctors to heal, not encourage lawyers to sue.

And the hostile legal atmosphere that doctors face is adding to costs and undermining the quality of health care in practical ways. At some hospitals, for instance, doctors have worked closely with one another to cut the rate of infection after surgery by more than half. Yet when they discuss that information openly or put it on a paper for the benefit of others, they also put themselves at risk of a lawsuit. We actually have a system that

penalizes doctors for trying to prevent errors and avoid complications in patient care. And that doesn't make much sense. These good-faith efforts do not deserve the punishment of a lawsuit, and Congress needs to do something about that.

When it helps patients, information must be broadly shared. In the Medicare system, we're giving people more information on the quality of nursing homes all across the country, and we plan to do the same thing throughout the health care system. Increased reliance on information technology will not only lower costs, it also holds great promise for detection and treatment and the development of new cures for disease. Personal medical information, however, must always be strictly confidential. A patient's right to privacy must be protected, and we will enforce those protections.

My final goal in health care reform is to make sure Government acts where it should, providing a strong health care safety net and promoting research on the frontiers of science. The Federal Government has accepted these responsibilities, and we must fulfill them.

Many of the poor and uninsured, including legal immigrants, are outside our system of health care entirely. Their neighborhoods often have few health care professionals or facilities. They have little or no access to preventive care, and most treatment takes place in an expensive emergency room.

Around the country, more than 3,000 community health centers are fighting these problems by giving immunizations, providing prenatal care, and treating illness before they become medical emergencies. I strongly support these community health centers because they're compassionate. They are compassionate; they are cost effective; and America needs more of them. And so I've set this goal: We need 1,200 more community health centers over the next 5 years to make sure our Government fulfills its commitment to the needy.

The Federal Government has a large role in medical research, as you well know here. And that role is now urgent. In response to the threats facing our Nation, we've committed more than \$2 billion to develop new

tests and new treatments for bioterror weapons. This research is not only important for the immediate, but it is likely to produce new insights into the treatment of diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS. Our massive effort to ensure the safety of our people will improve the health of our people.

The National Institutes of Health is one of the most successful Government undertakings in our history. The work of the NIH has helped us defeat a long list of diseases and dangers to public health. Now, as scientists begin to read the codes of life itself, we are nearing incredible breakthroughs in the fight against disease. We may, in our lifetime, lift from humanity the curse of cancer.

This is a moment of great national challenge, and the work of the NIH has become even more urgent and promising. I'm asking Congress to give strong support to the NIH. And my budget achieves the goal I set out when I sought the vote, and that is, we will have doubled the NIH goal at the end of the year 2003.

Science is—on the very sources—is closing in on the sources of sickness and disease. By 2010, scientists predict, genetic tests will allow individuals to know if they are predisposed to certain conditions. Within 20 years, targeted drug and gene therapies will be available for diabetes and hypertension and other diseases.

As we pursue the promise of these projects, we must also be alert to their dangers. Genetic information should be an opportunity to prevent and treat disease, not an excuse for discrimination. Just as we addressed discrimination based on race, we must now prevent discrimination based on genetic information.

There is another danger to guard against, the use of genetic research to threaten the dignity of life itself. The powers of science are morally neutral, as easily used for bad purposes as good ones. In the excitement of discovery, we must never forget that mankind is developed—is defined not by intelligence alone but by conscience. Even the most noble ends do not justify every means. Life itself is always to be valued and protected. In biomedical research, we're dealing with the very makings of life, and the law

must be firm and clear in restraining the reckless and protecting the voiceless.

These are the goals of health care reform, principles to make a good system even better. We'll put our trust in the choices of patients and the decisions of doctors, the surest way to better coverage and better care. We'll protect patients and doctors from unfair treatment and unreasonable lawsuits. And Government will fulfill its unique responsibilities to provide a health care safety net and conduct the research that holds such great hope for all of us. With these reforms, new breakthroughs in medical research will reach the patients who need them, quickly and at the lowest cost possible.

I believe America can achieve anything it sets its mind to. I believe—I don't believe—I know we're going to win the war against terror. And I know if we honor our professionals and honor our patients and recognize the limited role of Government, if we trust Americans to make the right choices for their lives, we'll have the health care system that remains the envy of the world. There's no doubt in my mind that with the right reforms, the right philosophy, a philosophy of trust—trust in people—that America will remain on the cutting edge of medicine. And as America remains on the cutting edge of medicine, America will be the promised land for all of us.

It is such an honor to be here. I want to thank the youngsters who are going to be docs. I want to thank you for your service. Give them an "A" for attending, for sitting through this lecture. [*Laughter*] But I do appreciate it. And I also appreciate your professors. And I appreciate the chance to come and share with my fellow citizens about the future of health care in America.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. in the Alumni Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin; T. Michael Bolger, president and chief executive officer, Medical College of Wisconsin; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Remarks at a Fundraiser for
Governor Scott McCallum of
Wisconsin in Milwaukee**

February 11, 2002

Well, thank you, Tommy. Earlier today Tommy stood up and said, “You know, my heart is in Wisconsin, but I’ve got an address in Washington.” I’ve got bad news for you, Tommy. You’re not going to change your address for a while. [Laughter] Tommy is doing a fabulous job. People of the country are getting to know what the people of Wisconsin already know, is that if you give a man a tough job, he can handle it. And I appreciate your leadership.

And I’m proud to be here for Scott. I hope the people of Wisconsin send this man back for 4 more years as the Governor. And there’s a reason to: In a short time, he’s got a strong record of leadership; he’s not afraid to lead. You know, when times get tough in the political arena, sometimes you find those who duck or you find those who stand up and lead the people. And that’s exactly what Scott has done, and I appreciate his leadership. He’s following a good man. There’s been 15 years of strong leadership in this State, and when he gets reelected, there will be 4 more years of strong leadership in the State of Wisconsin.

And I want to thank you all for coming to help. You can’t win elections unless the people are with you. And this huge crowd shows that something’s happening here in Wisconsin that’s positive for Scott’s campaign.

I also want to thank all of you who worked hard to help me get where I am. I know I couldn’t have won without the hard work of citizens all across our land, people willing to man the precincts, blow up the balloons, make the phone calls. And it’s an honor to be in the room with so many who worked so hard, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And I appreciate Laurie, the first lady of the State of Wisconsin. Her steadfast support of Scott—she brings a lot of class to the office of first lady. Where are you, Laurie? [Applause]

I know something about good wives. [Laughter] The people of the country now

understand why I married Laura. They’re a little confused about why she married me. [Laughter] But I can’t tell you how proud I am of Laura Bush. She has done a fabulous job.

It’s my honor to say hello tonight to the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for coming, Governor.

I’m traveling today with members of the Wisconsin congressional delegation, a fine group: Green and Petri, Ryan, Sensenbrenner. I’m looking forward to visiting with them on the airplane going back to Washington. But you’ve sent four fine Representatives to Washington, DC, and I’m proud of their service. Thank you all for coming.

I want to thank members of the legislature for being here. The Speaker is here, I understand, and I want to thank you all for coming. You know a good man when you see one.

I want to thank Rick Graber, the party chairman, and all of you who are involved with the Republican Party of the State of Wisconsin. Thank you for your hard work, and thank you for what your fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote next November, to make sure this guy gets in.

And I appreciate Craig and the leadership and all the vice chairmen who worked so hard to make this event incredibly successful.

You know, I was watching how Scott handled the budget issue here in Wisconsin. And he’s handled it the way you’d want any leader to handle it: to stand up and make tough decisions, to not duck them. He proposed a budget that recognizes that when times are bad, you don’t raise taxes on the working people; that if times are lean, you do what families do, you pare back a little bit. But he also set clear priorities. To me, the most important job of any Governor is to make sure the public school system of a State is sound and healthy, to make sure children from all walks of life get educated. And in the budget he proposed, public education is the number one priority for the citizens of Wisconsin.

I understand he’s proposed an energy plan. That makes a lot of sense. The State of Wisconsin has an energy plan; the United States of America needs an energy plan, an energy plan that encourages conservation, but an energy plan as well that understands, if we rely upon foreign sources of crude, we

could have problems in the future. We need a plan that not only saves energy but finds more energy to become less dependent on foreign nations. It is in our national security interests to do so. And that includes alternative fuels, like ethanol. *[Applause]* We've got some corn boys here. *[Laughter]* Behave yourselves back there. *[Laughter]*

Scott signed into law Wisconsin's Senior Care Program. And that's important, because it provides prescription drug relief to over 200,000 Wisconsin seniors. Today I had the privilege of laying out a health care speech, a health care strategy. And included in my speech was the need to make sure we reform Medicare so that seniors have got prescription drug coverage.

As a result of Scott's leadership, Wisconsin is making great strides toward making sure seniors have got prescription drug coverage. Now, this guy has got a strong record, a record of leadership, a record of accomplishment, a record that Wisconsins need to be proud of. You've got a steady man here, a good man, a solid man who deserves 4 more years in office.

I had the high honor of going before the Congress for my State of the Union Address. And in my address I said that we're at war, and we're battling a recession, but the state of this Union has never been stronger.

When the enemy attacked on September the 11th, they made a huge mistake. They thought they were attacking a weak nation, a nation that was undisciplined, a nation so materialistic that we would put self above sacrifice. I said in my speech earlier—or last fall—that if you harbored a terrorist, if you fed a terrorist, if you hid a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And the Taliban has found out exactly what I meant, and so have hundreds of Al Qaida terrorists.

