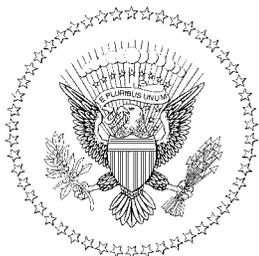


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, June 24, 2002
Volume 38—Number 25
Pages 1019–1071

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Editor's Note: The President was in Orlando, FL, on June 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

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Week Ending Friday, June 21, 2002

Remarks During a Visit to the Headquarters of the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans in Houston, Texas

June 14, 2002

Let me say a couple of words. I know you're anxiously awaiting them. First, it's great to be back in Texas. I'm proud to be here with my friend the Governor and Congressman Green.

Before I talk about service, I want to say something about Karachi. We fight an enemy that are radical killers; that's what they are. You know, they claim they're religious people, and they blow up Muslims. They have no regard for individual life.

Our hearts go out to the—our citizens and those affected by the bombings that took place. Our prayers are with their families, are with the families of the people in Pakistan as well.

But these people, if they think they're going to intimidate the United States, they do not understand the United States of America. And we will continue to hunt them down and seek justice.

Secondly, as we make America more secure, we've got to make it a better place. Today is Flag Day. We can talk about patriotism, but a true patriot is one not only who salutes the flag, but a true patriot is one who serves the community in which they live.

So I want to thank AAMA for its great work in Houston and now, I understand, the valley. I want to thank the visionaries who put together this charter school. I want to thank AmeriCorps for being a part of the after-school program. I want to thank the mentors for understanding that out of evil done to America and out of the evil continuing to be done to others around the world can come some incredible good. And the good that can happen is, children can realize the great American Dream—start right here, learn to read, go to college, and can succeed

in America; that where there may be hopelessness and despair, love and compassion will overcome it.

And so I want to thank you all for letting me come by. Thank you for reading so well, and see you in college.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:30 p.m. at the Headquarters Summer Enrichment Camp. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. 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.

Proclamation 7574—Father's Day, 2002

June 14, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Fathers play a unique and important role in the lives of their children. As mentor, protector, and provider, a father fundamentally influences the shape and direction of his or her child's character by giving love, care, discipline, and guidance.

As we observe Father's Day, our Nation honors fatherhood and urges fathers to commit themselves selflessly to the success and well-being of their children. And we reaffirm the importance of fathers in the lives of their children.

Raising a child requires significant time, effort, and sacrifice; and it is one of the most hopeful and fulfilling experiences a man can ever know. A father can derive great joy from seeing his child grow from infancy to adulthood. As a child matures into independence and self reliance, the value of a parent's hard work, love, and commitment comes to fruition.

Responsible fatherhood is important to a healthy and civil society. Numerous studies confirm that children whose fathers are

present and involved in their lives are more likely to develop into prosperous and healthy adults. Children learn by example; and they need their father's presence as examples of virtue in their daily lives. A child's sense of security can be greatly enhanced by seeing his parents in a loving and faithful marriage.

My Administration strongly supports initiatives to strengthen fatherhood, promote stable families, and increase the ease of adoptions. We must also continue to enlist the help of citizens and community groups who reach out to fatherless or neglected children through mentoring and other acts of compassion.

On this Father's Day, we acknowledge and honor the love of our own fathers. I encourage all fathers to commit themselves to the continuing love and care of their children and their families.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 16, 2002, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express love, admiration, and thanks to their fathers for their contributions to our lives and to society. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:47 a.m., June 19, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Governor Rick Perry of Texas in Houston

June 14, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. It's another reason I'm glad to be home—[laughter]—that, plus getting a little culture. [Laughter] I can't tell you how great it is to see so many friends. I want to thank you for your prayers, for your friendship. I want to thank you for helping Laura and me serve our country.

I'm here today to talk about a man who—there's no doubt in my mind—is not only going to win in November but do a fine, fine job on behalf of the Texas people. We've shared a lot. We have both been Governors. And we both married above ourselves. [Laughter] I appreciate Anita Perry, the first lady of the State of Texas, and she's bringing a lot of class to the office.

I'm sorry Laura isn't here with me. She's in Crawford.

Audience member. We are, too.

The President. Well, I'm sure you are. I can understand that. [Laughter] You probably wish she was speaking. [Laughter]

It's hard to believe that a public school librarian who didn't particularly care about politics or politicians—[laughter]—is now the First Lady of this great country, and she's doing a magnificent job.

I'm really proud of her. Of course she, like my mother, is still telling me what to do. [Laughter] Marjorie, I'm of course listening. [Laughter] But we're doing great. We really are. Our family's strong. Our spirit is strong. Our love for our country has never been greater.

I want to thank all the elected officials who are here. I particularly want to say something about the next attorney general, Greg Abbott. Greg, I want to thank you for your—[applause]. I want to thank Henry Bonilla for being here and for his work on behalf of our party and the Victory Committee. I want to thank Justices Jefferson and Rodriguez, who are here with us tonight.

I know there's all kinds of candidates—Judge Carter, who's running in the 31st Congressional District this year. I know my

friend—thank you, Judge. I know my friend Tommy Craddick is here. And members of the statehouse, both Republicans and Democrats, are here tonight, and I want to thank you all for coming.

I want to thank you all for supporting Rick. I want to thank you for contributing your money and, as importantly, thank you for contributing your time.

I see a lot of what they call grassroots activists here. I tell you, I know I could never have won the Governor's race and/or the Presidency without those of you who man the phones and sign the envelopes and lick them and mail them and do all the hard work. And so on behalf of grateful candidates, thanks for what you have done and thanks for what you're going to do come November.

I appreciate Rick's record. I want to talk a little bit about education. It is a passion of mine, and it's a passion of Rick's. It is absolutely essential that at all levels of government we have people who are willing to raise standards for every child. It is absolutely essential for the good of the State of Texas that we have a Governor who believes every child can learn, somebody who doesn't lower the bar. See, if you lower the standards, if you expect mediocrity, you'll get mediocrity, and that's not good enough for the State of Texas.

As Rick mentioned, we reformed the education code out of the Federal Government. It mirrors what Rick is doing here in Texas. Let me explain it to you right quick. It says that if you receive money from the taxpayers, you've got to measure. If you get help from the Federal Government or the State Government, you've got to show the taxpayers but more importantly the parents whether or not the children all across the State of Texas are learning. And if they're learning, we'll praise the teachers. If they're meeting standards, if they're meeting expectations, there will be all kinds of praise for the hard-working teachers all across the country and in the State of Texas.

But when we find children who aren't learning, children who can't read, we've got to address the problems early, before it's too late. You see, every child is important in the State of Texas. Every child matters. And you can't tell whether or not children are learning

to read and write and add and subtract unless you have the courage to hold people accountable.

Texas must not go backwards. Texas must continue to have strong accountability systems, so that this business about just shuffling children through the system stops. You see, it's easy to quit on a young, black child. It's easy to say, "That person can't learn. Let's just move them through." It's easy to quit on somebody whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It's easy to quit. But by having accountability and local control of schools, we measure each child, because each child counts. You cannot possibly fix the problem unless you know the problem exists.

Education is the number one priority for this Governor. And it's the number one priority for the State of Texas, and that's as it should be. And we're making progress. We are. One of the things I love about Rick is, his vision of Texas includes everybody, not just a few. His vision of Texas says every child counts, and no child will be left behind in the great State of Texas.

One of the big initiatives in Washington, DC, is the reauthorization of welfare. One of the great successes in our country has been the 1996 welfare reform bill. And it basically said that we can do better than dependency upon Government, that we can free people by insisting upon work and by helping those learn how to work. It gives me great confidence to know that Rick is going to be the Governor of Texas as we talk about reauthorization. The cornerstone of helping people is to help them find the dignity of a job. And with Rick Perry as Governor, I'm confident that that dignity will spread throughout all parts of the great State of Texas.

I appreciate a man who understands there needs to be fiscal sanity when it comes to spending money, spending your money. And Rick saved the State \$500 million as a result of some bold actions he took. And as you know, the economy kind of slowed down a little bit, and thankfully, you had a Governor who is willing to make the tough fiscal choices that's going to stand Texas in good stead in the years to come. I appreciate your courage, Rick, and I appreciate your leadership.

But the thing I appreciate most is your integrity and your values, the fact that you make your family your top priority. I love the fact that you love your wife, and you love your kids. You know, we were going down the Gulf Freeway today. [Laughter] Traffic wasn't all that bad, by the way. [Laughter] If you got stuck in one of the exits, I apologize. [Laughter] We spent more time talking about our family. I appreciate a Governor who wanted to share with me the hopes and aspirations of his children. It's important for the State of Texas to have somebody in the Governor's office whose got his priorities absolutely straight, faith and family and the great State of Texas.

You know, when I was one time campaigning in Chicago, a reporter said, "Would you ever have a deficit?" And I said, "I can't imagine it, but there would be one if we had a war or a national emergency or a recession." [Laughter] Never did I dream we'd get the trifecta. [Laughter] But I want you to know we're making progress on all three fronts. I'm concerned about the economic security of the American people. I know there's a lot of focus on statistics—this number comes out or that number comes out. Here's my attitude: So long as somebody wants to work and can't find a job, we have a problem. And my focus is going to be to continue to expand the job base of this country so people can find work.

We made a pretty good start when we cut the taxes on the working people. And it came at exactly the right time. There's a school of thought in Washington that says, if you take more of the people's money, the economy will benefit. I don't read the same textbook. [Laughter] My attitude is, when times are slow, you let people have their own money. And when they keep their own money, they spend it. And when they spend their own money, they demand a good and service. And when you demand a good and service, somebody's going to provide the good and service, which means somebody's going to be able to work. This tax cut happened at the right time, and we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

In order to make sure people can find jobs and can work in America, we need an energy policy. We need an energy policy that, on

the one hand, encourages conservation and makes sure that we promote renewable sources of energy, an energy policy that promotes the new technologies that are coming on line. But we need an energy policy as well that encourages exploration for oil and gas in the United States of America.

The nay-sayers and the skeptics, you know, challenge that policy. They don't understand the technologies now available that allow us to provide domestic energy and at the same time protect our environment. But let me put it to you this way: For the sake of economic security, we need a sound energy policy. And for the sake of national security, we must become less reliant on foreign sources of energy. Some of those sources don't particularly care about America, I might add.

This Congress needs to give me a trade bill so I can open up markets for Texas agricultural products, for high-tech products. Listen, if you're good at something—and we're good at a lot of things when it comes to our economy—we ought to be selling them to people around the world. This country ought to be feeding the people of the world. I need trade promotion authority from the United States Congress for the good of the job creation.

We're making progress on economic security. And we've got a long way to go. But I just want you to know, so long as somebody can't find work that wants to work, I'm working.

And we've got a lot to do on homeland security as well. I want you to know what I think about the people that we're fighting. They are nothing but coldblooded killers. There was a bombing in Karachi. Innocent people lost their lives. Most of the innocent people were Muslims. These people, these terrorists, these killers have hijacked a noble religion, but the world is seeing what they're made out of, what they're like. They do not value individual life. And for the good of freedom and for the good of America and our allies and friends, we're going to hunt them down one by one and bring them to justice.

We've made some progress. The other night when I announced this Department of Homeland Security, I laid out a statistic that

said we've rounded up about 2,400 of them so far—make it 2,401.

Audience member. That's right.

The President. And that's good. And that's good, except there's still a lot of them out there. And so it is—it is my most important job to do everything in my power to prevent the enemy from taking innocent life again.

We've got over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, involved with homeland security. They're scattered all throughout the bureaucracy. As you can imagine, it makes it kind of tough to get an efficient plan in place. And so I've asked the Congress to make the most impressive and far-reaching reorganization since Harry Truman reorganized the Defense Department.

I want it all under one—one authority. I want to align authority and responsibility. I want it to be said that, as a result of reorganizing Government, our country is better prepared to enforce our border, to respond to emergency; our country is better prepared to respond to bioterrorism. We need the capacity to analyze the information we're getting to predict what might happen so that we can react.

Now, this isn't going to be as easy as it seems, reorganizing Government. After all, there's a lot of turf in Washington, DC, and people are guarding their turf. There's an appropriation chairman here, a ranking member there that likes the idea of deciding how much money goes to this agency or another. For the good of the American people, I call upon Congress to think about not turf but security.

I'll never forget my first hard discussion with the Director of the FBI. I don't know if you are aware of this fact, but he came on to work one week before September the 11th, so he got right in the middle of the action pretty quickly. And he was talking to me about, you know, they're doing a pretty good job of going after this white-collar criminal and arresting this person. And I said, "That's all fine and good, and you need to keep doing it. But your most important priority now is to prevent attack. I want you running down every lead. If you've got a hint that somebody might be coming in here to do something to America, I want to know

about it, and I want you on them. I want you doing everything in your power. Your agency is vital, but your mission has—the priority of the agency—your new mission is to use the resources of the United States of America to protect the homeland."

And we're making progress. We really are. The CIA and the FBI communicate in a lot closer way these days. There's a lot better sharing of information. You've just go to know that there's a lot of hardworking people doing everything they can to protect you. But the best way to secure the homeland, the best way, is to chase these killers down one by one and bring them to justice.

We will use every tool at our disposal. We've assembled a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, and we're—and they're working. We're communicating with these folks. Every time I meet with a foreign leader, I remind him or her that our most important collective job is to win this war on terror. History has called us into action. History will look back and determine the mettle and drive and desire of all of us who have been given awesome responsibilities.

We're cutting off their money, and that's vital. It's kind of hard for them to operate unless they have cash. And although the enemy doesn't require much money, if they don't have any, it's going to be hard for them to move. So we're working with financial institutions all round the world on a regular basis to cut off their money.

Probably the most effective force we've used, of course, thus far is the United States military. For those of you who've got relatives in the military or are in the military yourselves, thanks from the bottom of my heart and our Nation's heart.

I was at West Point the other day, and I was honored to give a graduation speech where I laid out a new doctrine called pre-emption, which I'll describe here in a second. But I shook every hand of the graduates. Let me tell you, the military's in good shape. These are fine, fine young Americans.

I sent up to Congress the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, and I did it for two reasons, and I want to explain it to you right quickly. One, any time we commit our men and women into harm's way, they deserve

the best equipment, the best training, the best possible pay. And secondly, I submitted a significant increase, because we're in for a long war. I know some would hope the enemy would go away. They're not going away until we get them. That's a fact. The good news is, the American people are united and strong and resolved. They understand what I know, that we must defend our freedoms at all costs.

You know, I can't imagine what went through the mind of the enemy. They probably looked at America and thought we were so self-absorbed and materialistic and selfish that after they killed thousands of our citizens, all we would do is file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] They and the world have seen the true character of America.

We love our freedom. We care about our children. We love our values. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that you can have honest political discourse. That's what we love. We love our lifestyle, and we will use all our might to protect it.

The threats we face go beyond just one terrorist network. The threats we face are bigger than a group of these shadowy figures who try to hide in caves and then send youngsters to their death. We face threats of weapons of mass destruction. In the past, we used to have a doctrine called containment and deterrence. You can't contain a shadowy terrorist network. You can't deter somebody who doesn't have a country. And you're not going to be able—future Presidents won't be able to deter or contain one of these nations which harbors weapons of mass destruction, nations who hate America. For the good of the American people, I will use all the resources at my disposal to make sure the world's worst regimes do not threaten, blackmail America and our friends with the world's worst weapons.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good. I've got a great painting by Tom Lee. Many of you know Tom Lee from El Paso. He passed away, unfortunately, earlier this year. And on my wall is his fantastic picture—painting, I guess you'd call it—of West Texas. And it reminds me of a quote Tom Lee said; it's something I said at our convention. He said,

“Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It is the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that is gone.”

The day I see coming for this great country is one of peace. I want you to tell your children that behind all the war rhetoric is a strong desire for peace, that I long for peace not only in America, but I think if the United States of America remains tough and vigilant and strong and steady, that we will be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where there is no hope for peace right now. I believe that. I believe that the enemy, much to their chagrin—much to their chagrin—out of the evil will come a more peaceful world. And at home, I know out of the evil will come a better America.

Today I had the honor of speaking at the Ohio State University graduation ceremonies. I told those kids, I said that patriotism is more than saluting the flag. Patriotism is service to your country. Patriotism is loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, if you want to join the war on terror, love somebody. Do some good. It's the gathering momentum of thousands of acts of kindness and generosity which will show the world the compassionate face of America and, at the same time, show the world that this country is not going to be cowed by evil people.

One person can't do everything in this society. I know that. But one person can do something to save a soul. Listen, in this great land of ours, a land of plenty, there are pockets of hopelessness and despair. There are too many children who wonder whether America is meant for them, and we're going to do something about that here in America. There are too many people addicted and sad and lonely, and we'll do something about that too. The Government can hand out checks. But what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or sense of purpose in their lives or love people. That's going to happen because this great country is full of loving and decent and caring souls.

I call upon you all to continue what you're doing when it comes to helping a neighbor in need. The acts don't have to be huge acts. Listen, if you just walk across the street and tell somebody shut in that you love them,

it's a part of making our society whole and complete. Mentor a child. Grab a child around the shoulders and tell them you love them and teach them how to read. It's these acts of compassion and decency which will help lay the foundation for a more hopeful America in the future.

You know, when I was campaigning for Governor and still as President, I've talked about a cultural change. I said, it's so important for us to change the culture away from that of my generation, which has said, if it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else. That's happening in America. People understand that they are responsible for the decisions they make in life.

I believe a culture of personal responsibility is beginning to take hold, and perhaps the most important catalyst for that cultural shift is what took place on Flight 93. People were driving—flying across the country, trying to get home, and all of a sudden they realized their airplane was a weapon. And they said a prayer, and they told their loved ones goodbye, and they served a cause greater than self by driving that airplane into the ground.

