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Statement on Senator Fred Thompson's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

March 8, 2002

Senator Fred Thompson has served the people of Tennessee with honor, distinction, and class. He has worked tirelessly for Tennessee's interests, as well as for the national interest. While I will miss Fred's service in the Senate, I wish him all the best and will always call him a friend.

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.

March 3

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. In the evening, they attended a gala at Ford's Theatre.

March 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Eden Prairie, MN, and later to Minneapolis, MN. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm on December 24–29, 2001.

March 5

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then met with Republican congressional leaders from the House and the Senate to discuss counterterrorism efforts and domestic issues.

In the afternoon, the President met with His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Arts: Catherine Todd Bailey; Lawrence E. Bathgate II; Ronald Aram Berberian; Catherine Caldwell Cabaniss; Kevin Arlen Crass; Daniel Frank Cronin Crowley; James Frederick Dicke II; David Judson Fisher; Timothy Fuller; James Arthur Haslam II; Brenda LaGrange Johnson; James Casey Kenny; Nancy Goins Kinder; Patrick Alexander Lopez Negrete; Karin F. Luter; Loretta Webb Lynn; P.E. MacAllister; Augustus Chole Miller; Carlos Dario Olamendi; Julie Jones Oles; Juan Alfonso Sabater; Dwight Schar; David Lee Sokol; Fred Douglas Thompson; Vance Michael Thompson; David Richard Tyson; Llewellyn Orcutt Ward III; Cortright Wetherill, Jr.; Yvonne Renee Davis; Judith Ann Eisenberg; Joseph James O'Donnell; Margaret Alexander Parker; John Whitney Payson; Clyde Armand Rodbell; Connie Russell Schmett; and Barbara U. Stephenson.

March 6

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings and met with the National Security Council. Later, he met in the Oval Office with members of the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg in the Oval Office.

March 7

In the morning, the President met with the Homeland Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with labor organization leaders to discuss proposed energy legislation and other issues. He also met separately with members of Congress to discuss proposed energy legislation.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and his family to their ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 5–7.