We're making great progress in the first theater on our war against terror. You know, I unleashed the might of the United States military with all the confidence in the world that they would get the job done, and my, have they performed brilliantly. For those of you with relatives who wear the uniform, I want to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation. I sent a budget to Congress that recognized a couple of things: One, that the price for freedom is never too high; and sec-

ondly, those who wear our uniform deserve the best equipment, the best training, the best support, and another pay raise.

It is a large budget increase, because it recognizes that the war on terror is just beginning. In the caves in Afghanistan, we've discovered the fact that the enemy desired weapons of mass destruction, trained hundreds of potential killers that are now spread around the world. It reminds us that even though distance has passed since September the 11th, we've still got a mighty task ahead of us, and the task is so vital and so important. It's so important that our Nation continue to lead this vast coalition, because we fight for freedom; we fight for the liberties that we've taken for granted for a long period of time. We must stand up to terror now, in order to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful world.

And are terrorists—and the threats to America not only are from the terrorist organizations that hate freedom and kill in the name of religion. Our mission also includes countries which develop weapons of mass destruction, nations with a history of brutality. If they're ever able to mate up with terrorist organizations, the free world will be threatened. And this President is not going to allow regimes such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea to threaten our way of life.

I appreciate the unity of this Nation. I appreciate the unity in Washington, DC. Republicans are patriotic; Democrats are patriotic. We're united in our resolve. The world has been amazed at the determination of this country. The world is seeing what we're really made out of.

You know, to me, one of the most defining moments of this war on terror came when some fellows were on a telephone on an airplane on September the 11th: They said a prayer; they told their wives they loved them; and they drove a plane into the ground to save others' lives. It's the ultimate sacrifice. It's such a statement, a powerful statement, of what it means to defend freedom.

Every morning I'll go into the Oval Office, and I read a threat assessment which tells me the enemy is still trying to come. And I want to assure you all that we're doing everything in our power to protect innocent life in America. The FBI is on full alert. Listen,

we're running down every lead, every hint. Every opportunity we have to disrupt potential attack, we're taking. Our law enforcement officials are working overtime, and I'm really proud of what they're doing.

We've got a plan headed by Tom Ridge that focuses on bioterrorism and airport security, border security. We now need to know who's coming in our country and who's leaving our country, so we make sure people don't slide in who want to harm us.

This Government is on full alert, and I'm proud of the way the Federal Government has responded, and I'm proud of the way the Congress is going to fund our homeland security efforts. But make no mistake, the best way to secure America is to find them and hunt them down, no matter where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

We've got a big challenge here at home, and that is people hurt because of the recession. People hurt because when the enemy hit us, it caused the economy to slide, and people lost work. And so long as people are out of work, I hurt for them.

And so I proposed an economic stimulus plan that says to the Congress, let's take care of the unemployed by extending unemployment benefits, and let's help them with their health care. But always remember, folks in America don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. So let's create more jobs by creating an environment in which people are willing to risk capital. Let's cut taxes on investment and on equipment and plants, so that people who employ people will have more cash to do so.

The House passed a good bill. It seems to have died in the Senate. Let's get it out of the Senate. Let's get a jobs package out of the Senate so people can get back to work in America. An energy plan means more jobs. Trade means more jobs. We need good farm policy out of the United States Congress to help us with jobs. I ask the Congress to think about one thing when it comes to economic policy, and that is jobs. Jobs provide dignity; jobs provide hope; jobs are essential to the future of this country.

The amazing thing that's happened to this Nation after September 11th is, out of the terrible evil has come some good. Out of the

evil has come some amazing compassion and kindness. I believe we have a chance to work together to change our culture in America for the better. You know, the culture was dominated by the if-it-feels-good-do-it era. I believe we have an opportunity now to welcome a culture that says each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

The people on Flight 93 were responsible citizens by making the huge sacrifice they did. Our soldiers are responsible citizens. You know, I'm asked all the time, "What can I do to help in the war against terror?" Well, you've probably learned by now, I don't believe there's many shades of gray in this war. You're either with us or against us; you're either evil or you're good.

The best way citizens in America can fight evil is through acts of kindness, is to do some good in your community. It doesn't have to be much. One can just walk across the street to a shut-in and say, "I care for you," or, "I love you," or, "What can I do to help?" That's an act of kindness. Or you can mentor a child. You know, we've got thousands of sons and daughters whose parents are in prison in America, people who wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them. In order to help fight evil, I hope people become mentors to one of those children. Put your arm around them and say, "I love you a lot, and America is meant for you."

You know, there are all kinds of ways that all of us can help make our communities much stronger. And a way to usher in a new period of responsibility is to remember that not only are we responsible for loving our children, not only is our most important responsibility in a responsible society is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul, but a responsible period, a responsible era says, "I want to love my neighbor just like I love myself."

It's the gathering momentum of a million acts of kindness and compassion all across America that will stand strong in the face of evil. It is the acts of generosity by generous Americans as they help people in need that will send a clear message to the world that the United States of America will not stand for evil. We will stand strongly in the face of evil. We will defend our freedom.

And out of the evil acts of September the 11th will come incredible goodness and kindness and compassion. And if any country on the face of this Earth can set that example, it is the great country called America.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Pfister Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Laurie McCallum, wife of Governor McCallum; Lt. Gov. Margaret Farrow of Wisconsin; Speaker Scott R. Jensen, Wisconsin State Assembly; Richard W. Graber, chairman, Republican Party of Wisconsin; and Craig Leipold, financial chairman, McCallum for Governor, 2002.

Remarks on the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy

February 12, 2002

Well, thank you very much, John. This Nation has got some big challenges ahead of her. One big challenge, of course, is to defend freedom, is to remain united as we fight for the very values that we hold so dear.

And another big challenge is to battle drug use. Drugs undermine the health of our citizens; they destroy the souls of our children. And the drug trade supports terrorist networks. When people purchase drugs, they put money in the hands of those who want to hurt America, hurt our allies. Drugs attack everything that is the best about this country, and I intend to do something about them.

Today I'm proud to announce a national drug control strategy. It is a plan that will lay out a comprehensive strategy for our Nation. We're putting the fight against drugs in the center of our national agenda, and I'm grateful for all of you who are here.

I want to thank John and those who work with him for taking on this enormous task. I also want to thank Members of the United States Congress who are here: Senators Graham and Hatch, thank you both for coming today; I appreciate Elijah Cummings; and Ernest Istook from Oklahoma; and Sander Levin from Michigan; John Mica of Florida; Rob Portman of Ohio; and Chairman Sensenbrenner from Wisconsin; Mark Souder from Indiana. Thank you all for coming. Your presence here shows our mutual commit-

ment to put policy in place that will make a huge difference in the lives of many, many of our citizens.

I'm also so grateful for Admiral Loy for being here, of the United States Coast Guard. I had the honor of traveling to Maine recently to announce a significant initiative for the Coast Guard, a strong commitment by our administration to boost spending to make sure the Coast Guard is modern and capable of not only defending our borders but actively being engaged in the fight to interdict drugs that could be coming into our country overseas. Admiral Loy, I'm proud to have you here, and I'm proud of your team.

I also want to thank many Ambassadors who are here, Ambassadors from our neighbors to the south, the Ambassador to Russia. I'm so grateful that you all are here and willing to lend your nations' support in this great cause.

I also want to thank the citizens who are here. We've got a fabulous group of citizens from around the Nation representing groups that are—have made the decision to do something about drug use. We've got community groups and prevention groups and law enforcement groups, and I want to thank you for coming. And I hope you go back and, when you go home, thank the folks that are working with you on behalf of a grateful nation.

We've got a problem in this country. Too many people use drugs, and this is an individual tragedy. And as a result, it's a social crisis. There is no question that drug use wreaks havoc on the very fabric that provides stability for our society. Drug use wreaks havoc on our families. Drug use destroys people's ambitions and hopes.

More than 50 percent of our high school seniors have said that they've experimented with illegal drugs at least once prior to graduation. There's some new, "hip" drugs like ecstasy and GHB. They're kind of fads. But they're dangerous and lethal, and they're taking too many lives.

And we know the results. We know what can happen. The important bond between parents and children are fractured and broken, sometimes forever. Schools can turn

into places of violence and chaos, as opposed to places of learning and hope. Productive citizens can become so dependent, so addicted that they live a life of hopelessness. We've got to do something about it here in America.

Drugs constitute a huge challenge to the very health of our Nation. Illegal drugs cost our health care system almost \$15 billion a year, and illegal drugs are directly implicated in the deaths of almost 20,000 Americans a year. Drug use causes people to commit crime, making neighborhoods less safe and less secure for our families. Drugs help supply the deadly work of terrorists—that's so important for people in our country to understand.

You know, I'm asked all the time, "How can I help fight against terror? What can I do, what can I as a citizen do to defend America?" Well, one thing you can do is not purchase illegal drugs. Make no mistake about it, if you're buying illegal drugs in America, it is likely that money is going to end up in the hands of terrorist organizations. Just think about the Taliban in Afghanistan: 70 percent of the world's opium trade came from Afghanistan, resulting in significant income to the Taliban, significant amount of money to the people that were harboring and feeding and hiding those who attacked and killed thousands of innocent Americans on September the 11th. When we fight drugs, we fight the war on terror.

Today I'm pleased to announce a new strategy to combat drugs in America. We're determined to limit drug supply, to reduce demand, and to provide addicts with effective and compassionate drug treatment. Each of these steps is essential, and they're inseparable. And these steps must be funded, which is why the budget I submitted to Congress calls for \$19 billion to fight drug use.

We'll fight drug supply to reduce drug use and punish those who deal in death. More than 280 metric tons of cocaine and 13 metric tons of heroin enter our country each year. To stop drugs from reaching our borders, the budget I've submitted includes nearly \$2.3 billion dollars for drug interdiction, an increase of over 10 percent from last year's budget. With the Coast Guard's help and with our partners in other nations, with

the collaborative efforts with the leaders of all the nations in our neighborhood, we're going to fight drug traffickers whether they try to bring the drugs in this country by sea, by land, or by air.