It's that sense of sacrifice and courage that will serve as an example for young and old alike. It's that concept of serving something greater than you which will allow this great Nation to show the world that we will overcome evil with good.

I want to thank you all for your friendship. I repeat, I want to thank you for the greatest gift you can give a President and his wife, and that's your prayers. I want to thank you for supporting my friend, the current and next Governor of the State of Texas. I want to thank you all for coming.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:09 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marjorie Arsht, Republican Party activist; Greg Abbott, candidate for State attorney general of Texas; Justices Wallace Jefferson and Xavier Rodriguez of the Texas Supreme Court; Texas State Representative Tom Craddick; and John R. Carter, candidate for Texas' 31st Congressional District. This item was not re-

ceived in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 15, 2002

Good morning. Owning a home lies at the heart of the American Dream. A home is a foundation for families and a source of stability for communities. It serves as the foundation of many Americans' financial security. Yet today, while nearly three-quarters of all white Americans own their homes, less than half of all African Americans and Hispanic Americans are homeowners. We must begin to close this homeownership gap by dismantling the barriers that prevent minorities from owning a piece of the American Dream.

The single greatest hurdle to first-time homeownership is a high downpayment requirement that can put a home out of reach, so my administration is proposing the American Dream Downpayment Fund. When a low-income family is qualified to buy a home but comes up short on the downpayment, the American Dream Downpayment Fund will help provide the needed funds. We estimate that this fund will open the door to homeownership for 40,000 low-income families annually.

A second obstacle to minority homeownership is a lack of affordable housing. To encourage the production of single-family homes for sale in neighborhoods where affordable housing is scarce, my administration is proposing a single-family affordable housing credit. Over the next 5 years, this will provide developers nearly \$2.4 billion in tax credits for building affordable single-family housing in distressed areas. These credits will make 200,000 new homes available over its first 5 years to low-income purchasers.

A third major obstacle to minority homeownership is the complexity and difficulty of the purchasing process, so we're stepping up our efforts to better educate first-time home buyers. Consumers need to know their rights and responsibilities as home buyers. Education is the best protection for families against abusive and unscrupulous lenders. Financial education and housing counseling can help protect home buyers against abuses,

greatly improve the loan terms they are offered, and help families get through tough times with their homes intact.

Through these important initiatives, we can help thousands of American families live the kinds of lives they had once only dreamed about. But Government action isn't enough. We need to energize and engage the private sector as well. That is why I have challenged the real estate industry leaders to join with the Government, with non-profit organizations, and with private-sector financial institutions in a major nationwide effort to increase minority homeownership.

My approach to broadening homeownership focuses on empowering people to help themselves and to help one another. These important initiatives will accomplish their purpose because Americans, working together and taking responsibility for one another, will make this great country even greater.

The strength of America lies in the honor and the character and good will of its people. When we tap into that strength, we discover there is no problem that cannot be solved in this wonderful land of liberty.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:42 a.m. on June 13 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 15. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 14 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

June 14, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-23

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Suspension of Limitations Under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Pub-

lic Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary to protect the national security interests of the United States to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act. My Administration remains committed to beginning the process of moving our embassy to Jerusalem.

You are hereby authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, and to publish the determination in the *Federal Register*.

This suspension shall take effect after transmission of this determination and report to the Congress.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 24, 2002]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 17, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 25.

Remarks at St. Paul AME Church in Atlanta, Georgia

June 17, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for that wonderful Atlanta welcome. It's nice to be back in this incredibly important community.

You know, our Nation faces a lot of huge challenges. Right now we've got 60,000 troops fighting terrorism so that we can be free, all of us can be free. I appreciate so very much the resolve and unity and determination of this great land. I appreciate our military for their sacrifices. We're also doing everything we can to secure the homeland, to make sure that those who hate us won't take innocent life again.

And as we work for a more secure world, we've got to work for a better world too. And that means, as we work on our security from possible attacks by terrorists, we also work on economic security. The two securities go hand in hand. Anybody who wants a job who can't find one means we've got a problem. In Washington, they talk statistics all the time, and that's important. People who count

numbers need to make a living too. [*Laughter*] But my attitude is, if somebody can't find work and they want to work, we've got to continue to work on expanding the job base.

And part of economic security is owning your own home. Part of being a secure America is to encourage homeownership, so somebody can say, "This is my home. Welcome to my home."

Now, we've got a problem here in America that we have to address. Too many American families, too many minorities do not own a home. There is a homeownership gap in America. The difference between Anglo America and African American and Hispanic homeownership is too big. And we've got to focus the attention on this Nation to address this. And it starts with setting a goal. And so by the year 2010, we must increase minority homeowners by at least 5½ million. In order to close the homeownership gap, we've got to set a big goal for America and focus our attention and resources on that goal.

And I picked a good man to help realize that goal, in Mel Martinez. I don't know if you know Mel's story, but it's an interesting story. Mel was born in Cuba. [*Applause*] Yes, Mel brought his cousins with him—[*laughter*]*—*all two of them, anyway. [*Laughter*] But Mel's mother and daddy—Mel's mother and dad put him on an airplane to come to America when he was a young boy, because they didn't want his son growing up in a country that wasn't free. Think about that; think about the courage of a mom or a dad and their love for freedom—love freedom so much that they would put their child in the hands of loving Americans. And Mom and Dad eventually came. And here he now sits, as a member of the President's Cabinet. What a great country we have.

My point is, Mel understands what it means to dream and then to work to realize the dreams. I've also picked a fine friend of mine from Texas named Alphonso Jackson to serve as the Deputy of HUD. And where are you, Alphonso? There he is. I appreciate you. These are can-do people. So when we set a goal, they understand their job is to work toward that goal.

I also want to thank the mayor of Atlanta, Georgia, for being here, Shirley Franklin. Thank you for coming, Madam Mayor. Much

of the success of this program is going to depend—depends upon the ability for the Federal Government to work with State and local governments. And I know the mayor has got a strong commitment to housing for all people and to end the ownership gap. Madam Mayor, thanks for coming.

I appreciate as well Johnny Isakson and John Linder, members of the Georgia congressional delegation, for coming today. Thank you all for being here. I want to thank Franklin Raines of Fannie Mae and Leland Brendsel of Freddie Mac. Thank you all for coming.

Today I had the pleasure of seeing an entrepreneur's work firsthand, an Atlanta citizen who also dreamt a dream, and that is to develop a piece of blighted property so others could benefit from her vision and hard work. Masharn Wilson is here. She is a president and CEO—Masharn is the president and CEO of her own company. Part of the economic security is not only owning a home; part of it is, if you have the entrepreneurial instincts, is to own your own business as well. So I want to appreciate you, Masharn. I appreciate your hard work.

And one other person I want to announce is a fellow named Darryl Hicks. Where are you, Darryl?

Darryl Hicks. Right here.

The President. There you are. Darryl Hicks is here. I want to—Darryl is—one of the things I remind our fellow citizens, if you're interested in defeating evil, do some good. You see, we're going to fight with our military, but we can also fight with our hearts. And a country which has been under attack can respond by loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And this man right here is a fellow, Darryl Hicks, who works for Habitat for Humanity programs. He's interested in lending his heart and his talents to helping a neighbor in need. America can be changed one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, so long as we are willing to love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves. I want to thank you, Darryl. I want to thank Darryl for being a soldier in the army of compassion.

And I also want to thank Reverend Dr. Thomas Bess for opening up this beautiful church. You know, one of my passions is the

Faith-Based Initiative. It is important that Congress not fear faith-based programs but welcome faith-based programs, so we can help change people's lives. I find it most interesting that we would be talking about how we help people in a church. After all, that's why churches exist.

Audience members. Um-hmm.

The President. And so I am—I want to thank the church staff for opening up this beautiful facility to the army which follows me around. [*Laughter*]

I do believe in the American Dream. I believe there is such a thing as the American Dream. And I believe those of us who have been given positions of responsibility must do everything we can to spotlight the dream and to make sure the dream shines in all neighborhoods, all throughout our country. Owning a home is a part of that dream; it just is. Right here in America, if you own your own home, you're realizing the American Dream.

You know, today I went to the—to some of the home—met some of the homeowners in these newly built homes, and all you've got to do is shake their hand and listen to their stories and watch the pride that they exhibit when they show you the kitchen and the stairs. So people like Ken Beatty, who is an environmentalist; or Al Smith, a probation officer; or Geary Jefferson, a database administrator; or Darrin West, an Atlanta police officer; Tamika Henry—Tomika Henry Cole: These are all people that I've met. They've come over here today. They showed me their home. They didn't show me somebody else's home; they showed me their home. And they are so proud to own their home, and I want to thank them for their hospitality, because it helps the American people really understand what it means.

And what we've got to do is to figure out how to make sure these stories are repeated over and over and over again in America. Three-quarters of White America owns their homes. Less than 50 percent of African Americans are part of the homeownership in America, and less than 50 percent of the Hispanics who live here in this country own their home. And that has got to change for the good of the country; it just does.

And so here are some of the ways to address the issue. First, the single greatest barrier to first-time homeownership is a high downpayment. It is really hard for many, many low-income families to make the high downpayment. And so that's why I propose and urge Congress to fully fund the American Dream Downpayment Fund. This will use money, taxpayers' money to help a qualified low-income buyer make a downpayment, and that's important.

One of the barriers to homeownership is the inability to make a downpayment. And if one of the goals is to increase homeownership, it makes sense to help people pay that downpayment. We believe that the amount of money in our budget, fully approved by Congress, will help 40,000 families every year realize the dream of owning a home. Part of the success of Park Place is that the city of Atlanta already does this. And we want to make the plan more robust. We want to make it more full all across America.

Secondly, there is a lack of affordable housing in certain neighborhoods. Too many neighborhoods, especially in inner-city America, lack affordable housing units. How can you promote homeownership if people can't afford a home?

And so what I've done is propose what we call a single-family affordable housing tax credit, to encourage the development of affordable housing in neighborhoods where housing is scarce. Over 5 years, the initiative amounts to \$2.4 billion in tax credits, and that will help. It will help a lot to build homes where people can—where when fully implemented, people will be able to say, "I own my home."

A third major barrier is the complexity and difficulty of the home buying process. There's a lot of fine print on these forms. And it bothers people; it makes them nervous. And so therefore, what Mel has agreed to do and Alphonso Jackson has agreed to do is to streamline the process, make the rules simpler, so everybody understands what they are—makes the closing much less complicated. We certainly don't want there to be a fine print preventing people from owning their home. We can change the print, and we've got to.

We've got to be wise about how we deal with the closing documents and all the regulations but also wise about how we help people understand what it means to own their home and the obligations and the opportunities. And so, therefore, education is a critical component of increasing ownership throughout America: Financial education, housing counseling, how to help people understand that there are unscrupulous lenders. And so one of the things we're going to do is, we're going to promote education, the education of owning a home, the education of buying a home throughout our society.

And we want to fully implement the Section 8 housing program, homeownership program. The program will provide vouchers that first-time home buyers can use to help pay their mortgage or apply to their downpayment. Many of the partners today, many of the people here today, many of the business leaders here today are creating a market for the mortgages where Section 8 vouchers are a source of the payment, and that's good. See, it's an underpinning of capital. It helps move capital to where we want capital to go.

And so these are important initiatives that we can do at the Federal Government. And the Federal Government, obviously, has to play an important role, and we will—we will. I mean, when I lay out a goal, I mean it. But we also have got to bring others into the process, most particularly the real estate industry. After all, the real estate industry benefits when people are encouraged to buy homes. It's in their self-interest that we encourage people to buy homes.

And so one of the things that I'm going to talk about a little bit today is how to create a sustained commitment by the private sector that will have a powerful impact. First of all, we want to make sure that we help work to expand capital available to buyers and, as I mentioned, overcome the barriers that I've delineated as well as provide the education component. In other words, this is not just a Federal responsibility.

That's why I've challenged the industry leaders all across the country to get after it for this goal, to stay focused, to make sure that we achieve a more secure America by achieving the goal of 5½ million new minor-

ity homeowners. I call it America's homeownership challenge.

And let me talk about some of the progress which we have made to date, as an example for others to follow. First of all, Government-sponsored corporations that help create our mortgage system—I introduced two of the leaders here today; they call those people Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac—as well as the Federal Home Loan Banks will increase their commitment to minority markets by more than \$440 billion. I want to thank Leland and Franklin for that commitment. It's a commitment that conforms to their charters as well and also conforms to their hearts. This means they will purchase more loans made by banks to African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities, which will encourage homeownership.

Freddie Mac will launch 25 initiatives to eliminate homeownership barriers. Under one of these, consumers with poor credit will be able to get a mortgage with an interest rate that automatically goes down after a period of consistent payments.

Fannie Mae will establish 100 partnerships with faith-based organizations that will provide home buyer education and help increase homeownership for their congregations. I love the partnership.

The Enterprise Foundation and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation will increase efforts to build and rehabilitate more homes in inner cities at affordable prices by working with local community development corporations. In my home State of Texas, Enterprise helped turn the once-decaying Ideal Neighborhood of Dallas into a vibrant community by building homes that were sold to residents at affordable prices.

The National Association of Home Builders will team up with local officials, homebuilder associations, and community groups in 20 of our Nation's largest housing markets, to focus on how to eliminate barriers and encourage homeownership.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation will dramatically expand financial and home buyer education efforts to 380,000 minority families.

The Neighborhood Housing Services of America will raise \$750 million to promote

homeownership initiatives in many communities.

We're beginning to use the Internet better, so that realtors all across the country will be able to call up programs all designed to help minority home buyers understand what's available, what's possible, and what to avoid. The National Realtors Association will create a central databank of affordable housing programs, which will be made available to agents, real estate agents, to help people.

So these are some of the beginnings of a national effort. And I want to thank all those who are responsible for the organizations I just named for lending your talents to this important effort for America.

You know, one of the things Presidents can do is, they can call the old conference. So I'm going to call one—[laughter]—just to make sure people understand not only are we serious but to let them check in. If they've signed up and said they're going to help, this will give everybody a chance to say, "Here's what I've done to help." It's what we call accountability.

And so this fall, we're going to have a White House conference. It is a White House conference specifically designed to address the homeownership gap. It is a White House conference that will not only say, "What have you done to date"; "Have you got any new ideas that we can share with others," as well. I'm serious about this. This is a very important initiative for all of America. See, it is a chance for us to empower people. We're not going to talk about empowering Government; we're talking about empowering people, so they have got choices over their lives.

I want to go back to where I started. I believe out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. I believe that as sure as I'm standing here. I believe we can achieve peace. I believe that we can address hopelessness and despair where hopelessness and despair exist. And listen, I understand that in this great country, there are too many people who say, "This American Dream, what does that mean? My eyes are shut to the American Dream. I don't see the dream." And we'd better make sure, for the good of the country, that the dream is vibrant and alive.

It starts with having great education systems for every single child. It means that we unleash the faith-based programs to help change people's hearts, which will help change their lives. It means we use the mighty muscle of the Federal Government in combination with State and local governments to encourage owning your own home. That's what that means. And it means—it means that each of us—each of us—have a responsibility in the great country to put something greater than ourselves—to promote something greater than ourselves.

And to me, that something greater than yourself is to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. In order to change America and to make sure the great American Dream shines in every community—every community—we must unleash the compassion and kindness of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I'm honored to be here today. I want to thank you for your interest. God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Mary Jordan Family Life Center at the church. In his remarks, he referred to Franklin D. Raines, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Fannie Mae; Leland C. Brendsel, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Freddie Mac; Darryl Hicks, member, board of directors, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity; Masharn Wilson, president and chief executive officer, Infinity Development Group, LLC; and Rev. Thomas Bess, pastor, St. Paul AME Church.

Remarks on National Homeownership Month

June 18, 2002

Well, thank you all very much for that kind welcome. I'm here for a couple of reasons. First, I want to thank you all for your service to the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. I'm here to celebrate National Homeownership Month, because I believe owning a home is an essential part of economic security. And I'm concerned about the security of America.

I had the pleasure on June the 12th of speaking to the last President who visited

HUD; I wished “Number 41” a happy birthday. And I’m glad you’ve invited me here today. I really am. I first am really proud of Mel Martinez and Alphonso Jackson. I’ve known Mel for awhile. I’ve known Alphonso for a long time. There was no question in my mind that these two fine Americans would do a great job in leading this important agency.

I want to thank all those who have assumed leadership roles, who have left your States and your friends to come and serve America. And that’s important. Service to our country is an incredibly important part of being an American.

I want to thank all those who have worked here for a short time and long time, who will be here after we leave. I want to thank a man named Larry Thompson, who has worked here for—where’s Larry? Larry’s been here for 30 years. And I want to—appreciate your service, Larry, and thank you for setting such a fine example for many others inside this building who serve the country.

Let me first talk about how to make sure America is secure from a group of killers, people who hate—you know what they hate? They hate the idea that somebody can go buy a home. They hate freedom. That’s what they hate. They hate the fact that we worship freely. They don’t like the thought of Christian, Jew, and Muslim living side by side in peace. They don’t like that at all. And therefore, they—since they resent our freedoms, they feel like they should take out their resentment by destroying innocent lives. And this country will do everything we can possibly do to protect America. And that’s going to mean making sure our homeland is secure, and I appreciate the progress we’re making on setting up a Department of Homeland Security. I know it’s going to be hard for some in Congress to give up a little power here and there, but I think it’s going to happen because people realize we’re here to serve the American people, not here to serve a political party or turf in the United States Congress.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt them down one by one. And I mean, hunt them down one by one and bring

them to justice, which is precisely what America will do.

