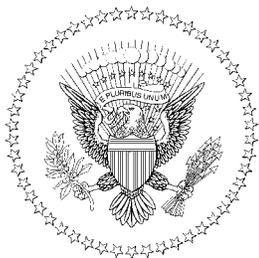


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, October 28, 2002
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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

- See also* Bill Signings; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
- Alabama, remarks in Auburn—1852
- Australia, videotape remarks to the people—1815
- Children's online safety—1836
- Maine, remarks in Bangor—1827
- North Carolina, remarks in Charlotte—1840
- Pennsylvania, remarks in Downingtown—1820
- Prescription drugs—1816
- Radio address—1814
- South Carolina, remarks in Columbia—1847

Bill Signings

- Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003
 - Remarks—1833
 - Statement—1834
- Military Construction Appropriation Act, 2003
 - Remarks—1833
 - Statement—1836
- Russian Democracy Act of 2002, statement—1839
- Sudan Peace Act, statement—1819

Communications to Congress

- Cyprus, letter transmitting report—1858

Interviews With the News Media

- Exchange with reporters in the Oval Office—1817
- News conference with President Jiang of China, October 25—1859

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

- China, President Jiang—1859
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Secretary General Lord Robertson—1817

Proclamations

- National Character Counts Week—1813
- National Forest Products Week—1814
- United Nations Day—1839

Statements by the President

- See also* Bill Signings
- Sudan Peace Act—1820
- Washington area sniper attacks, apprehension of suspects—1858

Supplementary Materials

- Acts approved by the President—1863
- Checklist of White House press releases—1863
- Digest of other White House announcements—1862
- Nominations submitted to the Senate—1863

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on October 25, 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, October 25, 2002

Proclamation 7612—National Character Counts Week, 2002

October 18, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

President Theodore Roosevelt once said that, “Character, in the long run, is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike.” During National Character Counts Week, Americans reaffirm our dedication to promoting good character and upholding the timeless virtues that make our Nation strong.

Our Founding Fathers understood that our country would survive and flourish if our Nation was committed to good character and an unyielding dedication to liberty and justice for all. Throughout our history, our most honorable heroes practiced the values of hard work and honesty, commitment to excellence and courage, and self-discipline and perseverance. Today, as we work to preserve peace and freedom throughout the world, we are guided by a national character that respects human dignity and values every life.

The future success of our Nation depends on our children’s ability to understand the difference between right and wrong and to have the strength of character to make the right choices. To help them reach their full potential and live with integrity and pride, we must teach our children to be kind, responsible, honest, and self-disciplined. These important values are first learned in the family, but all of our citizens have an obligation to support parents in the character education of our children.

Our schools play a crucial role in teaching the skills, knowledge, and moral values that will help our children succeed. As Martin Luther King, Jr., stated, “. . . intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.” By guiding chil-

dren to understand universal values such as respect, tolerance, compassion, and commitment to family and community, our schools are working to achieve this goal.

My Administration is committed to promoting character by encouraging public service and civic awareness. The USA Freedom Corps is helping citizens discover volunteer opportunities in their communities and spreading the message that everyone can do something to care for their neighbors in need. This past June, we convened the White House Conference on Character and Community, which showcased programs from around the country that are proving that sound values can be effectively taught.

By affirming the importance of good character in our society and encouraging all people to lead lives of virtuous purpose, we can prepare our Nation, and especially our Nation’s children, for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Strengthening our national character will help secure greater opportunity, prosperity, and hope for all.

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 proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2002, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon all public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., October 22, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7613—National Forest Products Week, 2002

October 18, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's forests are one of our greatest natural resources. They offer majestic beauty and fabulous recreational opportunities for all Americans to enjoy. They also are an important source of materials that help our Nation's economy to grow and flourish. By observing National Forest Products Week, we recognize the countless ways in which forests enrich our lives, and we renew our commitment to preserving these natural assets for future generations.

Forests strengthen our economy by supplying us with renewable, energy-efficient, and environmentally friendly resources that are the source of good jobs and valuable products. The wood we get from forests is a prime construction and manufacturing product that is used to build our homes and many other essential structures. Wood is also recyclable, biodegradable, and serves as a raw material for many items we use and enjoy every day, including paper, tissue, furniture, packaging materials, musical instruments, and postage stamps. The use of wood for biomass energy generation derived from thinning projects conserves fossil fuels and strengthens rural economies.

In addition, our Nation's forests protect watersheds, preserve water quality, help keep our air clean, and provide habitat for our wildlife.

To protect these vital natural resources, we must take affirmative steps towards managing our forests better, and we must work together to safeguard the health of our forests. My Administration has developed the Healthy Forests Initiative, which seeks to restore the health of our woodlands and prevent forest fires through a combination of thinning overgrowth and restoring fire-dam-

aged areas. For the safety of our citizens, the good of our forests, and the prosperity of our economy, we must make forest health a national priority.

Recognizing the importance of our forests in ensuring our Nation's well-being, the Congress, by Public Law 86-753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 20 through October 26, 2002, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:07 a.m., October 22, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 23. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

October 19, 2002

Good morning. I want to discuss with you steps we are taking to help strengthen the retirement security of America's workers. More than 40 million Americans save for retirement through 401(k) accounts, making regular contributions and building economic security over a lifetime. A 401(k) provides a chance to invest in the long-term growth of the American economy and an opportunity to build wealth and independence.

Today's workers own more than \$1.5 trillion in assets through their 401(k)s. Younger workers have an average of about \$10,000

in their accounts, while workers near retirement hold closer to \$100,000 in their 401(k)s. This is real money for real workers, and we must do all we can to help make sure it's there for them when they retire.

Turbulence in the financial markets reminds us that every investment carries some risk. Yet American workers also have rights which must be respected and enforced. I've made five commonsense proposals to help protect the retirement savings of American workers.

First, every worker should get 30 days advance notice before any blackout period, the time when they cannot sell, buy, or borrow from their 401(k)s.

Second, corporate executives should have to follow the same rules that every other employee must follow during blackout periods. If you can't sell on the shop floor, you should not be able to sell on the top floor.

Third, workers should be able to sell their company stock after holding it for 3 years so that no one's nest egg is tied up in the stock of a single company.

Fourth, investors should receive better information, including quarterly, not just yearly, reports on how their 401(k)s are performing.

And fifth, workers should have access to professional investment advice so they can make more informed decisions about their savings.

The United States Congress has passed only two of these proposals, giving workers advance notice of blackout periods and holding executives to the same rules as their employees. I signed these reforms into law.

On Monday, my administration is implementing that law with tough new rules to require that companies give their workers 30 days' notice before any blackout period. Under the new rule, employees will have time to buy or sell stock or borrow from their accounts before the accounts are temporarily frozen. This important protection will help ensure that workers don't get stuck in a bad investment simply because their employers block them from accessing their own accounts.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is also working on a new rule to prevent corporate executives from selling off their own

holdings of company stock when employees are kept from doing so. Corporate executives will no longer be able to sell off their company's declining stock while employees are left holding the bag. Both of these rules will take effect early next year and give workers greater protections against corporate fraud or abuse.

These rules are a step forward in protecting the rights of investors. More steps are needed. My three additional proposals—allowing more diversity in 401(k) accounts, and more frequent account updates, and advice for workers—have already passed in the House. But after 6 months, the Senate has not acted. For the sake of American workers who are concerned about their retirement security, I urge the Senate to pass the rest of my proposals into law. People who work hard and save for the future deserve every protection we can give them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:01 a.m. on October 17 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 19. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 18 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Videotape Remarks to the People of Australia

October 19, 2002

This Sunday is a day of national mourning in Australia, a day in which our friends mourn the needless loss of life. You come together as a nation to grieve for the victims of those who were killed by the murderers in Indonesia. And our country grieves with you, and we suffer with you. And we send our prayers to the families who cry, and we send our prayers for a speedy recovery for the injured.

Together we face an enemy which does not value innocent life, an enemy which tries to terrorize the free world into inaction. They will fail. Together we will hunt down the killers so that there's justice in the world. Together we will fight terror so as to keep the peace and to make the world more free.

America and Australia are close friends. We value our friendship. We remember so well after September the 11th, 2001, your prayers, your sympathies, your strong support. And we will never forget it.

On this sad day, on this day of mourning, America is with you in spirit. May God bless the victims and their families. May God heal the injured. And may God continue to bless Australia.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 1 p.m. on October 18 in Rochester, MN, for later broadcast, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 19.

Remarks on Prescription Drugs

October 21, 2002

The President. Good morning. For more than a year, the Federal Trade Commission has investigated delays and abuses in the process of bringing generic drugs to the market. I have reviewed the FTC findings, and I am taking immediate action to ensure that lower cost, effective generic drugs become available to Americans without any improper delays. By this action, we will reduce the cost of prescription drugs in America by billions of dollars and ease a financial burden for many citizens, especially our seniors.

I appreciate so very much the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, for his good, steady, and hard work on this issue.

Secretary Thompson. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I want to thank Les Crawford, who is the Deputy Commissioner of the FDA, who so ably led this agency for the last year. I appreciate your hard work, Les. And I'm proud, also, that Mark McClellan is with us, who is the newly confirmed FDA Commissioner. Mark has been on my staff with the Council of Economic Advisers, and he will soon take over the FDA to work with Les to make sure the policy I'm announcing is fully implemented.

We live in an age of miracle drugs. Millions of Americans and citizens from many other lands, for that matter, have found healing and hope from medicines discovered and

created in this country. New drugs allow children with rheumatoid arthritis to walk and to go to school. New drugs shrink cancerous tumors, and they control the advance of HIV, slow the progression of multiple sclerosis. In the treatment of many diseases, major surgery has been replaced by a single pill. And this has been a special blessing to many Americans, particularly our seniors, who are living longer and better lives.

As a nation, we are committed to encouraging the promise of new miracle drugs in two different ways. First, we recognize innovators must be able to be financially rewarded for their creativity and hard work so they will continue investing and researching, putting new resources and talents in the creation of new drugs. Every time we hope for a cure or a breakthrough, we're counting on the success of a researcher and the success of a drug company. Second, we want these breakthroughs to become affordable and widely available. Both of these goals, innovation and accessibility, are essential; both are possible.

In America, one of the ways we reward innovation is by granting a patent. If you take a risk and you make an investment and succeed, you have the exclusive right to sell what you invent, and you have the right to profit if you can. A new drug can cost as much as \$800 million to develop and bring to the market. Without patent protection, few would take such a risk, few would be willing to invest. With patent protection, America's brand-name drug companies have become the greatest in the world, and health care systems around the world depend on American innovations they could not possibly duplicate.

Patents, of course, expire after a number of years, and this is one of the ways we are able to make drugs more accessible. After the patent expires, other companies are free to offer the drug in generic form at far lower prices. Last year, the average brand-name drug cost more than \$72 per prescription. The average price for generic drugs, which are just as safe and effective as the brand-name drugs, was less than \$17 per prescription. Generic drugs make America health care far more affordable.

Current Federal law and regulations attempt to carefully balance the goals of innovation and accessibility. New drugs, on average, are sold for 11 years under patent protection, then generic versions become available. Unfortunately, the careful balance of the law is being undermined.

The FTC investigation discovered that some brand-name drug manufacturers may have manipulated the law to delay the approval of competing generic drugs. When a drug patent is about to expire, one method some companies use is to file a brand new patent based on a minor feature, such as the color of the pill bottle or a specific combination of ingredients unrelated to the drug's effectiveness. In this way, the brand-name company buys time through repeated delays called automatic stays that freeze the status quo as the legal complexities are sorted out.

In the meantime, the lower cost generic drug is shut out of the market. These delays have gone on, in some cases, for 37 months or 53 months or 65 months. This is not how Congress intended the law to work. Today I'm taking action to close the loopholes, to promote fair competition, and to reduce the cost of prescription drugs in America.

The Food and Drug Administration is issuing a proposed rule that will permit only one automatic stay per generic drug application, a move that in many cases will reduce the public's wait for generic drugs by years. Some patents will no longer be entitled to protections like the 30-month stay, including patents on packaging and others that have little or nothing to do with valuable innovation and drug therapy.

These steps we take today will not undermine patent protection. Instead, we are enforcing the original intent of a good law. Our message to brand-name manufacturers is clear: You deserve the fair rewards of your research and development; you do not have the right to keep generic drugs off the market for frivolous reasons.

Over the next 3 years, about 200 drug patents are set to expire. By cutting out delays and maneuvering, our reforms will yield cost savings of more than \$3 billion a year. Those savings will come to employer health plans, to State Medicaid programs, and to seniors when they buy medicines on their own.

This is another important advance in the cause of bringing affordable prescription drugs to our seniors. Already, we have cleared the way for States to provide prescription drug coverage to more seniors with modest means through our Medicaid Pharmacy Plus Program. We're working to provide seniors on Medicare with drug cards that provide discounts from drug manufacturers on brand-name drugs, like the ones available in private health plans. And we will not rest until we've reformed and strengthened the Medicare program, itself, so that a prescription drug benefit is available to every senior in America.

The House of Representatives took strong action in passing legislation to improve Medicare. The Senate failed to act. The challenge of health care reform is to increase access to quality care, while we preserve the finest health care system in the world.

I thank the good people at the FTC and the FDA for helping in this effort and for working to make these critical drugs more affordable for every American.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:33 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Lord Robertson of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and an Exchange With Reporters

October 21, 2002

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome Lord Robertson back to the Oval Office. I think we've met, gosh, five—four or five times since I've been the President. I've enjoyed every meeting. He does a great job at NATO. NATO is an incredibly important part of U.S. foreign policy. I appreciate the alliance.

We are mainly discussing issues that we will confront and/or deal with in Prague, including NATO expansion. He's soliciting the views of the administration. I told him that we would give him a definite answer about our views on expansion in a couple of weeks,

and that timetable seemed satisfactory with him.

But Lord Robertson, welcome back. I appreciate you being here. Thanks for your strong leadership.

Lord Robertson. I'm delighted to be again in the Oval Office, Mr. President.

And the President has shown, not just by meetings with me but in every other way possible, his and his administration's commitment to NATO and to the strength of this trans-Atlantic alliance that has bound together these democratic and freedom-loving states over all of the years.

We're now a month to the day away from the Prague summit, probably the most important summit meeting in NATO's history, a transformation summit where NATO has to transform itself to deal with the threats and the challenges of the 21st century. And I believe we will have a good package on new members, a robust enlargement, new capabilities to deal with terrorism and to deal with the other challenges and nightmares that we may face ahead in the future, and new relationships with Russia, with Ukraine, with our partner countries, building the world's largest permanent alliance and one which the world can rely on.

President Bush. Three questions. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

North Korea

Q. Sir, is North Korea an imminent threat to the United States, and what consequences, if any, will it face for hiding its nuclear program from you?

President Bush. One, we had a bit of troubling news when we discovered the fact that, contrary to what we had been led to believe, that they were enriching uranium with the idea of developing a nuclear weapon. I say "troubling news," obviously, because we felt like they had given their word they weren't going to do this.

I view this as an opportunity to work with our friends in the region and work with other countries in the region to ally against proliferation of serious weapons and to convince Kim Chong-il that he must disarm. To this end, I'm going to be talking to Jiang Zemin at Crawford. I look forward to a good discussion with the President of China about how

we can work together to take our relationship to a new level in dealing with the true threats of the 21st century.

I will see the leaders of Japan and South Korea and Russia the next day, in Mexico. I intend to make this an important topic of our discussions. This is a chance for people who love freedom and peace to work together to deal with a—to deal with an emerging threat. I believe we can deal with this threat peacefully, particularly if we work together. So this is an opportunity to work together.

Q. They're not an imminent threat, though?

President Bush. You know, that's an operative word. We view this very seriously. It is a troubling discovery, and it's a discovery that we intend to work with our friends to deal with. I believe we can do it peacefully. I look forward to working with people to encourage them that we must convince Kim Chong-il to disarm for the sake of peace. And the people who have got the most at stake, of course, in this posture are the people who are his neighbors.

Arshad [Arshad Mohammed, Reuters].

Nature of Iraqi Threat

Q. Mr. President, can you explain so the boys in Lubbock can understand—

President Bush. Crawford or Lubbock?

Q. Lubbock or Crawford, both—

President Bush. Lubbock is a little more sophisticated than Crawford, Arshad. [Laughter]

Q. Crawford, then.

President Bush. Or Scotland, for that matter.

Q. Why—

President Bush. Yes, Arshad.

Q. Why you threaten military action against Iraq, but you believe that Korea's nuclear weapons program only merits diplomatic efforts?

