

again. The Securities and Exchange Commission should be able to punish corporate leaders who clearly abuse their powers by banning them from ever serving again as officers or directors of publicly held corporations.

Since my call for action, the Securities and Exchange Commission has sought to take away the profits of senior executives from four different companies. And in this fiscal year, the SEC has sought to bar 54 officers and directors. On Thursday, the SEC ordered the CEOs and CFOs of the 1,000 largest public companies to certify that the financial information they submitted in the last year was fair and accurate.

In addition to bringing a new measure of accountability to American businesses, my administration is committed to protecting the retirement savings of American workers. The plan I unveiled in February would give workers greater freedom to diversify and manage their own retirement funds. It would ensure that corporate executives are held to the same restrictions as workers during blackout periods, when employees are prohibited from trading in their accounts. It would give workers quarterly information about their investments, and it would expand workers' access to investment advice. These measures should give American workers confidence that their investments will not fall prey to unethical executives.

America is ushering in a new era of responsibility, and that ethic of responsibility must extend to America's boardrooms. I want every American to know that the vast majority of businesspeople are honest individuals who do right by the employees and their shareholders. The unethical actions of a few should not be allowed to call into question our whole free enterprise system.

No violation of the public's trust will be tolerated. The Federal Government will be vigilant in prosecuting wrongdoers to ensure that investors and workers maintain the highest confidence in American business.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:50 a.m. on June 28 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 29. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 28 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office

of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Temporary Transfer of the Powers and Duties of President of the United States

June 29, 2002

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

As my staff has previously communicated to you, I will undergo this morning a routine medical procedure requiring sedation. In view of present circumstances, I have determined to transfer temporarily my Constitutional powers and duties to the Vice President during the brief period of the procedure and recovery.

Accordingly, in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am unable to discharge the Constitutional powers and duties of the office of President of the United States. Pursuant to Section 3, the Vice President shall discharge those powers and duties as Acting President until I transmit to you a written declaration that I am able to resume the discharge of those powers and duties.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of both letters. Originals were not available for verification of the content of the letters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Resuming the Powers and Duties of President of the United States

June 29, 2002

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

In accordance with the provisions of Section 3 of the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution, this letter shall constitute my written declaration that I am presently able to resume the discharge of the Constitutional powers and duties of

the office of President of the United States. With the transmittal of this letter, I am resuming those powers and duties effective immediately.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. The Office of the Press Secretary released the text of both letters. Originals were not available for verification of the content of the letters.

Proclamation 7575—Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

June 28, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Nearly 200 years ago, President Thomas Jefferson sent an expedition westward to find and map a transcontinental water route to the Pacific Ocean. With approval from the Congress, Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark embarked on their legendary 3-year journey to explore the uncharted West. The expedition included 33 permanent party members, known as the Corps of Discovery.

Their effort to chart the area between the Missouri River and the Pacific Coast set these courageous Americans on a remarkable scientific voyage that changed our Nation. In successfully completing the overland journey between the Missouri and Columbia River systems, they opened the unknown West for future development. During their exploration, Lewis and Clark collected plant and animal specimens, studied Indian cultures, conducted diplomatic councils, established trading relationships with tribes, and recorded weather data. To accomplish their goals, the Corps of Discovery relied on the

assistance and guidance of Sakajawea, a Shoshone Indian woman.

As we approach the 200th anniversary of Lewis and Clark's expedition, we commend their resourcefulness, determination, and bravery. This Bicentennial should also serve to remind us of our Nation's outstanding natural resources. Many of these treasures first detailed by Lewis and Clark are available today for people to visit, study, and enjoy. As the commemoration of this journey begins in 2003, I encourage all Americans to celebrate the accomplishments of Lewis and Clark and to recognize their contributions to our history.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby designate 2003 through 2006 as the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. I ask all Americans to observe this event with appropriate activities that honor the achievements of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I also direct Federal agencies to work in cooperation with each other, States, tribes, communities, and the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial to promote educational, cultural, and interpretive opportunities for citizens and visitors to learn more about the natural, historical, and cultural resources that are significant components of the Lewis and Clark story.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth 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, 11:44 a.m., July 2, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 1, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 3.