I want to thank the choir for coming, the youngsters for being here. I just want you to know that when we talk about war, we’re really talking about peace. We want there to be peace. We want people to live in peace all around the world. I mean, our vision for peace extends beyond America. We believe in peace in South Asia. We believe in peace in the Middle East. We’re going to be steadfast toward a vision that rejects terror and killing and honors peace and hope.

I also want the young to know that this country, we don’t conquer people. We liberate people, because we hold true to our values of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The security of our homeland, the need to make sure that America is safe and secure while we chase peace is my number one priority for the country.

But I’ve got another priority as well. I not only want America to be safer and stronger; I want America to be better. I want America to be a better place. I worry about our economy, because there are people who can’t find work who want to work. In this town, people look at numbers all the time. You know, such and such a number dropped, or this number increased. What I worry about are hearts and souls. That’s what I worry about. And if somebody is trying to find work who can’t find work, we need to continue to expand our job base.

We also have got to understand, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of hopelessness and despair. You know, I mentioned the word “American Dream” in Atlanta. I also recognize that some people aren’t sure that dream extends to them. Some people don’t even know what the dream means. And our job—our jobs, our collective jobs, is to make sure that notion of the American Dream extends into every single neighborhood around this country.

I know this isn’t the right Department when I talk about education, but education, making sure every child is educated and no child is left behind, is part of making sure the American Dream extends to every single neighborhood in America. And we’re making progress in a practical way when it comes to educating children because you know

what? For the first time, the Federal Government says, if you receive money, you need to let us know whether the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we'll praise the teachers and praise the parents and praise the administrators. But if not, if our children can't read and write and add and subtract, instead of just hoping something changes, we're going to use the accountability system to insist upon change, so every child has a chance to realize the dream in America.

But I believe owning something is a part of the American Dream as well. I believe, when somebody owns their own home, they're realizing the American Dream. They can say, "It's my home. It's nobody else's home." And we saw that yesterday in Atlanta, when we went to the new homes of the new homeowners. And I saw with pride, firsthand, the man say, "Welcome to my home." He didn't say, "Welcome to Government's home." He didn't say, "Welcome to my neighbor's home." He said, "Welcome to my home. I own the home, and you're welcome to come in the home," and I appreciated it. He was a proud man. He was proud that he owns the property, and I was proud for him. And I want that pride to extend all throughout our country.

One of the things that we've got to do is to address problems straight on and deal with them in a way that helps us meet goals. And so I want to talk about a couple of goals and—one goal and a problem.

The goal is, everybody who wants to own a home has got a shot at doing so. The problem is we have what we call a homeownership gap in America. Three-quarters of Anglos own their homes, and yet less than 50 percent of African Americans and Hispanics own homes. That ownership gap signals that something might be wrong in the land of plenty, and we need to do something about it.

We are here in Washington, DC, to address problems. So I've set this goal for the country: We want 5.5 million more homeowners by 2010—million more minority homeowners by 2010; 5½ million families by 2010 will own a home. That is our goal. It is a realistic goal. But it's going to mean we're going to have to work hard to achieve the

goal, all of us. And by all of us, I mean not only the Federal Government but the private sector as well.

And so I want to, one, encourage you to do everything you can to work in a realistic, smart way to get this done. I repeat, we're here for a reason. And part of the reason is to make this dream extend everywhere. I'm going to do my part by setting the goal, by reminding people of the goal, by heralding the goal, and by calling people into action, both the Federal level, State level, local level, and in the private sector.

And so what are the barriers that we can deal with here in Washington? Well, probably the single barrier to first-time homeownership is high downpayments. People take a look at the downpayment, they say, "That's too high. I'm not buying." They may have the desire to buy, but they don't have the wherewithal to handle the downpayment. We can deal with that. And so I've asked Congress to fully fund an American Dream Downpayment Fund which will help a low-income family that have qualified to buy, to buy. We believe when this fund is fully funded and properly administered, which it will be under the Bush administration, that over 40,000 families a year—40,000 families a year—will be able to realize the dream we want them to be able to realize, and that's owning their own home.

The second barrier to ownership is the lack of affordable housing. There are neighborhoods in America where you just can't find a house that's affordable to purchase, and we need to deal with that problem. And the best way to do so, I think, is to set up a single family affordable housing tax credit to the tune of \$2.4 billion over the next 5 years to encourage affordable single family housing in inner-city America.

The third problem is the fact that the rules are too complex. People get discouraged by the fine print on the contracts. They take a look and say, "Well, I'm not so sure I want to sign this. There's too many words." [Laughter] "There's too many pitfalls." So one of the things that the Secretary is going to do is, he's going to simplify the closing documents and all the documents that have to deal with homeownership.

It is essential that we make it easier for people to buy a home, not harder. And in order to do so, we've got to educate folks. Some of us take homeownership for granted, but there are people—obviously, the home purchase is a significant, significant decision by our fellow Americans. We've got people who have newly arrived to our country, don't know the customs. We've got people in certain neighborhoods that just aren't really sure what it means to buy a home. And it seems like to us that it makes sense to have an outreach program, an education program that explains the whys and wherefores of buying a house, to make it easier for people to not only understand the legal implications and ramifications but to make it easier to understand how to get a good loan. There are some people out there that can fall prey to unscrupulous lenders, and we have an obligation to educate and to use our resource base to help people understand how to purchase a home and what—where the good opportunities might exist for home purchasing.

Finally, we want to make sure the Section 8 homeownership program is fully implemented. This is a program that provides vouchers for first-time home buyers which they can use for downpayments and/or mortgage payments.

So this is an ambitious start here at the Federal level. And again, I repeat, you all need to help us every way you can. But the private sector needs to help too. They need to help too. Of course, it's in their interest. If you're a realtor, it's in your interest that somebody be interested in buying a home. If you're a homebuilder, it's in your interest that somebody be interested in buying a home.

And so, therefore, I've called—yesterday I called upon the private sector to help us and help the home buyers. We need more capital in the private markets for first-time, low-income buyers. And I'm proud to report that Fannie Mae has heard the call, and as I understand, it's about \$440 billion over a period of time. They've used their influence to create that much capital available for the type of home buyer we're talking about here. It's in their charter. It now needs to be implemented. Freddie Mac is interested in help-

ing. I appreciate both of those agencies providing the underpinnings of good capital.

There's a lot of faith-based programs that want to be involved with educating people about how to buy a home. And we're going to have an active outreach from HUD.

And so this ambitious goal is going to be met. I believe it will be, just so long as we keep focused and remember that security at home is—economic security at home is just an important part of—as homeland security. And owning a home is part of that economic security. It's also a part of making sure that this country fulfills its great hope and vision.

See, I tell people—and I believe this—that out of the evil done to America will come some incredible good. You know, they thought they were attacking a country so weak and so feeble that we might file a lawsuit or two, and that's all we'd do. *[Laughter]* That's what they thought. We're showing them a different face of America. We're showing them that we're plenty tough. When it comes to taking—somebody trying to take away our freedoms, we're tough, and we're going to remain tough and steadfast.

But I also want people to see the deep compassion of America as well. I want the world to see the other side of our character, which is the soft side, the decent side, the loving side. I want people to know that when we talk about dreams, we mean big dreams. And when we talk about a free society, we want a society in which every citizen has the chance to advance, not just a few.

And part of the cornerstone of America is the ability for somebody, regardless of where they're from, regardless of where they were born, to say, "This is my home. I own this home. It is my piece of property. It is my part of the American experience." It is essential that we stay focused on the goal and work hard to achieve that goal. And when it's all said and done, we can look back and say, "Because of my work, because of our collective work, America is a better place. Out of evil came incredible good."

Thank you all for coming by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the cafeteria at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. In his remarks, he referred

to Lawrence L. Thompson, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, HUD. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

June 18, 2002

Terrorism insurance is critical to promoting and protecting jobs and America's economic security. I am pleased that the Senate has now passed a bill that will help give businesses access to reasonable terrorism insurance. The final terrorism insurance package must include reasonable litigation procedures so that Americans who are victimized by terrorism do not also fall victim to predatory lawsuits and punitive damages. I look forward to working with the House and Senate conferees so that I can sign responsible terrorism insurance legislation into law.

Statement on the Death of J. Carter Brown

June 18, 2002

Laura and I are saddened by the death of J. Carter Brown. Carter had a profound influence on the arts and architecture of Washington, increasing the prominence of the National Gallery of Art and presiding over some of the most significant developments to our Nation's Capital in the 20th century. He committed his life to service and will be sorely missed. We express our deepest sympathies to Carter's family.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Proposed Legislation To Create the Department of Homeland Security

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby transmit to the Congress proposed legislation to create a new Cabinet Department of Homeland Security.

Our Nation faces a new and changing threat unlike any we have faced before—the

global threat of terrorism. No nation is immune, and all nations must act decisively to protect against this constantly evolving threat.

We must recognize that the threat of terrorism is a permanent condition, and we must take action to protect America against the terrorists that seek to kill the innocent.

Since September 11, 2001, all levels of government and leaders from across the political spectrum have cooperated like never before. We have strengthened our aviation security and tightened our borders. We have stockpiled medicines to defend against bioterrorism and improved our ability to combat weapons of mass destruction. We have dramatically improved information sharing among our intelligence agencies, and we have taken new steps to protect our critical infrastructure.

Our Nation is stronger and better prepared today than it was on September 11. Yet, we can do better. I propose the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s by creating a new Department of Homeland Security. For the first time we would have a single Department whose primary mission is to secure our homeland. Soon after the Second World War, President Harry Truman recognized that our Nation's fragmented military defenses needed reorganization to help win the Cold War. President Truman proposed uniting our military forces under a single entity, now the Department of Defense, and creating the National Security Council to bring together defense, intelligence, and diplomacy. President Truman's reforms are still helping us to fight terror abroad, and today we need similar dramatic reforms to secure our people at home.

President Truman and Congress reorganized our Government to meet a very visible enemy in the Cold War. Today our Nation must once again reorganize our Government to protect against an often-invisible enemy, an enemy that hides in the shadows and an enemy that can strike with many different types of weapons. Our enemies seek to obtain the most dangerous and deadly weapons of mass destruction and use them against the innocent. While we are winning the war on

terrorism, Al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations still have thousands of trained killers spread across the globe plotting attacks against America and the other nations of the civilized world.

Immediately after last fall's attack, I used my legal authority to establish the White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council to help ensure that our Federal response and protection efforts were coordinated and effective. I also directed Homeland Security Advisor Tom Ridge to study the Federal Government as a whole to determine if the current structure allows us to meet the threats of today while preparing for the unknown threats of tomorrow. After careful study of the current structure, coupled with the experience gained since September 11 and new information we have learned about our enemies while fighting a war, I have concluded that our Nation needs a more unified homeland security structure.

I propose to create a new Department of Homeland Security by substantially transforming the current confusing patchwork of government activities into a single department whose primary mission is to secure our homeland. My proposal builds on the strong bipartisan work on the issue of homeland security that has been conducted by Members of Congress. In designing the new Department, my Administration considered a number of homeland security organizational proposals that have emerged from outside studies, commissions, and Members of Congress.

The Need for a Department of Homeland Security

Today no Federal Government agency has homeland security as its primary mission. Responsibilities for homeland security are dispersed among more than 100 different entities of the Federal Government. America needs a unified homeland security structure that will improve protection against today's threats and be flexible enough to help meet the unknown threats of the future.

The mission of the new Department would be to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, to reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may

occur. The Department of Homeland Security would mobilize and focus the resources of the Federal Government, State and local governments, the private sector, and the American people to accomplish its mission.

The Department of Homeland Security would make Americans safer because for the first time we would have one department dedicated to securing the homeland. One department would secure our borders, transportation sector, ports, and critical infrastructure. One department would analyze homeland security intelligence from multiple sources, synthesize it with a comprehensive assessment of America's vulnerabilities, and take action to secure our highest risk facilities and systems. One department would coordinate communications with State and local governments, private industry, and the American people about threats and preparedness. One department would coordinate our efforts to secure the American people against bioterrorism and other weapons of mass destruction. One department would help train and equip our first responders. One department would manage Federal emergency response activities.

Our goal is not to expand Government, but to create an agile organization that takes advantage of modern technology and management techniques to meet a new and constantly evolving threat. We can improve our homeland security by minimizing the duplication of efforts, improving coordination, and combining functions that are currently fragmented and inefficient. The new Department would allow us to have more security officers in the field working to stop terrorists and fewer resources in Washington managing duplicative activities that drain critical homeland security resources.

The Department of Homeland Security would have a clear and efficient organizational structure with four main divisions: Border and Transportation Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Countermeasures; and Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection.

Border and Transportation Security

Terrorism is a global threat and we must improve our border security to help keep out

those who mean to do us harm. We must closely monitor who is coming into and out of our country to help prevent foreign terrorists from entering our country and bringing in their instruments of terror. At the same time, we must expedite the legal flow of people and goods on which our economy depends. Securing our borders and controlling entry to the United States has always been the responsibility of the Federal Government. Yet, this responsibility and the security of our transportation systems is now dispersed among several major Government organizations. Under my proposed legislation, the Department of Homeland Security would unify authority over major Federal security operations related to our borders, territorial waters, and transportation systems.

The Department would assume responsibility for the United States Coast Guard, the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (including the Border Patrol), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and the Transportation Security Administration. The Secretary of Homeland Security would have the authority to administer and enforce all immigration and nationality laws, including the visa issuance functions of consular officers. As a result, the Department would have sole responsibility for managing entry into the United States and protecting our transportation infrastructure. It would ensure that all aspects of border control, including the issuing of visas, are informed by a central information-sharing clearinghouse and compatible databases.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

Although our top priority is preventing future attacks, we must also prepare to minimize the damage and recover from attacks that may occur.

My legislative proposal requires the Department of Homeland Security to ensure the preparedness of our Nation's emergency response professionals, provide the Federal Government's response, and aid America's recovery from terrorist attacks and natural disasters. To fulfill these missions, the De-

partment of Homeland Security would incorporate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as one of its key components. The Department would administer the domestic disaster preparedness grant programs for firefighters, police, and emergency personnel currently managed by FEMA, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. In responding to an incident, the Department would manage such critical response assets as the Nuclear Emergency Search Team (from the Department of Energy) and the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (from the Department of Health and Human Services). Finally, the Department of Homeland Security would integrate the Federal interagency emergency response plans into a single, comprehensive, Government-wide plan, and would work to ensure that all response personnel have the equipment and capability to communicate with each other as necessary.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Countermeasures

Our enemies today seek to acquire and use the most deadly weapons known to mankind—chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons.

The new Department of Homeland Security would lead the Federal Government's efforts in preparing for and responding to the full range of terrorist threats involving weapons of mass destruction. The Department would set national policy and establish guidelines for State and local governments. The Department would direct exercises for Federal, State, and local chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attack response teams and plans. The Department would consolidate and synchronize the disparate efforts of multiple Federal agencies now scattered across several departments. This would create a single office whose primary mission is the critical task of securing the United States from catastrophic terrorism.

The Department would improve America's ability to develop diagnostics, vaccines,

antibodies, antidotes, and other countermeasures against new weapons. It would consolidate and prioritize the disparate homeland security-related research and development programs currently scattered throughout the executive branch, and the Department would assist State and local public safety agencies by evaluating equipment and setting standards.

Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection

For the first time the Government would have under one roof the capability to identify and assess threats to the homeland, map those threats against our vulnerabilities, issue timely warnings, and take action to help secure the homeland.

The Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection division of the new Department of Homeland Security would complement the reforms on intelligence-gathering and information-sharing already underway at the FBI and the CIA. The Department would analyze information and intelligence from the FBI, CIA, and many other Federal agencies to better understand the terrorist threat to the American homeland.

The Department would comprehensively assess the vulnerability of America's key assets and critical infrastructures, including food and water systems, agriculture, health systems and emergency services, information and telecommunications, banking and finance, energy, transportation, the chemical and defense industries, postal and shipping entities, and national monuments and icons. The Department would integrate its own and others' threat analyses with its comprehensive vulnerability assessment to identify protective priorities and support protective steps to be taken by the Department, other Federal departments and agencies, State and local agencies, and the private sector. Working closely with State and local officials, other Federal agencies, and the private sector, the Department would help ensure that proper steps are taken to protect high-risk potential targets.

Other Components

In addition to these four core divisions, the submitted legislation would also transfer re-

sponsibility for the Secret Service to the Department of Homeland Security. The Secret Service, which would report directly to the Secretary of Homeland Security, would retain its primary mission to protect the President and other Government leaders. The Secret Service would, however, contribute its specialized protective expertise to the fulfillment of the Department's core mission.

Finally, under my legislation, the Department of Homeland Security would consolidate and streamline relations with the Federal Government for America's State and local governments. The new Department would contain an intergovernmental affairs office to coordinate Federal homeland security programs with State and local officials. It would give State and local officials one primary contact instead of many when it comes to matters related to training, equipment, planning, and other critical needs such as emergency response.

The consolidation of the Government's homeland security efforts as outlined in my proposed legislation can achieve great efficiencies that further enhance our security. Yet, to achieve these efficiencies, the new Secretary of Homeland Security would require considerable flexibility in procurement, integration of information technology systems, and personnel issues. My proposed legislation provides the Secretary of Homeland Security with just such flexibility and managerial authorities. I call upon the Congress to implement these measures in order to ensure that we are maximizing our ability to secure our homeland.