President Bush. Saddam Hussein is unique, in this sense: He has thumbed his nose at the world for 11 years. The United Nations has passed 16 resolutions to deal with this man, and the resolutions are all aimed at disarmament, amongst other things. And for 11 years, he said, "No, I refuse to disarm."

Now, what makes him even more unique is the fact he's actually gassed his own people. He has used weapons of mass destruction on neighboring countries, and he's used weapons of mass destruction on his own citizenry. He wants to have a nuclear weapon. He has made it very clear, he hates the United States, and as importantly, he hates friends of ours.

We've tried diplomacy. We're trying it one more time. I believe the free world, if we make up our mind to, can disarm this man peacefully.

But, if not, there's—we have the will and the desire, as do other nations, to disarm Saddam. It's up to him to make that decision, and it's up to the United Nations. And we'll determine here soon whether the United Nations has got the will, and then it's up to Saddam to make the decision.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Regime Change in Iraq

Q. Mr. President, again, for the good people of Crawford—

President Bush. Yes. It's been a big day for Crawford.

Q. If you can explain this in a way that they and the rest of us will understand, there is some hints over the weekend, the possibility that taking weapons of mass destruction out of Iraq is our goal, raising the possibility or the implication that he could somehow remain in power.

Can you say authoritatively and declaratively whether we can achieve—you can achieve—if you can achieve your aims there in a way that leaves him still in office?

President Bush. The stated policy of the United States is regime change because for 11 years, Saddam Hussein has ignored the United Nations and the free world. For 11 years, he has—he said, “Look, you passed all these resolutions. I could care less what you passed.” And that's why the stated policy of our Government, the previous administration and this administration, is regime change—because we don't believe he is going to change.

However, if he were to meet all the conditions of the United Nations, the conditions that I've described very clearly in terms that

everybody can understand, that in itself will signal the regime has changed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; President Jiang Zemin of China; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Signing the Sudan Peace Act

October 21, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 5531, the “Sudan Peace Act.” This Act demonstrates the clear resolve of the United States to promote a lasting, just peace; human rights; and freedom from persecution for the people of Sudan. The Act is designed to help address the evils inflicted on the people of Sudan by their government—including senseless suffering, use of emergency food relief as a weapon of war, and the practice of slavery—and to press the parties, and in particular the Sudanese Government, to complete in good faith the negotiations to end the war.

Section 6(b) of the Act purports to direct or burden the conduct of negotiations by the executive branch with foreign governments, international financial institutions, and the United Nations Security Council and purports to establish U.S. foreign policy objectives. The executive branch shall construe these provisions as advisory because such provisions, if construed as mandatory, would impermissibly interfere with the President's exercise of his constitutional authorities to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the unitary executive branch.

Several provisions of the Act purport to require executive branch reports to congressional committees concerning the contents of U.S. diplomatic advocacy, plans for U.S. diplomatic activities to achieve particular foreign policy objectives, and information on particular activities abroad. The executive branch shall construe these provisions in a

manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information, the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. The Secretary of State will, of course, continue as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the Nation's foreign affairs activities.

A provision of the Act defines a particular entity as the "Government of Sudan" for purposes of implementing the Act. The executive branch shall construe the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority for the United States to recognize foreign states and to determine what constitutes the governments of such foreign states.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 21, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5531, approved October 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107-245.

Statement on the Sudan Peace Act

October 21, 2002

I commend the Congress for passing the Sudan Peace Act. This Act, passed with bipartisan support, demonstrates that the Congress shares my commitment to help end suffering and promote a just peace in Sudan. For too long, the people of Sudan have endured slavery, violence, disease, and forced starvation. Last year, I appointed former Senator John Danforth as my envoy to help bring peace and stability to Sudan. Senator Danforth and others, working with regional governments, especially the Government of Kenya, have established an unprecedented opportunity to end the war in Sudan and to lay the foundations for a just and lasting peace.

The Sudan Peace Act presses the parties in Sudan to seize this historic opportunity and to end the war and suffering. The Government of Sudan must choose between the path to peace and the path to continued war and destruction. If it makes the right choice, that course will mean improvement in the

lives of all Sudanese, better bilateral relations with the United States, and the beginning of its reacceptance into the community of peace-loving nations.

Remarks in Downingtown, Pennsylvania

October 22, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Listen, thanks for coming out this morning. It's such an honor to be here. I appreciate—I appreciate your interest in our country. I appreciate your interest in our democracy. I want to thank you for caring about—

Audience member. *Viva Bush!*

The President. *Gracias.* [Laughter]

As I was saying, I want to thank you for caring about the elections—the upcoming elections. It's vitally important that citizens all across our country take their responsibilities seriously and to show up to the polls. Of course, I've got a few suggestions on who those citizens might support, starting with right here in Pennsylvania.

It is in Pennsylvania's interests that Jim Gerlach become the next United States Congressman. I say that with confidence, because he is a good, honorable man who's got a good, strong record. People know he's the kind of fellow who does in office that which he says he's going to do. He's got a track record that inspires confidence from people of both political parties, people who don't care about political parties. No, he's the right man for this job, and I want to thank you for supporting him.

I say supporting him—thanks for showing up. But just showing up isn't good enough. See, I understand how you win elections, and that's when people such as yourself not only go to the polls, but you convince your neighbors to go to the polls. You go to your community centers, your houses of worship, your—wherever you go to hang out—[laughter]—your coffee shops, and you tell your neighbors about their responsibility. And while you're doing that, you tell your neighbors about Jim and others running for office.

And while you're telling them about Jim, you might as well tell them about your next Governor. When you're out rounding up the

vote, make sure you round up the vote for Mike Fisher and Jane Earll. I know something about his track record in getting votes. In the year 2000, I was a pretty heavy lift for the ticket, I must confess, here in Pennsylvania. He out-pollled me by not 1,000 votes, not tens of thousands of votes, but hundreds of thousands of votes. This is a man who can appeal to people of both parties, because people in Pennsylvania know he can get the job done.

No, we're here to thank you for your care about America. I'm here to thank you for your participation in the political process. I'm here to ask you to turn out the vote. I'm here to ask you to do whatever it takes to make sure you crank up a good, healthy vote. It's important for our country. I'm also here to talk about how we can work together to make America a safer and stronger and better place.

Before I do, I want to recognize a fine United States Senator, and that is Arlen Specter. I'm proud that Arlen is here with us today. And I'm sorry that old Rick Santorum isn't going to be here, but he's a good fellow. He's a good fellow too. I appreciate these two Senators a lot.

I'll tell you one reason I appreciate them—because they understand what it takes to have a good Federal judiciary. I've appointed good people to the bench, good, solid citizens who are not only fine lawyers but people who understand their job is not to serve as a legislator but as a judge. We've got plenty of legislators. What we need are good, solid, sound judges. And the record of the United States Senate is abysmal when it comes to confirming my judges. It is a lousy record.

If we had more Senators like Specter and Santorum, we would get the judges through. We would have a record for which the Senate could be proud. We need to change the Senate for a lot of reasons, and one of them is to make sure we've got a good, sound Federal judiciary.

I appreciate Governor Schweiker for being here. I appreciate his service to the State of Pennsylvania. He has done a really fine job. He has done a good job, and I'm proud of his service, and I know he is as well. I appreciate Mark. He's a friend. I'm honored you're

here today, Mark, and thanks for doing what you did for the good folks of Pennsylvania.

I want to thank the members—I want to thank the members here from the mighty Pennsylvania congressional delegation. That would be Greenwood, Platts, Pitts, and Sherwood. These fine Members of the United States Congress have been steady friends and strong allies, and they represent your State with class and distinction. Thank you all for coming.

We've got another candidate on stage who—we certainly hope she wins. That would be Melissa Brown, running for the United States Congress. Melissa is running on a lot of issues. One issue she holds dear to her heart, as do I, is medical liability reform. It is a key issue. And one of the things we've got to worry about is the affordability of health care and the accessibility of health care. We want to make sure our citizens have got access to health care at reasonable prices. One of the reasons why prices is rising is because of frivolous and junk lawsuits against our medical community.

Everybody ought to have access to the courts, and that's vital. People ought to be able to take their claims to the court of law. But the problem is, the scales of justice have tipped way too far one direction. There are too many lawsuits which prevent good people from getting their cases heard. There are too many lawsuits which are driving up the cost of medicine. There are too many lawsuits which are driving good doctors out of the practice of medicine. We need medical liability reform.

I appreciate you running, Melissa, and I wish you all the best. I want to thank Alan Novak and Bob Asher and all the good folks who are the grassroots activists here in Pennsylvania. I appreciate your care and your concern for our country.

Today, unfortunately, you draw—you drew the short straw. Laura is somewhere else. [Laughter] She sends her best. She's doing great, by the way. She is—I'm really proud of her.

Audience member. We love Laura!

The President. Yes, so do I. [Laughter] Thanks for saying that. People now have figured out why I asked her to marry me. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes.

[*Laughter*] But she's a great First Lady. I love her dearly. I'm proud of her. And I want to thank you for your concern for her too.

I'm concerned about making America a stronger and safer and better place; that's what I'm concerned about. I'm concerned about making sure that we meet some important goals. One of the most important goals of all is to make sure every child in America gets a good education. It's an incredibly important goal. That's one of the priorities of Jim Gerlach. He understands that's an important goal and priority if we want our country to be hopeful and strong.

We passed good legislation. The legislation challenges what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, Jim understands this philosophy. These Members of Congress do as well, as does Arlen Specter. He knows that in order for us to have a hopeful society, we must as a society set high standards. We've got to believe every child can learn. It doesn't matter where they go to school. It doesn't matter if their parents speak English as a first language. It matters that we believe every child can learn.

We believe in local control of schools. See, we trust the people in Pennsylvania more than we trust the folks in Washington, DC, to chart the path to excellence. We believe you ought to work with your Governors and your school boards to make sure that children get the right curriculum and the right basic education in order to succeed. That's why we believe you've got to trust parents and teachers. We believe in promoting the basics when it comes to subjects such as reading. That's what we believe.

But we also believe this: If every child can learn, therefore we want to know whether every child is learning, all across our country. So therefore, in return for the largest increase in Federal expenditures for education—that was last year—Pennsylvania receives \$1.7 billion from the Federal Government—the largest amount of dollars spent, we're now, for the first time, asking the question, is the money being wisely spent? For the first time, we're beginning to—we're saying, "Show us whether or not the children of any State, children who are in the districts that receive this money, whether or not they can read and write and add and subtract."

We want to know, because we believe every child can learn. We believe that every child in America has the potential, and we want to see whether or not they're learning.

And if—and if they are, if standards are being met, if our vision that every child can learn is successful, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who teach, thanks for taking on such a noble cause and working in a noble profession. But as a society, to make sure no child gets left behind, we must be willing to challenge failure, to challenge the status quo. When we find children in schools which won't teach and won't change, we must have the courage as a society to demand something different for our children. No child should be left behind in America.

I look forward to welcoming yet another ally in this vision from the State of Pennsylvania, and that ally will be Jim Gerlach.

I also know I will have an ally when it comes to dealing with your money. You know, one of the interesting things sometimes you hear in the debate in Washington, they're talking about the Government's money. "Well, the Government spent this money; the Government spent that money." No, no, it's not the Government's money. It's the people's money.

Anytime somebody is looking for a job and can't find work means we've got a problem. So long as there are people trying to put bread on the table for their families and they can't find work, we've got to do everything we can to increase the job base.

Therefore, it's important to send people to Congress who understand jobs, understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial flourish—entrepreneurial spirit can flourish in America.

When times are slow or when the economy is bumping along, one of the ways to make sure that the job base is invigorated is to let people keep more of their own money. See, when you keep more of your own money, you're likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service in this marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The

tax relief plan came at exactly the right time for our country's economy.

Over the next 10 years, the tax relief plan means there will be \$58 billion more in Pennsylvania citizen's pockets over 10 years. That's your money. You get to decide what to do with the money. You get to decide how to spend it. There will be \$7 billion in child tax credit savings. There will be \$3 billion as the marriage penalty begins to get reduced.

By the way, the marriage penalty is a bad tax. The code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. That's a savings of \$68 billion more money in your pockets if the tax cuts were permanent. But they're not permanent. Senate rules have it that the tax cuts won't be permanent. That's why this is an issue in this campaign. In order for small businesses to plan, in order to make sure a horrible tax, the death tax—I say horrible; it's bad on small businesses; it's bad on farmers; it's bad on ranchers. If you're worried about urban sprawl, you ought to be for the permanent repeal of the death tax, so people aren't forced to sell their properties because the Federal Government—[*applause*]. For the good of our economy, for the good of job creation, for the good of a stimulative package, we need to make sure the tax cuts are permanent.

I mean, there's a lot of things we can work on together. We need an energy bill which encourages conservation and renewables but also makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We need a terrorism insurance package that will get our hardhats back to work. No, there's a lot Congress can do to make sure that the jobs picture improves for everybody, all across America. I look forward to working with Jim in the United States Congress to make sure that people who want to find work are able to do so, all across the country.

And as we work to make America a stronger place economically, we've also got to work to make it a safer place. And I say that because so long as we love freedom—and we love freedom—there's going to be an enemy which hates America. It's hard to explain to your youngsters why somebody would hate us. But you've just got to tell them there are some who have hijacked a great religion.

These people don't value life like we do in America. See, we say every life matters. Everybody's precious. Everybody counts.

That's not how our enemy thinks. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They hate freedom. They hate countries which embrace freedom. And therefore, they hate us since we're the beacon for freedom. We love our freedoms, and we will not change.

Times have changed in America. Times have changed after September the 11th. It used to be we thought oceans would protect us. A lot of us growing up said, "We don't have to really worry about some of the conflicts overseas. We may be involved, we may not be involved, because we're protected, we're isolated from the harsh realities of some of the killings that were taking place on different continents, so we could pick and choose." We don't have any choice in this new war, see. We learned that the enemy has taken the battlefield to our very own country. My most important job is to protect America. My most important job is to do everything we possibly can to protect innocent life from a group of killers.

That's why I've started and stimulated a discussion on Iraq. I wanted the American people to know that there's a new reality which we face, a reality that oceans no longer protect us, the reality that this person in Iraq has killed his own people with weapons of mass destruction, a reality that he has invaded countries, the reality that he has stiffed the United Nations for 11 years. Sixteen different resolutions have been passed calling on this man to disarm. Sixteen times he's ignored world mandates. These are the realities we face, and we must deal with it.

I appreciate the Members of the Senate; I appreciate the Members of the House of Representatives for voting overwhelmingly to send with one voice this message, that Saddam Hussein must disarm, that the world—for the sake of peace, for the sake of peace here at home, for the sake of peace in the Middle East, for the sake of world peace, Saddam Hussein must do what he promised.

For the sake of having an international body which is effective, the United Nations must make the resolve, must be resolved to deal with this person, must resolve itself to

be something more than the League of Nations, must resolve itself to be more than just a debating society, must resolve itself to help keep international peace.

It's an important time in our history to determine whether or not we're going to be a nation which is willing to work with others to keep the peace. The answer is, you bet. But if they won't, the United Nations can't make its mind up, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him for the sake of peace.

These are the new realities we face in America, the serious realities that we must deal with for the sake of our children, for the sake of our children's children. The new reality here at home is to do everything we can to protect the American people from a possible attack.

I want to thank you for training a good man named Tom Ridge to be the first Adviser on Homeland Security. He's doing a very good job. I know you're proud of him, and so am I. Our friend has not let us down. One of the things he advised me, along with others in my administration, was that the best way to protect the American people in the long run is to set up a Department of Homeland Security.

Let me explain to you why. First of all, you've got to know that there's a lot of good people working a lot of long hours to do everything we can to disrupt, deny any enemy. If we get a hint that somebody's thinking about doing something to us, moving, trying to do something to us, we are moving. We're absolutely on alert. We're doing everything we can to protect the American people.

I appreciate that the House of Representatives moved incredibly quickly on a Department of Homeland Security. They passed a really good measure. It gives us a chance with the homeland security to take over 100 agencies involved with defending the homeland and putting many of their functions under one Department, so that the number one priority of these agencies and/or the good people working in these agencies is your protection.

One way to make sure we focus the attention of a scattered group of agencies is to have one agency, so that if need be, cultures can change; if need be, there can be a direct

focus. The Senate can't get the job done. They've yet to get the job done. I want to thank Senator Specter's leadership on this issue. He's deeply concerned about the protection of the homeland. He and I have had some quality discussions on this issue.

