

The President. Well, that's why they've got August breaks.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, you're our leader here. You got us going, and we all deeply appreciate that. I think this legislation is going to help restore American trade prestige worldwide, something we desperately needed. It also will help give the economy a boost. And third, it will help protect American workers displaced by trade and help build that consensus, for that is so needed for strong, aggressive trade legislation to open markets overseas for America.

I want to thank you so much for your strong, bipartisan approach to this. And I might say, Mr. President, we've now given you the authority, so we're kind of expecting you to kind of help negotiate these really good, strong trade agreements.

The President. Well, I—

Senator Baucus. And when you do, we're going to be there backing you up to help to make them as strong as they can be.

The President. Thanks, Max. I accept it. You've got Zoellick sitting right there—of course, he's going to be our point man on trade. And he now—he's got his running shoes on. He's going to hit the ground running to bring us some good trade agreements. And I appreciate that very much.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, I'll give you time to think about this, but do you have a nickname for this trade bill?

The President. Not yet. [Laughter]

Senator Baucus. I'm sure you will a little later on.

The President. Not yet, Maxie.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

Senator Lott. This is a jobs bill, isn't it?

The President. It's a jobs bill.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

The President. It sure is. How's Senator Grassley doing? Are you there, Senator?

Senator Grassley. Yes. Well, for sure, this is going to put America in the middle of all of the free trade agreements now that are being negotiated. And the United States won't be left out, as we have been so much of the 190 that have been approved. But most importantly, I appreciate your recognition—and I know you know it, but I'm glad you said it, as well—the bipartisanship that you have to have to get anything done in the

United States Senate. And that tradition is no stronger on any issue than on trade.

And working with Senator Baucus to make this happen has been a real privilege, and working with you as well. So thanks to both of you for your leadership.

The President. Well, thank you all very much. I'm proud of you. I look forward to signing the bill soon. And I look forward to bringing some trade agreements back to the Congress that will help workers and farmers and ranchers.

So, good work. You did your jobs. Go on home and take a break now.

Senator Grassley. You bet.

Senator Baucus. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you all. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on Senate Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

August 1, 2002

The Senate's bipartisan passage of trade promotion authority completes an accomplishment that has eluded Congress since 1994 and is a major victory on behalf of working Americans. With TPA, we will open markets to create high-paying jobs and provide new opportunities for America's farmers and workers. I thank the House and Senate for passing TPA so that we can work together to advance America's free trade agenda. With this important tool, we will promote prosperity in the United States, progress in our hemisphere, and freedom throughout the world.

Statement on Senate Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

August 1, 2002

I applaud the Senate for answering my call to quickly pass the Defense appropriations bill. With our Nation at war, it is imperative that we address the important priority of ensuring that our troops have the resources they need. I urge the House and Senate to resolve their differences promptly and send a bill to my desk in early September.

Remarks on Departure for Kennebunkport, Maine

August 2, 2002

Legislative Agenda

The President. August was a month of accomplishment here in Washington. Today I signed a supplemental which provided needed money for our military, money for the ongoing war on terror, and money for homeland security. Next week I'm going to sign a trade promotion authority bill, which is very important for American workers.

Today the statistics are out that show that the unemployment rate is holding steady. We've got a lot of work to do to make sure people can find work, and this trade bill is going to help a lot. It's going to help our ranchers. It's going to help our farmers. It's going to help people find jobs.

I signed a bill that says loud and clear that if you try to fudge the numbers, if you're a CEO of an American corporation and you don't tell the truth, you'll be held to account.

And when you look at these accomplishments, and you couple them with the tax cuts, the education bill, the brownfields legislation, it goes to show what is possible when people in this town set aside politics and focus on doing what's right for the American people. It goes to show that when we put our partisanship aside, when people stop all the yelling and hollering and finger-pointing and say, how can we help the American people, we can get a lot done in this town.

I pledge to the American people, I'll continue leading Washington by defusing all the ugly talk, by keeping big goals in mind, by always remembering we're here to represent the American people.

I hope you all have a fine weekend. I look forward to seeing you on Monday, and then I'll be signing that trade bill on Tuesday.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

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.

July 27

In the very early morning, the President had telephone conversations with Members of Congress concerning trade promotion authority legislation.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Andrews Air Force Base, MD, where he played a round of golf with Republican House Members Michael G. Oxley, Dan Burton, and Tom DeLay.

July 28

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with American cyclist Lance Armstrong to congratulate him on winning his fourth Tour de France earlier in the day.

July 29

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Charleston, SC, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on welfare reform. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

July 30

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

In an afternoon ceremony at the White House, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Levan Mikeladze of the Republic of Georgia; George Savvaides of Greece; Andrew Mhando Daraja of Tanzania; and Daniel Ayalon of Israel.

The White House announced that the President will meet with President Askar Akayev of the Kyrgyz Republic at the White House on September 23.

The President announced his intention to nominate D. Jeffrey Hirschberg to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his designation of Donna M. Erwin as Acting Special Trustee of the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians at the Department of the Interior.