Continued Interagency Coordination at the White House

Even with the creation of the new Department, there will remain a strong need for a White House Office of Homeland Security. Protecting America from terrorism will remain a multidepartmental issue and will continue to require interagency coordination. Presidents will continue to require the confidential advice of a Homeland Security Advisor, and I intend for the White House Office of Homeland Security and the Homeland Security Council to maintain a strong role in coordinating our government-wide efforts to secure the homeland.

The Lessons of History

History teaches us that new challenges require new organizational structures. History also teaches us that critical security challenges require clear lines of responsibility and the unified effort of the U.S. Government.

President Truman said, looking at the lessons of the Second World War: “It is now time to discard obsolete organizational forms, and to provide for the future the soundest, the most effective, and the most economical kind of structure for our armed forces.” When skeptics told President Truman that this proposed reorganization was too ambitious to be enacted, he simply replied that it had to be. In the years to follow, the Congress acted upon President Truman’s recommendation, eventually laying a sound organizational foundation that enabled the United States to win the Cold War. All Americans today enjoy the inheritance of this landmark organizational reform: a unified Department of Defense that has become the most powerful force for freedom the world has ever seen.

Today America faces a threat that is wholly different from the threat we faced during the Cold War. Our terrorist enemies hide in shadows and attack civilians with whatever means of destruction they can access. But as in the Cold War, meeting this threat requires clear lines of responsibility and the unified efforts of government at all levels—Federal, State, local, and tribal—the private sector, and all Americans. America needs a homeland security establishment that can help prevent catastrophic attacks and mobilize national resources for an enduring conflict while protecting our Nation’s values and liberties.

Years from today, our world will still be fighting the threat of terrorism. It is my hope that future generations will be able to look back on the Homeland Security Act of 2002—as we now remember the National Security Act of 1947—as the solid organizational foundation for America’s triumph in a long and difficult struggle against a formidable enemy.

History has given our Nation new challenges—and important new assignments. Only the United States Congress can create

a new department of Government. We face an urgent need, and I am pleased that Congress has responded to my call to act before the end of the current congressional session with the same bipartisan spirit that allowed us to act expeditiously on legislation after September 11.

These are times that demand bipartisan action and bipartisan solutions to meet the new and changing threats we face as a Nation. I urge the Congress to join me in creating a single, permanent department with an overriding and urgent mission—securing the homeland of America and protecting the American people. Together we can meet this ambitious deadline and help ensure that the American homeland is secure against the terrorist threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released an “Analysis for the Homeland Security Act of 2002” and made available the text of the proposed legislation.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation
Created by the Accumulation of
Weapons-Usable Fissile Material in
the Territory of the Russian
Federation**

June 18, 2002

On June 21, 2000, the President issued Executive Order 13159 (the “Order”) blocking property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereinafter come within the possession or control of United States persons that are directly related to the implementation of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Concerning the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, and related contracts and

agreements (collectively, the “HEU Agreements”). The HEU Agreements allow for the downblending of highly enriched uranium derived from nuclear weapons to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial purposes. The Order invoked the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*, and declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation.

A major national security goal of the United States is to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses (such as downblended to low enriched uranium for peaceful commercial uses), subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. Pursuant to the HEU Agreements, weapons-grade uranium extracted from Russian nuclear weapons is converted to low enriched uranium for use as fuel in commercial nuclear reactors. The Order blocks and protects from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons.

The national emergency declared on June 21, 2000, must continue beyond June 21, 2002, to provide continued protection from attachment, judgment, decree, lien, execution, garnishment, or other judicial process for the property and interests in property of the Government of the Russian Federation that are directly related to the implementation of the HEU Agreements and subject to U.S. jurisdiction. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency

with respect to weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:19 a.m., June 19, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 20.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Russia**
June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation is to continue beyond June 21, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 14, 2001, (66 FR 32207).

It remains a major national security goal of the United States to ensure that fissile material removed from Russian nuclear weapons pursuant to various arms control and disarmament agreements is dedicated to peaceful uses, subject to transparency measures, and protected from diversion to activities of proliferation concern. The accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and

foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation and maintain in force these emergency authorities to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Russia**

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Weapons of Mass Destruction**

June 18, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act,

50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 18, 2002.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 19.

**Remarks Announcing the
International Mother and Child
HIV Prevention Initiative**

June 19, 2002

Good morning. The global devastation of HIV/AIDS staggers the imagination and shocks the conscience. The disease has already killed over 20 million people, and it's poised to kill at least 40 million more.

In Africa, the disease clouds the future of entire nations and threatens to hold back the hopes of an entire continent. In the hardest hit countries of sub-Saharan Africa as much as one-third of the adult population is infected with HIV, and 10 percent or more of the schoolteachers will die of AIDS within 5 years.

The wasted human lives that lie behind these numbers are a call to action for every person on the planet and for every government. So today, my administration is announcing another important new initiative in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

I want to thank Secretary Powell and Secretary O'Neill for their hard work on this project. I appreciate so very much Tommy Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for he and his staff's vision and implementation, procedures for this project. I want to thank Andrew Natsios, the Administrator of USAID. I appreciate Dr. Tony Fauci, the Director of NIH, for being here as well—of the Allergy and Infectious Diseases Department. Thank you, Tony, for your hard work on this. I appreciate Senator Bill Frist and Senator Jesse

Helms for their vision on this issue. And I appreciate Jim Kolbe from the House of Representatives. Thank you all for being here today.

One of our best opportunities for progress against AIDS lies in preventing mothers from passing on the HIV virus to their children. Worldwide, close to 2,000 babies are infected with HIV every day, during pregnancy, birth, or through breast-feeding. Most of those infected will die before their fifth birthday. The ones who are not infected will grow up as orphans when their parents die of AIDS. New advances in medical treatment give us the ability to save many of these young lives. And we must, and we will.

Today I announce that my administration plans to make \$500 million available to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. This new effort, which will be funded during the next 16 months, will allow us to treat 1 million women annually and reduce mother-to-child transmission by 40 percent within 5 years or less in target countries.

I thank all the Members of Congress who supported this initiative, especially Senators Frist and Helms. Their visionary leadership on this issue will mean the difference between life and death for hundreds of thousands of children.

Our initiative will focus on 12 countries in Africa and others in the Caribbean where the problem is most severe and where our help can make the greatest amount of difference. We'll pursue medical strategies that have a proven track record. We'll define specific goals. We will demand effective management. When the lives of babies and mothers are at stake, the only measure of compassion is real results.

We have a three-part strategy. First, in places with stronger health care systems, we will provide voluntary testing, prevention, counseling, and a comprehensive therapy of anti-retroviral medications for both mother and child, beginning before delivery and continuing after delivery. This combination has proven extremely effective in preventing transmission of the HIV virus.

Second, in places with weaker health care systems, we'll provide testing and counseling, and we will support programs that administer a single dose of nevirapine to the mother at

the time of delivery and at least one dose to the infant shortly after birth. This therapy reduces the chances of infection by nearly 50 percent.

Third, and most importantly, we will make a major effort to improve the health care delivery systems in targeted countries. This will allow more women and babies to receive the comprehensive therapy. It will allow for better and longer treatment and care of all AIDS victims, and it will lead to better health care in general for all the country's citizens.

We'll help build better health care systems by pairing hospitals in America and hospitals in Africa, so that African hospitals can gain more expertise in administering effective AIDS programs. We'll also send volunteer medical professionals from the United States to assist and train their African counterparts. And we will recruit and pay African medical and graduate students to provide testing, treatment, and care.

This major commitment of my Government to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission is the first of this scale by any government, anywhere. In time, we will gain valuable experience, improve treatment methods, and sharpen our training strategies. Health care systems in targeted countries will get better. And this will make even more progress possible. And as we see what works, we will make more funding available.

The United States already contributes approximately \$1 billion a year to international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. In addition, we plan to spend more than \$2.5 billion on research and development for new drugs and new treatments. We've committed \$500 million to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other infectious diseases, and we stand ready to commit more as this fund demonstrates its success.

Today's initiative is not a substitute for any of these efforts. It is not a substitute for further U.S. contributions to the Global Fund. This initiative will complement those efforts, and it is an essential new step in our global struggle against AIDS.

Today I call on other industrialized nations and international organizations to join this crucial effort to save children from disease and death. Medical science gives us the

power to save these young lives. Conscience demands we do so.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:04 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health.

Remarks to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Legislative Conference

June 19, 2002

The President. Well, Doug, I appreciate those kind remarks. I thought you were on Air Force One because you wanted a free ride. [Laughter] But I had a good visit with Doug. I believe I'm a pretty good judge of character, and I appreciate this man's character. I'll tell you why. First, he said, "We don't agree 100 percent of the time." I remember my friend Bullock, who was the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, Democrat Lieutenant Governor, when I was the Governor of Texas. He said, "You know, if we agreed 100 percent of the time, one of us wouldn't be necessary." [Laughter] He's necessary. He's necessary in Washington, DC, on behalf of the working people.

He—you know, in this town, sometimes people don't shoot straight with you. They kind of come in and tell you something, and then they leave, and you're wondering what they said, or if they said something, whether they mean it. And Doug's a straight shooter. That's high on my list of the kind of people I like to talk to and deal with.

The other thing I like about Doug is, his vision for a better union means more skills for those who are members of the union. You see, Doug understands that through education and training, you can enhance a man's or a woman's skills. And that enables that person to more better realize their dreams. He understands the vision of a union is not only to work for jobs but to enhance the ability of members within the union to improve their lives. And I appreciate that vision of putting union members first. Doug, you're a good leader. You're a good leader.

And I want to congratulate you on opening up your new building last night, right there on Capitol Hill. I bet it was pretty well built. [Laughter]

Audience member. It's union.

The President. Yes. And I appreciate the fact that you had Ted Kennedy and Elaine Chao, the fine Secretary of Labor, there to open it up. It is a good sign of—it's a good sign as to how to—how Washington ought to deal with problems.

I'll be the first to admit there's too much politics in this town. [Laughter] There's too much putting the party ahead of the country. And I'm a proud Republican. Many of you are probably proud Democrats, but first and foremost, we're all proud Americans.

I also appreciate my friend Congressman Rob Portman for coming by this morning. I appreciate Rob's energy and enthusiasm and his drive.

I want to talk about the challenges America faces. I worry about our security. I'm worried about our homeland security. I'm worried about our national security, and I'm worried about economic security. And that's what I want to talk to you about.

First, let me talk about the homeland. I remind people that every morning I go into the Oval Office—and by the way, it is a huge honor to walk in the Oval Office. I'm never going to get tired of walking into this beautiful office that we have built for our Presidents. It's an honor that—it's hard for me to describe how—what an honor it is. But I walk in there. That's, by the way, after I get the First Lady some coffee every morning. [Laughter] I don't want to put any pressure on you guys, but—[laughter]—the President does get to set the example. [Laughter] Then take the dogs out, Spot and Barney. Spot was born in the White House in 1989 when my dad and mother were up here, so she's quite comfortable with the surroundings. Barney's new, kind of a young fellow, so he doesn't get to go in the Oval Office, though, in the mornings. We just put a new rug in there. [Laughter]

At any rate, I read threat assessments on the country. I sit at this magnificent desk—a desk, by the way, that Theodore Roosevelt used and Franklin Roosevelt used and John Kennedy used and Ronald Reagan used—

and I read threat assessments. The Sun's coming up, and the first thing I do is open up a book that says, here's what the potential threats are to our country. It reminds me on a daily basis, my most important job is to defend the homeland, to protect innocent Americans from the deaths of the killers.

People say—a lot of young people say, “Well, why America? Why would anybody want to come after us? Why would anybody want to fight a war with this Nation?” And the answer is, because we love freedom. That's why. And they hate freedom. We love the idea of people being able to worship freely in America. We love the idea of people being able to come to our country and realize dreams. We love the idea of people having free—being able to freely debate issues. We love freedom, and these coldblooded killers hate freedom. And that's why they want to come and hurt America, and we are not going to let them.

I say we're not going to let them—we're going to do everything in our power. And one of my points I want to make to you today is that we are focused, and we are buttoning up this homeland as securely as we can make it.

I proposed a new Cabinet department. I want to explain quickly why I did so. There are over 100 agencies involved with homeland defense, and they're scattered all throughout Washington. It makes it difficult to do a job if you're trying to chase down 100 different agencies, because they're in different departments.

The Coast Guard is in the Transportation Department, and that's fine, except for the fact that there's a new world in America where our number one priority is to protect the homeland, and the job of the Transportation Department is not homeland security. Or take the Customs Department. Customs is an important agency to protect the homeland. It's part of understanding what's coming into our country and whether we want it in our country or not. And yet, it's a part of the Treasury Department. The Treasury Department is not responsible for homeland security.

What we need to do is to bring these agencies under one Cabinet Secretary, organize it so that information flows freely, organize

it so there's responsibility and authority so we can have accountability, and help change cultures in agencies to the primary responsibility of the day, which is to protect the American homeland. And so I've asked Congress to do this.

Now, I understand it's going to be a difficult task. First, I appreciate the response of both Republicans and Democrats, and that's good. It's going to be a little difficult, because there is a tendency on Capitol Hill for people to what they call protect their turf. In other words, if you've got responsibility over funding one agency and that agency is going to be moved away from you, you might be somewhat resistant. And what I'd like to do is to call upon Congress—and I hope you do as well—to think first and foremost about how best to protect the homeland, not how best to protect their political turf. And I think it's going to happen. I do. And I think it's going to be able to make us—enable us to do our job in better fashion.

Along those same lines, the FBI and CIA are thinking differently. And as we have seen, they needed to think differently about how to better coordinate information, about how to understand the new threats that face us in the 21st century.

You see, a lot of Washington was all geared up for the old days of war where, you know, tanks would be moving across battlefields or army platoons would be going here. And now we're facing a new kind of enemy. These guys are killers. I mean, they're international killers. They're—these are the kind of people that are secretive, and they're plenty smart. It doesn't require a lot of money for them to operate. They send youngsters to their death, and they hide in a cave. That's how they think. And we've got to match those threats with a new way of thinking, which means we've got to do a better job of collecting and sharing intelligence.

When I first—the man I named, Mueller, Bob Mueller, who's the head of the FBI, came to work one week before September the 11th. And I told him in one of my first meetings right after September 11th, “We've got a new world, and while the job of the FBI is to chase down criminals and arrest them—you still have that job—your most important job now is to prevent, is to run down

every possible lead. If you get a hint that somebody's fixing to do something to America, you and your agents need to run them down. We need to know. We need to know who's coming into the country and why they're coming in. We need to know if they're leaving the country when they're supposed to be leaving the country. We need you running down every single hint."

And we want you, the CIA, to continue to gather information outside of the country, but make sure, if you've got a relevant piece of information, to share it with the FBI. The number one priority of this Government is to button up our homeland so that the American people can go about their lives without fearful—without fear of another attack from one of these killers. And we're making progress.

And I want to appreciate those on the frontline, the police and fire on the frontline, for working hard.

But the best way to secure the homeland—you need to know just how I think—the best way to secure our homeland is to run these killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what we will do, so long as I am the President of the United States.

It is not an easy task because, as I just described, the nature of the enemy is different than we're used to. You know, I can't imagine what was going through their minds when they attacked America. I guess and assume that they thought we were so weak, so feeble, so self-absorbed, so materialistic, that after September the 11th we might file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] But they found out America thinks differently, and they're finding out we've got a fabulous military.

Now, the budget I submitted, the defense budget I submitted—you've probably heard about this defense budget, and it is big; there's no question about it. And I'll tell you why. First of all, my attitude is, anytime we commit one of our youngsters into battle or into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the best pay possible. And for those of you with relatives in the military, I want you to thank them on behalf of their Commander in Chief and a grateful country and need to know they're

going to be strongly supported here in Washington, DC.

And the second reason why the defense increase is large and significant is because this is—this war is going to take a while to win. This is—just because we've routed the Taliban in Afghanistan doesn't mean the war has ended. We have got a long way to go to secure the homeland, to defend freedom, and to defeat this enemy. And it's important for the American people to understand that.

You know, sometimes there's kind of a sense that, well, so-and-so was captured, and therefore, this deal is over. That's just not the way it is. The war on terror is going to take a while. The good news for us and the bad news for the enemy is, the American people are united, are patient, are resolved to win this war. They understand the stakes, and so do I.

It's important for our country to send a very clear signal that we're in this for the long run, and that's what the budget does. It says there's no time—there's not a calendar on my desk that I flip and say, okay, it's over, you know, it's time to quit. No, it's time to quit when the homeland is secure.

And we're making progress. We really are. I mentioned the fact that we routed out the Taliban. These people were barbaric people who wouldn't even let young girls go to school. And so I can safely say to the youngsters here that your country went into Afghanistan not to conquer people but to liberate people, to give them freedom, to give people a chance to express their will, to give young girls a chance to go to school, to give women a chance to participate in government. No, we're tough when we need to be tough, but we also uphold values as we fight this war on terror, values that will not be compromised.

The war on terror is bigger than just a person or a network. The war on terror is to address the threats that will face our children in the future. And there's a major threat, and that is the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of regimes that are run by leaders that hate freedom. There's a major threat that an Al-Qaida-type organization could mate up with one of those countries that I labeled "axis of evil" and, therefore, have the capacity to have a ballistic missile

threat that could conceivably allow them to blackmail freedom-loving countries into inaction. And we've got to deal with that threat.

I'm a patient man. We use all tools at our disposal. But for the good of our children and for the good of freedom, we must not allow the world's worst regimes to threaten us and our friends and allies with the world's worst weapons.

And so I spend time making sure this coalition of freedom-loving countries is strong. And they're kind of looking at the United States, and if I blink, it's likely they'll go to sleep. So we've got to stay strong and determined to lead—to lead the world to defend our freedoms, and I'll do just that. I can assure you of that. I feel it.