I also want to target the supply of illegal drugs that are the source, particularly those in the Andean nations. That's why I've requested \$731 million for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative, the countries of Bolivia and Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela. And I look forward to making sure the program is effective, that crop substitution works and crop destruction goes forward.

I look forward to working with your Presidents and telling them pointblank how anxious I am to make sure that our efforts to interdict supply is effective and meaningful and measurable and real.

I've also asked our Homeland Security Director, Tom Ridge, to examine ways we can improve our national border management system to make sure we achieve what we want on our borders, which is commerce to move but to stop the illegal flow of drugs. A more effective management of our border for homeland security will lead to better drug interdiction in our southern and northern borders.

However, it is important for Americans and American families to understand this, that the best way to affect supply is to reduce demand for drugs, that we can work as hard as we possibly want on interdiction but, so long as there is the demand for drug in this country, some crook is going to figure out how to get them here. And so a central focus of this strategy is to reduce demand, is to convince our children that the use of drugs is destructive in their lives. And that starts with good parenting. It is essential that our parents understand that they're the child's most important teacher and that the message of our parents must be unequivocal: Don't use drugs.

And so one of the things we're going to work hard to do is to fire up the Parents Drug Corps, is to fund an initiative that will convince and rally parents to do their job. I say that if we want to usher in a period of personal responsibility, if we want a new culture that changes from "If it feels good,

do it” to one that says “We’re responsible for our decisions,” it begins with moms and dads being responsible parents, by telling their children they love them on a daily basis. And if you love somebody, you’ll also tell them not to use drugs.

We know that community involvement can help defeat demand. Congressman Portman and Congressman Levin know that firsthand. They have been involved in their communities to rally interests and concerned citizens to come with a local grassroots effort, all aimed at educating kids and all aimed at pulling community resources together to make a clear statement, a clear, responsible statement that drugs will destroy; don’t use them.

And so we support the Drug-Free Community Support Program, by \$10 million, to encourage these grassroots efforts, kind of the bottom-up effort to reduce demand in America. The money will help coalitions—the formation of coalitions, effective coalitions of business leaders and teachers and families and law enforcement and, oh, the faith community. We must never forget the faith community in America. Our Government must not fear the involvement of faith-based programs. As a matter of fact, we’ve got to welcome faith-based programs.

This initiative is coupled with a Faith-Based Initiative, will help rally the armies of compassion, those citizens who love their neighbor like they’d like to be loved themselves, to help send a clear message that we love you; we love you so much we’re going to convince you not to use drugs in the future.

We also know that early drug education defeats demand, and so in my budget there are \$644 million on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. That is a significant commitment. We also want to make sure that it is effective, that the message that gets into the schools is one that sends this clear message: Don’t use drugs, no ands, ifs, or buts. Don’t use them. And we know the media can have a powerful effect. And so we’ve got a \$180 million on the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, a series of messages which lay out the hazards of drug use. And so ours is a concerted effort to reduce demand. It’s central to making sure we’ve got an effective strategy.

As demand goes down, so will supply. As we reduce demand in America, it will take the pressure off of our friends in the south. It will make it easier for our friends in Mexico to deal with the drug problem. It will make it easier for Colombia to be able to deal with the growers and the mobsters who tend to wreak havoc in your country. The two are linked, but the reduction in demand is central to an effective strategy.

And finally, treatment: We must aggressively promote drug treatment because a nation that is tough on drugs must also be compassionate to those addicted to drugs. Today, there are 3.9 million drug users in America who need but who do not receive help. And we’ve got to do something about that. We’ve got to help.

We’re, therefore, proposing \$3.8 billion for drug treatment and research. This is an increase in our budget of over 6 percent. We’ll work with State governments to provide treatment where it is needed most, and the Federal dollars will be distributed to States to support efforts that work, not efforts that might sound good but efforts that actually accomplish the objective of saving people’s lives. This includes a \$100-million increase in treatment spending as part of a plan to spend \$1.6 billion over the next 5 years.

Now, one of the things in our strategy that I hope you find interesting and is important is that we’re actually going to start targeting treatment spending for those who are most vulnerable, people like pregnant moms, the homeless, people with HIV/AIDS, and teenagers. So while we’ve asked for an increase in treatment, there will be some targeted people we’re trying to help, to make sure that those get special attention and special help in our treatment programs.

I believe by moving aggressively, without hesitation or apology, in all three of these areas we can make an enormous difference in America. And progress must be measured. I told John when he signed on, I’m the kind of fellow that likes to say, “What are the results?” I’d like to know, actually, are we making a difference? And so here’s our goal; here’s the goal by which we’ll be measured; here’s the goal which I’ll be measured first, and then John will definitely be measured if I’m measured—[laughter]—I want to see

a 10 percent reduction in teenage and adult drug use over the next 2 years, and a 25 percent reduction in drug use, nationally, over the next 5 years. Those are our goals.

We understand we can't do it alone here in Washington, and that's why our approach is a community-based approach. That's why we recognize the true strength of the country is our people. And we know there's thousands of parents, thousands of educators, thousands of community activists, law enforcement officials, all anxious to come together to achieve this national strategy.

I know they're ambitious goals, but when we meet them, our Nation is going to be safer and more hopeful. You see, there is a moral reason for this fight. There is a moral reason to achieve this grand national objective, and it's this: Drugs rob men and women and children of their dignity and their character. Illegal drugs are the enemies of ambition and hope.

Thank you for joining the fight. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John P. Walters, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, who introduced the President. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy

February 12, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2002 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Illegal drug use threatens everything that is good about our country. It can break the bonds between parents and children. It can turn productive citizens into addicts, and it can transform schools into places of violence and chaos. Internationally, it finances the work of terrorists who use drug profits to fund their murderous work. Our fight against illegal drug use is a fight for our children's

future, for struggling democracies, and against terrorism.

We have made progress in the past. From 1985 to 1992, drug use among high school seniors dropped each year. Progress was steady and, over time, dramatic. However, in recent years we have lost ground. This Strategy represents the first step in the return of the fight against drugs to the center of our national agenda. We must do this for one great moral reason: over time, drugs rob men, women, and children of their dignity and of their character.

We acknowledge that drug use among our young people is at unacceptably high levels. As a Nation, we know how to teach character, and how to dissuade children from ever using illegal drugs. We need to act on that knowledge.

This Strategy also seeks to expand the drug treatment system, while recognizing that even the best treatment program cannot help a drug user who does not seek its assistance. The Strategy also recognizes the vital role of law enforcement and interdiction programs, while focusing on the importance of attacking the drug trade's key vulnerabilities.

Previous Strategies have enjoyed bipartisan political and funding support in the Congress. I ask for your continued support in this critical endeavor.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 12, 2002.

Executive Order 13256—President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

February 12, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, in order to advance the development of the Nation's full human potential and to advance equal opportunity in higher education, to strengthen the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to provide the highest quality education, and to increase opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from Federal programs, as do other colleges

and universities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. There is established, in the Office of the Secretary of Education, a Presidential advisory committee entitled the “President’s Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities” (Board). The Board shall prepare and issue an annual report to the President on the results of the participation of historically black colleges and universities in Federal programs. The Board also shall provide advice to the President and to the Secretary of Education (Secretary) regarding the needs of historically black colleges and universities in the areas of infrastructure, academic programs, and faculty and institutional development. In the annual report to the President, the Board shall make recommendations on how to increase the private sector role, including the role of private foundations, in strengthening historically black colleges and universities. Particular emphasis should also be given in the report to enhancing institutional planning and development, strengthening fiscal stability and financial management, and improving institutional infrastructure, including the use of technology, to ensure the long-term viability and enhancement of these institutions.

Sec. 2. The Board shall be appointed by the President. The Board membership shall include sitting presidents of historically black colleges and universities, representatives of other higher education institutions, business and financial leaders, representatives of private foundations, and secondary school administrators. The President shall designate a Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members.

Sec. 3. The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (Initiative), located in the Office of the Secretary of Education, shall: (1) provide staff, resources, and assistance to the Board; (2) assist the Secretary in performing the liaison function between the executive branch and historically black colleges and universities; and (3) serve the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities described in section 6 of this order.

Sec. 4. To carry out this order, each executive department and agency identified by the

Secretary may, consistent with applicable law and regulations, enter into appropriate grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements with historically black colleges and universities. The head of each department or agency so identified shall establish an annual plan that will establish clear goals for how the department or agency intends to increase the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to compete effectively for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements and to encourage historically black colleges and universities to participate in Federal programs. The department’s or agency’s annual goal should be clearly reflected in the department’s or agency’s annual budget submission to the Office of Management and Budget. To facilitate the attainment of these goals, the head of each department or agency identified by the Secretary shall provide, as appropriate, technical assistance and information to historically black colleges and universities regarding the program activities of the department or agency and the preparation of applications or proposals for grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements.

Sec. 5. Each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall appoint a senior official, who is a full-time officer of the Federal Government, to report directly to the department or agency head with respect to department or agency activity under this order, and to serve as liaison to the Board and to the Initiative. To the extent permitted by law and regulations, each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall provide appropriate information requested by the Board and staff pursuant to the order.