But let me tell you what the problem is in the Senate, from my perspective—that the Senate has said, "We will give you a Department of Homeland Security, but you've got to pay a price. And the price is, is that we'll roll back an important authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had." And that authority says that I have the ability to suspend certain labor rules for the sake of national security. For the sake of security—securing the country, we won't have labor rules get in the way of the President being able to do whatever it takes to protect America.

We've got a border which we must enforce. We need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave America. It's an important function of the Federal Government. Except there's three different agencies down there—three agencies full of really fine people. You've got your Customs, your INS, and your Border Patrol. Sometimes they have different strategies per sector along the border. They're wearing different uniforms. They've got different cultures. They all share in the responsibility of protecting our border. For the sake of homeland security, this administration and future administrations must have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America.

We asked Customs agents to wear a radiological detection device to determine whether or not weapons of mass destruction were coming into America. It made sense to us. If you're worried about weapons of mass destruction, wear one of these devices. The head of the working group there said, "No, we're not going to have this on a mandatory basis." For the sake of national security, that work rule ought to be suspended.

Now, they got it finally resolved. It took 4 months of discussions to determine whether or not Customs agents ought to be wearing a radiological detection device. Look, work rules are important. The right to people to

organize is very important. But for the sake of national security, the Senate will not take away one of the most precious authorities Presidents since John F. Kennedy has had.

I know this: I wouldn't have to worry about Jim Gerlach's vote on this issue. I know where he would stand. The best way to secure America, however, is to hunt the enemy down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. The best way to protect America is to find these killers where they try to hide and bring them to justice, which exactly is what the United States of America is going to do.

And we're making good progress. We're making good progress. Sometimes it's hard to tell it, because this is not the kind of war that we're used to. You used to—could count territories seized or tanks destroyed or airplanes knocked out of the sky and say, "Gosh, we're making progress. The fleet has been damaged. Therefore, we're making progress." These are killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's who we're trying to find. They kind of ooch around the dark corners of the world and look out, peep out around the corner. In the meantime, send these suicide squads. It doesn't require a lot of equipment. It doesn't require a lot of money, although we're doing everything we can to cut off their money. But we're making progress.

One reason we're making progress is the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy"—it still stands. That doctrine is firm. Our coalition partners understand the stakes. This bombing in Indonesia reminded everybody how dangerous these people can be. They don't care about innocent life. They could care less. It doesn't bother them in the least that innocent citizens lose their life. What bothers them, though, is that the United States and our friends and allies are on the hunt. And we're going to stay on the hunt. We're going to get them running, and we're going to keep them running until we bring them to justice.

Slowly but surely, we're finding them. Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down, one person at a time. We've probably hauled in or arrested, whatever you want to call it, a couple of thousand. Like number weren't as lucky. The point is, is that when you com-

bine it all, we've made a fairly good size dent into the Al Qaida terrorist network. The other day a guy named bin al-Shibh popped his head up. He's no longer a problem for the United States of America.

It takes awhile. It's going to take awhile. It's just the realities of the 21st century. The new kind of war is going to require a patience and determination by this great Nation. See, we remember. We not only remember what took place; we also understand the stakes. We understand our responsibilities. We understand our duty to not only people who live in this country, but because every life matters, we understand our duty elsewhere. And that is to defend freedom. Slowly but surely, we're going to defend, and we're going to defeat this enemy.

And it doesn't matter how long it takes, my fellow Americans. It just doesn't matter, as far as I'm concerned. There is not a calendar on my desk that says, well, such and such a date, it's time to haul them home; it's time to quit. That's not how we think in America. Tomorrow I'm going to sign a defense appropriations bill, one of the largest increase—the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President, for two reasons—two reasons. I want to share with you why I asked for this increase.

I want to thank the Senate; I want to thank the House for passing that bill. We're going to send two messages. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. That's the very least we owe them and their loved ones. And for those of you who have got loved ones in the military, our military has my complete confidence. There's no finer group of men and women who wear the uniform than the uniform of the United States of America.

And the second message we send, it doesn't matter how long it takes, this country is in for the long haul, that we believe in freedom, that we understand obligations, that we understand that some in the world may blink, but we're not blinking. We know that history has called us into action, and we're going to do everything we can to defend America and to defend the freedoms which we hold dear.

There's no question in my mind we're going to succeed. I want you to know how I feel. I'm an optimist about the future. I'm an optimist because I know this, that if we remain tough and if we're strong and we continue to speak clearly about that which matters in life, if we hold dear the values of freedom, if we fight terror, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for America; we can achieve peace in parts of the world where some have quit on peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, the United States has got an opportunity to lead the world toward peace. The enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand America. They don't understand our people. They don't understand our courage. They don't understand our drive. They don't understand that we long for peace, but we're tough enough to achieve the peace if we have to be. That's what they don't know.

And what they didn't also understand is that here at home, the evil done to us is going to lead to a better America—is going to lead to a better America. Now, Government can help—Government can help have a better America. We have a good education system. We're working hard to achieve that. We need to make sure our medical systems are modern. Listen, medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine has evolved. Medicare is essentially stuck in the past. For the sake of our seniors, for the sake of a better life, we need to modernize Medicare and make sure there's a prescription drug benefit for our seniors.

We need to make sure, as we rewrite the welfare laws, as Jim can tell you, it's important to make sure that work is the cornerstone of welfare policy. People find dignity in work, and therefore we can make America a better life by helping people find work and be trained for work and be qualified for work.

But Government is limited in its capacity to make America a better place. We can hand out money, but what Government cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. This is done when a fellow American puts their arm around

somebody in need and says, "I love you." That's how that is done.

America is going to be a better country after the evil done to us, because we understand that in order to change America, we can do so, one person, one soul, one conscience at a time, by loving somebody just like we'd like to be loved ourselves. Out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this Nation's strength lies not in the halls of our Government but in the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

A lot of good folks took a step back after that fateful day and said, "What is my life all about?" Moms and dads say, "We're lucky enough to be a mother or a dad. I'm going to remind my child every single day I love them." A lot of good folks said, "I want to help the community in which I live be a better place."

No, the enemy hit us, but in so doing, they aroused an American spirit that understands that being a patriot is somebody more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot is serving a cause greater than yourself. Being a patriot is helping those who hurt find solace, those who are hungry find food, those who yearn for love find love.

No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. There's no question in my mind that we can achieve peace. There's no question in my mind that we will be a better country, because this is the finest country, full of the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the United Sports Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Gerlach, candidate for Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District; gubernatorial candidate Mike Fisher; Jane M. Earll, candidate for Lieutenant Governor; Melissa Brown, candidate for Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District; Gov. Mark Schweiker of Pennsylvania; Alan P. Novak, State chairman, and Robert Asher, national committeeman, Republican State Committee of Pennsylvania; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks in Bangor, Maine

October 22, 2002

The President. Thanks a lot for coming. Thank you all.

Audience member. We love you, George!

The President. I'm glad I came. Thank you.

Congressman, thank you for that kind introduction.

I'm here for a couple of reasons. One, I always like to come to Maine. Sometimes I come to get instructions from my mother. [Laughter] Every time I come, I've enjoyed being here. It's a beautiful place. I thank you for your hospitality. I thank you all for coming out. I thank you for your deep concern for our country, and thanks for your participation in the political process.

I'm here because there's no question in my mind, Kevin Raye will make a great United States Congressman. I'm here because I have learned a lot about Susan Collins. There is no doubt in my mind, she is a great United States Senator. And for the sake of Maine and for the sake of the United States, you need to send her back to the Senate. I'm here because I firmly believe that Peter Cianchette will make a great Governor for Maine.

I am here because I want to talk about how we can work together to make America a safer, a stronger, and a better country. I mean a safer and stronger and better country for Republicans, for Democrats, for people who don't give a hoot about politics.

First, I want to apologize and tell you, you drew the short straw. Laura was tied up—[laughter]—so you got stuck with me. I want to tell you, she's doing great. Many of you have—some of you have told me, I bet many of you feel this way, that you say prayers for Laura and me and the family. I want to thank you from the bottom of our heart for that. It means a lot. And we're doing well.

You know, when I married Laura she was a public school librarian.

Audience member. Oh, yeah!

The President. There's always one in every crowd—[laughter]—a special breed, I might add. She didn't like politics, wasn't too keen on politicians either. [Laughter] Now here she is, the First Lady of the United

States and a fabulous one at that. She's calm. She's steady. She's got a great smile. She cares deeply about our children. The people of the country now understand why I asked her to marry me. A lot of them are wondering why she said yes. [Laughter]

But she sends her best, as do I, as do I to not only Susan Collins but to a really fine lady who represents Maine, a United States Senator who's got a lot of class, a lot of wisdom, a lot of power, somebody with whom I enjoy working, somebody who is making a difference for America, and that is Olympia Snowe.

We've got a man up here who wants to be one of my mother and dad's Congressmen. He's got him one in Houston, and he's got one in Maine, and he hopes to have a new one. And the guy's name is Steven Joyce, running for the U.S. Congress. My only advice, Steven, is that when you win, you make sure you answer their mail.

I'm so proud to be here with Kathy Watson, who is the chairman of the Republican Party for Maine. Jan Staples, who is the national committeewoman for Maine. I want to thank our high school choir and high school band who are here today.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank the people who take time, who work hard to make sure that the democracy is strong. I want to thank you very much for your efforts on behalf of all candidates. I want to thank you for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're going to do, and that is to turn out the votes for these candidates on November the 5th.

When I say that I understand Susan Collins, I do. I've worked closely with her. I've worked with her on key issues that face the country. There was no stronger supporter for the No Child Left Behind Act than Susan Collins. You see, we passed a meaningful piece of education reform. I want to describe to you right quick the key ingredients on this piece of legislation, and you'll understand why I'm so proud of the work that she did, along with Olympia.

First of all, the bill challenges what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. You see,

what we understand is, if you have low standards and low expectations, you're going to get lousy results in our schools. We must have a system that sets the highest of high standards. You must believe every child can learn. But also we believe you've got to trust the local people. See, we understand the people of Maine are more competent in charting the path for excellence than the people in Washington, DC, are for the Maine children.

One of the key components of the No Child Left Behind legislation is what we call the Reading First Initiative. Susan Collins was instrumental in helping to write that part of the law. It tripled the amount of money available for reading programs. But as importantly, it said we must base our reading programs on what works, not what sounds good, that there is a science to teaching children how to read, and that all across the country we must dedicate ourselves to making sure that we challenge that soft bigotry of low expectations by insisting that every single child in America becomes a good reader.

I thank Susan Collins for her leadership on that issue. Not only—not only did we insist upon high standards and local control of schools, we increased the amount of money available for education, the largest expenditure of Federal dollars and education ever. There's \$200 million of Federal monies coming to Maine this year.

But we also said, "In return for receiving this new money, we expect you to deliver results. In return for money, we want to know whether or not our children are learning to read and write and add and subtract." And when we find out they are, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who are teachers out there, thank you, on behalf of our collective hearts. It's a noble profession.

But the reason we have demanded accountability is because we want no child left behind. When we find our children trapped in schools which will not teach and schools which will not change, we better have the courage to challenge the status quo. Every child counts in America, and no child should be left behind.

Now, I appreciate Susan a lot. She has delivered on behalf of Maine, and she has delivered on behalf of the country. I also appreciate her working on Medicare. You see,

medicine has changed, and Medicare hadn't. Medicare is modern—medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck in the past. It needs to be changed. We need to make sure there is a prescription drug program for our seniors. Susan Collins can get the job done on behalf of Maine, people in Maine.

I like to say when you find a good one, you've got to send them back to office, and you've found a good one in Susan Collins. I'm proud to call her friend, and I hope you're proud to call her United States Senator.

I'm also proud to be here for Kevin Raye. He's going to make a fine Congressman if for no other reason than he worked for Olympia Snowe for all these years. I appreciate his strong principles. I appreciate his good judgment. I appreciate his independent spirit. I appreciate his common sense. I look forward to working with him on doing what's right for Maine and doing what's right for America.

He knows what I know: There's too much name calling in Washington, DC; there's too much finger-pointing; there's too much zero-sum politics. This is a man who's going to bring dignity to the office. He'll work with both Republicans and Democrats to get the job done. He's no-nonsense. He's also clear-eyed. He understands the threat the United States faces. He's not going to be one of these folks that is naive about the threats we face. I need somebody in Congress with whom I can work to make sure that we do the job of keeping America safe and strong, and that person is Congressman Kevin Raye.

And finally, you'd better get you a Governor with whom we can work on this education reform, somebody who's got one special interest in mind, and that's the children—somebody who cares deeply about the children of the State, and that Governor is going to be Peter Cianchette.

He knows what I know: Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. The number one priority of any Governor must be the education of every single child. I know he will challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. I know he'll work with the teachers. I know he believes in local control of schools. I know he'll work with parents. And most importantly, I

know he'll challenge failure when he finds it. Every child matters to Peter, and no child will be left behind.

No, I want to thank you all for coming today to give me a chance to tout these candidates. Again, I urge you to make sure you work hard to turn out the vote. They're counting on you. They're counting on you to go to the coffee shops. They're counting on you to go to the community centers. They're counting on you to talk it up, and make sure when you talk it up, just don't talk it up to Republicans. There's a lot of Democrats who are wise enough to vote for these candidates. And make sure you talk it up with independents and people who don't care. Turn them out to the polls. It's an important election, and we need these candidates to win.

We've got some big challenges ahead of this country. That's why I've taken a keen interest in these elections. I look forward to having a Congress with which I can work to meet the challenges facing America. And we've got some big challenges. It doesn't matter how big they are, as far as I'm concerned, though. See, there's nothing we can't accomplish in this country. This is the greatest country on the—finest country on the face of the Earth, no doubt in my mind.

One of the challenges we have is to make sure people can find work. Any time somebody is looking for a job and can't find work means we've got a problem. The foundations for growth are strong: interest rates low; inflation is low. We've got the highest productivity in the world amongst our workers and our farmers and our ranchers. No, we're strong in America. But still too many people can't find a job. So I look forward to working with Congress to expand jobs opportunities.

And there's some things we can do, starting with making sure people have got more money in their pocket. See, here's the textbook I've read from. It says, if you let a man or woman have more of her own money or his own money, they're going to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is going to produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find work.

That tax relief plan we passed was good for the American economy.

As a matter of fact, over the next 10 years, that tax relief plan will mean over \$5 billion for Maine residents. That's 5 billion additional dollars of your own money that you will be able to choose how to spend, \$5 billion that you can use to invigorate the economy.

But the problem is, some in Washington don't see it that way. Some in Washington want this tax relief plan not to be permanent. Some in Washington want this tax relief plan to go away. It doesn't make any sense. Either you trust the Government, or you trust the people. We trust the people.

I look forward to working with Congress to make sure we get a terrorism insurance package that rewards hardhats and not trial lawyers, that gets our construction people back to work. I look forward to having an energy bill which encourages alternative uses, renewables, increased conservation, but at the same time makes us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

I look forward to working with people like Susan and Olympia and Kevin, who understand that when they talk it up in Washington, they say, "The Government's spending the Government's money here, and the Government's spending the Government's money there," that we recognize we're not spending the Government's money. We're spending the people's money, and therefore we need to be fiscally sound with the people's money.

Now, there's a lot of things we can do to work together to make this economy grow. And I look forward to working with Congress and won't rest until people who are looking for work can find work.

We've got a big job as well to make sure we protect America. I was amazed when Kevin told me that in the course of a debate, he said one of the two in the race didn't believe we were still under a threat. That's just not the case. I wish it were true, but it's not true. There's still an enemy out there that's acting. There's still an enemy which hates America. They hate America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God any

way they see fit in America. We love the freedom for people to speak their mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change. And therefore, there's an enemy out there which hates what we love. And so we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland.

My most important job is to protect American life, to protect innocent life. I mention that because you've got to know something about these people we fight. Unlike us, they don't value life. See, we think every life is precious. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. We face an enemy which has hijacked a great religion and are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, and therapy won't work. [*Laughter*]

We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th. See, it used to be oceans could protect us, and if there was a war on another continent, we'd make the choice as to whether or not we would join that war, that we were safe and secure as a nation because oceans could keep us safe and secure. But the harsh reality of the 21st century came home. Oceans no longer protect us. Threats overseas are threats that we must recognize here at home and deal with them.

That's why I asked the United States Congress to have a dialog on Iraq. That's why I asked the Congress to seriously consider, along with the administration, as to whether or not we should deal with a true threat to our country.

I want to remind you that we're dealing with a man who has used weapons of mass destruction on his own people, on people in his neighborhood. This is a man who has defied the United Nations 16 times over an 11-year period. The world has said, "You must do what you said you would do, Saddam Hussein, and that is disarm." And 16 times the United Nations, over and over and over again, has written resolution after resolution, saying, "Mr. Saddam Hussein, you must disarm." And he has defied an international body.