And I also believe it's important for the President of the United States to speak plainly, to speak his heart, and I believe this is a struggle of good versus evil. And I don't mind calling evil by its name. And you know what's going to happen? Good will overcome evil with the leadership of the United States, and we're going to provide that leadership.

I'm also worried about the economic security of our country. This is a town where they like to talk statistics, and that's all right—you know, good employment for some of the numbers crunchers. But behind every number, there's a story. And my attitude is, so long as somebody who wants to work can't find work, we've got a problem, and we need to deal with it. And we need to figure out how to expand jobs.

Doug and I spent a lot of time talking about job expansion. What can the Federal Government do to create more paying jobs for people? How do we make sure the economy is vibrant so people can find work? That's my concern. And we've talked about a lot of issues. I happen to believe letting people keep more of their hard-earned dollars is a good way to create economic activity. I believe that there is a proper role for the Federal Government, but there's also a recognition that when you put more money in a woman's or man's pockets, they spend it. And when they spend it, they demand something. And when they demand something, somebody builds it for them.

And so this tax cut that we passed came at the right time in American history. It

needs to be a permanent part of the Tax Code so people can plan. You see, I believe the more money a person has—has in his or her pockets, the more likely it is they're going to be able to realize their dreams. Tax relief was the right thing to do.

And so is passing this terrorist insurance bill. And I want to thank you all and your leadership for working with us to get Congress to act, to provide terrorism insurance so that some of these big building projects can go forward in America. It's an incredibly important piece of legislation. And Doug has been on the frontlines of working with both Republicans and Democrats.

And it's a problem, and let me give you some examples. This guy Dave Creamer, who is the chairman and CEO of GMAC Commercial Mortgage—they're the lenders. People have got to borrow money to build these big projects. He's turned down more than a billion dollars of new loans this year because projects were not insured against acts of terror. To me, that's a problem we've got to address. If the concern is more jobs, and people aren't lending money because there is no insurance against acts of terror, Congress needs to deal with it. He also reports that loans are not limited to projects in New York or Los Angeles or Chicago, the big cities; they're nationwide. And you know that as well as I know that.

There's a guy who's trying to build an apartment complex. He's not going to get—he's not going to get funding for an apartment complex in the Washington/Baltimore area, a \$50-million complex that would require—that would allow for 250 construction jobs for 3 years, because he can't get a loan, because he can't get the insurance.

And so they're working on a bill. The House passed one. The Senate passed one. They need to get it to conference, and they need to get it to my desk as quickly as possible. And the bill has got to make sure that insurance companies remain engaged in covering terrorism losses—that the Government will help but not help all the way. And they've got to make sure that this bill doesn't open up all kinds of lawsuits. What we're interested in is job creation, not lawsuit creation.

We've got plenty of lawsuits all around America as it is. And so it's a—I spend time thinking about jobs, and Doug and I talk about it.

We talked about an energy bill. He supported the energy bill. I support the energy bill for two reasons: One, it will help jobs—the more infrastructure we build in America, the more jobs there will be—two, I don't particularly care for the fact that we get a lot of our energy from overseas. Over 50 percent of our energy comes from overseas, and some of the suppliers aren't real friendly to America. For the good of economic security and for the good of national security, we need a sound energy policy here in America.

I was impressed by—Doug mentioned Ground Zero. It was an honor to go there that day. And I know that you all join me, if you're not from New York, in expressing our appreciation to the Union Local 79 for their hard work in cleaning up Ground Zero. It was an unbelievable feat of dedication and hard work and focus. Jeff Zelli said, "We can rebuild now. We're on our feet already, and we're going to build something beautiful." That was his comment, the head of Union Local 79. That's how I feel. You know, we're on our feet, and we can rebuild something beautiful.

You see, I believe out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. I believe, if we're strong, we can achieve peace, and that's what I want. We fight for peace. We not only fight to defend our country and defend liberty and the values that we love, we yearn for peace. That's what—we want our kids to grow up in a peaceful world.

But I also believe here at home that there's going to be some good that comes out of the evil, starting with the fact that more of us understand the need to love a neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves, that if you're interested in fighting evil, you can do so by doing some good, by mentoring a child, by going to a shut-in's house and say, "What can I do to help you?" You see, it's those small acts of kindness that really end up defining the true character of this country.

I also believe that the culture is changing in America from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a

culture in which each of us understands we're responsible for decisions we make in life. If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a good citizen in this country, you're responsible for helping a neighbor in need, mentoring a child, extending a hand of kindness and compassion to somebody. If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible for telling the truth on the assets and liabilities on your balance sheet.

I see it in the country where this is taking place. It's a change for the better. I went to Ohio State University and gave the graduation speech last Friday; 70 percent of the graduating class at one time during their career at Ohio State had volunteered to help somebody in need. There's an ethic which I hope is coming into the hearts and souls of the country that says, we're responsible for this great Nation.

And perhaps that example was best shown us all on Flight 93. I want you to think about that moment. People flying across the country. They realized the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. They said, "Let's roll," and served something greater than themselves in life.

I believe that out of the evil done to America will come incredible good. The world is going to be more peaceful. America will be more secure. And millions of Americans understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is an important part of having a full life.

It is my honor to come and visit with you all. You're citizens, as you know, of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And I'm sure proud to be the President of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

And now it is my special privilege to declare that this conference of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is officially adjourned.

God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:13 a.m. in the Hall of Battles at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill. In his remarks, he referred to Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America; and Jeff Zelli, member, Laborers Union Local 79.

**Remarks at the White House
Conference on Character and
Community**

June 19, 2002

Thank you all. Well, thanks for that warm welcome. Welcome to your house. [*Laughter*] We're glad you're here, and I really appreciate the theme of this conference and the importance of the conference.

I know you've heard from some really impressive people, and I want to thank all the speakers and students who are here. You even heard from a member of my family, and I want to thank the First Lady for doing such a great job and being so patient with the President.

The thing I appreciate is that you understand education should prepare children for jobs, and it also should prepare our children for life. I join you in wanting our children to be not only rich in skills but rich in ideals. Teaching character and citizenship to our children is a high calling. It's a really high calling. And I'm grateful for your work.

I appreciate Secretary of Education Rod Paige. Mr. Secretary, thanks—thanks for joining on this important cause. You know, here in Washington there's a lot of people who are good on theory and not so good on action, so when I picked a man to be the head of the—Secretary of Education, I wanted somebody who had been on the frontlines. Rod had been the superintendent of the Houston Independent School District, and I figured that's a pretty good definition of frontlines. [*Laughter*] And he had done a great job—Mr. Secretary, and I appreciate your concern and care.

I understand Colin Powell spoke here earlier. I'm—right after this brief speech, he and I have a meeting. He is doing a fabulous job for our country too. I'm proud to call him a member of our team.

I appreciate Michelle Engler and Hope Taft for being here. Thank you both for coming. I know you all are very much involved in your State of Michigan and Ohio for not only making sure every child can read but teaching children the difference between right and wrong.

I appreciate the Members of Congress who are here, Wamp, Lucas, Edwards,

McIntyre, and Moore. Thank you all for coming. My Congressman—as you know, I'm a voting resident of Crawford, Texas. My Congressman, Chet Edwards, is here. I appreciate you answering my mail, Mr. Congressman. [*Laughter*] I won't write you if you don't write me. [*Laughter*]

I believe that public schools are the most important institutions in democracy, and a good education is the birthright of every American child. Every public school must be the pathway to a better life. And because public schools are America's great hope, making them work for every child is our Nation's greatest duty.

We passed good education reform here in Washington, DC. This wasn't a Republican bill. It wasn't a Democrat bill. It was an American bill. It really was. We worked together to get a good piece of legislation out. Here are the principles. It says, every child can learn. In other words, we believe in high standards. I'm one of these fellows that believes if you lower the bar, you get lousy results. If you believe in the best and raise the bar, you can get high standards.

It also says that if you receive money from the Federal Government, you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. For the first time, the Federal Government is asking the question, is every child learning? I don't mean a few children. I don't mean a group of children. I mean, is every child learning to read and write and add and subtract? And if we aren't, we must correct problems early, before it's too late.

In other words, we've had high standards. We demand excellence. We're willing to challenge failure to make sure that not one single child is left behind. And I firmly believe the reforms we put in place, when fully enacted, will make sure that no child is left behind in America.

It is more than—we've got to do more than just teach our children skills and knowledge. That's one part of education, and it's an important part—no question about it. We also want to make sure they're kind and decent, compassionate and responsible, honest and self-disciplined. Our children must learn to make a living, but even more, they must learn how to live. And that's a big responsibility.

But I love what Martin Luther King, Jr., said about this. He said, "Intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." And I want to thank you for joining that true goal of education.

Americans believe in character education because we want more for our children than apathy or cynicism. We've got higher aspirations for every child in America. We want them to understand the difference between right and wrong. We want them to live lives of integrity and idealism. Family is the first place where these values are learned. Our parents expect schools to be allies in the moral education of our children. That's what they expect, and that's what we must give them.

The lessons of the home must be reinforced by high standards in our schools. Schools should be safe and orderly. They should be decent and drug-free, and they should teach character by expecting character. They should be places where rules are set and, as importantly, where rules are enforced. And schools should also teach the basics of character to children. This is why we tripled the funding for character education in the budget I submitted to Congress.

Now, I know there's a debate about values and character. I've heard it before. As you might remember, I was the Governor of a great State at one time. I've heard every excuse why we shouldn't teach character. It always starts with religion, as to why we shouldn't teach character. Well look, we should never promote a particular religion—I agree. That's not the—that's not the reason to have character education. But we've got to recognize in our society that strong values are shared by good people of different faiths and good people who have no faith at all. These are universal values, values we share in all our diversity: Respect, tolerance, responsibility, honesty, self-restraint, family commitment, civic duty, fairness, and compassion. These are the moral landmarks that guide a successful life. And we should teach them with confidence, and we should teach them with conviction.

There are many good programs around the country that show how values can be taught in a diverse nation. I want to thank you for

sharing your wisdom on those programs. As a matter of fact, one of the useful functions of the Department of Education is to serve as a clearinghouse for good ideas, as a place where people can come and ask the question, "What works? What can I do to make a difference in somebody's lives?"

There are schools in our country where children take pledges each morning to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn—it's an interesting idea—where virtues are taught by studying the great historical figures and characters in literature and where consideration is encouraged and good manners are expected.

I think it's safe to say we're making progress in America. We're not ashamed to teach values. We recognize the importance of character. And I want to thank you all for joining here to figure out how we can do more and how we can make a continued difference in the lives of our children.

One goal of character education should be to prepare our children for community service. This conference, I understand, is focusing on community service for a good reason, helping somebody else gives purpose and meaning in life. I think it's particularly important in a day and age where some question the value system of America that we teach people to serve a neighbor—people to love a neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

There's a question in our society as to whether or not we're so self-absorbed and materialistic that we won't fulfill our obligations as a nation. That's not the America I know, and the America I believe exists. I've seen an amazing America since September the 11th, people who recognize that serving something greater than yourself in life is an incredibly important part of life; that while, you know, focus on the stock market is, I guess, okay, but there's something more in life than just profit and loss; that somebody can profit in life by caring for a neighbor. I like to tell people, if you're interested in helping to define America, to show a side of America the world may not see, do some good, help somebody in need. And that needs to be taught to our children early in life.

I gave a speech at the Ohio State University—thank you for inviting me, Hope. And I was pleased to see that 70 percent of the graduating class of Ohio State University had at one time or another volunteered, one time or another served something greater than themselves. Perhaps the culture is changing from one that has said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you’ve got a problem, blame somebody else,” to a culture in which each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life—responsible for loving our children, responsible for loving our neighbors, responsible for serving a nation by helping somebody in need.

The poet William Wordsworth wrote this. He said, “What we have loved, others will love, and we’ll teach them how.” And that’s what you all are here to discuss today. On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for teaching them how.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michelle Engler, wife of Gov. John Engler of Michigan; and Hope Taft, wife of Gov. Bob Taft of Ohio.

Statement on the Death of Jack Buck *June 19, 2002*

I am deeply saddened by the death of Jack Buck. Jack endeared himself to sports fans throughout the country with his colorful commentary and love of America’s pastime. An honoree of the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Pro Football Hall of Fame, and Radio Hall of Fame, Jack covered sports in St. Louis, Missouri, and across the Nation for the last 50 years. I extend my deepest sympathies to his family. He will be missed.

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth *June 19, 2002*

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

June 19 provides an opportunity for all Americans to reflect on the ideal of freedom

and to learn more about the end of slavery. On that day in 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston, Texas, with news the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. The joyous, but belated, announcement came two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation declaring “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

The celebration of Juneteenth has its roots in Texas, but the holiday is now observed in many parts of the country with picnics, family gatherings, parades, and community programs. The day is a fitting time to celebrate freedom from slavery and for all Americans to reflect on the rich contributions of African Americans to our Nation.

As we celebrate Juneteenth on June 19, I encourage all Americans to reaffirm their commitment to achieving equal justice and opportunity for all citizens. Laura joins me in sending best wishes on this special occasion.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the President’s Dinner *June 19, 2002*

Thank you all for that warm welcome, and thank you for coming tonight. We’re here for the same reason. We want Denny Hastert to remain the Speaker of the House and Trent Lott to become the majority leader of the Senate. And I want to thank you for helping us achieve those two important goals. And I say they’re important because I believe that when we achieve those goals, we can do a lot for the American people.

I want to thank John Boehner for taking the lead role on this successful dinner. I want to thank George Allen from Virginia, the Senator from Virginia, for participating and helping. I want to thank Bill Frist and Tom Davis—Bill Frist of the Senate and Tom Davis of the House—for leading their respective committees to get these Members elected. I want to thank Richard Burr of North Carolina for his help and leadership. Mr. Bob Ingram, thank you for your help.

All the folks here, I appreciate your willingness to work hard to make this dinner a successful event. I appreciate Steve Wariner for his beautiful rendition of the National Anthem. And I want to thank my friends Amy Grant and Vince Gill for being here as well. Thank you all for coming.

Most of all, I'm pleased that the First Lady came. She's done a heck of a job as First Lady for the United States of America. She has kept me in line. [*Laughter*] I appreciate her passion for the children of this country, her desire to help everybody learn to read, her calm, her steady hand, and her unabiding love. Thank you for coming.

I promised the American people that I'd do my best to change the tone in Washington, DC, to elevate the discourse, to bring people together to achieve big goals for our country. And I believe, thanks to many Members of the United States Senate who are here and many Members of the United States House of Representatives who are here, we're making great progress toward that goal.

My deep desire for the American people is to provide security for our Americans. It starts, of course, with homeland security and the defense of our country. But before I talk about that, I want to talk about the security of a good America as well. That means job security.

I know here in this town people like to look at numbers all the time. And they analyze the status of America based upon this statistic or that statistic. My attitude is this: If somebody is looking for work and they can't find work, we've got a problem. I believe, if there's somebody who's willing to find a job and there's not a job, all of us in Washington, DC, must do everything in our power to increase the job base in America. And thanks to members in this audience, we started by cutting the taxes on the American people.

There was an interesting vote the other day on the floor of the Senate. You see, earlier this year, both Houses sent a tax relief bill to my desk that not only reduced the rates on the working people and did something about the marriage penalty, it repealed the death tax, because, you see, we think the death tax is unfair to American entre-

preneurs. It's unfair to American farmers and American ranchers. And because of a quirk in the law, this death tax repeal doesn't stay repealed. It's kind of hard to explain that to the fellows in Crawford, Texas, who own their farms. But nevertheless, it doesn't stay repealed. And yet the Senate, thanks to the leadership of Trent Lott, brought a vote up. Our side was firmly—firmly—I mean firmly, for the permanent repeal of the death tax. Their side wasn't. The question is, who stands on the side of the people? We do.

Part of economic security is to make sure everybody gets a good education in America. I appreciate Senator—Congressman John Boehner's leadership as chairman of the Education Committee and want you to know that by working together, we passed an education bill that sets high standards for every child in America. You see, we believe that if you lower the bar, you get low standards and bad results. We believe every child can learn. But we, for the first time, said that if you receive Federal money, if you take taxpayers' money, you must show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And if they are, we will praise you, but if not, you better change on behalf of the American people.

We've done some good in one House. We're stalled in another House on some important legislation to enhance the economic security of the American people. We need a—actually, I take that back. Both Houses acted to pass terrorism insurance. Mr. Leader Lott, I want to thank you for your leadership on that issue.

It's important that we encourage construction around America, to encourage the creation of more jobs through construction by having terrorism insurance—by the way, a bill that does not encourage frivolous and junk lawsuits that impede economic progress and hurt jobs in America.

I appreciate so very much the work on an energy bill. Listen, this country needs an energy bill. We need to do a better job of conserving, no question about it. We need to enhance renewables. But we need to reduce supply from countries that don't like us. It is not in our national security to be importing oil from countries around the world.

Part of making sure that we've got economic security in America is to make sure that when we reauthorize the welfare reform package, that we encourage people to work. You see, if you have low expectations, you say it's okay not to work. We're the people who have high expectations for every American, regardless of where they're from in America. And we understand that with a job, you get dignity. We must make sure we insist upon work as the cornerstone for any welfare reform package.

No, there's a lot to do. And there's going to be a lot to do next year as well. And one of the reasons we need to make sure Leader Lott heads the United States Senate is so that the nominees—the good nominees, the qualified nominees I send up for the judiciary all across America gets a fair hearing, a vote, and confirmation.

And finally, to make sure we've got good economic security for everybody in America, we've got to make sure Congress holds the line on spending. I know there's going to be some tough choices on these appropriations bills, but I want to make sure that everybody understands with clarity that the budget the House passed is the limit on spending for the United States Congress.