Sec. 6. Each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall develop an annual plan for, and shall document the agency’s effort in, increasing the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to participate in Federal programs. Each department’s and agency’s plan shall describe new or existing department and agency programs and measurable objectives for proposed department and agency actions, in connection with those programs, to achieve the purposes of this order. These plans shall be submitted at such time and in such form as the Secretary shall require. In consultation

with the participating departments and agencies, the Secretary shall review the plans and develop, with the advice of the Board, an integrated Annual Federal Plan for Assistance to Historically Black Colleges and Universities for submission to the President. The Secretary shall provide the president of each historically black college and university with a copy of, and an opportunity to comment on, the proposed Annual Federal Plan prior to its submission to the President. Each participating department and agency shall submit to the Secretary an Annual Performance Report that shall measure each department's and agency's performance against the objectives set forth in the department's or agency's annual plan. The Secretary shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with the Annual Federal Plan after it is approved by the President.

Sec. 7. In developing its annual plan, each executive department and agency identified by the Secretary shall emphasize programs and activities that develop the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to contribute to the development of human capital and to strengthen America's economic and technological base through: (1) infrastructure development and acquisitions for instruction and research; (2) student and faculty doctoral fellowships and faculty development; (3) domestic and international faculty and student exchanges and study-abroad opportunities; (4) undergraduate and graduate student internships; and (5) summer, part-time, and permanent employment opportunities.

Sec. 8. Each year, the Board shall report to the President on the progress achieved in enhancing the capacity of historically black colleges and universities to serve their students, including findings and recommendations for individual departments and agencies in connection with their Annual Performance Reports, as described in section 6 of this order.

Sec. 9. The Board, in consultation with the Department of Education and other executive departments and agencies, shall develop a Private Sector Strategy to assist historically black colleges and universities in: (1) increasing voluntary private-sector contributions to support the enhancement of endow-

ments and the overall financial stability of such institutions; (2) improving and enhancing the quality and number of private-sector partnerships focused on academic program development, student achievement and faculty development, cooperative research and development projects, and faculty exchanges; and (3) improving information management, and facilities, and strengthening academic course offerings.

Sec. 10. (a) The provisions in this Executive Order shall be implemented to the fullest extent permitted by law.

(b) The Department of Education shall provide funding and administrative support for the Board and the Initiative.

(c) Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law;

(d) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, may apply to the Board, any functions of the President under that Act, except for those in section 6 of that Act, shall be performed by the Department of Education, in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 11. Executive Order 12876 of November 1, 1993, as amended, is hereby revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 12, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 13, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on February 14.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Giving Notice of Reallocation of Funds Transferred from the Emergency Response Fund
February 12, 2002**

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In furtherance of the provisions of Public Law 107-38, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United

States, FY 2001, today I am notifying the Congress of my intent to reallocate funds previously transferred from the Emergency Response Fund. These reallocations reflect revised priorities in light of changing national security and homeland security needs in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

As provided in Public Law 107–38, \$220 million will be made available 15 days from the date of this transmittal for the Government of Pakistan and \$39.8 million will be made available immediately for International Assistance Programs and the Department of the Treasury.

The details of these actions are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 13. An original was not available for the verification of the content of this letter.

The President's News Conference With President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan

February 13, 2002

President Bush Good morning. It's my honor to welcome President Musharraf to the White House. President Musharraf is a leader with great courage and vision, and his nation is a key partner in the global coalition against terror. Pakistan's continuing support of Operation Enduring Freedom has been critical to our success so far in toppling the Taliban and routing out the Al Qaida network.

Yet President Musharraf has made an even broader commitment. He has declared that Pakistan will be an enemy of terrorism and extremism wherever it exists, including inside his own border. He understands that terrorism is wrong and destructive in any cause. He knows that his nation cannot grow peacefully if terrorists are tolerated or ignored in his country, in his region, or in the world. He is committed to banning the groups that

practice terror, closing their offices and arresting the terrorists themselves.

Terrorists operating in Pakistan recently kidnapped American reporter Daniel Pearl. We spent a time today in the Oval Office talking about our mutual desire to see that Mr. Pearl is returned home safely. I want to thank the President for his assistance and work on securing Mr. Pearl's release.

I also applaud President Musharraf's clearly stated intention to work for peace in Kashmir and lower tensions with India. I'm particularly pleased to note that he is going to be holding elections later on this fall.

The President has articulated a vision of a Pakistan as a progressive, modern, and democratic Islamic society, determined and serious about seeking greater learning and greater prosperity for its citizens. The United States is committed to working in partnership with Pakistan to pursue these objectives.

Together, our nations will continue to cooperate against terror and trafficking in drugs. We will strengthen ties of trade and investment between our nations. We'll work to improve educational and economic opportunities for all Pakistanis, especially women and children. And my Government stands ready to work with all parties on the subcontinent to foster dialog to lower tensions and resolve outstanding issues.

The forces of history have accelerated the growth of friendship between the United States and Pakistan. I believe the pages of history will record that this friendship was hopeful and positive and will lead to peace.

Mr. President.

President Musharraf. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your welcome and your kind words and sentiments expressed for me and for Pakistan and for my Government.

I recall with great pleasure our very productive meeting last November in New York. We have also spoken quite frequently on the telephone since then. I value most highly this opportunity to exchange views with you in person.

Our discussions this morning have been fruitful and constructive and will continue over the lunch. Our meetings and discussions with senior members of your administration continue as part of the ongoing dialog which

characterizes our close and cooperative relations.

For more than half a century, the relations between Pakistan and the United States have been friendly, multifaceted, and enduring. They represent an important element of stability in our region and beyond. The criminal terrorist attacks of September 11th and the momentous events since then have demonstrated the depth and strength of this relationship between the United States and Pakistan.

Pakistan has a firm position of principle in the international battle against terrorism. We reject terrorism in all its forms and manifestations anywhere in the world. We will continue to fulfill our responsibilities flowing from our commitment.

I am gratified that my vision of Pakistan as a dynamic, liberal, progressive, peaceful, and genuinely democratic Muslim country and the decision I announced on 12 January have evoked a supportive response in the United States. I believe that Pakistan-United States relationship must draw strength from our past relationship as we move to a new century, a changed world and meet the challenges faced ahead.

I apprised the President of the massive and aggressive deployment of Indian forces on our borders and the serious security situation that it has created. The immediate return of Indian forces to peacetime locations and the early resumption of dialog between Pakistan and India is the way forward. We welcome the constructive role played by President Bush and Secretary Powell in urging restraint and defusing military tensions.

I am committed to a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. All other differences existing between Pakistan and India should also be settled through peaceful means. We believe the United States can facilitate such a solution and help South Asia turn a new leaf.

The faithful implementation of the Bonn accord provides the best guarantee for the future of Afghanistan. The interim administration must be strengthened and its writ established over the entire country. Rehabilitation and reconstruction must begin in Afghanistan. The Tokyo donors conference has

provided a forceful and timely impulse to this process, which will also accelerate the return of millions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan to their homeland.

Together, the United States and Pakistan can accomplish great things. We have embarked on a long-term partnership. We look forward to an era of robust collaboration. I look forward, Mr. President, to your visit to Pakistan, where a warm and cordial welcome awaits you from the people of Pakistan, who hold you in the highest of esteem.

I thank you, sir.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President; good job.

President Musharraf. Thank you.

Iraq/Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, your advisers have long said that there needs to be regime change in Iraq. Are you looking at military action to achieve that goal? How could Saddam be toppled?

And to President Musharraf, are you confident that Mr. Pearl is alive and will be released soon?

President Bush. Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], I meant what I said the other night, that there are some nations in the world which develop weapons of mass destruction with one intention, and that is to hold America hostage and/or harm Americans and/or our friends and allies. And I also meant what I said, that I look forward to working with the world to bring pressure on those nations to change their behavior. But make no mistake about it, if we need to, we will take necessary action to defend the American people.

And I think that statement was clear enough for Iraq to hear me, and I will reserve whatever options I have. I'll keep them close to my vest. President—or Saddam Hussein needs to understand I'm serious about defending our country.

I think one of the worst things that can happen in the world is terrorist organizations mating up with nations which have had a bad history and nations which develop weapons of mass destruction. It would be devastating for those of us who fight for freedom. And therefore, we, the free world, are going to—must make it clear to these nations they've

got a choice to make. And I'll keep all options available if they don't make the choice.

Q. Mr. President, Mr. President—

President Bush. Here's what's going to happen. Hold on for a second, please. Hold on for a second. These two press people are going to actually bring some order to this by calling upon individuals, and the President is going to speak about Daniel Pearl.

President Musharraf. Your first part of the question, whether Mr. Pearl is alive or dead—I am reasonably sure he's alive, and I really very much hope—we all hope that he's alive. About getting him released, well, let me say we are as close as possible to getting him released.

But I would like to emphasize here that I have taken certain steps in Pakistan to crush extremism, religious intolerance in the society. And therefore, I expected a certain degree of fallout of these steps. But however, I would like to say we are not deterred. These kinds of things were expected, and we will meet this challenge and try to resolve whatever negative influences it creates in our society.

I very much hope that with all our efforts and the combined efforts of all the intelligence agencies in Pakistan, we will be able to get Mr. Pearl released.

Kashmir

Q. Mr. President, it is evident that the Kashmir issue has not been resolved through bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. In the beginning, U.S. even voted for Kashmir, the United States and U.N. resolution. Now we hope that U.S. come forward for mediation and resolve this issue, because this is the main issue between India and Pakistan.

President Bush. Well, our hope is that we can facilitate meaningful dialog between India and Pakistan. The only way this issue is going to be solved is if the Pakistani Government and the Indian Government sit down and have serious, meaningful dialog to resolve this issue. And you heard the President of Pakistan say his hope is that there's a peaceful resolution. That's our hope, as well. And so the best thing our Government can do is to encourage there to be a—to come to the table and start to have meaning-

ful, real dialog. And that's what we'll continue to press for.