So I gave a speech, and I said to the world, "For the sake of peace, for the sake of peace at home, for the sake of peace in the Middle East, for the sake of determining whether or not that international body is going to be the League of Nations or the United Nations,

Saddam Hussein must disarm, and we expect you, the world, to disarm him." For the sake of peace, for the sake of security for our country. It's his choice to make. "You said you would disarm, disarm. The United Nations has asked you to disarm." They need to work together to disarm. But my fellow Americans, if they won't act, and if Saddam Hussein won't act, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our security, we will lead a coalition to disarm that man.

And so we face true threats at home. And I went to Congress to ask them to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I wanted to take the agencies involved with securing our homeland and put them under one Cabinet Secretary, so we can set clear priorities, the priorities to protect you, the priorities to do everything we can to protect you. And therefore, I thought it would be wise for us to have a Department of Homeland Security so we could better coordinate, better facilitate, better prioritize, if need be, change cultures within agencies, so this becomes the primary focus of a lot of good people who are working on your behalf.

And by the way, there are a lot of good people working on your behalf. We understand the stakes now. We see the reality clearly. We know there's an enemy lurking around. We're aware of Bali, Indonesia, where people just—innocent lives were just destroyed as a result of these coldblooded killers. We know the stakes. People are working hard on your behalf. Any time we're getting a hint, any time we're getting a scintilla of evidence, any time we think somebody is fixing to do something to the American people, we're moving; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But we can be more effective, and that's why I asked Congress to join me in the creation of a homeland defense, department of homeland defense. The House acted, and the United States Senate is stuck. And it's not because of the two U.S. Senators on this stage, I might add. They're struggling in the Senate because of special interests. They're struggling because they're trying to get me to pay a price for a homeland security bill. And I want to describe the price that they want me to pay.

Every President since John Kennedy has had the ability to act in the interests of the country for national security purposes. Every President has had the capacity to suspend some labor rules if those rules get in the way of national security concerns. Listen, I strongly support the right for people to bargain collectively, if they choose to do so. But I also am going to hold dear to that right Presidents have had to be able to suspend some work rules for the sake of national security.

I'll give you an example of what I'm talking about. After September the 11th, the Customs Service wanted to quickly assign its best, most qualified inspectors to the northern border. See, we were worried about our borders. We're still worried about our borders. We need to know who's coming into the country, what they're bringing into the country, and if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. That's what we want to know. So we wanted to move the best inspectors up there. But the leaders representing this part of the workforce said, "No way. See, we're not going to let you do that. You have to bargain over these assignments."

Now, that's not right. We asked inspectors to wear radiological detection devices so that they may be able to sniff out a weapon of mass destruction. They said, "No. No, we've got to have collective bargaining over that." It took us 4 months of negotiations with the head of the union to be able to get that done.

Now, see, I need the right to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America. And I'm not changing, because I understand what's at stake. What's at stake—we've got to make sure we do it right, to make sure that this President and future Presidents can protect the homeland. And I say "future Presidents" because in my judgment, this deal isn't ending any time soon, that even though we're making progress, we still have got a long way to go.

And I want to remind you all that the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what this country is going to do. And we're making progress. In the old days, you know, you could measure

progress based upon the number of tanks you destroyed, or whether or not somebody's navy had fewer ships, or whether or not the air force wasn't able to fly. But this is a different kind of war, see. We're facing these kind of people that hide in caves or move around in the dark corners of some of these cities in the world; they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a different kind of war.

But we're making progress. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us or the enemy," it still stands. There's a lot of good people around the world working hard too. We've hauled in a couple of thousand; like number weren't as lucky. None of them are a threat anymore. The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh popped his head up. You don't have to worry about him. He was the man who wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He was lurking around Pakistan, figuring out a way how to hurt America again. And we found him, and he's now in custody.

Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the Al Qaida terrorist network—slowly but surely. And as we do so, we're spreading freedom. I want you to remind your kids and any other child you come in contact with that amongst all this war talk, that this great country never has conquered anybody. We're liberators. Thanks to the United States and our friends and allies, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan. We will never be conquerors. We believe in freedom. See, when I say, "Every life counts; everybody has worth; every individual matters," I don't mean just Americans. I believe that way for everybody. I believe freedom is universal. It's just not an American ideal. It's a God-given ideal. It's a universal ideal, and we love freedom in America.

Tomorrow I'm going to sign a defense appropriations bill. I want to thank Senator Snowe and Senator Collins for working on that bill and getting it to my desk. It's the largest increase in defense spending since President Reagan was the President. I'm going to tell you the two reasons why. Any time the United States of America sends our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to our troops, and we owe that to the loved one of our

troops—you loved ones out there of your troops. I've got great confidence in the United States military. I have great confidence in the ability of our United States military. I'm incredibly proud of those who wear our uniforms.

And the second reason the defense bill had the size it did, it sends a message to friend and foe alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend freedom; we'll do it. There's no calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date, we're going to have to haul the troops home, such and such a date, we're going to quit. That's not the way America thinks. That's certainly not the way I think. We love peace, and we love freedom, and it doesn't matter how long it takes to secure both.

History has called us into action. History has called us to action. We have a duty to future generations of Americans to make this land secure. That's an obligation we have. It's an obligation we won't—from which we will not shirk.

I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the killers when they hit America. Oh, they must have thought we were so materialistic and selfish, so self-absorbed that after September the 11th, we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't understand. They just didn't get it. They don't understand that this great nation will defend that which we love. They don't understand that as a nation we see opportunity out of the midst of the terrible evil.

See, I do believe this: I believe the stronger we are, the more resolved we are, the more clear-sighted we are, the more likely it is we'll not only achieve peace for ourselves, but we can achieve peace in the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, out of the evil done to this great country can come incredible good. I truly believe that staying the course, speaking clearly, fighting terror where it exists, spreading freedom in a humble way, we can achieve peace. And I also know here at home that we can achieve a better America.

And Government can help. We talked about education initiatives and health initiatives. There's a lot of ways Government can help. But we've got to remember that Government can hand out money, but what it

can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. In order to eradicate the pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness which exist in this great land, which has got to be a national cause, we want everybody in this country to recognize and realize the great promise of America. See, when one of us hurts, we all hurt. In order to eradicate those pockets of despair, we must love a neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves. Each of us can make a difference in making sure the American experience is available to all. Each of us can love a neighbor like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

America can and will change, one conscience, one heart, one soul at a time. Not one person can do everything, but each of you can be somebody doing that something to make America a better place. Mentor a child. Feed the hungry. Find shelter for the homeless. No, the enemy hit us, but they didn't know who they were hitting. The enemy hit us, and out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good.

There's no doubt in my mind we will be a better society, a more decent society, a society in which we understand that being a patriot means more than just putting your hand over your heart. Being a patriot means helping somebody in need. Being a patriot means serving a cause greater than yourself.

No, they hit us, and out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world, a more—better America, no doubt in my mind, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people 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 3:26 p.m. in Hangar 12 at Bangor International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Kevin Raye, candidate for Maine's Second Congressional District, who introduced the President; Steven Joyce, candidate for Maine's First Congressional District; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction Appropriation Act

October 23, 2002

Good morning. Please be seated.

The security of the American people is the first commitment of the American Government. Our Nation faces grave new dangers, and our Nation must fully support the men and women of our military who confront these dangers on our behalf.

The Department of Defense and the Military Construction Appropriations bills I sign today will make our country more secure, make our military forces more prepared, and reward military families for their sacrifice in service.

These bills, passed with bipartisan support, send a message: America is united; America is strong; and America will remain strong.

I appreciate so very much Vice President Cheney joining me today. He is a great Vice President. I appreciate Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld joining me today. He's a great Secretary of Defense. I appreciate Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz coming. I want to thank Tom White, the Secretary of the Army. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who have joined us today, both Democrat and Republican: Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Bill Young of Florida, Dave Hobson of Ohio, and Jim Moran of Virginia.

I want to thank the service chiefs who are here. They've done such a good job for our country. I want to thank their senior enlisted advisers. I want to thank the friends of the United States military who are here in the Rose Garden today. I want to thank those who wear the uniform who are here. And I welcome my fellow Americans.

Since September the 11th, Americans have been reminded that the safety of many depends on the courage and skill of a few. We've asked our military to bring justice to agents of terror. We've asked our military to liberate a captive people on the other side of the Earth. We've asked our military to prepare for conflict in Iraq, if it proves necessary. We're asking young Americans to serve in many places far from home and at

great risk. We owe them every resource, every weapon, and every tool they need to fulfill their missions.

The best military in the world must have every advantage required to defend the peace of the world. And the best military in the world is making good progress on this, the first war of the 21st century.

It's a different kind of war. Our military knows it. After all, we're on an international manhunt. We're chasing coldblooded killers down, one killer at a time. And we're making good progress. We've hauled in or arrested, thanks to our military and our friends and allies, over a couple of thousand killers, and like number weren't as lucky. In either case, they're no longer a threat to the American people.

Sometimes the American people will see the progress we're making, and sometimes they won't. They just need to know that the United States military is after them, one person at a time.

The bill I sign today also sends a clear signal to friend and foe alike that it doesn't matter how long it takes to defend our freedom; the United States of America will stay the course. There is no timetable in the Oval Office here behind me that says at a certain period of time, we no longer care deeply about our freedoms, and therefore, we're going to quit. There's no such timetable. The bill today says America is determined and resolute to not only defend our freedom but defend freedom around the world, that we're determined and resolute to answer the call to history, and that we will defeat terror.

This year's defense bill provides nearly \$355 billion to protect our country, more than \$37 billion increase from fiscal year 2002—for fiscal year 2002. We're matching increased funding with clear priorities.

First, this legislation takes care of our men and women in uniform and their families. We provide the money for a pay increase of 4.1 percent for service members, provide for additional full-time support personnel for the National Guard and Reserves, continue to reduce the out-of-pocket cost for housing for our service members and their families.

The Military Construction Appropriations bill adds \$10.5 billion for building and upgrading military installations and for military

family housing. We're taking care of our people. We want the people who wear the uniform to know America appreciates their service.

Secondly, this year's defense bill will ensure that our military is ready and well-equipped. We increased funds for operations and maintenance by more than \$5 billion, provide nearly \$72 billion for weapon procurement, an \$11 billion increase. Today's American forces are ready and able to deploy to any point in the globe to defeat any foe, and we're going to keep it that way.

Third, this legislation begins developing the next generations of weaponry that will win battles in the future. We invest almost \$58 billion in research and development. At the same time, the bill ends some weapons systems that aren't going to meet the needs of the future, and that's an important contribution to our military. To have the willingness to say, "This program works, and this one doesn't," is important. So we ended the Crusader artillery program, a program that was designed for a different era.

Instead, we will fund new systems, systems that will enable our military to do a more effective job at defending America and our freedoms, systems such as the unmanned aerial vehicles like the Predator and the Global Hawk that we've used so effectively in Afghanistan.

We fund efforts to adopt cold war systems like the Trident submarine to meet the new 21st century missions. We fund over \$7 billion to protect America and our friends from the threat of ballistic missiles.

I'm grateful that Congress completed its important work on defense and military construction appropriations bills. I want to thank them for working hard on these two important pieces of legislation. I appreciate the bipartisan spirit.

There's still important work to complete. For example, Congress has yet to act on my proposal to nearly double overall funding for homeland defense, including my request for unprecedented funding levels for police and firefighters and emergency medical personnel who are on the frontlines of defending our citizens.

In addition, our new homeland—Department of Homeland Security is stalled in the

Senate. The defense bill I will sign today funds our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, all of which exist in a single Department. That Department was created by President Harry Truman when he reorganized our Nation's defense structure to meet the security threats of a new era.

Today we are once again in a new era. Yet our homeland security activities are spread among more than 100 different Government agencies. America needs a single Department of government dedicated to protecting our people and to protecting our homeland. We can't wait any longer. The threats to America are simply too great. Providing for the security of our country is a broader task than just keeping our military strong. I look forward to working with Congress on all the measures needed to build the strength and security of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

It is now my honor to sign the Department of Defense Appropriations Act and the Military Construction Appropriations Act.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 5010, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, and H.R. 5011, the Military Construction Appropriation Act, approved October 23, were assigned Public Law No. 107-248 and Public Law No. 107-249, respectively. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003

October 23, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5010, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003," which provides \$354.8 billion for national security programs administered by the Department of Defense.

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. It abides by an aggregate FY 2003 funding level that I support of \$759 billion, which is consistent with the House-passed Budget Resolution. My Administration appreciates that the Congress has completed the FY 2003 Defense

and Military Construction appropriations bills.

I am disappointed that the Act does not fund the \$10 billion I requested to support the war on terrorism. I am also concerned that the Act cuts \$2.7 billion from my request for operations and maintenance activities at the very time our Armed Forces are engaged in a battle against global terrorism. Without these funds, we may be forced to reduce other important programs to finance the war on terrorism.

Sections 8007 and 8111 of the Act prohibit the use of funds to initiate a special access program or to initiate a new start program, unless the congressional defense committees receive advance notice of such initiation. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the President's authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although the advance notice contemplated by sections 8007 and 8111 can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must act promptly under his constitutional grants of executive power and authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces while protecting certain extraordinarily sensitive national security information. The executive branch shall construe sections 8007 and 8111 in a manner consistent with the constitutional authority of the President.

Section 8066 of the Act provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2003 may be used to transfer defense articles or services, other than intelligence services, to another nation or an international organization for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations, until 15 days after the executive branch notifies six committees of Congress of the planned transfer. The provision does not affect transfers using funds available to the Department of Defense if the recipient is other than a nation or an international organization or if the transfer is of intelligence services, such as provision of or accommodation procurements for imagery intelligence, geospatial in-

formation, or cryptological support. The provision also does not affect transfers of defense articles or defense services using funds contained in the Act that are available to the Central Intelligence Agency rather than the Department of Defense. To the extent that protection of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed for international peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, or humanitarian assistance operations might require action of a kind covered by section 8066 sooner than 15 days after notification, the executive branch shall construe section 8066 in a manner consistent with my constitutional duty as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

A proviso in the Act's appropriation for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide" prohibits implementation of, and purports to prohibit planning for, consolidation of certain offices within the Department of Defense. Similarly, section 8121 of the Act purports to specify the content of future Department of Defense budgetary and programming plans. The executive branch shall construe these provisions relating to planning in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to require the opinions of the heads of departments and to recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient.

Section 8094 of the Act provides that, in implementing a health care interagency partnership under that section, Native Hawaiians shall have the status of Native Americans who are eligible for the healthcare services provided by the Indian Health Service. The executive branch shall implement section 8094 in a manner consistent with the requirement to afford equal protection of the laws under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 8116 of the Act makes certain appropriated funds available for transportation, food, lodging, supplies, fees, and training materials for members of the Armed Forces and their immediate family members while participating in chaplain-led programs, such as retreats and conferences, that assist them in building and maintaining a strong family structure. In implementing this provision, the executive branch shall accord the fullest respect to the fundamental constitutional

right of free exercise of religion, subject to the constitutional limitation on establishment of religion and any other applicable law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5010, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-248.

Statement on Signing the Military Construction Appropriation Act, 2003

October 23, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 5011, the “Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2003,” which provides \$10.5 billion for Department of Defense military construction and family housing programs. The Act ensures the Nation’s military construction priorities are met and provides the resources and infrastructure for our fighting forces at home and abroad. My Administration is committed to improving military housing and the quality of life of our uniformed defenders and their families, and this bill clearly reflects that commitment.

Sections 107, 110, and 113 of the Act provide for notice to the Congress of relocation of activities between military installations, initiation of a new installation abroad, or U.S. military exercises involving \$100,000 in construction costs. The U.S. Supreme Court has stated that the President’s authority to classify and control access to information bearing on national security flows from the Constitution and does not depend upon a legislative grant of authority. Although the notice can be provided in most situations as a matter of comity, situations may arise, especially in wartime, in which the President must act promptly under his constitutional grants of executive power and authority as Commander in Chief while protecting sensitive national security information. The executive branch shall construe these sections in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority.

Section 119 provides for the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to the Congress with details of proposed actions to encourage

certain cooperating nations to assume a greater share of the common defense burden. The executive branch shall construe this provision in a manner consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to withhold information, the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties. The Secretary of Defense will, of course, continue as a matter of comity to keep the Congress appropriately informed of the matters addressed by section 119.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 5011, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-249.