I appreciate the Members being here to work on the security of our Nation by enhancing job security, by doing everything we can to grow the job base. You see, we understand the role of Government isn't to create wealth. That's what we understand. We understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which the small business can flourish, in which the entrepreneur can do well, in which people who want to work for the American Dream can realize that dream. And thanks to the Members here, Members in this audience, we've done a pretty darn good job of enhancing the environment for economic vitality all across America.

And we've got to do a good job of protecting our homeland. Every morning, I go to the Oval Office—that is, after I get Laura her coffee—[laughter]—Equal and milk, I want you to know. [Laughter] I don't mean to be putting any pressure on you boys out there, but—[laughter]—it's a good habit to get into. [Laughter] And I go to the Oval

Office with Spot the dog. Barney doesn't get to go. He's only a year and a half, and Laura did design a new rug for the Oval Office. [Laughter]

The first thing I do when I sit at this fantastic desk in this beautiful office—and I mean it's beautiful; it's a great shrine to democracy—is read a threat assessment. It makes me realize that the enemy is still interested in hurting America. My most important job is to protect the security of America, to do everything in our power to make sure the enemy doesn't hit us again.

And we're making progress; we're making progress. We've got the FBI and the CIA talking like they've never talked before. And that's important, and that's important. It's important because we fight a shadowy enemy. We fight people who send youngsters to death, and they try to hide in a cave and kind of slink around, trying to hurt people who love freedom. And so, therefore, it's important for us to do the very best job we can to collect intelligence abroad and share it with our domestic agencies. The FBI is changing its culture. It's still—by the way, you need to know, it's still going to go after crooks and criminals and mobsters. But its most important job now is to protect our homeland, is to chase down any lead, follow any hint, to do everything in our power to make sure we protect innocent lives here in America.

You're probably wondering why I asked the Congress to make a very difficult decision to join me with restructuring the homeland defense. I didn't run—remember, I didn't say, "Elect me. I'm going to do everything I can to make Government bigger." And so, therefore, the idea of creating a new Cabinet department probably sent some puzzling signals.

I also, however, believe in accountability and results. I didn't think you sent me up here just to talk. I thought you sent me up here to get things done on behalf of the American people. And so, therefore—so therefore, I'm asking Congress to reorganize all the agencies involved—or most of the agencies involved in the defense of our homeland into one single agency. There are over 100 different agencies that have something to do with the homeland, and they're

scattered everywhere, which makes it awfully hard to align authority and responsibility. It makes it hard to say with certainty we're going to get the results the American people expect.

And I'd like to cite two examples of how the signals can get mixed. One, the Coast Guard—the Coast Guard does an incredible job for America, by the way—one of their most important functions is to protect our borders. If the defense of our homeland is the number one priority, then the Coast Guard ought to be a part of that priority, since they can do a good job of preventing things from coming into our country that we don't want to come in. And yet the Coast Guard is a part of the Transportation Department, and the Transportation Department's primary function is not the defense of the homeland. Or take the Customs, the Customs people—they're important. If we change their priority to defending the homeland, which we're going to do, you wonder out loud why they're a part of the Treasury. The Treasury's primary function is not the protection of the homeland.

For the good of the security of America, I urge the Members of Congress to think what's best for the country, not what's best for their particular committee, and allow us to reorganize a singular function, all aimed at protecting the American people from attack.

And I appreciate so very much the cooperation we've received, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Members on some of the difficult problems that exist to get this job done. But you also need to know that the best way to protect the homeland, the best way to secure America from further attack, is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do.

I sent a significant increase in the defense budget up to the Hill for a reason, and I appreciate the Members here, because I know they agree with what I'm about to say. First, any time we commit one of our troops into harm's way, that person deserves the best pay, the best training, the best possible equipment. And secondly, the size of the increase indicates that we're—America is in this fight for the long haul. There is—none

of us have one of those desk calendars, and pop the date, and all of a sudden it says, you've got to quit. That's not what it says. As a matter of fact, if there was anything it said on my desk calendar, it would say, stay at it, Mr. President. Freedom needs America.

The enemy hopes we quit. They must have thought we were so soft and so materialistic and so self-absorbed that after September the 11th, all we would do is call our favorite plaintiff's attorney and file a few lawsuits. [Laughter] They didn't understand what America is all about. They didn't understand, when somebody tries to take away our freedom, we respond. They don't understand that we love our values. They can't understand that we love freedom of religion. We value the fact that people can worship freely in America or speak their mind or write any kind of editorial they want. And when it comes to somebody messing with America, trying to threaten us and threaten our freedoms, we will respond. And we will respond for however long it takes, because we love freedom in this country.

I fully recognize the task is not going to be easy. It's going to require a lot of patience and discipline on behalf of the American people. The task is difficult now, because we're hunting people down one by one. It's difficult when you think about some of the true threats that really face our country. Imagine the scenario when a regime which hates freedom, a regime which has in the past poisoned her own people, and a regime that's attempting to develop weapons of mass destruction, teams up with one of these shadowy terrorist networks. Then all of a sudden, there's the possibility of blackmail, international blackmail, holding freedom-loving nations hostage. For the good of our country, for the sake of our future, we cannot allow the world's worst regimes to develop and hold us hostage with the world's worst weapons.

And we're making progress. We routed this Taliban, which should allow you to say to your children, "America—we don't go into countries to conquer. We go in to liberate." It's a proud moment for the history of our country when we liberated the country of Afghanistan and allowed young girls to go to school for the first time in their lives.

We've assembled this vast coalition to cut off their money. We've arrested, detained, hauled in, however you want to put it, over 2,400 of these killers. We're making progress. We're making progress. But there's a lot more. And they just need to know, loud and clear from the President of the United States, we got you on the run, and we're going to keep you on the run until we get you and bring you in.

I believe—I believe that out of the evil done to America can come incredible good. I truly believe that. I believe that if we remain steadfast and strong and resolute, we can achieve peace in the world.

I know sometimes my rhetoric gets a little west Texan. Laura reminds me, I've got to tone her down at times. *[Laughter]* But you need to know my drive is for peace. I love peace. I want our children and your grandchildren to grow up not only in a peaceful America but peace all around the world, peace in the Middle East and peace in South Asia. And I believe this great country, if we're steadfast and strong, if we stand to our principles and stick to our guns, that we can help achieve peace.

And I believe at home—I believe at home America can not only be safer, but it can be a better place. I say that with confidence because I've got a good feel about the American people. I understand the great heart and compassion of the American people. You see, in our land of plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people in this great country addicted to drugs and alcohol. There are young children who can't read, people wondering what this American Dream business is all about. And so long as there's pockets of hopelessness and despair, all of us have an obligation to do something about it.

And I believe out of the evil can come incredible good, because I have seen a spirit arise in this country, where people now understand that they've got to serve something greater than yourself. And that means loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

It's my honor to travel this country and see hundreds and thousands of our fellow citizens and see them respond when I remind them if they're interested in fighting evil, if

you want to fight evil in America, you can do so by doing some good. You can do so by simple acts of kindness and decency. You can do so by mentoring a child or helping a shut-in. You can do so by going to your church or mosque or synagogue and organizing a group of people to take care of the homeless.

It's this millions of acts of kindness all across our country that take place on a daily basis that truly define the great character and strength of America and the American people. No, I believe—I believe out of the evil done to America on September the 11th will come not only a peaceful world, but I believe that this great Nation can work miracles through love and compassion in places where there is despair and hopelessness. And I want you all to join in that. I really do. I'd like you to go home to your communities and redouble your efforts to help somebody in need, to redouble your efforts to make a gesture of kindness and compassion. Tell your children you love them on a daily basis.

See, what's happening in America is, the culture is slowly but surely beginning to shift away from, "If it feels good, do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which we all understand we're responsible for the decisions we make. If you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children. If you're a proud American, you're responsible for helping a neighbor in need. If you run a corporation in America, you're responsible for being honest on your balance sheet with all your assets and liabilities.

But most of all, in order to be a patriot in this country, it is important to serve something greater than yourself. And it's happening. And it's happening because I'm fortunate enough to be the President of the greatest Nation—I mean the greatest Nation—on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:16 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Robert A. Ingram, chief operating officer and president of pharmaceutical operations, GlaxoSmithKline; and country music artists Steve Wariner, Amy Grant, and Vince Gill.

Executive Order 13265—President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

June 6, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to expand the executive branch’s program for physical fitness and sports and establish the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (the “Council”), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) shall, in carrying out his responsibilities for public health and human services, develop and coordinate a national program to enhance physical activity and sports participation. Through this program, the Secretary shall seek to:

- (a) expand national interest in and awareness of the benefits of regular physical activity and active sports participation;
- (b) stimulate and enhance coordination of programs within and among the private and public sectors that promote participation in, and safe and easy access to, physical activity and sports;
- (c) expand availability of quality information and guidance regarding physical activity and sports participation;
- (d) integrate physical activity into a broader health-promotion and disease-prevention effort through Federal agencies and the private sector; and
- (e) target all Americans, with particular emphasis on children and adolescents, as well as populations or communities in which specific risks or disparities in participation in, access to, or knowledge about the benefits of physical activity have been identified.

Sec. 2. The President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

(a) There is hereby established the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports.

(b) The Council shall be composed of up to 20 members appointed by the President. The President may designate one or more

members to be Chair or Vice Chair. Each member shall serve for a term of 2 years and may continue to serve after the expiration of that term until a successor is appointed.

Sec. 3. Functions of the Council.

(a) The Council shall advise the President, through the Secretary, concerning progress made in carrying out the provisions of this order and shall recommend to the President, through the Secretary, actions to accelerate progress.

(b) The Council shall advise the Secretary on ways to enhance opportunities for participation in physical fitness and sports. Recommendations may address, but are not necessarily limited to, public awareness campaigns, Federal, State, and local physical activity initiatives, and partnership opportunities between public- and private-sector health-promotion entities.

(c) The Council shall function as a liaison to relevant State, local, and private entities in order to advise the Secretary regarding opportunities to extend and improve physical activity programs and services at both the local and national levels.

(d) The Council shall monitor the need for the enhancement of programs and educational and promotional materials sponsored, overseen, or disseminated by the Council, and shall advise the Secretary as necessary concerning such need.

Sec. 4. Administration.

(a) Each Federal agency shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to available funds, furnish such information and assistance to the Secretary and the Council as they may request.

(b) The members of the Council shall serve without compensation for their work on the Council. Members of the Council may, however, receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707).

(c) To the extent permitted by law, the Secretary shall furnish the Council with necessary staff, supplies, facilities, and other administrative services. The expenses of the Council shall be paid from funds available to the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall appoint an Executive Director of the Council who shall serve as a liaison to the Secretary and the White House on matters and activities pertaining to the Council.

(e) The Council may establish subcommittees as appropriate to aid in its work. Such subcommittees shall meet on a voluntary basis and be defined by objectives established in coordination with and agreed upon by the Secretary and the President.

(f) The seal prescribed by Executive Order 10830 of July 24, 1959, as amended, shall be the seal of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports established by this order.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.) (Act), may apply to the Administration of any portion of this order, any functions of the President under the Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary in accordance with the guidelines and procedures issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) In accordance with the Act, the Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order, unless extended by the President.

(c) Executive Order 12345 of February 2, 1982, as amended, is revoked.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 6, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 10, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on June 11.

**Remarks at the White House
Fitness Expo**

June 20, 2002

Please be seated—except for those of you behind me. [Laughter] Welcome to the White House, and thanks for joining us as we launch a new national initiative designed to help the American people live longer, live healthier, and live better lives.

Better health is an individual responsibility, and it is an important national goal. We're making great progress in preventing and detecting and treating many chronic diseases, and that's good for America. We're doing a better job with heart disease and cancer and diabetes. We're living longer than any generation in history. Yet we can still improve, and we can do more. And it's not all that difficult to do. When it comes to your health, even little steps can make a big difference.

I really appreciate the First Lady for joining us. She is—she's a regular exerciser. I appreciate Tommy Thompson, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for being here. Tommy told me the other day, even at his advanced age he's thinking about running a marathon. [Laughter] I appreciate very much Gale Norton, who's the Secretary of the Interior, for being here as well, Gale. Thank you both for coming.

I want to thank all the athletes who are here, and physical fitness experts and Olympians and Paralympians and President's Council on Physical Fitness are joining us today. I'm honored you're here.

This is an important message that we're sending to America. When America and Americans are healthier, our whole society benefits. And that's important to know. If you're interested in improving America, you can do so by taking care of your own body.

This year, heart disease will cost our country at least \$183 billion. If just 10 percent of adults began walking regularly, we could save billions in dollars in costs related to heart disease. Research suggests that we can reduce cancer deaths in America by one-third simply by changing our diets and getting more exercise. The evidence is clear: A healthier America is a stronger America.

And today I'm taking two actions to put a new emphasis on health and fitness in America. First, I'm appointing the men and women you see behind me to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. These are professional athletes, trainers, U.S. Olympians, executives from the public and private sector, and physicians. Lynn Swann, a friend and a football legend—not necessarily a friend to Cowboy fans, I might

add—[laughter]—will be the Chairman of this Council. I named him Chairman because, after a discussion with him and with his friends, he is committed to using the platform that he now has to make America a healthier place by encouraging individual responsibility. I appreciate so very much his Vice Chairman, Dot Richardson, an Olympic gold medalist in softball and an orthopedic surgeon, for joining us as well.

These fine Americans will serve as role models and will join me in working with Americans to encourage exercise and healthy choices in life. Together, we're going to educate our country. We can do so by adopting four guideposts in a new initiative called Healthier US. First, Americans should be physically active every day. Second, develop good eating habits. Third, take advantage of preventative screenings. And fourth, don't smoke, don't do drugs, and don't drink excessively. These four simple measures will help our country a lot, by helping our fellow Americans a lot.

First, let me talk about physical fitness. People ought to work out every day, one way or another. A report released today by the Department of Health and Human Services confirms that virtually all individuals can benefit from regular physical activity. Yet more than a third of our children, 9th through 12th grades, failed to exercise at least 20 minutes a day, 3 times a week. More than a third of our children don't get an hour's worth of exercise a week. Secondly, 60 percent of American adults do not get enough exercise to improve their health.

With this initiative, we propose simple solutions. How about just walking 30 minutes a day? That's pretty simple. It's easy to do. It will make you feel a lot better, by the way. How about parents just playing a game with children in their backyard for 30 minutes or an hour? It would be good for the child; it would be good for the parent; and it's good for the family.

Regular hiking through a park can add years to a person's life. To honor that commitment, I want to thank Secretary Norton for waiving all entrance fees this weekend to national parks and Federal lands. If you're interested in doing something about your

health, go to one of our parks and take a hike. [Laughter]

Second, eat a nutritious diet. That means at least five fruits or vegetables a day. I've got a little work in my family. We've been working on the old—well, been working on "Number 41" to eat broccoli for all these years. [Laughter] But it's good advice. If you're interested in your health, cut out fatty foods; watch what you're eating. And by the way, when you eat better food, it will give you more energy for your 30-minute walk.

Third, get preventative screenings. These are simple tests that can save your life. Screenings available through your doctor may tell you if you're prone to developing certain diseases, such as diabetes or cancer or heart disease. By acting on information, you can help prevent a potentially life-threatening illness.

And fourth, cut out tobacco, drugs, and excessive drinking. Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in America. Drug and alcohol abuse destroys our families and lives and hopes of our fellow Americans. Our message is clear: Avoiding tobacco, drugs, and excessive alcohol can save your life.

This initiative is part of this administration's ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the benefits of exercise and healthy choices. Exercise is a part of my daily life. It kind of helps me deal with the stress a little better. After I get a good run in, I even like the press corps a lot better. [Laughter] I don't know if they like me a lot better after my run. But I value exercise. It's an important part of a balanced life.

I've urged the folks at work inside the White House to exercise on a daily basis. As an employer, I insist that they take time off, out of their daily grind, to get some exercise. I found them to be better able to communicate and happier on their job when they take some time, and it doesn't matter to me when they do it. They can do it any time of the day, so long as they get it done.

Today I'm going to sign an Executive order directing Federal agencies to work together to develop new policies to promote fitness. And at the White House, Federal agencies and businesses and professional sport leagues

have set up activities, as you can see, to educate people about better eating, preventative screenings, and the danger of substance abuse.

On Saturday, members of my staff will join the First Lady and me in a fitness challenge to serve as an example to get people running and exercising and walking. And throughout this year and so long as we're here in Washington, we will do everything we can, as we travel around the country, to demonstrate ways to help keep America fit.

It is important for all of us to be responsible for the decisions we make in life. It's important for us to be responsible for taking care of our own health. And as we do so, not only will we each have a more fulfilling life, collectively we'll make a great contribution to the country we love.

I want to thank you for coming. I want to thank you for your commitment to making America the greatest place it can possibly be. Take a small step for America by exercising on a daily basis.

God bless you all, and God bless the country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Exchange With Reporters at the White House Fitness Expo

June 20, 2002

President's Workout

Q. Have you worked out today, sir?

The President. This afternoon. As you know, I'm giving a speech tonight, the Sullivan speech. So after working all day long, before the speech, I'll work out. I'm going to lift weights. I'm going to do a little elliptical training. I'm going to do some physical fitness stuff—not an outdoor run today.

Upcoming Speech on the Middle East

Q. How's the other speech coming?

The President. The speech I'm giving tonight?