Campaign Finance Reform

Q. On campaign finance reform, sir, are Republican—

President Bush. Is this to the Pakistani President, or me? [*Laughter*]

Q. For you, sir. On campaign finance reform, are Republican operatives trying to kill the bill? And will you sign Shays-Meehan if it gets to your desk?

President Bush. Well, I want to sign a bill that improves the system. And it seems like, to me, that if they get a bill out of the House of Representatives that improves the system, it ought to be in effect immediately. But we'll see what comes my way. And I would look at it very carefully and give it a good look.

Q. What about the Republicans—are they trying to kill the bill, working for the RNC?

President Bush. I've talked to many Republicans that are trying to improve the system, as well. And again, I repeat—I understand there's a chance to amend the bill that says, if it improves the system, let's have it in effect this year. And I support that. I think it makes sense. But I'll take a good look at it. It's making its way through the system, and I'll give it a good look.

Pakistan-U.S. Relations

Q. President Bush, you talked about history—

President Bush. Talked about—excuse me?

Q. You talked about history—

President Bush. Oh, history, yes. Getting a little hard of hearing.

Q. And history shows that the U.S. dumped Pakistan after the Afghan war in 1980. So a common Pakistani wants to know whether the U.S. will repeat the same history again, once again. And secondly, how do you plan to help Pakistan, the modernization of Pakistan in its struggle of survival against mighty and militarized India?

President Bush. Well, that's a very legitimate question. And it's—one of the reasons why President Musharraf and I are spending time together is, he has got to be confident in me and my Government willingness to stay

supportive of Pakistan. I think one of the things, in order for us to have a positive relationship, is that he realizes that when we say we're committed, we're committed. And we're committed to peace in the region. We're committed to fighting terror.

The President made a tough decision and a strong decision. It's not only a decision about fighting terror; it's a decision for the direction of his country. And we support that strongly.

So I can understand why some in Pakistan are saying, "Well, oh, this is just a short-term dance." But so long as we share the same ideals and values and common objectives, we'll work with Pakistan. And there are ways to help. The President is going to go see Secretary Rumsfeld today. We have—he negotiated and we willingly supported a strong aid package in the '02 budget. We're now discussing help in the '03 budget. We want to help facilitate the President's concerns about a debt burden on Pakistan. We want to talk about trade matters. We want to help him achieve his vision of elevating the average citizen by giving them a chance and a hopeful opportunity for life.

And so, I would suggest that people in Pakistan remember to think about the future and not dwell in the past. That's what the President has done with his vision, and I am proud to call him friend.

I want to remind people from Pakistan that I didn't mention many world leaders in my State of the Union. But I mentioned President Musharraf, for a reason. And hopefully, that's an indication of my sincerity of developing a strong and meaningful relationship.

Education Reform in Pakistan

Q. Mr. Bush and Mr. Musharraf, should secular schools be the standard in Islamic communities in Pakistan to prevent jihads and other terrorists attacks like 9/11?

President Bush. Let me first—and I'd like the President to speak on this, basically on the madrasa school issue in Pakistan. One of the things that most impressed me about President Musharraf, that gives me confidence in his vision, is that the last time we met in New York City, we spent a fair amount of time talking about education reform. And the President has placed a very

intriguing and very interesting woman in charge of the education system in Pakistan. She used to work in rural areas, a rural province of the country. He's elevated her to Cabinet position because she's a reformer. She understands the modern world requires an education system that trains children in basic sciences and reading and math and the history of Pakistan.

And the President laid out to me a vision, which he can share with you, about how to encourage madrasas to adopt a curriculum that will actually—will work and will provide a workforce, a trained workforce, and will give people hope.

And so our Government is committed to working with the Pakistani Government on education reform. We had a—as I understand that of the \$600 million, part of the aid package last year, 100 million of those dollars have gone into education reform. The President will make the decision as to how best to use that. There's 35 million—or 34 million additional dollars this year that will go help on education reform.

I shared with him my passion about education reform here in America, and I want to applaud him for making a visionary statement about education. He knows what I know: An educated child is one much more likely to be able to realize dreams and to be a productive citizen.

So, April [April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks], I think—let the President speak to this issue, if you don't mind.

President Musharraf. Thank you. We are involved in Pakistan, as I laid out in the 12 January speech, in a jihad—*jihad-e-akbar*, which I call a greater jihad, which is in our teaching in Islam, a jihad against illiteracy, a jihad against poverty, backwardness, hunger. This is the jihad that we are engaged now and we have initiated.

Now, within this jihad, education forms a focal area. And since the President wants me to focus particularly on madrasa, in education we are taking three areas of education. One is the madrasa education; the second is the primary and secondary education; and the third is higher education. I would just like to focus on the madrasa education. We have formulated strategies in each one of these three areas.

Madradas, we must understand, are basically—there are about 600,000 to 800,000 students here in madradas. Now, the positive aspect of the madrada—which I did lay out in my speech also; I would like to highlight for everyone to hear—is that they are a welfare. They have a welfare and humanitarian aspect to them. They feed and house the poorest of the poor children. So this is the positive aspect of their providing free board and lodge to the poorest of the poor.

Now, the weaknesses of some of the madradas only teaching religious—giving religious education to the children has to be removed. And the children in these madradas need to be brought into the mainstream of life. And that is what we are doing.

We have asked the madradas to introduce four subjects, and these are science, English, Pakistan studies, and mathematics. Now, with these four subjects introduced, we have also created a board for them to take their examinations from. And once they take their examinations through these boards, it will make them eligible to transfer to any other college or university, if I want to give them a scholarship and take them there, or to get them a job anywhere, in a banking area or in the military or anywhere, instead of focusing only into the religious field.

So this is the strategy that we have adopted to get these children into the mainstream of life in Pakistan. So the basic idea is, utilize their strength, the strength of their giving free board and lodge to such a vast population of the poorest of the poor, and eradicate their weakness so that they are drawn into the mainstream of life in Pakistan. This is the strategy we are following.

Pakistani-U.S. Residents

Q. My question is for President Bush. President, you know—

President Bush. Why am I not surprised? [Laughter]

Q. Almost more than 700,000 Pakistanis are based in the United States.

President Bush. Say that again? I'm sorry.

Q. Almost more than 700,000 Pakistanis are based in the United States.

President Bush. Right, right.

Q. But after September 11th, FBI and different law enforcing agencies, they made a

major crackdown against different communities. And Pakistani community has especially been targeted by law enforcing agencies, and hundreds of Pakistanis are in different detention centers. And there is a sense in the community they are treating them like a terrorist. And you know, very wrong messages are delivered back to Pakistan that in the United States, Pakistanis are treated like a terrorists. And on the other side, in Pakistan, is supporting all the way the United States in the war against terrorism.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. And the same White House—Mexican President, Mr. Fox, visited White House, and you promised that you will consider to give guest worker status to illegal Mexicans, 3.5 million. So keeping in, you know, the Pakistani—what they have done for United States, would you be kind enough to consider a legal status for a small number of illegal Pakistanis who are in process of legalization?

President Bush. Well, first, we need to reform our INS. There's no question the paperwork delays are way too long. It's frustrating for people. So for those who are amazed at the fact that paperwork can stay in a process for such a period of time, I can understand that.

Secondly, I've always believed that we ought to encourage a willing employee and a willing employer to come together. And as we discuss immigration law, that ought to be an aspect of the law.

And finally, this great Nation is a nation that will protect ourselves; we're still under threat. But we treat people with ultimate respect. I mean, people in this country have got a chance to get attorneys at law to help them. People are not being—we never said, let's go single out a particular group of citizens. Let's protect America. If we get any kind of lead or any kind of hint about anything that is—could lead to an attack, we're going to give people a chance to share information to protect America. That makes sense, if you're living here and you care about the country, that you ought to be given a chance to participate.

So I don't know who, specifically, you're referring to, but people are being treated incredibly humanely here—and in Guantanamo Bay, by the way. Perhaps you're referring to maybe some citizens there. I will just assure you, like I've assured the President, that people are getting fantastic health care, much better health care today in Guantanamo Bay than they were getting in Afghanistan, I can assure you.

And so our country is mindful of the need to respect people's rights. But I want to assure you, we will do, within our power, within the Constitution of the United States, what it takes to defend the American people. My most important job is to protect innocent Americans, and this is exactly what I'm going to do.

Listen, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:34 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and Minister for Education Zubeda Jalal of Pakistan. A reporter referred to President Vicente Fox of Mexico. The President also referred to the Bonn Agreement, an agreement reached at a United Nations sponsored meeting of Afghan representatives on transitional political arrangements for the future of Afghanistan, which concluded December 5, 2001, and led to the Interim Afghan Administration; and the Tokyo donors conference, January 20–21, 2002, a meeting of 61 nations which pledged \$4.5 billion for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Statement on Senate Action on the “Farm Security Act of 2001”

February 13, 2002

I am committed to sound farm policy that supports America's farmers and ranchers and am disappointed that the Senate-passed bill doesn't get the job done. This bill front loads spending into the first 5 years, leaving vital programs underfunded in the years that follow. I look forward to working with conferees to produce a plan that will benefit farmers in the long term by encouraging conservation, establishing farm savings accounts, and promoting open markets and new opportunities for producers.

Executive Order 13257—President's Interagency Task Force To Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

February 13, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, (22 U.S.C. 7103) (the “Act”), and in order to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect their victims, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. (a) The President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons is hereby established.

(b) The Task Force shall consist of:

- (i) the Secretary of State;
- (ii) the Attorney General;
- (iii) the Secretary of Labor;
- (iv) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;
- (v) the Director of Central Intelligence;
- (vi) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;
- (vii) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development; and
- (viii) any additional officers or employees of the United States as may be designated by the President.