Remarks on Children’s Online Safety *October 23, 2002*

Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the White House. And thanks for the work that most of you do on behalf of protecting this country’s children. Because children are so vulnerable, they need the constant protection of adults. And because children are so vulnerable, they’re often the targets of cruel and ruthless criminals.

I am deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that we’ve seen here in Washington. There is a ruthless person on the loose. I’ve ordered the full resources of the Federal Government to help local law enforcement officials in their efforts to capture this person. Laura and I join our fellow Americans in prayer as we pray for the families and friends who have lost loved ones, as we pray for the safety of our fellow citizens, as we pray for the quick end to this period of violence and fear.

Protecting children from sexual exploitation is also a priority. It needs to be a priority and is a priority of this country. Earlier this month, I convened the first ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children. And those efforts continue today.

I've just met with law enforcement representatives from the Federal, State, and local level from several States who spend their time tracking down and prosecuting online predators. These officials are impressive people. They're the best of America. They're doing difficult and disturbing and essential work. And I thank them for coming here today.

Our Nation has made this commitment: Anyone who targets a child for harm will be a primary target of law enforcement. That's our commitment. Anyone who takes the life or innocence of a child will be punished to the full extent of the law.

Today I want to discuss with you several aggressive steps we are taking to protect our children from exploitation and from danger on the Internet.

I appreciate so very much Robert Mueller, the Director of the FBI, is here with us today. I thank you for your service, for your good work. I want to thank the Deputy Attorney General of the Department of Justice, Larry Thompson, for being here. Mr. Deputy, thanks for coming. Bob Bonners, the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs Service, is with us today. They play an integral role in helping to catch these predators overseas.

Federal, State, and law enforcement officers and prosecutors who are here with us today, ranging from California to Alabama to Maryland—from all around the country. I want to thank you all for being here to hear this progress and commitment that we share for our country.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has become real. And you all here are on the frontlines of this great struggle to see to it that no parent has to live through the nightmare. That's what you're doing.

The Internet is a remarkable technology. We've all learned that. It's revolutionized education, vastly increased the flow of information, increases our knowledge. We're now in closer touch with our family and friends. People are now connected across the globe. It's an exciting tool. But more than half of our Nation children now online—let me start over—more than half of the Nation is now

online, and 75 percent of the children are online.

The flow of information is freer and broader. Yet the new freedom presents us with an unprecedented challenge, a technology that brings knowledge also brings obscenity and danger. Until recently, the worst kind of pornography was mainly limited to red-light districts or restricted to adults or confined by geography, isolated by shame. With the Internet, pornography is now instantly available to any child who has a computer. And in the hands of the wrong people, in the hands of incredibly wicked people, the Internet is a tool that lures children into real danger.

Sexual predators use the Internet to distribute child pornography and obscenity. They use the Internet to engage in sexually explicit conversations. They use the Internet to lure children out of the safety of their homes into harm's way. Every day, millions of children log on to the Internet, and every day we learn more about the evil of the world that has crept into it. In a single year, one in four children between the ages of 10 and 17 is voluntarily—involuntarily exposed to pornography. That's one in four children. One in five children receives a sexual solicitation over the Internet. One in 17 children is threatened or harassed. We've got a widespread problem, and we're going to deal with it.

We don't accept this kind of degrading. It's unacceptable to America. We don't accept offensive conduct like this in our schools, in the commercial establishments, and we can't accept it in our homes. We cannot allow this to happen to our children. The chief responsibility to protect America's children lies with their parents. You are responsible for the welfare of your child. It's your responsibility.

There are several practical things parents can do to protect their children from the dangers of online predators. First of all, pay attention to your children. If you love your children, pay attention to them. Know what they're doing. Share your experience with your children. Make it clear to your children about the potential online dangers they face. Make it clear to them the kinds of Web sites they need to avoid.

Children need to be told to never provide personal information to anyone online. It seems like a simple parental responsibility. Mothers and dads all across America need to do their job and make it clear to their children there can be danger by providing personal information. Don't share any passwords—that's a logical thing for a mom or a dad to do, tell their children not to share a password with a total stranger. Don't agree to meet with somebody they've never met. Don't agree to meet with somebody that chats them up on the Internet, unless the mom or dad is with them.

Parents should keep computers in a central location and check up on what their kids are doing. They ought to not ignore what their children are doing. They ought to pay attention to their children. They have a responsibility. A mother or dad ought to pay just as much attention to their child when they're on the Internet as if they're in the playground or walking in the mall.

Parents have the first and foremost responsibility. Yet we as a society share this duty as well, and that's what we were talking about today. Parents need allies in the upbringing of their children. Our Nation should make the essential work of mothers and fathers easier, not harder. Our Government, at every level, must take the side of responsible parents, and we will.

We're waging an aggressive nationwide effort to prevent the use of the Internet to sexually exploit and endanger children. That's what we're doing. I want to share some of that with you today. Through an FBI program called Innocent Images, we identify, we investigate, and we prosecute sexual predators across the country.

FBI agents are obtaining evidence of criminal Internet activity by conducting undercover operations, using fictitious screen names and entering into online chat rooms. I had the honor of listening to one such FBI agent today. She was telling us what it's like to deal with these sick minds. Interesting, afterwards I said, "It must be tough to do the job you do." She says, "I've got two children. I don't want it to ever happen to any child." I appreciate your dedication.

Innocent Images prosecutions increased by more than 50 percent over the last 2 years.

We're making progress. Just like we're hunting the terrorists down one at a time, we're hunting these predators down one at a time too. Based on the progress, I'm pleased to announce that we will expand this program and significantly increase the funding in the next fiscal year. We will also seek to almost double funding for the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, from \$6.5 million in fiscal year 2002 to \$12.5 million in fiscal 2003. These task forces help State and local authorities enforce laws against child pornography and exploitation.

Since 1998, the task forces have helped train more than 1,500 prosecutors and 1,900 investigators. They've served 700 search warrants and 1,400 subpoenas. The task forces have provided direct, investigative assistance in more than 3,000 cases. They've arrested more than 1,400 suspects. These task forces are a great success. They're a great success because we've got a lot of good people working on these projects, a lot of dedicated Americans whose stomachs turn when they realize what's happening to our children, great Americans who decided to do something about it. This additional funding I've announced means that in—we'll increase the number of regional task forces up to 40 around the country.

Our efforts to fight Internet exploitation of children extend throughout this Government, throughout all levels of government. The U.S. Postal Inspection service provides an important role in tracking sexual predators, because child pornographers often use the mail to purchase obscene materials off the Internet. In Operation Avalanche, postal inspectors created an undercover Web site which they used to bring down what is to believe—what is believed to be the largest commercial child pornography enterprise ever encountered by law enforcement authorities in the United States. It started in Texas. It ended in Texas because of the hard work of the postal inspectors, the good work of prosecutors, and the sentencing of one tough Federal judge.

The Customs Service is conducting Operation Hamlet, which earlier this year dismantled an international ring of child molesters, an international ring of sick minds. Acting on a tip from European authorities, Customs

officers tracked down child molesters in the United States, many of whom were molesting their own children and distributing the images of these children on the Internet. Authorities have identified 25 individuals involved in this ring, 14 of whom were Americans. Through Operation Hamlet, 65 children have been rescued.

We're taking aggressive steps to protect children from exploitation and victimization. And the United States Congress can help by passing the "Child Obscenity and Pornography Prevention Act." The House has passed this important bill, and I want to thank them for their good work.

The House passed a bill which makes it illegal for child pornographers to disseminate obscene, computer-generated images of children. It's an important piece of legislation. The Senate needs to act soon. The Senate needs to get moving and join the House in providing our prosecutors with the tools necessary to help shut down this obscenity, this crime—these crimes against children.

When a child's life or innocence is taken, a grave and unforgivable act has occurred. A parent's worst nightmare has come real. The people in this room are on the frontlines of a great struggle, determined to see that no parent is forced to live through a nightmare.

I'm tremendously grateful for the good works. I want to thank you all for being true patriots. I want you to know, at the Federal level, we're joining in the fight. We'll go after them, one person at a time, to make America a promising place for everybody who lives here.

May God bless your work, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to the sniper attacks in the Washington, DC, area which left 10 dead and 3 injured. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Russian Democracy Act of 2002

October 23, 2002

I have today signed into law H.R. 2121, the "Russian Democracy Act of 2002." This Act seeks to promote democracy, the rule of law, and an independent media in the Russian Federation.

Section 3(b) of the Act purports to establish U.S. policy towards Russia. My approval of the Act does not constitute my adoption of the statements of policy in section 3(b) as U.S. foreign policy. Given the Constitution's commitment to the presidency of the authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, the executive branch shall construe such policy statements as advisory, giving them the due weight that comity between the legislative and executive branches should require, to the extent consistent with U.S. foreign policy.

George W. Bush

The White House,
October 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2121, approved October 23, was assigned Public Law No. 107-246.

Proclamation 7614—United Nations Day, 2002

October 23, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The United Nations was founded 57 years ago to improve our global community by strengthening the ties among member nations through improved communication, expanded understanding, and enhanced security. On United Nations Day, America joins the world in commemorating the founding of this important international organization and recognizing the profound impact it has had on our world and the role that it continues to play.

Since October 24, 1945, the United Nations Organization has grown to include 191 member states. Through its relief agencies, the U.N. aids and protects millions of refugees and displaced persons worldwide. For example, in 2001, the United Nations World Food Program provided aid to 77 million people in 82 countries and helped to avert a severe famine that threatened Afghanistan. The U.N. also seeks to improve living conditions around the globe by immunizing children, providing safe drinking water, and fighting disease.

The United States remains committed to helping the U.N. to advance human rights, healthcare, security, and education throughout the world; and we will continue to meet these and other commitments as we rejoin the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. Our country continues to work with the U.N. in supplying aid for nations and peoples in need or distress, and in providing medical care and other essentials through U.N. agencies such as UNICEF.

As our world faces new challenges and opportunities, the efforts of the United Nations take on a renewed significance. The United States recognizes the U.N. for its efforts to support and strengthen the international coalition against global terror. And we hope the United Nations will fulfill its role in addressing the threats posed to the civilized world, particularly the threat now posed by Iraq. As a founding member of the U.N., the United States reaffirms our dedication to this vital organization and our hope that it will continue to fulfill the vision of its founders.

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 proclaim October 24, 2002, as United Nations Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 25, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on October 28.

Remarks in Charlotte, North Carolina

October 24, 2002

Thank you all for coming. I'm glad to be back in North Carolina, and thanks for such a warm welcome. I want to talk about some things that are important. I want to talk about the future of this great country. We've got some tough tasks ahead of us. No question in my mind, we can accomplish anything we set our mind to. We're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to talk to you about how to make our country safer, stronger, and better. And one way to do so is to send Elizabeth Dole to the United States Senate. There is no question in my mind, she is the right person for the job for North Carolina.

The senior Senator from North Carolina is retiring after a lot of good years of service to our country. I admire his service—no finer gentleman in the United States Senate. He represented North Carolina well. He's a credit to our country. And the right person to follow Senator Jesse Helms is soon-to-be Senator Elizabeth Dole.

She married well, and so did I. The truth of the matter is, Senator Dole—the male Senator Dole—and I married above ourselves. Laura sends her best. I just talked to her on the phone. She's on our—she wishes she could be here. She's on our ranch in Texas. It's been raining, so she needs to sweep the porch, because the President of China is coming tomorrow. [*Laughter*]

But she's doing great. She sends her love to Elizabeth, her best to all the candidates. She sends her best to all the friends of ours in North Carolina. I'm really proud of the job she's done on behalf of the American people.

I want to thank you all for coming, because it gives me a chance to thank you for what you have done and for what you're going to do. And what I hope you do, and I think you're going to do, is go to your coffee shops

and your places of worship and your community centers and remind people that in America they have a duty to vote, that in this country there is a responsibility that comes with being a United States citizen. We expect you to vote. We expect you to do your duty.

And by the way, when you're reminding them to vote, you might make a couple of suggestions. [*Laughter*] One suggestion is Elizabeth Dole. When you're getting on the telephone and when you're putting up the signs and when you're mailing the mailers, the grassroots that makes a difference in an election, make sure you do so—if you're living in Robin Hayes' district—to send Robin Hayes back to the United States Congress.

I appreciate Robin. I appreciate talking to him. I appreciate his firm stands on national security, and he's kind of wearing me out when it comes to jobs in North Carolina. [*Laughter*] He cares deeply about the people in his district and the people of this State. He cares deeply about making sure people can find work. And I appreciate his deep concern. I appreciate working with him to make sure our economy continues to grow.

With us today as well is Congressman Cass Ballinger. He's another friend. He's another good one you sent up to the United States Congress from the State of North Carolina. And I'm real proud of Sue Myrick. She's done a great job. She's a fine soul. She's got those North Carolina values etched in her heart, and she represents you well in the United States Congress. I want to wish Carolyn Grant all the best, and hope for—the folks in her district realize she is the best candidate for the United States Congress.

I'm thankful for the mayor being here. Mr. Mayor, thanks for your time. [*Applause*] You've got a—a couple of your relatives showed up, Mayor. [*Laughter*]

You've got a lot of great candidates running for your court, particularly the supreme court. And I hope, as you're getting out to work, you make sure you've got a bench that is strong, a bench where people aren't on there to legislate but to interpret the constitution of the State of North Carolina.

And speaking about benches, another reason we need Elizabeth Dole in the Senate, besides the fact that she's going to do a great job for North Carolina, is I've got to have

United States Senators who will work with me to make sure our Federal judiciary is strong. The record—I'm picking good people to be judges, good, solid, honorable people to be the judges on the Federal judiciary, people who will strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States, not people who will use the bench to write new legislation.

And the record of this United States Senate is a lousy record. They have politicized the process. They have distorted the records of many of our good candidates we put forward. They're playing petty politics with the candidates that I put up there. We're not getting a hearing fast enough. The percentage of judges is the worst in modern history, percentage of judges approved, and that's not right.

Let me tell you about one, Terry Boyle from North Carolina, I nominated for the fourth circuit court. I nominated him a long while ago. He can't even get a hearing. For the sake of a good, sound judiciary, we need to change the United States Senate, and you can start by electing Elizabeth Dole to the Senate.

You got a good shot, if you go out and vote and you work hard, to capture the legislature. And that's important. So I'm here not only to tout the candidacies of some fine people, but I'm here to thank you—thank you for getting to—getting ready to get to work. We're coming down the stretch. Candidates can't win without you. So do your duty. Convince your neighbors to do their duty. And by the way, make sure you not only talk to Republicans but talk to some Democrats. Some of these Democrats understand the difference between good Government and bad Government. They know the difference between a good candidate and a bad candidate. They know the difference between plain talk and somebody who is going to cloud up the issues. And also find those who don't give a hoot about a political party and turn them out to vote. It's the right thing for America to do that.

I appreciate so very much Elizabeth's focus on education. I share the same focus. We share the same philosophy. It starts with the belief that every child can learn. That's an important distinction. It's important to

have that ingrained in your heart. If you believe every child can learn, it means you're going to insist upon high standards and high expectations. It means you're willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, if you believe certain inner-city kids can't possibly learn, if you believe children whose parents may not speak English as a first language can't learn, then you're willing to have low standards and low expectations. And that's not right for America.

Secondly, Elizabeth and I not only believe you ought to set high standards, we believe in local control of schools. We believe that you got to trust the local folks. Listen, the people who care more about the children of North Carolina are the people of North Carolina, not people living in Washington, DC.

We're spending Federal money on education. As a matter of fact, North Carolina will receive \$1 billion of Federal monies. And that's good. And it's monies targeted to people who need help. But for the first time, we're starting to ask the question, are we getting a return on our dollar spent?

See, for the first time the United States Congress has said, "For money spent, we expect every child to learn because we believe every child can learn. Therefore, you got to show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract." And if not—first of all, if so, we'll heap praise where it belongs, and that's on your teachers and your parents and your principals who are working hard to make sure there's a quality education for every child. But if the accountability system shows that there are children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, you better make sure you've got public representatives who are willing to challenge the status quo. No child should be left behind in America. I look forward to working with Elizabeth on education matters, based upon the philosophy I just outlined.

I look forward to working with her to make sure medicine works. Listen, medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck. And yet it's an incredibly important program. It's a promise which

we have made to our seniors. It's a promise that we must keep for the sake of having a stronger America and a better America. I look forward to working with Elizabeth Dole to make sure that Medicare is modern, just like medicine, and the seniors have got a prescription drug plan.