Q. No, the other one.

The President. I'll give it at the appropriate time. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:33 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Executive Order 13266—Activities To Promote Personal Fitness

June 20, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to improve the efficiency and coordination of Federal policies related to personal fitness of the general public, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. This order is issued consistent with the following findings and principles:

- (a) Growing scientific evidence indicates that an increasing number of Americans are suffering from negligible physical activity, poor dietary habits, insufficient utilization of preventive health screenings, and engaging in risky behaviors such as abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs.
- (b) Existing information on the importance of appropriate physical activity, diet, preventive health screenings, and avoiding harmful substances is often not received by the public, or, if received, is not acted on sufficiently.
- (c) Individuals of all ages, locations, and levels of personal fitness can benefit from some level of appropriate physical activity, dietary guidance, preventive health screening, and making healthy choices.
- (d) While personal fitness is an individual responsibility, the Federal Government may, within the authority and funds otherwise available, expand the opportunities for individuals to empower themselves to improve their general health. Such opportunities may include improving the flow of information about personal fitness, assisting in the utilization of that information, increasing the accessibility of

resources for physical activity, and reducing barriers to achieving good personal fitness.

Sec. 2. Agency Responsibilities in Promoting Personal Fitness.

- (a) The Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs, and the Director of the Office of National Drug Policy shall review and evaluate the policies, programs, and regulations of their respective departments and offices that in any way relate to the personal fitness of the general public. Based on that review, the Secretaries and the Director shall determine whether existing policies, programs, and regulations of their respective departments and offices should be modified or whether new policies or programs could be implemented. These new policies and programs shall be consistent with otherwise available authority and appropriated funds, and shall improve the Federal Government's assistance of individuals, private organizations, and State and local governments to (i) increase physical activity; (ii) promote responsible dietary habits; (iii) increase utilization of preventive health screenings; and (iv) encourage healthy choices concerning alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and safety among the general public.
- (b) Each department and office included in section 2(a) shall report to the President, through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, its proposed actions within 90 days of the date of this order.
- (c) There shall be a Personal Fitness Interagency Working Group (Working Group), composed of the Secretaries or Director of the departments and office included in section 2(a) (or their designees) and chaired by the Secretary of HHS or his designee. In order to improve efficiency through information sharing and to eliminate waste and overlap, the Working

Group shall work to ensure the cooperation of Federal agencies in coordinating Federal personal fitness activities. The Working Group shall meet subject to the call of the Chair, but not less than twice a year. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide such administrative support to the Working Group as the Secretary of HHS deems necessary. Each member of the Working Group shall be a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to, and does not, create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies or entities, its officers or employees, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 21, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Statement on World Refugee Day
June 20, 2002

On World Refugee Day, I commend the determination and bravery of refugees fleeing tyranny in many parts of the world. This year's celebration focuses upon refugee women. They deserve our special admiration for overcoming the daunting challenges they face every day. Today is also a time to be reminded of the terrible circumstances that drive people from their homelands in search of freedom and safety. America will always stand firm for the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity and the rule of law.

As a country that has seen so many refugees contribute so much to our society, this day has special meaning for Americans. I am proud that we are the largest donor to the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the world's leader in accepting refugees for resettlement. Today I reaffirm our commitment to protect and assist refugees, promote their right to seek asylum, and provide opportunities for their resettlement, as needed.

This year in Afghanistan, over a million Afghan refugees are returning home to restart their lives in a country free of Taliban oppression. Americans are proud of our contribution to this progress and will continue to assist in these efforts.

This day we also recognize UNHCR and private voluntary organizations for their courage and tireless work under often extraordinarily difficult conditions. Their efforts bring hope to millions of refugees worldwide.

**Executive Order 13267—
Establishing a Transition Planning
Office for the Department of
Homeland Security Within the Office
of Management and Budget**

June 20, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. I hereby establish within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a Transition Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security (the "Transition Planning Office"), to be headed by the Director of the Transition Planning Office for the Department of Homeland Security (the "Director for Transition Planning").

Sec. 2. Missions. The missions of the Transition Planning Office shall be to:

(a) coordinate, guide, and conduct transition and related planning throughout the executive branch of the United States Government in preparation for establishment of the proposed Department of Homeland Security; and

(b) consistent with Presidential guidance, work with the Congress as it considers legislation to establish that Department.

Sec. 3. Administration. (a) The Director of OMB shall ensure that the Transition Planning Office receives appropriate personnel (including detailees and assignees, as appropriate), funding, and administrative support for the Office, subject to the availability of appropriations. The Director of OMB is authorized to make expenditures under section 522 of title 31, United States Code, as may be appropriate to carry out this order.

(b) If an individual who is an Assistant to the President is appointed to serve simultaneously as Director for Transition Planning, the functioning, personnel, funds, records, and property of the office of the Assistant to the President and the office of the Director for Transition Planning shall be kept separate in the same manner as if the two offices were headed by two different individuals.

Sec. 4. Other Departments and Agencies. This order does not alter the existing authorities of United States Government departments and agencies. In carrying out the missions set forth in section 2 of this order, all executive departments and agencies are directed to assist the Director for Transition Planning and the Transition Planning Office to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 5. Termination. The Transition Planning Office, and all the authorities of this order, shall terminate within 90 days after the date on which legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security is enacted, or within 1 year of the date of this order, whichever occurs first.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 21, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions

June 20, 2002

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Strategic Offensive Reductions, signed at Moscow on May 24, 2002 (the “Moscow Treaty”).

The Moscow Treaty represents an important element of the new strategic relationship between the United States and Russia. It will take our two nations along a stable, predictable path to substantial reductions in our deployed strategic nuclear warhead arsenals by December 31, 2012. When these reductions are completed, each country will be at the lowest level of deployed strategic nuclear warheads in decades. This will benefit the peoples of both the United States and Russia and contribute to a more secure world.

The Moscow Treaty codifies my determination to break through the long impasse in further nuclear weapons reductions caused by the inability to finalize agreements through traditional arms control efforts. In the decade following the collapse of the Soviet Union, both countries’ strategic nuclear arsenals remained far larger than needed, even as the United States and Russia moved toward a more cooperative relationship. On May 1, 2001, I called for a new framework for our strategic relationship with Russia, including further cuts in nuclear weapons to reflect the reality that the Cold War is over. On November 13, 2001, I announced the United States plan for such cuts—to reduce our operationally deployed strategic nuclear warheads to a level of between 1700 and 2200 over the next decade. I announced these planned reductions following a careful study within the Department of Defense. That study, the Nuclear Posture Review, concluded that these force levels were sufficient to maintain the security of the United States. In reaching this decision, I recognized that it would be preferable for the United States to make such reductions on a recip-

rocal basis with Russia, but that the United States would be prepared to proceed unilaterally.

My Russian counterpart, President Putin, responded immediately and made clear that he shared these goals. President Putin and I agreed that our nations’ respective reductions should be recorded in a legally binding document that would outlast both of our presidencies and provide predictability over the longer term. The result is a Treaty that was agreed without protracted negotiations. This Treaty fully meets the goals I set out for these reductions.

It is important for there to be sufficient openness so that the United States and Russia can each be confident that the other is fulfilling its reductions commitment. The Parties will use the comprehensive verification regime of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (the “START Treaty”) to provide the foundation for confidence, transparency, and predictability in further strategic offensive reductions. In our Joint Declaration on the New Strategic Relationship between the United States and Russia, President Putin and I also decided to establish a Consultative Group for Strategic Security to be chaired by Foreign and Defense Ministers. This body will be the principal mechanism through which the United States and Russia strengthen mutual confidence, expand transparency, share information and plans, and discuss strategic issues of mutual interest.

The Moscow Treaty is emblematic of our new, cooperative relationship with Russia, but it is neither the primary basis for this relationship nor its main component. The United States and Russia are partners in dealing with the threat of terrorism and resolving regional conflicts. There is growing economic interaction between the business communities of our two countries and ever-increasing people-to-people and cultural contacts and exchanges. The U.S. military has put Cold War practices behind it, and now plans, sizes, and sustains its forces in recognition that Russia is not an enemy, Russia is a friend. Military-to-military and intelligence exchanges are well established and growing.

The Moscow Treaty reflects this new relationship with Russia. Under it, each Party retains the flexibility to determine for itself the composition and structure of its strategic offensive arms, and how reductions are made. This flexibility allows each Party to determine how best to respond to future security challenges.

There is no longer the need to narrowly regulate every step we each take, as did Cold War treaties founded on mutual suspicion and an adversarial relationship.

In sum, the Moscow Treaty is clearly in the best interests of the United States and represents an important contribution to U.S. national security and strategic stability. I therefore urge the Senate to give prompt and favorable consideration to the Treaty, and to advise and consent to its ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2002.

Remarks at the Leon H. Sullivan Summit Dinner

June 20, 2002

Well, thank you all very much. The kindest gift anyone can give a President and his family is prayer, and I appreciate the prayers.

I'm so honored to be with you all to pay tribute to an exceptional man and to further a great cause. Leon Sullivan understood an important principle: If we want to live in a world that is free, we must work for a world that is just. The free people of America have a duty to advance the cause of freedom in Africa. American interests and American morality lead in the same direction. We will work in partnership with African nations and leaders for an African continent that lives in liberty and grows in prosperity.

I want to thank Andrew Young for his service to our great country. I appreciate his friendship. I also want to welcome my friend the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the stage, and I want to congratulate him on receiving the prestigious Leon H. Sullivan Summit Award. You have picked a good man. I want to thank Jack Kemp for supporting this organization. I appreciate his—[*applause*].

It has been my honor tonight to meet the Sullivan family, headed by a fantastic lady, Grace Sullivan, who has raised beautiful children, people who are willing to follow the example of their dad. We were—Hope and I were talking about that we had a lot in common. You know, we both have got famous fathers and strong mothers. [*Laughter*] I appreciate very much Julie and Howard and meeting the grandkids. It's a thrill to be here. Your dad and your grandfather was a great American. That's the only way to call it.

I appreciate so very much members of my Cabinet and my inner circle being here, of course, the great Secretary of State, Colin Powell; Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill; the National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. I see the Deputy Director of HUD, my friend, Alphonso Jackson.

I also appreciate Members of Congress who are here tonight; members of the diplomatic corps. It's good to see the Ambassadors from the African nations, many of whom I've had a chance to spend some quality time with. It's great to see Coretta Scott King here as well.

Thank you all for coming and supporting this important dinner. Thank you for giving me the chance to talk about my administration's plans for the continent of Africa.

I'm really grateful, though, that the Secretary of State and Treasury are here. See, it was last May that Secretary Powell became the first member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. And this May, Secretary O'Neill was the latest member of my Cabinet to travel to Africa. He and Bono were quickly dubbed "The Odd Couple." [*Laughter*] But they soon found out that the rock star could hold his own in debates on real growth rates and that the Secretary of Treasury is second to none in compassion. I knew the trip had had an effect on our Secretary when he showed up in the Oval Office wearing blue sunglasses. [*Laughter*]

Here's what we believe. Africa is a continent where promise and progress are important, and we recognize they sit alongside disease, war, and desperate poverty, sometimes even in the same village. Africa is a place where a few nations are havens for terrorism and where many more—many

more—are reaching to claim their democratic future. Africa is a place of great beauty and resources and a place of great opportunity, so tonight I announce that in order to continue to build America's partnership with Africa, I'll be going to the continent next year.

Can I come to your place? I think the President has in mind a particular stop. [Laughter] Put me on the spot here, right with all these cameras. [Laughter]

I look forward to the trip. I really do. It's going to be a great trip, and I look forward to focusing on the challenges that we must face together.

Everyone in this room is joined by a common vision of an Africa where people are healthy and people are literate, a vision that builds prosperity through trade and markets, a vision free from the horrors of war and terror. America will not build this new Africa; Africans will. But we will stand with the African countries that are putting in place the policies for success through important new efforts such as the Millennium Challenge Fund. And we will take Africa's side in confronting the obstacles to hope and development on the African continent.

One of the greatest obstacles to Africa's development is HIV/AIDS, which clouds the future of entire nations. The world must do more to fight the spread of this disease and must do more to treat and care for those it afflicts. And this country will lead the effort.

My administration plans to dedicate an additional \$500 million to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. And as we do so, we will work to improve health care delivery in Africa and in the Caribbean. This will allow us to treat one million women annually and to reduce the mother-to-child transmission by 40 percent within 5 years or less in the countries we target.

Every year—it's important for my fellow Americans to understand this statistic—every year, approximately 2 million HIV-infected women give birth. More than one in three will pass the virus on to her baby, meaning that on the continent of Africa there are close to 2,000 more infected infants every day.

We will begin to save many of these young lives by focusing our efforts on countries where the problem is most severe and where

our help can have the greatest impact. We will pursue proven and effective medical strategies that we know will make a difference. And when the lives of babies and mothers are at stake, the only measure of compassion is real results.

In places with stronger health care systems, we'll provide voluntary testing, prevention, counseling, and a comprehensive therapy that we know is highly effective in reducing virus transmission from mother to child. We know it works. In places with weaker health care systems, we'll provide testing and counseling and support one-time treatment programs that reduce the chances of infection by nearly 50 percent.

Most importantly, we will make a major commitment to improve health care delivery systems in these countries. We will pair hospitals in Africa with hospitals in America. We will deploy volunteer medical professionals to assist and train their African counterparts, and we will recruit and pay African medical and graduate students to provide testing and treatment and care. As health care delivery systems improve in these nations, even more progress will be possible. And as we see what works, as we're confident that our money will be well spent and results will matter, we will make more funding available.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who have supported this initiative. I particularly want to thank Senators Helms and Frist and Congressman Jim Kolbe of Arizona. I'm also pleased that organizations exercising on—exercising leadership on this issue will join our efforts, particularly the Pediatric AIDS Foundation, headed by Elizabeth Glaser. And I will call upon other industrialized nations and international organizations to join as well, so that we can bring hope of life to hundreds of thousands of African children.

This \$500 million commitment is the largest initiative to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV by any government in history. It's important for you to know that this funding will complement the nearly \$1 billion we already contribute to international efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The money will complement the \$2.5 billion we plan to spend on research and development of new drugs and treatments, and it will complement

the \$500 million we've committed to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and other infectious disease.

Lack of education is the second great barrier to progress in Africa. Tonight I announce that my administration plans to double, to \$200 million over 5 years, the funding devoted to an initiative I put forward last year to improve basic education and teacher training in Africa.

Here's what we believe we can achieve. With that money we will train more than 420,000 teachers, provide more than 250,000 scholarships for African girls, and partner with historically Black colleges and universities in America to provide 4.5 million more textbooks for children in Africa. As we do so, we'll make sure the school system is more open and more transparent, so African moms and dads can demand needed reform.

Education is the foundation of development and democracy in every culture, on every continent. And we'll work to give Africa's children the advantages of literacy and learning so they can build Africa's future.

The third great obstacle to Africa's development is the trade barriers in rich nations and in Africa, itself, that impede the sale of Africa's products.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act is a tremendous success. My administration strongly supports efforts in Congress to enhance AGOA. And to encourage more U.S. companies to see Africa's opportunities firsthand, I propose holding the next AGOA Forum in Africa to coincide with my visit.

We will continue to explore a regional free trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union.

Africa also stands—also stands to gain even greater benefits from trade if and when we lower trade barriers worldwide. And so I'm committed to working in partnership with all the developing countries to make the global trade negotiations launched in Doha a success. And we look forward to advancing all of our development priorities with African countries at the upcoming World Summit in Johannesburg.

Expanding global trade in products and technologies and ideals is a defining characteristic of our age, capable of lifting whole nations out of the cycle of dependency and

want. In this country we will work to ensure that all Africa—all of Africa—is fully part of the world trading system and fully part of the progress of our times. It is important for my fellow citizens to know we will build trade with Africa because it is good for America's prosperity, trade is good for building prosperity in Africa, and it is good for building the momentum of economic and political liberty across that important continent.

And finally, for Africans to realize their dream of a more hopeful and prosperous future, Africa must be free from war and free from terror. Many African nations are making real contributions to the global war on terror, particularly my friend President Obasanjo. I can remember his phone call right after September the 11th, and Mr. President, I want to thank you for your condolences and your support.

I've asked Congress this year to provide an additional \$55 million in funds to help African nations on the frontlines of our mutual war to defend freedom.

The United States is committed to helping African nations put an end to regional wars that take tens of thousands of lives each year. We will help African nations organize and develop their ability to respond to crises in places such as Burundi. We'll work closely with responsible leaders and our allies in Europe to support regional peace initiatives in places such as the Congo.

And we will also continue our search for peace in Sudan. My policy towards Sudan seeks to end Sudan's sponsorship of terror and to promote human rights and the foundations of a just peace within Sudan, itself. My envoy for peace in Sudan, former Senator John Danforth, has made progress toward a ceasefire and improved delivery of humanitarian aid to such places as the Nuba Mountain region of Sudan.

Since September the 11th, there's no question the Government of Sudan has made some useful contributions in cracking down on terror, but Sudan can and must do more. And Sudan's Government must understand that ending its sponsorship of terror outside Sudan is no substitute for efforts to stop war inside Sudan. Sudan's Government cannot continue to talk peace but make war, must not continue to block and manipulate U.N.

food deliveries, and must not allow slavery to persist.

America stands united with responsible African governments across the continent—and we will not permit the forces of aggression and chaos to take away our common future. We jointly fight for our liberty. We chase down coldblooded killers one at a time, and we do so for the common good of all people.

Leon Sullivan wrote and spoke of a vibrant partnership between America and Africa that, in his words, would help mold Africa into a new greatness, glorious to see. Tonight his vision must be our mission. Together, we can chart a new course for America's partnership with Africa and bring life and hope and freedom to a continent that is meeting the challenges of a new century with courage and confidence.