(c) The Task Force shall be chaired by the Secretary of State.

Sec. 2. Activities. The Task Force shall, consistent with applicable law and the constitutional authorities and duties of the President, carry out the following activities:

(a) coordinate the implementation of the Act;

(b) measure and evaluate progress of the United States and other countries in the areas of trafficking in persons prevention, protection, and assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, and prosecutions and other enforcement efforts against traffickers, including the role of public corruption in facilitating trafficking in persons;

(c) assist the Secretary of State in the preparation of the annual reports described in section 110 of the Act;

(d) expand interagency procedures to collect and organize data, including significant research and resource information on domestic and international trafficking in persons, while ensuring that any data collection procedures involved, respect the confidentiality of victims of trafficking in persons;

(e) engage in efforts to facilitate cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination, and such efforts shall aim to strengthen local and regional capacities to prevent trafficking in persons, prosecute traffickers and assist trafficking victims; shall include initiatives to enhance cooperative efforts between destination countries, transit countries, and countries of origin; and shall assist in the appropriate reintegration of stateless victims of trafficking in persons;

(f) examine the role of the international “sex tourism” industry in the trafficking of persons and in the sexual exploitation of women and children around the world;

(g) engage in consultation and advocacy with governmental and nongovernmental organizations, among other entities, to advance the purposes of the Act; and

(h) address such other matters related to the purposes of the Act as the President may determine.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The Department of State shall provide funding and administrative support for the Task Force, except as otherwise provided by the Act.

(b) At the call of the Chair, the Task Force shall meet as necessary to accomplish its mission.

(c) Task Force members may designate representatives from their respective agencies to represent them at Task Force meetings.

(d) Whenever the work of the Task Force involves a matter committed by law or Presidential directive to the consideration of the National Security Council, or by Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001, to the consideration of the Homeland Security Council, that work shall be undertaken, and any communication by the Secretary of State to the President shall be undertaken, in a manner consistent with such law, Presidential directive, or Executive Order.

(e) The Task Force shall have no directive authority or other substantial independent authority.

(f) As necessary and appropriate, the Task Force shall report to the President, through the Secretary of State, the following:

(i) progress on the implementation of the Act; and

(ii) recommendations for United States policy to monitor and eliminate trafficking in persons and to protect the victims of trafficking in persons.

Sec. 4. Judicial Review. This order does not create any rights or benefits, enforceable at law or equity, against the United States, its departments, its agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 13, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., February 15, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 14, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on February 19.

Remarks Announcing the Clear Skies and Global Climate Change Initiatives in Silver Spring, Maryland
February 14, 2002

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. It’s an honor to join you all today to talk about our environment and about the prospect of dramatic progress to improve it. Today I’m announcing a new environmental approach that will clean our skies, bring greater health to our citizens, and encourage environmentally responsible development in America and around the world.

Particularly, it’s an honor to address this topic at NOAA, whose research is providing us with the answers to critical questions about our environment. And so I want to thank Connie for his hospitality, and I want to thank you for yours, as well. Connie said he felt kind of like Sasha Cohen; I thought for a minute he was going to ask me to talk to his mother on his cell phone. [*Laughter*]

I also want to tell you one of my favorite moments is to go down to Crawford and turn on my NOAA radio to get the weather. I don't know whether my guy is a computer or a person—[laughter]—but the forecast is always accurate, and I appreciate that. I also want to thank you for your hard work, on behalf of the American people.

I appreciate my friend Don Evans's leadership. I've known him for a long time. You're working for a good fellow if you're working at the Commerce Department or at NOAA. And I want to thank Spence Abraham and Christie Todd Whitman for their service to the country as well. I've assembled a fabulous Cabinet, people who love their country and work hard. And these are three of some of the finest Cabinet officials I've got.

I want to thank Jim Connaughton, who is the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality. He's done a fabulous job of putting this policy together, the policy that I'm about to explain. But before I do, I also want to thank some Members of Congress who've worked with us on this initiative. I want to thank Bob Smith and George Voinovich, two United States Senators, for their leadership in pursuing multipollutant legislation, as well as Congressmen Billy Tauzin and Joe Barton. And I want to thank Senator Chuck Hagel and Larry Craig for their work on climate issues. These Members of Congress have had an impact on the policies I am just about to announce.

America and the world share this common goal: We must foster economic growth in ways that protect our environment. We must encourage growth that will provide a better life for citizens, while protecting the land, the water, and the air that sustain life.

In pursuit of this goal, my Government has set two priorities: We must clean our air, and we must address the issue of global climate change. We must also act in a serious and responsible way, given the scientific uncertainties. While these uncertainties remain, we can begin now to address the human factors that contribute to climate change. Wise action now is an insurance policy against future risks.

I have been working with my Cabinet to meet these challenges with forward and cre-

ative thinking. I said, "If need be, let's challenge the status quo. But let's always remember, let's do what is in the interest of the American people."

Today I'm confident that the environmental path that I announce will benefit the entire world. This new approach is based on this commonsense idea, that economic growth is key to environmental progress, because it is growth that provides the resources for investment in clean technologies. This new approach will harness the power of markets, the creativity of entrepreneurs, and draw upon the best scientific research. And it will make possible a new partnership with the developing world to meet our common environmental and economic goals.

We will apply this approach first to the challenge of cleaning the air that Americans breathe. Today I call for new clean skies legislation that sets tough new standards to dramatically reduce the three most significant forms of pollution from powerplants, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury. We will cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 73 percent from current levels. We will cut nitrogen oxide emissions by 67 percent. And for the first time ever, we will cap emissions of mercury, cutting them by 69 percent. These cuts will be completed over two measured phases, with one set of emission limits for 2010 and for the other for 2018.

This legislation will constitute the most significant step America has ever taken—has ever taken—to cut powerplant emissions that contribute to urban smog, acid rain, and numerous health problems for our citizens. Clean skies legislation will not only protect our environment, it will prolong the lives of thousands of Americans with asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as with those with heart disease. And it will reduce the risk to children exposed to mercury during a mother's pregnancy.

The clean skies legislation will reach our ambitious air quality goals through a market-based cap-and-trade approach that rewards innovation, reduces cost, and guarantees results. Instead of the Government telling utilities where and how to cut pollution, we will tell them when and how much to cut. We will give them a firm deadline and let them find the most innovative ways to meet it. We

will do this by requiring each facility to have a permit for each ton of pollution it emits. By making the permits tradeable, this system makes it financially worthwhile for companies to pollute less, giving them an incentive to make early and cost effective reductions.

This approach enjoys widespread support with both Democrats and Republicans, because we know it works. You see, since 1995 we have used a cap-and-trade program for sulfur dioxide pollution. It has cut more air pollution—this system has reduced more air pollution in the last decade than all other programs under the 1990 Clean Air Act combined and by even more than the law required. Compliance has been virtually 100 percent. It takes only a handful of employees to administer this program, and no one had to enter a courtroom to make sure the reductions happened. Because the system gives businesses an incentive to create and install innovative technologies, these reductions have cost about 80 percent less than expected. It helps to keep energy prices affordable for our consumers. And we made this progress during a decade when our economy and our demand for energy was growing.

The clean skies legislation I propose is structured on this approach because it works. It will replace a confusing, ineffective maze of regulations for powerplants that has created an endless cycle of litigation. Today, hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on lawyers, rather than on environmental protection. The result is painfully slow, uncertain, and expensive programs on clean air. Instead, clean skies legislation will put less money into paying lawyers and regulators, and money directly into programs to reduce pollution to meet our national goal. This approach, I'm absolutely confident, will bring better and faster results in cleaning up our air.

Now, global climate change presents a different set of challenges and requires a different strategy. The science is more complex; the answers are less certain; and the technology is less developed. So we need a flexible approach that can adjust to new information and new technology.

I reaffirm America's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention and its central goal, to stabilize atmospheric

greenhouse gas concentrations at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate. Our immediate goal is to reduce America's greenhouse gas emissions relative to the size of our economy.

My administration is committed to cutting our Nation's greenhouse gas intensity, how much we emit per unit of economic activity, by 18 percent over the next 10 years. This will set America on a path to slow the growth of our greenhouse gas emissions and, as science justifies, to stop and then reverse the growth of emissions.

This is the commonsense way to measure progress. Our Nation must have economic growth, growth to create opportunity, growth to create a higher quality of life for our citizens. Growth is also what pays for investments in clean technologies, increased conservation, and energy efficiencies. Meeting our commitment to reduce our greenhouse gas intensity by 18 percent by the year 2012 will prevent over 500 million metric tons of greenhouse gases from going into the atmosphere over the course of the decade. And that is the equivalent of taking 70 million cars off the road.

To achieve this goal, our Nation must move forward on many fronts, looking at every sector of our economy. We will challenge American businesses to further reduce emissions. Already, agreements with the semiconductor and aluminum industries and others have dramatically cut emissions of some of the most potent greenhouse gases. We will build on these successes with new agreements and greater reductions.

Our Government will also move forward immediately to create world-class standards for measuring and registering emission reductions. And we will give transferable credits to companies that can show real emission reductions. We will promote renewable energy production and clean coal technology, as well as nuclear power, which produces no greenhouse gas emissions. And we will work to safely improve fuel economy for our cars and our trucks.

Overall, my budget devotes \$4.5 billion to addressing climate change, more than any other nation's commitment in the entire world. This is an increase of more than \$700 million over last year's budget. Our Nation

will continue to lead the world in basic climate and science research to address gaps in our knowledge that are important to decisionmakers. When we make decisions, we want to make sure we do so on sound science, not what sounds good but what is real, and the United States leads the world in providing that kind of research.