We share the same view that if somebody is looking for work in America and can't find a job, that we need to do everything we can to increase jobs in America, that we ought to be thinking about pro-growth policies; pro-growth so people can find work, not pro-growth so the Federal Government expands; pro-growth so that the person here in North Carolina who's looking for work is able to put food on the table. That's what we want. And one way to do that is to let people keep more of their own money.

We read from the same textbook. It says, if a person has more money in their pocket, he or she is more likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in our society, in the marketplace, somebody is more likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody in North Carolina, or elsewhere in America, is more likely to find work.

The best way to invigorate a sluggish economy, the best way to make sure that people are able to find work, is to let people keep more of their own money. The tax cuts that Elizabeth Dole supports will provide the people of North Carolina, over the next 10 years, \$28 billion in income tax and death tax relief, \$4.5 billion in child credit relief, \$1.8 billion in marriage penalty relief, billions of dollars over the next 10 years to be in your pocket so you can decide what to do with it, so you can help invigorate the economy by just doing what you normally do, which is, demand a good or a service.

But the issue is alive and well because there are some in Washington that do not want to make the tax relief plan we put in place permanent. See, it's temporary. I need a United States Senator to join me—with me to make sure that tax relief is permanent. How can you plan if tax relief is temporary? How can you run your small business if you're not sure what the tax rules are going to be? It doesn't make any sense to say, "On

the one hand, we giveth. On the other hand, we taketh away.” We need a United States Senate that will make the tax relief permanent.

I know it makes some of them nervous up there to hear us talking about that. But they’ve got to understand that small business is the engine of economic vitality for America. Seventy percent of new jobs are created by small businesses. We want the entrepreneurial spirit to flourish. We want small businesses to be able to grow to be big businesses. And one way you do so is, you let them keep more money in their pocket. That’s how you encourage small-business growth. And by cutting the individual tax rates, which most small businesses pay because they’re sole proprietorships or limited partnerships, we are invigorating the small-business sector of America.

I believe this economy is going to be fine, because interest rates are low, inflation is low, and productivity is high. It’s also going to be fine because the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. That dream is a big dream for people. Today we’ve got with us David and Helen-Marie Berthold. They started their own business. It’s called Ehren-Haus Industries. It’s a plastics and wire company. They had a dream. They wanted to own their own business. They wanted to make employment opportunities available in North Carolina. They worked hard to build up their own business, and they’re pretty darn good about it, by the way. David and Marie won the 2001 Entrepreneurial Award from the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Marie is the National Association of Women Business Owners Woman of the Year. They know what they’re doing.

But let me tell you what they’re worried about. They’re worried about overregulation. They see reams of regulations coming out of these bureaucracies at the Federal and State level. I look forward to working with Elizabeth Dole to make it easier for small businesses to prosper, not harder for small businesses to prosper, by reducing unnecessary regulations.

Let me tell you what else they’re worried about—and so am I. They’re worried that they’re not going to be able to leave their business to their family. If you’re a farmer

or you’re a rancher or you’re a small-business owner, the death tax is an incredibly punitive tax. See, people work all their life to build up their small business, like David and Helen-Marie have done. You’ve got farmers here in North Carolina, worked all their life to build up their farms and then want to leave it to their child. But the death tax oftentimes prevents people from doing that. It means a person’s assets are taxed twice. It means the Federal Government gets in between the owner of the asset and the person they want to leave it to. You need to have a United States Senator who speaks plainly on how bad the death tax is to America and make sure that the death tax is repealed forever.

Let me talk about one other issue right quick, about domestic policy. And I worry about the cost of health care, and I’m worried about the accessibility of health care. And one reason the cost of health care is up and one reason there’s fewer doctors practicing medicine is because there’s too many junk and frivolous lawsuits hurting our docs. We want people to have access to the courts, but you can’t have access to the courts when you’ve got frivolous lawsuits filed all over the place. And you’ve got docs being run out of business.

I was in Mississippi the other day, and I was talking to a young doctor who had moved down to the Delta. He followed his heart. He and his wife moved to the Delta from up north because they wanted to help people who couldn’t help themselves with medicine. The lawsuits, the trial lawyers have made it so hard for this guy to practice compassionate medicine, he said, “I’ve had it. I’m moving back home.”

Listen, we can have a health care system that’s responsive. We need a legal system that takes care of people who are injured. But we need a law at the Federal level, a medical liability reform law that prevents the plaintiff’s attorneys of America from driving up health care costs and driving good people out of medicine.

No, there’s a lot of work we’re going to do together to make sure that America is a stronger place, make sure the economy goes forward, make sure people get educated. We’ve also got to make sure America is a

secure place, safer place. It's the biggest challenge we have right now in America, is to protect the homeland.

You've just got to know that there's an enemy out there lurking around which hates America. They just do. And they hate us because of what we love. We love freedom, is what we love. We love to be able to worship an Almighty any way we see fit in America. We value our elections, although the candidates may be getting a little tired of it. We value open discourse. We value a free press. We value freedom. And so long as we love freedom, there's going to be an enemy out there which hates what we love. You've just got to understand that.

We're in a new era. Oceans no longer protect us. After September 11th, 2001, we learned a harsh lesson here in America that reality has changed. It used to be, when we were coming up or when we were younger, that two oceans could protect us. And there would be a conflict overseas, and the United States had the luxury of picking and choosing whether or not we wanted to participate in the conflict. We had that luxury, but it's changed. And America must understand it has changed. No longer can we assume oceans will protect us—as a matter of fact, quite the contrary. We must assume that the enemy is coming, and we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland.

That's why I started talking about the issue of Iraq. In the new reality, we must view all threats—we must take all threats seriously. We must have a cold, hard look at every threat facing America. And the man over there in Iraq is a threat. After all, he has gassed his own people. He hates what we stand for. He hates what America believes in. He has not only gassed his own people; he used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. He's used weapons of mass destruction on countries in his neighborhood. He has told the world he won't have weapons of mass destruction; for 11 years he's lied. Time and time and time again, he has lied. Time and time and time again, the United Nations has passed resolutions telling him, "Disarm." He's totally ignored the resolutions.

So here is our strategy. Our strategy is to make it clear to the United Nations, we want

you to be effective. We don't want you to be the League of Nations. We want you to be an effective United Nations. It's your choice to make. We're sending a clear message to Mr. Saddam Hussein, we believe in peace in America. We want the world to be peaceful, not only for ourselves but for people in your neighborhood. And so you must disarm. You said you would disarm, and you must disarm. It's your choice to make.

We have made the call to the international community and to Mr. Saddam Hussein, himself, to disarm. But my friends, if the United Nations won't act, if they're feeble in their responsibility, and if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, the United States will lead a coalition in the name of peace to disarm Saddam Hussein.

That's our responsibility. That's my responsibility to see as clearly as I can see, to anticipate true threats to our homeland and deal with them—deal with them in a way that enables me to tell you that I'm doing everything I can—or we're doing everything we can to protect the people. That's our most important responsibility.

There is a lot of good people working hard on your behalf, people at the Federal level, people at the State level, people at the local level, a lot of people. See, we're on alert. We understand the realities. We remember, and we're not forgetting what took place. We saw what happened in Indonesia. We understand the people we're dealing with. There's no therapy, by the way, that can heal these people. These are coldblooded killers. That's all they are.

And so, therefore, we got to do everything we can here at home to button up the homeland. That's why I asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security, a Department that's—whose job it is to make sure that number one priority of agencies involved with the homeland security is just that—is your protection. We need people under one agency, I felt, because in order to make sure that that becomes the number one priority, that some cultures within agencies need to change. And we could effect a cultural change better if there was one agency involved with your protection.

We're making some progress. The House voted a good bill, and the Senate is stuck.

The Senate hasn't gotten a homeland security bill. They're arguing over things. As a matter of fact they said, "We'll get you one, Mr. President, but you got to pay a price." And here's the price they wanted me to pay: They want to roll back an authority that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, which will allow me to suspend some work rules for the sake of national security.

See, I need to have that capacity, like every President since John Kennedy has had, to say that it's in our national interest that certain work rules be suspended, not that we're going to suspend collective bargaining rights, not that people can't accumulate the way they see fit, but that certain rules which may get in the way of our ability to protect America need to be suspended. I'll give you an example.

We thought it was important for Customs agents to wear radiological detection devices. After all, if you're worried about weapons of mass destruction coming into America, you want your Customs people to have a device that will help detect weapons of mass destruction. The union heads said, "Wait a minute. You can't make these people wear that. That's an issue over which we must have collective bargaining." See, because I had the power to suspend the rules, after 4 months' discussion, we got it done.

But the Senate is stuck. They're more interested in some special interests up there, and I'm not going to stand for it. It's not right for America. I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America, and Elizabeth Dole will be a strong ally.

The best way to protect America, however, is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And we're making progress. But it's a different kind of war. Used to, you could measure progress based upon the number of tanks that no—were out of commission or number of airplanes you shot down.

These people we fight are people who hide in caves or lurk around the dark corners of parts of the world and send youngsters to their suicidal death. See, that's the new kind of army we face. And they're tough. They're not as tough as we are, but they're tough. They hide. You got to understand when you

explain this to your children—it's important you do and—or people who are questioning why this is going on, you've got explain to them that here in America we value life. Everybody counts. Everybody is a precious soul. But they, the enemy, they don't value life. They've hijacked a great religion, and they murder. Innocent life doesn't matter to them. It just doesn't count. It doesn't—it's just not on their radar screen.

And there's a difference. And therefore, we fight a determined enemy. But the only way to deal with them is to keep our coalition strong and to hunt them down. You know, I laid out a doctrine—you just got to know it still stands—it said, "Either you're with us, either you love freedom and with nations which embrace freedom, or you're with the enemy. There's no in-between." And the doctrine still stands.

Sometimes—sometimes you'll see the progress on your TV screens, and sometimes you're not going to see the progress on your TV screens. It's a different kind of war. We're cutting off their money when we can find it. We're sharing intelligence, and we're hauling them in.

The other day a guy popped his head up, named bin al-Shibh. [*Laughter*] He's not a problem anymore. [*Laughter*] He was a significant character because he wanted to be the 20th hijacker. He was still out there plotting.

Slowly but surely, this great country, with our friends and allies, are hunting them down and bringing them to justice. It doesn't matter how long it takes, by the way. Yesterday I signed a defense appropriations bill, right there in the Rose Garden. I said two things about it. One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And secondly, that was a message to friend and foe alike, it doesn't matter how long it takes. The increase in defense spending, the largest since Ronald Reagan, sends a clear message: We're in this deal for the long haul. See, we understand freedom. We understand responsibility. I don't know what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. I can't imagine. They must have thought we were so self-absorbed, so selfish, so materialistic that after

2001—September 2001, oh, we might have filed a lawsuit or two. They didn't know. They don't understand America. They don't understand America like I understand America. When it come to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to our obligations and duty for the future for our children, this country will remain strong, and this country will remain tough.

For those of you who have got relatives in the United States military, you tell them their Commander in Chief has got all the confidence in the world in those good troops. I'm glad they're on my side.

No, we got a lot of work to do, but I want you to know—I firmly believe this—that if we stay the course and do our duty, fulfill our obligation, we can achieve peace. That's my dream. My dream is not only for a peaceful America but to bring peace in parts of the world who have quit on peace.

I believe it's possible that we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I have a clear vision on how we can get there—going to have to renounce terror. We have to remain true to our principles. We have to remember that freedom is God-given—it's not United States-given—that freedom is a universal value, not an American value.

No, out of the evil done to America can come some great good, starting with peace in the world. And here at home, we can be a better America. You just got to understand there are pockets of despair in this country. People hurt—places where people are addicted or lost. People wonder whether or not the American experience, the so-called American Dream, is meant for them. My attitude is, so long as one of us hurts, all of us hurt. But I believe we can eradicate those pockets of despair and hopelessness. I believe that—not only by having a good education system, good health care, making sure that the welfare system is in place that encourages and helps people work. I believe we can accomplish that. But we've got to understand the limitations of Government.

Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. The way we can change America, one heart, one soul,

one conscience at a time, is for each of us to understand people hurt and put our arm around them and tell them we love them. If you want to change America, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, our vision—Elizabeth's vision and my vision—understands the great power of all faiths in our society. We understand a universal law of love. And we understand that America can change, that there are forces more powerful than addiction; there are force more power than—powerful than hopelessness; there are forces more powerful than loneliness.

My call to our fellow Americans, if you want to join the fight against evil, is do some good. Mentor a child, just like your mayor does. Mentor a child. You can save Charlotte, North Carolina, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Be a Boy Scout leader or a Girl Scout leader. Go to your Boy's Clubs or Girl's Clubs. Feed the hungry. Find housing for those who need a home. There's all kinds of ways you can help.

One person can't do everything. I recognize that. But each of us can be that one person doing something to make sure that the enemy which hits us understands that they hit the greatest, most powerful, and yet, at the same time, most compassionate country on the face of the Earth.

No, they hit us; they didn't know who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to this great country is going to come a more hopeful day.

I want to thank you for your interest in our political process. I urge you to get out the vote. In the meantime, may God bless you all, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. at the Charlotte Coliseum. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole and her husband, former Senator Bob Dole; President Jiang Zemin of China; Carolyn Grant, candidate for North Carolina's 13th Congressional District; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Columbia, South Carolina

October 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Well, thanks for coming out today.

Audience member. I love Bush!

The President. And I love South Carolina. [Laughter]

We've got a lot of friends here. I want to thank you all for coming today. I want to talk about a couple of things. I want to talk about some of the challenges facing our country. We've got some steep hills to climb, but there's no doubt in my mind we can climb them. After all, we're the finest nation on the face of the Earth.

I want to talk a little politics with you. You see, there's no question in my mind that if you're interested in the State of the South Carolina, and if you're interested in the future of this State, you need to have Mark Sanford as the next Governor. And there's also no question in my mind, one, that you've been really well represented by the great Strom Thurmond.

I'm really proud to be able to serve with the Senator. As a matter of fact, he came by the other day. We were talking about an important issue, and he reminded me that early December is his 100th birthday. [Laughter] I couldn't tell if he was hinting or not, so I took the bait and invited him over to the White House for his 100th birthday party. [Laughter] So he's coming.

So you've got to make sure you replace this good man with somebody who can do the job, somebody who will do what's right for South Carolina, and somebody who will make the strong stands for America. No question in my mind, the right man to take the place of Strom Thurmond is soon-to-be United States Senator Lindsey Graham.

I appreciate Jenny Sanford being here, your next first lady. She brought those four Sanford boys with her. [Laughter] Speaking about first ladies, you drew the short straw. See, if Graham and Sanford were smart, they'd have asked First Lady Laura Bush to come instead of me. But I—he said he did. [Laughter] The reason she couldn't come, well, it rained in Crawford. [Laughter] And that's where she is, and she's sweeping the

porch because the President of China is coming tomorrow. [Laughter]

But she sends her love. You know, when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian. That always gets one cheer. [Laughter] But you know what I'm talking about; that's a job that requires a good heart and deep care about our children. Anyway, when I asked her to marry me, she was that, and she didn't particularly like politics—[laughter]—and she didn't like politicians. [Laughter] And now here she is, as a fabulous First Lady for America.

I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Congress who joined us here. That would be Congressman Henry Brown and Congressman Joe Wilson. Some of the statehouse folks are here, and they're doing a fine job on behalf of the South Carolinians. That would be Bob Peeler, David Wilkins, and Charlie Condon and Jim Miles. I'm honored that they're here. You've got a great slate of candidates running with—running with Mark.

Let me tell you why I'm here. I want you all to understand, it's important to do your duties as Americans. It's important that you vote. It's important that you find good candidates. I've obviously got a few suggestions for you here. [Laughter] It's important that you go to your coffee shops and houses of worship and your community centers and remind your fellow South Carolinians they have a duty; they've got a duty to this country; they've got a duty to democracy to participate. It doesn't matter whether they're Republican, Democrat, could care less about parties. They have a duty, and so you need to go out there and round up the vote.

I want to thank you for what you have done in the political process. But as importantly now, I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is to turn out that vote and make sure this good slate of candidates win on November the 5th.

And there's a reason—there's a reason here in South Carolina. You need a Governor who's willing to change the tone of this State. You know, there's just too much partisan bickering that goes on in the statehouse. You need somebody who is going to rise above it all, somebody who doesn't need a poll or

a focus group to tell him how to think, somebody who stands on principle, somebody that's going to be the Governor of everybody when he wins. And that person is Mark Sanford.