May God bless the people of Africa, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:35 p.m. in the Marriott Ballroom at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew Young, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations; President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria; former Representative Jack Kemp; Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr.; and musician and activist Bono.

Exchange With Reporters in Orlando, Florida

June 21, 2002

FBI Alert on Fuel Tanker Trucks

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—*the threat warning that your administration has put out with regard to fuel tugs—tanks, rather, or trucks, what Americans need to be aware of?

The President. Well, any time we get any kind of threat that we think is serious, we'll put it out, and people need to respond accordingly.

Q. Nothing more specific on this threat?

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what is your current thinking on the Middle East? When can we expect to hear from you?

The President. My current thinking is, is that there are obviously some in the Middle

East who want to use violence to destroy any hopes for peace. And the world must do everything in its power to prevent the few from creating misery for the many.

I—and if you're talking about the speech, I'll give the speech when I'm ready to give the speech. [*Laughter*] But—wait a minute; let me finish—but I strongly condemn this series of attacks. I fully recognize that Israel's got the right to defend herself. And all parties who are interested in getting on the path to peace must do everything they can to reject this terror. It is outrageous, and it is—it's got to be stopped.

Q. Sir, do you agree with your wife that the building of an electronic fence by Israel is not particularly helpful to two states living side by side in peace?

The President. Israel has a right to protect herself.

Q. Including an electrical fence?

National Economy/Corporate Responsibility

Q. Mr. President, yesterday business executives who saw you said that you saw several things weighing down the market—the state of the economy, fears of terrorism, and a loss of confidence in corporate accounts.

The President. Yes.

Q. Do you think the market is just not going to bounce back until you address all three of those?

The President. I think we are addressing all three of those. And I think, obviously, corporate profits are important. People are going to make their decisions based upon their view of the future and the P/E ratios at the moment. Obviously, there is concern in our society about possible terrorist attacks. I think most people in America know we're doing everything we can to deal with it, particularly chasing these people down.

I don't know if you took note, but there was a significant event that took place in the Philippines. The head of the Abu Sayyaf is now dead. We want to congratulate Gloria Arroyo for being tough and firm and strong to help rid the world of this particular threat.

But I do think there is an overhang, over the market, of distrust. Listen, 95 percent or some percentage, a huge percentage of

the business community are honest and reveal all their assets and have got compensation programs that are balanced. But there are some bad apples. And—well, let me finish—and there are some bad apples. And the business world must clean up its act. I mean, people have got to have confidence as to whether or not the assets and liabilities are good numbers. They've got to have confidence that the leadership has got the shareholder and employee in mind when they make decisions.

And so I'm concerned about that, and I spoke very plainly about it. You've heard me, in many of my speeches, say in this era where we expect for there to be personal responsibility in America; we expect there to be corporate responsibility as well; that part of a responsible era is, those who run corporate America understand they have a responsibility.

And so I believe it's being addressed. I've got confidence in the future of the country. I've got confidence in our economy. I've got confidence we're doing everything we can to stop terror. And I've got confidence in the good faith of those who run corporate America.

Thank you.

[At this point, the President's tour of the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex continued.]

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, how do you feel about outpacing your predecessor when it comes to fundraising, which you're about to do?

The President. Got good candidates. Right here. One of the great candidates in the history of Florida.

Q. You're one of the best fundraisers, right?

The President. No, no. It's the candidates, Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News]. It's the candidates.

NOTE: The exchange began at 2:33 p.m. during the President's tour of the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex. In his remarks, the President referred to Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines. A tape was

not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex in Orlando

June 21, 2002

Thank you all very much. So here's what they say about Marks Street Senior Center: It's one of the most happening places in all of central Florida. [Laughter] I believe that. I've just come from a spinning class. [Laughter] I just came from a strong exercise class. Thankfully, I didn't have to join. [Laughter] I was most impressed by the spirit of the participants and the idea of encouraging exercise. That's what I'm here to talk about.

Before I do so, of course, I want to say how proud I am of my little brother—[laughter]—my big little brother. I love him a lot. I love him a lot. He's a great man. I'm glad to be with him here in Florida.

Today I came down with some distinguished citizens as well. I picked a man from central Florida, from Orlando, to be my Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and that's Mr. Mel Martinez. I appreciate you coming, Mel. Mel told me he volunteered here. He and his wife, Kitty, used to come by to help people here, and it was kind of old home week for him. But he's doing a fabulous job. And it's hard to take a young family out of such a beautiful part of the world and sacrifice and move to Washington. But Mel made that decision, and the country's better off for it.

I want to thank the two United States Senators for traveling with me today, Senator Bob Graham and Senator Bill Nelson. I want to thank them for their—[applause]. I particularly want to thank Senator Graham for his leadership on the Intelligence Committee. During this time where America is at war, intelligence is—gathering of intelligence is incredibly important, and I appreciate the way he has led that committee. It gives me great confidence to know that Bob Graham is there making sure we do everything we can to collect as much intelligence as possible to protect Americans. And so Senator, I want to thank you for your leadership on that issue.

I want to thank Congressman Ric Keller for traveling with us as well. Ric's one of the bright stars in the United States Congress. I appreciate you, Rick. Mike Bilirakis flew down with us, but he probably thought he had to hear me give a speech, so he went somewhere else. [Laughter] But Mike's a good friend and a good man.

I'm honored that your mayor, Glenda Hood, came by to say hello. Madam Mayor, I'm pleased—appreciate you being here. And with her as well is Orange County Chairman Rich Crotty. Rich has been a friend of mine for a long time. And I want to thank Julie for—Julie Graf for inviting us here. I'm here to talk about—[applause]. Thank you, Julie.

I want to give you a quick update about how I see the world, and then I want to talk a little bit about the health initiative that we're here to herald. You know, we love freedom in America, and we hold freedom dear. And obviously that has irritated some people who hate freedom. And that is why they've made the decision in the past to attack us and why they're probably trying to figure out a way to do it again.

They must have thought we were weak. They must have thought we were really a feeble country. But they're learning differently. You see, when it comes to the defense of freedom, we're strong and we're plenty tough. And when it comes to the defense of our homeland, we're plenty tough. I just want to assure you that the country's united and determined. And I'm determined to do everything in my power to keep America safe.

I appreciate the spirit in Washington, DC, of both Republicans and Democrats. When we talk about the homeland security, it's not a Republican issue. It is not a Democrat issue. It is an American issue.

I am sure you—certain that you've heard about this Homeland Security Department I intend to create. It is to streamline decisionmaking so everybody is on the same page when it comes to protecting the homeland. We've got to change cultures of agencies which, before September the 11th weren't that focused on homeland security. And you can understand why; we hadn't been attacked for a long time. And now it's time to reorganize and readjust and set the most important priority of all, which is to keep America safe.

And I look forward to working with the Congress and the Senate on what is a difficult task, but a task that I'm confident that, when we keep the—keep the American people in mind, we can get done.

But the best defense for America is to chase the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is precisely what America will do. It's a different kind of war. I'm confident there are some World War II veterans or Korean war veterans here, and I want to thank you for your service. It's a war for freedom, but it's a different kind of war.

Today—in the last 24 hours, the Philippine Government, which had made a concerted effort to find terrorists in their country—the terrorists who, by the way, kidnaped two Americans, the Burnhams—today announced that the head of the group, this extreme group of killers, met his fate. And I want to congratulate the President of the Philippines. I appreciate her leadership and her strength. It goes to show that by assembling a vast coalition of freedom-loving countries, that when we work together and are strong and are diligent, we can succeed, and that's what's going to happen.

I not only work to make sure that America is a safer place, I want to work to make sure that America is a better place as well. One of the initiatives that we talked about the last time I was in Florida, one of the last times, was called the USA Freedom Corps. I encourage people to serve their neighbor by volunteering, by becoming involved in their communities. We talked about a Senior Corps that can make a huge difference in people's lives all across Florida and all across the country. I believe serving somebody in need is an integral part of the American experience.

Today I had the honor of meeting Marie Wieland. She came—where are you, Marie? There she is. Thank you for coming. She came out to the airport today. She stood underneath the great seal of the Air Force One to have her picture with me, because she has been an extraordinary volunteer in your community. She's heard the call to help a neighbor in need. She's involved with the community care for the elderly. She's been involved with the Children Home Society of Florida.

All her life, she has set an example by serving in the army of compassion. You see, our society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And for those of you like Marie, who are volunteering and helping make America a better place, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. And thank you, Marie, for being here.

Generally, when we come to Florida to talk to senior citizens, we're talking about Medicare. I look forward to working with the Congress to get a Medicare plan that is modern, up to date, with prescription drugs. But I want to talk about another way, another way to encourage a healthy America.

Yesterday I unveiled, right there on the South Lawn, what we call a HealthierUS. It is an initiative to encourage young and old alike to live healthier and longer lives by paying attention to four guideposts. First, people should be physically active every day. Secondly, people should develop good eating habits. Let me put it another way. You need to eat your vegetables—[laughter]—and your fruits. We've been working on Dad for a while on the broccoli issue. [Laughter]

People need to be conscious of their diet. They need to be careful not to be loading up with fatty foods all the time. If you want to have a healthy life, you've got to be careful of what you eat. People need to take advantage of preventative screenings to detect early whether or not there's a likelihood of disease, so you can do something about it. And finally, in order to have a healthy life, you shouldn't smoke, drink excessively, or do drugs. In other words, those are choices you can make to make sure you've got a healthy life.

The amazing thing about America is that we're doing a good job on chronic diseases, and people are living longer and longer lives. And that's incredibly positive. But we've all got to work to improve. We can all do better.

And age need not be an indicator of health, as I witnessed in the spinning class. [Laughter] There are a lot of youth that couldn't spin like those spinners were spinning. [Laughter]

We need to make healthy choices no matter how old we are. And a simple and effective way to do this is to really focus on exercise.

Jeb mentioned I'm in pretty good condition because I exercise nearly every day. Laura exercises nearly every day. And I feel better for it. I sleep better. I eat better. I'm a lot more pleasant fellow to be around after I exercise. [Laughter] And I encourage all Americans to do so.

Not enough older Americans are exercising, however. I want to share this statistic with you: In fact, nearly 70 percent of individuals in our country age 65 to 74 do not engage in regular physical activity. And that can be changed pretty quickly. Listen, just a stroll in the park for a reasonable period of time is exercise, and it's good for you. If people just walked 20 to 30 minutes a day, it would change life expectancy, your life expectancy. It would improve your healthy conditions. The Department of Health and Human Services has been reporting on the health of America, and they confirm that older Americans have more to gain from regular exercise than younger Americans do. That makes sense.

And so, today I want to continue on my message of encouraging America to make healthy choices by encouraging our seniors to exercise on a regular basis—exercise just like we saw here in this fabulous center; listen to people or seek advice as to how to keep up your heart rate and increase your breathing; work on your flexibility. It will make a tremendous difference, and it doesn't take much. It doesn't take much.

We can make a significant difference in the cumulative health costs all around America by encouraging young and old alike to exercise. If we can get people exercising and pushing away from lousy diets, we'll decrease the amount of incidents of heart disease by a significant number. If we can get some of our young to stop watching TV as much as they do and get outside and enjoy, it will promote the habits for a healthy life for a long time coming. I urge moms and dads to exercise with their kids, to go out in the backyard and kick a soccer ball or throw a baseball. It will be good for your family; it will also be good for setting good habits for your children. Physical exercise, whether it be walking or gardening, walking up and down the stairs, can have a significant impact all across America.

I say societies can change one soul, one person at a time. If each person makes a dedicated effort to exercise more, you'll be serving your Nation. The accumulative effect will be incredibly positive for America.

And what a nation you'll be serving. I want you to tell your grandchildren or your children, the young of America, that this great Nation stands for peace; that this Nation, as we defend our freedom, we do so to keep the peace; that we're a nation that is compassionate and decent. When we unleash our military, we do so not as conquerors but to liberate people from the clutches of a barbaric regime such as the Taliban, that was so repressive they wouldn't even let young girls go to school. That when they hear their President talking about chasing this person down or that, he does so because he wants the children to grow up in a peaceful world and to realize the freedoms that we've realized. He does so because we defend civilization itself, and we have the obligation to do so.

We're making progress in the war against terror. It's going to take a while, but America understands that it's going to take a while. And for that, I'm grateful. And as importantly, we're making progress in showing the world the compassionate face of America as well. Hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens are loving a neighbor just like they'd be liked—just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And that's good. Out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because we're such a good nation.

Thank you for coming today. And may God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:45 p.m. in the ballroom. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Julie Graf, site supervisor, Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex; Abu Sabaya, a leader of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group who was killed June 21 by Philippine military forces; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

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

June 16

During the day, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico concerning the World Cup soccer game between the U.S. and Mexico to be held the next day in Chonju, South Korea. In the evening, he had a telephone conversation with U.S. team members to express his support.

June 17

In the morning, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA, where he met with Habitat for Humanity volunteer Darryl Hicks and later toured the Pryor Road Corridor housing development. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal on June 18.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey S. Merrifield to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate John S. Bresland to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ellen Sauerbrey to be U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Norman J. Pattiz to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board: Michael Corradini, Mark D. Abkowitz, Thure E. Cerling, David J. Duquette, and Ronald Michael Latanision.

June 18

In the morning, the President met with President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal to

commend him for his work toward a resolution of the political crisis in Madagascar and discuss development in Africa.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with the leadership of Disabled American Veterans.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Allan Roth to be Ambassador to Senegal and Guinea-Bissau.

June 19

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In an afternoon ceremony in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Boudewijn van Eennaam of The Netherlands; Kassahun Ayele of Ethiopia; Phanthong Phommahaxay of Laos; Carlos Jose Ulvert Sanchez of Nicaragua; Aziz Mekouar of Morocco; Ishaq Shahryar of Afghanistan; Mihail Manoli of Moldova; and Mario Miguel Canahuati of Honduras. He then participated in a roundtable interview with health and fitness reporters in the Roosevelt Room.

The White House announced that the President has invited President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to Washington, DC, for a state visit on July 17–18.

The President declared a major disaster in Colorado and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on April 23 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on June 3 and continuing.

June 20

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Later, he dropped by a meeting between National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and President-elect Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia. Also in the morning, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to express his sympathy for the families of victims of recent suicide bombings in Israel.

The President announced his appointment of the following individuals as members of the President's Council on Physical Fitness

and Sports: Lynn Swann (Chairman); Dot Richardson (Vice Chairman); Denise Austin; James Baird; John Burke; Paul Corrozza; Katherine Cosgrove; Amanda C. Cromwell; Pamela Danberg; Jamie Davidson; Dan Gable; Nomar Garciaparra; Marion Jones; Ivette Lirio; Nancy Lopez; T.L. Mitchell; Charles Moore, Jr.; Derek Parra; Emmit Smith; and Lloyd Ward.

The President announced that he will award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the following individuals at a ceremony in July: Hank Aaron, Bill Cosby, Placido Domingo, Peter Drucker, Katharine Graham, D.A. Henderson, Irving Kristol, Nelson Mandela, Gordon Moore, Nancy Reagan, Fred Rogers, and A.M. Rosenthal.

June 21

In the morning, the President traveled to Orlando, FL, where he met with volunteer Marie Wieland.

In the evening, the President attended a fundraising event for the Republican Party of Florida and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida at the Universal Studios Portofino Hotel. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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

Submitted June 17

John S. Bresland, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for a term of 5 years, vice Devra Lee Davis.

Jeffrey S. Merrifield, of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2007 (reappointment).

Norman J. Pattiz, of California, to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for a term expiring August 13, 2004 (reappointment).

Ellen R. Sauerbrey, of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Commission on the Status of Women of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Submitted June 20

Richard Vaughn Mecum, of Georgia, to be U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Robert Henry McMichael, term expired.

Burton Stallwood, of Rhode Island, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Rhode Island for the term of 4 years, vice John James Leyden, resigned.

George Breffni Walsh, of Virginia, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia for a term of 4 years, vice Donald W. Horton.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

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

Released June 17

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Wade of Senegal

Fact sheet: President Bush Calls for Expanding Opportunities to Homeownership

Released June 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate Finance Committee action on legislation to assist community and faith-based organizations

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1366, H.R. 1374, H.R. 3789, H.R. 3960, and H.R. 4486

Released June 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4560

Statement by the Press Secretary: State Visit of President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Colorado

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Iowa

Fact sheet: President Bush's International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative

Announcement of nominations of U.S. Marshals for the Northern District of Georgia, the District of Columbia, and the District of Rhode Island

Released June 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Bush Launches HealthierUS Initiative

Fact sheet: The U.S. Commitment to Africa's Growth and Prosperity

Fact sheet: Africa Education Initiative

Advance text of remarks by Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee

Announcement of the recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Released June 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Announcement: Facts and Figures on the President's Fitness Challenge

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved June 18

H.R. 1366 / Public Law 107–190
To designate the United States Post Office building located at 3101 West Sunflower Avenue in Santa Ana, California, as the “Hector G. Godinez Post Office Building”

H.R. 1374 / Public Law 107–191
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 600 Calumet Street in Lake Linden, Michigan, as the “Philip E. Ruppe Post Office Building”

H.R. 3789 / Public Law 107–192
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2829 Commercial

Way in Rock Springs, Wyoming, as the “Teno Roncalio Post Office Building”

H.R. 3960 / Public Law 107–193
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3719 Highway 4 in Jay, Florida, as the “Joseph W. Westmoreland Post Office Building”

H.R. 4486 / Public Law 107–194
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1590 East Joyce Boulevard in Fayetteville, Arkansas, as the “Clarence B. Craft Post Office Building”

Approved June 19

H.R. 4560 / Public Law 107–195
Auction Reform Act of 2002