We'll devote \$588 million towards the research and development of energy conservation technologies. We must and we will conserve more in the United States. And we will spend \$408 million toward research and development on renewables, on renewable energy. This funding includes \$150 million for an initiative that Spence Abraham laid out the other day, \$150 million for the Freedom Car Initiative, which will advance the prospect of breakthrough zero-emission fuel cell technologies.

My comprehensive energy plan, the first energy plan that any administration has put out in a long period of time, provides \$4.6 billion over the next 5 years in clean energy tax incentives to encourage purchases of hybrid and fuel cell vehicles, to promote residential solar energy, and to reward investments in wind, solar, and biomass energy production. And we will look for ways to increase the amount of carbon stored by America's farms and forests through a strong conservation title in the farm bill. I have asked Secretary Veneman to recommend new targeted incentives for landowners to increase carbon storage.

By doing all these things, by giving companies incentives to cut emissions, by diversifying our energy supply to include cleaner fuels, by increasing conservation, by increasing research and development and tax incentives for energy efficiency and clean technologies, and by increasing carbon storage, I am absolutely confident that America will reach the goal that I have set.

If, however, by 2012, our progress is not sufficient and sound science justifies further action, the United States will respond with additional measures that may include broad-based market programs as well as additional incentives and voluntary measures designed to accelerate technology development and deployment.

Addressing global climate change will require a sustained effort over many generations. My approach recognizes that economic growth is the solution, not the problem, because a nation that grows its economy is a nation that can afford investments and new technologies.

The approach taken under the Kyoto Protocol would have required the United States to make deep and immediate cuts in our economy to meet an arbitrary target. It would have cost our economy up to \$400 billion, and we would have lost 4.9 million jobs. As President of the United States, charged with safeguarding the welfare of the American people and American workers, I will not commit our Nation to an unsound international treaty that will throw millions of our citizens out of work.

Yet, we recognize our international responsibilities. So in addition to acting here at home, the United States will actively help developing nations grow along a more efficient, more environmentally responsible path. The hope of growth and opportunity and prosperity is universal. It's the dream and right of every society on our globe. The United States wants to foster economic growth in the developing world, including the world's poorest nations. We want to help them realize their potential and bring the benefits of growth to their peoples, including better health and better schools and a cleaner environment.

It would be unfair—indeed, counterproductive—to condemn developing nations to slow growth or no growth by insisting that they take on impractical and unrealistic greenhouse gas targets. Yet, developing nations such as China and India already account for a majority of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, and it would be irresponsible to absolve them from shouldering some of the shared obligations.

The greenhouse gas intensity approach I put forward today gives developing countries a yardstick for progress on climate change that recognizes their right to economic development. I look forward to discussing this new approach next week when I go to China and Japan and South Korea. The United States will not interfere with the plans of any nation that chooses to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. But

I will intend to work with nations, especially the poor and developing nations, to show the world that there is a better approach, that we can build our future prosperity along a cleaner and better path.

My budget includes over \$220 million for the U.S. Agency for International Development and the global environmental facility to help developing countries better measure, reduce emissions, and to help them invest in clean and renewable energy technologies. Many of these technologies, which we take for granted in our own country, are not being used in the developing world. We can help ensure that the benefits of these technologies are more broadly shared. Such efforts have helped bring solar energy to Bangladesh, hydroelectric energy to the Philippines, geothermal electricity to Kenya. These projects are bringing jobs and environmental benefits to these nations, and we will build on these successes.

The new budget also provides \$40 million under the Tropical Forest Conservation Act to help countries redirect debt payments towards protecting tropical forests, forests that store millions of tons of carbon. And I've also ordered the Secretary of State to develop a new initiative to help developing countries stop illegal logging, a practice that destroys biodiversity and releases millions of tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

And finally, my Government is following through on our commitment to provide \$25 million for climate observation systems in developing countries that will help scientists understand the dynamics of climate change.

To clean the air and to address climate change, we need to recognize that economic growth and environmental protection go hand in hand. Affluent societies are the ones that demand and can, therefore, afford the most environmental protection. Prosperity is what allows us to commit more and more resources to environmental protection. And in the coming decades, the world needs to develop and deploy billions of dollars of technologies that generate energy in cleaner ways. And we need strong economic growth to make that possible.

Americans are among the most creative people in our history. We have used radio

waves to peer into the deepest reaches of space. We cracked life's genetic code. We have made our air and land and water significantly cleaner, even as we have built the world's strongest economy. When I see what Americans have done, I know what we can do. We can tap the power of economic growth to further protect our environment for generations that will follow. And that's what we're going to do.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Science Center at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In his remarks, he referred to NOAA Administrator Conrad "Connie" C. Lautenbacher, Jr.; and Sasha Cohen, figure skater, 2002 U.S. Olympic team. The President also referred to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol to the convention.

Statement on Proposed Pension Security Legislation

February 14, 2002

I applaud Congressmen John Boehner and Sam Johnson for introducing legislation today to strengthen the retirement security of American workers. Consistent with the principles that I outlined at the beginning of this month, their bill would protect workers by giving them freedom to manage their own retirement savings, fair notice of any blackout period, and better access to sound investment advice. This bill also assures that corporate officers would be held to the same restrictions as those imposed on workers.

This bill, and other good legislation like that introduced by Congressmen Portman and Cardin, will help provide economic security to both workers and shareholders. I look forward to working with the Congress in a bipartisan fashion to enact these important protections into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3762, the "Pension Security Act," and H.R. 3669, the "Employee Retirement Savings Bill of Rights."

Remarks Following the Swearing-In of Gaddi H. Vasquez as Director of the Peace Corps

February 15, 2002

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

When America was attacked on September the 11th, they thought our country would splinter into fear and selfishness. They thought we'd fall apart. They thought we didn't have any fiber or character. Instead, we've seen extraordinary acts of courage and compassion and a renewed dedication to service. A spirit of sacrifice and service gave birth to the Peace Corps more than 40 years ago. We needed the Peace Corps then, and we need the Peace Corps today.

My administration strongly supports the Peace Corps, and we're increasing our commitment to it. That starts by finding somebody who can serve ably as the Director. I have found such a man. I was honored to swear Gaddi in, in the Oval Office—or watch his swearing-in today in the Oval Office, and I know he'll do a superb job in leading this important organization.

Thank you for leaving your beloved California. Thank you for your sacrifice. And welcome to an administration that wants to do right by the Peace Corps.

I also want to thank Elaine for your sacrifice, as well. I know it's hard to pull up your family and head east, but it's the right thing to do. It's the right thing to do to serve your country. And I'm so honored both of you all have come. And Jason, thank you for being here, as well, to support your dad.

I want to thank the first Peace Corps Director, who joined us today. I can't thank you enough, Sargent Shriver, for taking time out of your busy schedule to show up here to see this good man assume this important office. We're honored with your presence. We appreciate your service to the country, and thank you for coming.

And we've got another former Director here today, too, a lady who serves in my Cabinet as the Secretary of Labor. She's doing a fabulous job there, just like she did for the Peace Corps, and that's Elaine Chao. Thank you for coming, Elaine.

And Gaddi was such a big draw that he got another member of my Cabinet here, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mel Martinez. Thanks for coming, Mel. I appreciate your being here.

Two Members of the United States House of Representatives have joined us: Gaddi's Congressman, Chris Cox—thank you for coming, Chris; I appreciate you being here—and a former volunteer, Tom Petri from Wisconsin. Thank you for coming.

We hear from a lot of Members of Congress about the importance of the Peace Corps but no more clear voice about that than Chris Dodd, the Senator from Connecticut. I look forward to working with Chris to implement our mutual vision for making sure the Peace Corps fulfills its mission and hope.

And speaking about that, I want to thank all the people who work at the Peace Corps, those who work there now, those who have been volunteers in the past, are current volunteers. We're honored that you serve our Nation, and you're welcome here in the White House, and thank you for coming.

And finally, I think it's a great tribute to the Peace Corps that we've got a lot of members from the ambassadorial corps who are here. I want to thank you all for coming and taking your time. You understand the importance of the Peace Corps, and your presence here is a confirmation of its importance. And so we welcome you. Thank you for coming.

For more than 40 years, the Peace Corps has sent Americans to serve their country by serving the world. America has a new kind of force today. I mean, we're not only a great country, a great economic engine, and obviously a great military, we're a great idea. The greatness of the country is in the values we believe in, freedom and hope and opportunity. We're a nation founded on just valuable principles. And the power of the idea cannot and will not be stopped at our borders.

The Peace Corps volunteers carry the American idea with them. They don't carry our culture; they carry universal values and principles that are so incredibly important for all of mankind. Peace Corps volunteers contribute in unaccountable ways to the countries to which they're assigned. They not only

teach reading, English language skills; they introduce new business and farming methods, help spark economic development, promote training and modern technology, help fight the spread of HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. They make an incredibly important contribution to our fellow mankind.

You know, because we come from a society where women can be leaders, where people speak and worship freely, where the difference is a source of our strength, not a cause of war, a Peace Corps volunteer in the very life they live helps spread important values. Just the fact that somebody comes from a country that is so open, that in itself is an incredibly positive influence on the world.

You know, the war has thrust upon us an enemy who hates every good—everything the Peace Corps stands for. We long for peace in America. We've got to remember, we're fighting an enemy that really can't stand the values spread by the Peace Corps, which means that the Peace Corps must be reinvigorated. The Peace Corps, itself, stands for what we fight for. And if we weren't to understand the role, if we were to shrink in our obligations, if we were not to allow the Peace Corps to expand, we would be doing exactly what the terrorists want us to do. And we're not going to let them cause us to abandon what we hold dear.