I appreciate his commitment to education. When I was the Governor of Texas, I used to tell them that education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's by far the most important priority of any Governor. That is, educating every child. Mark and I share a philosophy. It's a philosophy that's going to be good for South Carolina when he wins. It's a philosophy that starts with this concept: Every child can learn. You see—and I mean every child, not just those who live in nice suburban districts—every child. If you believe that, it's historic for educational excellence for every single child. We've got to have you, a Governor who's willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, if you believe certain children can't learn, that's what's going to happen. And so you've got to start with a Governor who's optimistic and bold in his vision about every child being able to learn. That's how Mark thinks. But you've also got to have a Governor who's willing to challenge the bureaucracy and trust the local people to chart the path to excellence for every child.

We believe in local control of schools. This year, we're going to be sending \$600 million of Federal money to help South Carolina run its schools. But for the first time, thanks to the work of Lindsey Graham in the United States Congress and the other Congressmen here, Henry and Joe, we're starting to ask this question: What are the results? See, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child is learning. If you believe every child can learn to read, then it seems to make sense to ask the question, is it happening? Are the schools in South Carolina meeting the objective to teach every single child, not just a few—every child how to read? So you're asking the question for the first time.

You've got to have a Governor who's willing to hold people to account, who's willing not to be captured by special interest. The only interest Mark cares about are the children. That's his special interest. You've got

to be willing to have high standards, local control of schools, and you've got to know whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. And then once you know, you must have a Governor who's willing to praise those hardworking teachers for being successful. And for those of you who teach, thanks for what you're doing.

But if you believe every child can learn and you find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, for the good of South Carolina, you better have a Governor who's willing to challenge the status quo, and that Governor is going to be Mark Sanford.

And I look forward to working with Mark when we continue to work on welfare reform. Welfare reform is an important issue, because if a person gets trapped in the Government's cycle, they won't be able to realize their human worth. People can find dignity through work. So one of the things I'm going to do when I'm the President, if they reauthorize welfare, is to work with Mark Sanford to make sure that there's training programs available, so a man or a woman can find work, can be able to see the dignity of work. He understands that. He understands that, if you're trapped in Government, it will sap your soul and drain your spirit.

Everybody counts in the State of South Carolina. And so when we work on important issues that deal with the human condition, we've got to work in a way that understands human dignity is found by empowering each and every person. Mark Sanford understands that clearly.

No, he's going to make you a good Governor. I urge you to—as they're coming down the pike, to support this good candidate and his family with your vote, with your energy, with your enthusiasm, and sure enough, on election day, you will have Mark Sanford as your Governor.

And I'm looking forward to working with Lindsey Graham. And I don't need a Senator from South Carolina where I've got to worry about where he lights on any issue. [*Laughter*] You don't need a Senator from your State that kind of is for one thing one day and the heat gets on and changes his position the next day. That's not going to serve your State

well. It's certainly going to make it harder to get an agenda through that will make America safer, stronger, and better. And after all, that's what we need to do, to work together to make America a safer country and a stronger country and a better country.

When it comes to making America a stronger country, that starts with making sure our economy continues to expand. My attitude is, any time somebody who wants to work and can't find a job—says we've got a problem. My attitude is, is that we want to help people put food on the table. If people are struggling to get ahead, we've got to do everything we can in Washington, DC, to expand the job base.

And it starts with understanding how our economy works. The page of the textbook that we have read says this: If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan that Lindsey Graham supported came at the right time in American economic history.

Over the next 10 years, that tax relief plan will put about \$14.9 billion in the pockets of South Carolinian citizens. That's your money to begin with, by the way. Listen carefully to the rhetoric of these candidates when they start saying, "Oh, we're going to spend the Government's money." They seem to forget whose money they're spending in Washington, DC. You listen carefully to the rhetoric of the candidates. You want you a candidate who understands whose money we've got in Washington, DC. And when you have more of your own money, not the Government's money but your money, in your pocket, it means it's more likely somebody is South Carolina is going to find work.

But we've got a problem. See, the Senate, on the one hand, giveth, and on the other hand, taketh away. And the tax relief we plan—passed is not permanent. It's temporary, which means some in Washington, DC, want that \$15 billion, more or less, of tax relief, of your money, to go to the Government coffers. And that would be bad for

the economy. And that would be bad for South Carolina.

The death tax is bad. The marriage penalty is bad. The child credit is good. Reducing income tax rates helps small business. For the sake of economic vitality, you need to have a United States Senator who will make the tax cuts permanent, and that's Lindsey Graham.

He also understands the quality of life for our seniors is important. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. Medicine is modern, and Medicare is stuck. For the sake of our seniors, elect a Senator who will work with me to make sure Medicare is modern and our seniors have got a prescription drug plan.

A stronger America is an America who's got a good Federal bench. One of my jobs is to nominate good, solid citizens, good lawyers, good jurists to our benches. It's a solemn obligation of the President. Yet, the way this Senate is structured, they have done a lousy job. The percentage of our judges which have been approved is the lowest in a long time. And when my judges have made it to the floor, they have been—their records have been distorted because of petty politics, special interest politics in Washington, DC.

I named a good man named Dennis Shedd to represent the fourth circuit court. He's a good jurist. For 17 months, he's still waiting for a vote. The two Senators from South Carolina supported him. Both Republican and Democrat Senators supported him. For 17 months, he's been able to get—unable to get his hearing in the Senate, and we've got a vacancy problem. We've got a vacancy problem because the Senate is playing too much politics. We've got a vacancy problem because they don't like it that I'm nominating good people who are going to strictly interpret the Constitution and not use the bench from which to legislate. We've got a vacancy problem on the Federal court, and one way to solve that is to put Lindsey Graham into the United States Senate.

We've got problems with our economy. It's not growing as robust. And I can promise you I'm going to work with Senator Graham to do everything to make sure people find work and work with Senator Graham to make sure the people have got a good health care

system, work with Senator Graham to make sure the judiciary is strong. And I intend to work with Senator Graham on the most pressing problem facing us, and that's our security of our homeland.

You've just got to understand there's an enemy out there that hates America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love our free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not changing. We're not backing down, and the enemy can't stand that.

The more we love, the more they hate. So our most important job is to protect the American people from further harm, from further attack. And they're out there. People in Australia, many of them grieve now because they're just not—coldblooded killers hit them in Bali. You may remember that. That's all part of this campaign to terrorize the free world, to try to get us to retreat, forget what we're made out of. They don't understand America. They just don't understand us.

They must have thought after September the 11th, 2001, we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's not us. See, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to the defense of our people, when it comes to protecting innocent life, we value innocent life. Every life matters in America. To these killers, no life matters.

When it comes to protecting this country, we'll be plenty tough. When it comes to protecting this country, we've also got to be realistic about the new world we're in. Prior to September the 11th, 2001, we used to think two oceans could protect us from harm. I remember thinking about conflicts and realizing our country could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to participate in the conflict but never really worried about whether or not the conflict would hurt us here at home. For a long time, our country felt like oceans could keep us immune from personal attack, and people wouldn't suffer here at home. We learned a horrible lesson, that in the new wars of the 21st century, we're the battleground—we're one of the battlegrounds.

And that's why I've asked our country to think seriously about Saddam Hussein in

Iraq. Saddam Hussein is a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He made that promise to the world. He's hiding; he's deceiving; he's lying about whether he has them or not. Not only does he have them, he used them. He used them against people in his neighborhood. He used them against his own people. This is a man who has lied about whether or not he possesses weapons of mass destruction, a man who uses them, a man who hates America, a man who hates our friends. He's a threat to peace.

The United Nations decided they were going to deal with Saddam a while ago. Sixteen resolutions have been passed in the United Nations, resolution after resolution after resolution, calling him to account. And he's ignored them. So I made a decision on behalf of our country that I would go to that body and, for the sake of peace, remind them they have an obligation to honor those resolutions, to do something about them. I made the case that you have a choice, United Nations, to keep the peace by showing some backbone. You can be the United Nations or the League of Nations. It's your choice.

And my message to Saddam Hussein is clear as well: You've said you would disarm. For the sake of peace, you said you would get rid of the weapons of mass destruction. It's your choice to make. And so we're working with the international community, reminding Saddam Hussein of his obligations. But I want you all to know, for the sake of peace, for the sake of the security of the United States and our friends and allies, if the United Nations won't deal with him, if he refuses to hear the call for peace, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

As we're clear-eyed about the threats we face overseas, we must be clear-eyed about the threats at home as well. There's a lot of good people working hard to protect you. We're now on alert. We understand the new reality. There's people at the Federal level and the State level and the local level working a lot of long hours to chase down any lead, any hint. Anytime we think somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're responding; we're disrupting; we're

denying; we're making sure we fulfill our solemn obligations to protect you.

But there's more we can do. And so that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to pass a Department of Homeland Security. You see, there's over 100 agencies involved with securing our homeland. They're kind of scattered around up there in Washington. It seemed to make sense to me to put them under one umbrella organization, so that the priority can be set and, if need be, cultures can be changed, so we can get people focused on doing the most important job they've got. And we're making progress.

Part of the progress was made because the House of Representatives—Lindsey Graham was strong on this, and Joe and Henry voted with us—was to create a Department of Homeland Security that would give an administration the capacity to manage the Department, to be able to protect you. It's stuck in the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate because the Senate wants to extract a price from the administration. Every President since John Kennedy has had the ability to act in a national security interest. He had the ability to suspend work rules if they got in the way of protecting the homeland or got in the way of national security, but the Senate wants to take that away. Here we are at war, and all of a sudden they decide I shouldn't have the same authority as every President since John F. Kennedy. I'd have that authority for the Department of Agriculture—[laughter]—but not for the Department of Homeland Security.

Secondly, I need to be able to put the right people at the right place at the right time. We've got a border control issue. We need to know who's coming into our country. We need to know who's coming in and who's going out. We don't know what they're bringing in. Yet, on the border we've got good, hardworking people, fine people, working in three different agencies, Border Patrol, INS, and Customs. Some sectors of the border they've got different strategies; they wear different uniforms. But yet, the work rules prevent us from coordinating them. For the sake of the national security, I need a Senator who will join me in making sure that we can structure the agency so it works.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we're going to do. That's what we're—yesterday I signed a defense bill, right there in the Rose Garden. It's the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. The reason why was because any time we put our troops into harm's way, we owe it to our troops and we owe it to the loved ones of the troops to make sure they've got the best training, the best possible pay, and the best equipment. And our troops are good. They're really good.

And the other message was, to our friend and foe, it doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it takes to win this war on terror. There's no calendar on my desk, right there in the great Oval Office. There's not a calendar that says, you know, by such and such a date, we're hauling them home; by such and such a date, we're going to forget our obligations to our future; by such and such a date that we say, fine, let them sit out there. That's not the way America thinks.

It doesn't matter how much it costs. It doesn't matter how long it takes. This great country will defend our freedoms and defend our people. And we're making some pretty good progress. Remember the doctrine that said, "Either you're with us or you're with them." It still stands. And so we've got a lot of people working together to haul them in.

See, this isn't the kind of war that some of the old vets here are used to: You destroy a bunch of tanks, and you make progress. That's not the kind of war this is. See, we fight these killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. It's a new kind of army. That's why we've got to do a better job of cutting off their money, of sharing intelligence, of finding where they hide, of finding these kind of—putting the sunlight on these dark corners of the world where they kind of slither around. That's what we got to do.

But we're making progress. And sometimes you'll see it, and sometimes you're just not going to see it. The other day one of them popped his head up, bin al-Shibh. He's no longer a problem. [Laughter] Slowly but

surely, we're doing our duty to our country. Slowly but surely, we're hunting these killers down, one at a time.

And that's what we've got to do. But you know how I feel about this, that by being tough and strong and clear, by remembering that freedom is not American-blessed, it is God-given, it's universal, remembering that freedom is a part of what we think about—we remember those values that make us a great nation, we will keep the peace—that the mission of this administration is to make the world more peaceful, that the reason we do what we do is because we believe in freedom and we believe in peace.

And it's going to happen. See, the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They hit the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. They gave us a chance, a chance we will seize, to not only protect America and keep America peaceful, but because we value all life, everybody counts, that we want there to be peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace.

We have a chance to achieve the peace in the Middle East. We have a chance to achieve the peace in South Asia. By being strong and determined, and resolute in our mission, we can make the peace.

And here at home, we can make America a better place, too. See, out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good—incredible good. You just got to know—and I know you know—that there are pockets of despair and loneliness in our country. There are people who are hurt, people who are addicted, people who wonder when you say, "American Dream," they don't understand what that means.

My attitude is, so long as one of us hurts, we all hurt. It's an opportunity, though, however, for us to deal with these pockets of despair. Government can help. We will. We'll worry about education. We'll worry about making sure the welfare system works. We have a Faith-Based Initiative to encourage people of faith to love their neighbor. But Government is limited in its capacity. It can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

That is done when a fellow American has heard the universal call to love a neighbor

just like you'd like to be loved yourself; find somebody who hurts, puts their arm around him, and says, "I love you. What can I do to help make your day?"

Each of us—each of us can help change America, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. Each of us can make a difference in making sure that the enemy hit us, but out of that evil and harm and hurt and tears can come a more compassionate and decent society. There's no question in my mind, no question in my mind, that this great country will lead the world to peace. And there's no question in my mind that this great country, the hope of this great country, the great promise of America can have—can shine in every neighborhood and every home.

And do you know why? Because we're the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth. Thank you for coming.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the Jimmy Doolittle Flight Facility Hangar. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Mark Sanford, and his wife, Jenny Sanford, and their children Marshall, Landon, Bolton, and Blake; senatorial candidate Lindsey Graham; President Jiang Zemin of China; South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Bob Peeler; South Carolina Speaker of the House David Wilkins; South Carolina Attorney General Charlie Condon; South Carolina Secretary of State Jim Miles; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Remarks in Auburn, Alabama

October 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. You all go ahead and be seated. Thanks for coming.

I have the honor of being the second United States President to ever visit Auburn University. The first was Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I don't know how he started his speech, but here's how I'm going to start mine: War Eagle!

Audience member. War Eagle, hey!

The President. I want to thank all you War Eagles for being here. I particularly want to thank your president, President Walker. You did a fine thing when you picked a native Texan to run Auburn. [Laughter] And he's doing a fine job.

And I also want to thank so very much Steven Renfro, who's running the baseball program here. We'll leave behind some of my entourage to make sure the infield is smooth after we leave. [Laughter]

I particularly thank you all for coming. It's a huge honor to be here. It's a great pleasure to be able to come and talk about some of the challenges which face our Nation, talk about why I'm so optimistic that we can face any challenge before us, to talk about your duty as citizens. You see, we're almost upon an election, and you have a responsibility as American citizens to exercise your right, to exercise your freedom to go to the polls.

I think you have a duty to go to your coffee shops and your community centers and your houses of worship and ask others to go to the polls. It doesn't matter whether they're Republican or Democrat or don't give a hoot about politics. You ought to remind them of their duty.

And I suggest when you go, if you're interested in your State and you're interested in your country, that you remind them to vote for Bob Riley as your next Governor. And as you're rounding up those votes, as you show your interest and concern for our country and our country's future, make sure you send to the United States Congress a man I can work with, and that man is Mr. Mike Rogers.

There's a lot of reasons you ought to be for these two, but a real good reason is, they both married well. [Laughter] Like me, they married above themselves. I'm honored to be with Beth Rogers and the next first lady of Alabama, Patsy Riley.

Speaking about First Ladies, Laura sends her very best. She campaigned for Riley the other day in Mobile. I told him he drew the short straw here.

I just spoke to her. We're—it's raining in Crawford, Texas, and that's where she is. She's on our place in Crawford. And tomorrow we are hosting the President of China, so she's sweeping the porch. [Laughter] But

she sends her best. You know, when I asked Laura to marry me, she was a public school librarian. [Applause] There's always one in every crowd. [Laughter] And that one in every crowd, like Laura, has got to have a good heart, cares deeply about the school children. And by the way, for those of you who are going to Auburn and thinking about becoming school children—a school teacher—[laughter]—or a public school librarian, I want to thank you for that. It's a really important profession, it's a noble cause.

You know, when I asked her to marry me, she wasn't interested in politics and didn't like politicians. [Laughter] Now she's the First Lady of the United States, and she is doing a fabulous job on behalf of America. I'm really proud of her. People now know why I asked her to marry me. A lot of them are wondering why she said yes. [Laughter] But she sends her best.

I'm also honored to be here with a fabulous United States Senator named Jeff Sessions. I like working with Jeff. We work well together. We need more Senators like him. One of my most important responsibilities is to name good judges, is to find good people to serve the Federal bench. I can count on his support. The problem is, I can't count on a lot of Senators' support. They've been playing politics with my judges. I put good, honorable, honest people on there whose job isn't to try to rewrite law, but to strictly interpret the United States Constitution. They've got a lousy record in the United States Senate. No, they don't like those kind of judges up there, so they play politics with them, petty politics. For the sake of a sound judiciary, we need to change the leadership in the United States Senate.