I have called for twice as many Peace Corps volunteers over the next 5 years, to return the Peace Corps to the strength it had in the midsixties. Those new volunteers will be heading out to new destinations. They'll be returning to the republics of central Asia. And within 3 weeks, a team will leave for Afghanistan, to address how the Peace Corps can assist that country in reconstruction. The Peace Corps is committed to returning to Peru and to sending volunteers to East Timor, which will soon become the first country to gain independence in the 21st century. The Peace Corps will also explore ways to assist the governments of Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Botswana, and Chad, and Swaziland. And during my upcoming trip to Asia, I will explore with Chinese officials the possibility of an expansion of the Peace Corps program into China.

And when these volunteers return home, they can also help educate Americans about

the countries in which they serve. My administration has created what's called the USA Freedom Corps, to encourage citizens to give at least 2 years of their life to service to their country. And the Peace Corps is a vital part of this effort.

For Americans looking for service opportunities at home or abroad, they can find those opportunities in the USA Freedom Corps. If you're interested in the Peace Corps, get on the Web—on your computer and dial up the USA Freedom Corps Web page, which is usafreedomcorps.gov, or just pick up your telephone and dial 877-USA-CORPS. If you want to know about the opportunities the Peace Corps offers, call that number or get on the Web page. And we will help you serve our fellow mankind.

You know, when President Kennedy, Sargent Shriver's brother-in-law, signed an Executive order more than 40 years ago providing for the establishing of the Peace Corps, he spoke about a nation of men and women anxious to sacrifice their energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress. That mission hasn't changed. As a matter of fact, today the mission is needed more than ever.

I look forward to working with the Members of Congress to strengthen the Peace Corps, to reassert its independence, and to create new opportunities in other nations, as well as the ones I mentioned—new opportunities in Muslim nations for us to spread the good story about the values, the universal values, we hold so dear.

I believe Americans are still willing to sacrifice for causes greater than themselves. And the Peace Corps offers such a fantastic opportunity to do so. Gaddi Vasquez understands this, as well. And so it's with pleasure I introduce the newly sworn-in Director of the Peace Corps to the American people.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:12 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elaine Vasquez, wife of Gaddi H. Vasquez, and their son Jason Vasquez.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Recommending the Yucca Mountain
Site for the Disposal of Spent
Nuclear Fuel and Nuclear Waste**

February 15, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 114 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, 42 U.S.C. 10134 (the "Act"), the Secretary of Energy has recommended approval of the Yucca Mountain site for the development at that site of a repository for the geologic disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high level nuclear waste from the Nation's defense activities. As is required by the Act, the Secretary has also submitted to me a comprehensive statement of the basis of his recommendation.

Having received the Secretary's recommendation and the comprehensive statement of the basis of it, I consider the Yucca Mountain site qualified for application for a construction authorization for a repository. Therefore, I now recommend the Yucca Mountain site for this purpose. In accordance with section 114 of the Act, I am transmitting with this recommendation to the Congress a copy of the comprehensive statement of the basis of the Secretary's recommendation prepared pursuant to the Act. The transmission of this document triggers an expedited process described in the Act. I urge the Congress to undertake any necessary legislative action on this recommendation in an expedited and bipartisan fashion.

Proceeding with the repository program is necessary to protect public safety, health, and the Nation's security because successful completion of this project would isolate in a geologic repository at a remote location highly radioactive materials now scattered throughout the Nation. In addition, the geologic repository would support our national security through disposal of nuclear waste from our defense facilities.

A deep geologic repository, such as Yucca Mountain, is important for our national security and our energy future. Nuclear energy is the second largest source of U.S. electricity generation and must remain a major component of our national energy policy in the years to come. The cost of nuclear power compares favorably with the costs of elec-

tricity generation by other sources, and nuclear power has none of the emissions associated with coal and gas power plants.

This recommendation, if it becomes effective, will permit commencement of the next rigorous stage of scientific and technical review of the repository program through formal licensing proceedings before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Successful completion of this program also will redeem the clear Federal legal obligation safely to dispose of commercial spent nuclear fuel that the Congress passed in 1982.

This recommendation is the culmination of two decades of intense scientific scrutiny involving application of an array of scientific and technical disciplines necessary and appropriate for this challenging undertaking. It is an undertaking that was mandated twice by the Congress when it legislated the obligations that would be redeemed by successful pursuit of the repository program. Allowing this recommendation to come into effect will enable the beginning of the next phase of intense scrutiny of the project necessary to assure the public health, safety, and security in the area of Yucca Mountain, and also to enhance the safety and security of the Nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

**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.

February 10

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Jackson Hole, WY, to Washington, DC.

February 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen to discuss cooperation against terrorism. Later, he had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

February 12

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had CIA, FBI, and homeland security briefings, and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President received the annual report of the Boy Scouts of America in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony P. Hall to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced that Ron Haskins has joined the White House on a temporary and part-time basis as Senior Advisor for Welfare Policy.

February 13

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

February 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Viktor Orban of Hungary to express his appreciation for Hungary's efforts to combat terrorism. He also had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain, in his capacity as President of the European Union, concerning global climate change.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Silver Spring, MD, and later returned to Washington, DC.

Later in the afternoon, in a ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Molelekeng Rapolaki of Lesotho, Tertius Zongo of Burkina Faso, Armando A. Panguene of Mozambique, John Wood of New Zealand, Syed Hasan Ahmad of Bangladesh, Jai Pratap Rana of Nepal, Elena Poptodorova of Bulgaria, Soemadi Djoko Moerdjono Brotodiningrat of Indonesia, and Diego Ramiro Guelar of Argentina.

In the evening, in the East Room, the President participated in the filming of a television production honoring gospel music, for future broadcast on the PAX network.

The President announced his intention to appoint John LeRoy Henderson as a member of the President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

February 15

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines concerning cooperation against terrorism. Later, he had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. He then met with President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay in the Oval Office.

The White House announced that, in the morning, the White House was reopened to tours for school groups.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeremy H.G. Ibrahim and David B. Rivkin, Jr., to be members of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Council on the Arts: Maribeth McGinley, David Gelernter, Deedie Potter Rose, Don V. Cogman, Katharine DeWitt, and Teresa Lozano Long.

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 February 11

John B. Brown III,
of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator of Drug Enforcement, vice Julio F. Mercado, resigned.

Eric F. Melgren,
of Kansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas for the term of 4 years, vice Randall K. Rathbun, resigned.

James W. Pardew,
of Arkansas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Leslie Silverman,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the remainder of the term expiring July 1, 2003, vice Ida L. Castro, resigned.

Sally Stroup,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, vice A. Lee Fritschler, resigned.

Submitted February 15

Don V. Cogman,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Patrick Davidson, term expired.

Katharine DeWitt,
of Ohio, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice William P. Foster, resigned.

Gregory Allyn Forest,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Walter Baker Edmisten, term expired.

David Gelernter,
of Connecticut, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Hsin-Ming Fung,

Amy Apfel Kass,
of Illinois, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2004, vice Mary D. Hubbard.

Andrew Ladis,
of Georgia, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Vicki L. Ruiz.

Wright L. Lassiter, Jr.,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Nina M. Archabal.

Teresa Lozano Long,
of Texas, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Terry Evans, term expired.

Maribeth McGinley,
of California, to be a member of the National Council on the Arts for a term expiring September 3, 2006, vice Ronnie Feuerstein Heyman, term expired.

Richard Monroe Miles,
of South Carolina, 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 Georgia.

James R. Stoner, Jr.,
of Louisiana, to be a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2006, vice Betty G. Bengtson.

Peter Terpeluk, Jr.,
of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Luxembourg.

**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 February 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Council of Economic Advisers member Mark McClellan on the President's agenda for health care reform

Fact sheet: President Outlines Agenda for Improving Health Security in the Best Health Care System in the World

Released February 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 700 and H.R. 1937

Transcript of a press briefing by National Drug Control Policy Director John Walters on the National Drug Control Strategy

Fact sheet: The President's National Drug Control Strategy

Released February 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Official Working Visit of President Musharraf of Pakistan: U.S. Programs To Assist the People of Pakistan

Released February 14

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 visit to Japan, South Korea, and China

Fact sheet: President Bush Announces Clear Skies & Global Climate Change Initiatives

Announcement: Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge To Attend the Florida Domestic Security Advisory Panel Meeting With Florida Governor Jeb Bush Friday

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 82, S. 737, S. 970, and S. 1026

Announcement of nomination of U.S. Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina

Released February 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear materials repository

Fact sheet: The President's Commitment to Strengthening the Peace Corps

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 8*

S. 1762 / Public Law 107-139
To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers, to extend current law with respect to special allowances for lenders, and for other purposes

S. 1888 / Public Law 107-140
To amend title 18 of the United States Code to correct a technical error in the codification of title 36 of the United States Code

Approved February 12

H.R. 700 / Public Law 107-141
Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2002

H.R. 1937 / Public Law 107-142
Pacific Northwest Feasibility Studies Act of 2002

Approved February 14

H.J. Res. 82 / Public Law 107-143
Recognizing the 91st birthday of Ronald Reagan

S. 737 / Public Law 107-144
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 811 South Main

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

Street in Yerington, Nevada, as the “Joseph E. Dini, Jr. Post Office”

S. 970 / Public Law 107-145

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 39 Tremont Street, Paris Hill, Maine, as the “Horatio King Post Office Building”

S. 1026 / Public Law 107-146

To designate the United States Post Office located at 60 Third Avenue in Long Branch, New Jersey, as the “Pat King Post Office Building”