I appreciate Congressman Terry Everett; I appreciate Spence Bachus and Sonny Callahan, three fine Members of the United States Congress. And I'm glad they are here today. And I'm also glad to be up here with Jo Bonner, who's going to take Sonny Callahan's place, and he'll do just as good a job in the United States Congress as Sonny did. But you've got some good ones. You've got some good ones from Alabama up in Washington, and I'm proud to work with them, and I'm proud to call them friends.

You've also got a fine slate of people running for office here, good, honest, honorable Americans. I hope you get out and support them. It's important.

You know, when it comes to talking about the Governor, I know something about being a Governor. I was one. And it seems like to me that, particularly when you look around the statehouses, you want you a Governor who's going to elevate the discourse, who won't play the same old, tired politics of name calling and slashing and burning. You've got to have a Governor who's willing to commit himself to change the tone in the statehouse, to bring people together to get something done on behalf of the citizens. You've got to have you a Governor who will be honorable and honest and full of integrity, and that next Governor is Mr. Bob Riley.

He's got his priorities straight. Education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. Therefore, you better elect yourself a Governor who makes education the number one priority. And that Governor has got to have the right attitude about public education.

See, you've got to have a Governor like Bob Riley, who is willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations, somebody who believes every child can learn, somebody who's willing to set high standards, somebody who refuses to leave any child behind. No, you've got to have you a Governor who sets high standards but also understands that local control of schools is how you achieve excellence for every child in the State of Alabama.

The Federal Government is going to send \$700 million of your tax money out of Washington, DC, to help the schools here. And in return for that money, we're beginning to ask the fundamental question as to whether or not our children are learning, whether or not they're learning to read and write, add and subtract. See, that's a fundamental question that Riley is going to ask as Governor. You've got to ask that question.

If you believe every child can learn, then it makes sense to want to know whether every child is learning. And when they are, we'll praise the teachers. But when we find children trapped in schools that will not teach and will not change, you better have you a Governor who's willing to challenge the sta-

tus quo. No child should be left behind in the State of Alabama.

I appreciate the fact that Bob Riley is an entrepreneur. He started his own business. If you're worried about jobs in the State of Alabama, it seems like you better have somebody who knows what it's like to create a job, somebody who's actually met a payroll, somebody who can empathize with the small-business owners of the State of Alabama. And that person is Mr. Bob Riley, your next Governor.

And finally, I look forward to working with Bob when he's your Governor on one of the most important initiatives I'm trying to push in Washington, DC, and it's a Faith-Based Initiative. It's an initiative that understands that Government can hand out money. Government can't solve a lot of the harms and hurts in our society. If you're really interested in saving people's lives, if you're interested in a society which is compassionate, decent, we must empower the houses of worship, the places of faith, to step in where Government has failed and to provide love and compassion.

I'm not talking about one religion; I'm talking about all religions. All religions have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Bob Riley and I look forward to unleashing the great strength of the country, and that's the compassionate hearts of our fellow citizens to solve some of the needs and hurts in our society.

I'm also here to make it clear to you, as clear as I can for the people of this district: You need to send Mike Rogers to the United States Congress. And there are a lot of reasons why. We've got some big hurdles in the country, and I need a man up there with whom I can work representing this great district.

One of the hurdles I face is that our economy isn't as good as it should be. It's bumping along. Anytime somebody is trying to find work and can't find a job in America, I think we've got a problem. Anytime somebody wants to put food on the table and they can't find a job, we need to do something about it.

Except our philosophy is different from some of them in Washington. The role of

Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small-business owner can grow to be a big business, in which people with the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes, in which job creation is strong and evident. And the best way to do that is to let people keep more of their own money. Here's the textbook we read from. It says that if you let a person have more of their own money, then they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And when somebody demands a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find a job.

The tax cuts came at exactly the right time in U.S. economic history. And these tax cuts—and that tax relief plan is good for small-business owners. It's good for your ranchers. It's good for your farmers. It's good for working people. It's good for everybody. The tax relief plan did something on the marriage penalty. See, we believe the Tax Code ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. The Tax Code is putting the death tax on its way to extinction.

But there's a problem. See, the way the Senate voted it out, that after 10 years from the time of enactment, the tax relief goes away. And that's not right. It creates uncertainty in the Tax Code. It creates uncertainty for people wanting to plan their business, to create jobs. In order to make sure that our economy grows, in order to make sure the job base is strong, you need to have a Congressman who will join me in making sure the tax relief plan we passed is permanent and doesn't go away.

I look forward to working with Mike to make sure the country is a stronger country. By the way, one way we need to make the country a stronger country is to make sure our health care system works, particularly for our elderly. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. For the sake of a stronger America, for the sake of our seniors, we must reform Medicare and provide prescription drugs for the elderly.

No, there are a lot of issues that we can work on together, and I look forward to

working with him. I'm not going to have to worry about his vote, and that's important. I know he stands solid and square with the people of this district, and that's important. But the biggest issue we're going to have to work on is protecting America. The biggest issue we face, the biggest issue my administration faces and future Congresses are going to face, is the protection of you.

You see, there's an enemy out there which hates us. They hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom. We love freedom, and we're not going to change. We love freedom with every fiber in our body. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God freely in this society. We appreciate people's right to express themselves. We love the freedom of a political process where people can vote. We love a free press. We love every single thing about freedom, and we're not changing.

And as a result, the enemy hates us. I want you to know that not only does our love for freedom differentiate us from an enemy; our value for life differentiates us from the enemy. You see, in our view, everybody is precious; every life matters; everybody counts. But the enemy we face is nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who, on the one hand, hijack a great religion and, on the other hand, kill with impunity.

And so we've got a big chore ahead of us. See, it used to be that oceans could protect America. I remember conflicts across the sea, and it didn't seem to bother us because oceans were there to guard us. After September the 11th, 2001, we've learned a new lesson, that if there's an enemy out there that hates us, the battlefield can come home.

And it's a lesson we've got to remember—it's a lesson I'll certainly remember—which means that we not only have to be alert for the known enemy, the obvious enemy, the killers that bombed Bali—Bali—or continue to try to take innocent life. But we've got to worry about people who've been a problem for a while and are going to be a problem over time. And I'm talking about Saddam Hussein.

He's a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He lied and deceived the world. He's a person who not only has weapons of mass destruction;

he has used weapons of mass destruction. He's used them in the neighborhood, and he's used them on his own people. This dictator has defied the world over and over and over again. He also can't stand America, can't stand our friends, can't stand our allies. He hates freedom.

I decided to go to the United Nations and make the case that it's time to deal with this man. It's time to hold him to his word. It's time to disarm him. It's also time for the United Nations to show us whether or not they're going to be a body which can keep the peace, whether or not they're going to be the United Nations or whether or not they're going to be the League of Nations, an ineffective body. It's their choice to make.

I hope they act. I hope they show the world that this body is capable of keeping the peace. I hope they show the world that after 16 resolutions which were defied by Mr. Saddam Hussein, that the United Nations finally acts in the name of a peaceful world. I hope that Saddam Hussein hears the call for freedom-loving nations and does what he said he would do, which is disarm. But if he doesn't, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our children, for our children's children, if he doesn't act, the United Nations will not act, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Mr. Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I say that because I believe in peace. I say that because we must be clear-eyed about the real world. I say that because I understand, after September the 11th, the world has changed for America. I say that because our most important obligation is to protect you, which is why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join me in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

See, there's over 100 agencies scattered about in Washington, involved with protecting you. They're all over the place up there, and it felt like to me that they ought to be under one organization, so that if the number one priority is to protect the homeland, it becomes the number one priority of scattered agencies. If protecting the homeland is important, it seems like to me that under one umbrella, a new Department, that

it will be easier to change cultures. And we're making progress.

By the way, you need to know a lot of good people are working on your behalf, at the Federal level, at the State level, at the local level. If we get any kind of hint, any evidence whatsoever that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, we're moving. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can to protect the homeland.

But we can do a better job. And that's why the House of Representatives acted, and I appreciate Bob Riley's vote and the other Congressmen here's vote to get that out of the House. But it's stuck in the United States Senate. The Senate actually wants me to give up some power in order to accept their version of the bill. They want me to give up a power that every President since John F. Kennedy has had, which is the capacity to suspend collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security. And I'm not going to accept that.

I need to be able to move people to the right place at the right time to protect you. We've got a border issue. We need to know who's coming into America, what they're bringing into America, and are they leaving America. We've got three agencies on the border, INS and Customs and Border Patrol. They're full of fine people, really good, hard-working Americans. But in some sectors, they've got different strategies; they wear different uniforms. We need a seamless capacity to protect America. The Senate needs to give me the flexibility and the authority to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect America.

But the best way to protect America, the best way to secure the homeland, the best way to protect our families, is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that is exactly what we are going to do.

It's a different kind of war. In the old days, you could count the number of tanks destroyed or ships that were sunk or airplanes shot out of the air, and you say you're making progress. This is a war where the leaders hide in a cave, or they kind of hide in a dark corner of one of these cities around the world, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal

deaths. They don't care about innocent life. They're coldblooded killers. And therefore, the best thing for us to do is to get them on the run, to hunt them down and to bring them to justice, which is exactly what is happening.

I want you to know that therapy isn't going to work. [Laughter] The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," it still stands. And there's a lot of good folks hunting these people down. Sometimes you'll see us making progress, and sometimes you won't. We've probably hauled in a couple thousand of them so far. And like number weren't so lucky.

The other day, a guy named bin al-Shibh, he popped his head up. [Laughter] He is no longer a problem to the United States of America.

No, we've got a lot of work to do. There's still a lot of heavy lifting. There's still a lot of killers on the loose. But I've unleashed one of the finest militaries in the history of mankind. Yesterday I signed the defense appropriations bill. It's the largest increase in defense spending since President Ronald Reagan was in office. I did so because I wanted to send two messages. One, anytime we put our troops, our youngsters, into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the best possible pay. We owe it to our soldiers, and we owe it to their loved ones.

And I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that when it comes to the defense of our freedom, when it comes to answering history's call, we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that one day the date is going to pop up and say, it's time to pull them in. It's not the way I think. It's not the way America thinks. We've been called to action. Our generation has been given a charge to keep. We are responsible for this country's safety. We're responsible for our freedoms. And the message I sent by signing that defense bill, to the enemy: You've got a big problem with America, is what you've got.

I can't imagine what was going through their mind when they hit us. [Laughter] You know, they thought we were so materialistic, so selfish, so self-absorbed, that after Sep-

tember the 11th, 2001 we might have filed a lawsuit or two. [Laughter] That's all we were going to do.

No, they don't understand this country. They don't understand the courage of our people. They don't understand the depth of love we have for freedom. They don't understand that we're a nation full of responsible citizens who understand we have a duty to future generations of Americans. That's what they don't understand. And they're going to pay a serious price for misunderstanding America.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that we can achieve peace if we are strong and focused and diligent, if we remember that freedom is not an American blessing; it's a God-given blessing for people all around the world. If we remain true to our beliefs, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace for people here at home. We can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. We can achieve peace in the Middle East, can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, amidst this talk about going to get them and hauling them in, you've just got to know that I believe in peace. And I believe peace is going to come. I believe peace is going to come.

And here at home, I know that out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate country. See, amidst our plenty, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people when they hear the word American Dream, they don't know what you're talking about. They don't have a dream. They're lost souls. Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. That happens when a fellow American puts their arms around somebody in need and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you, brother? How can I help you?" No, the best way to fight evil here in America is to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. See, it's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which change our country.

I met Shirley Rose Glisson today at Air Force One in Montgomery. She came out because she is a—she's one of the soldiers

in the armies of compassion right here in Auburn. She goes to Auburn United Methodist. She decided she was going to start a food pantry with members of her church. They now feed 30 hungry families. It's this act and thousands of acts like it which define the true character of our country.

You know, it's interesting about what happened on September the 11th. A lot of our citizens have taken a step back. They wonder what life is all about. The most vivid example of the new American spirit took place on Flight 93, people flying across the country. They heard the plane was being used as a weapon. They were on their cell phones to their loved ones. They said goodbye. They said, "I love you." They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." And they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves.

You've got to understand that patriotism—patriotism or the American spirit can be served all kinds of ways. It is more than just putting your hand over your heart. It is serving a great nation. And you can do so by helping somebody who hurts, somebody in need.

No, the enemy hit us. They had no idea who they were hitting. There's no doubt in my mind that this great nation can lead the world to peace. There's no doubt in my mind that we can have a more compassionate tomorrow for everybody who lives in this country because, my fellow Americans, we're citizens of the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:33 p.m. at Hitchcock Field at the Plainsman Park Baseball Stadium. In his remarks, he referred to William F. Walker, president, and Steven Renfroe, head baseball coach, Auburn University; gubernatorial candidate Bob Riley and his wife, Patsy; Mike Rogers, candidate for Alabama's Third Congressional District, and his wife, Beth; Jo Bonner, candidate for Alabama's First Congressional District; President Jiang Zemin of China; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan.

Statement on Apprehension of Suspects in the Washington Area Sniper Attacks

October 24, 2002

The entire Nation is grateful to all of the local, State, and Federal law enforcement officials who have worked with such great urgency and with so little rest to solve the sniper case. Their efforts resulted in the apprehension of those considered suspects in the sniper shootings. We are also grateful to the citizens who kept their eyes open and provided information to the police. We will keep the victims and their families and friends in our thoughts and prayers. The hunt for a merciless killer has been difficult—and America greatly appreciates all the good men and women who fight crime and uphold justice across this great country.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

October 24, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1, 2002, through September 30, 2002. The previous submission covered events from June 1, 2002, through July 31, 2002.

Direct talks on the island between Greek Cypriot leader Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash continue under United Nations auspices. As in the past reporting periods, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston provided diplomatic support to the process. Our new Ambassador to Cyprus, Michael Klosson, provided similar support when he assumed his post in August. The United States remains committed to the United Nations effort to find a just and lasting settlement to the Cyprus problem.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

The President's News Conference With President Jiang Zemin of China in Crawford, Texas

October 25, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome the President of China to our ranch and to Texas.

I want to start off by saying how sad Laura and I are about the sudden and tragic death of United States Senator Paul Wellstone, his wife, and one of his children, as well as the death of others on that private airplane. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy goes to their sons, their loved ones, their friends, and the people of Minnesota. Paul Wellstone was a man of deep convictions, a plain-spoken fellow who did his best for his State and for his country. May the good Lord bless those who grieve.

This is the third meeting of the President and me, and our personal relations and the relations between our two countries are strong. In our meeting, we discussed the threat posed by the Iraqi regime. China supports Iraq's strict compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions. And today we discussed and I urged President Jiang to support a new Security Council resolution demanding Iraq fully disarm itself of weapons of mass destruction.

The President and I also discussed and expressed concern about the acknowledgment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of a program to enrich uranium. We agreed that peace and stability in northeast Asia must be maintained. Both sides will continue to work towards a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula and a peaceful resolution of this issue.

The United States and China are also allies in the fight against global terror, and our two countries are deepening our economic relations. It is inevitable that nations the size of the United States and China will have differences, but the President and I agree that we need to resolve our differences through mutual understanding and respect.

On human rights, I emphasized that no nation's efforts to counter terrorism should be used to justify suppressing minorities or silencing peaceful dissent. I shared with the President my views on the importance of China freeing prisoners of conscience, giving fair treatment to peoples of faith, and preserving the rights of Hong Kong citizens. I also spoke of the importance of respecting human rights in Tibet and encouraged more dialog with Tibetan leaders.

On proliferation, I expressed our continuing concerns about transfers of sensitive technologies.

On Taiwan, I emphasized to the President that our "one China" policy, based on the three communiques in the Taiwan Relations Act, remains unchanged. I stressed the need for dialog between China and Taiwan that leads to a peaceful resolution of their differences.

The United States seeks and is building a relationship with China that is candid, constructive, and cooperative. We will continue building this relationship through contacts at many levels in months to come, including a new dialog on security issues.

I'm pleased to announce that Vice President Cheney will visit China next spring. The United States and China believe that a strong relationship between our nations will help to build a more peaceful world.

Thank you for coming, President Jiang.

President Jiang. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I just learned that one plane crashed. I would like to express my deep condolences for the loss of the Senate. And also I would like to express my condolences to the bereaved family.

I'm very pleased to visit President Bush at his ranch. I would like to thank President Bush and Mrs. Bush for the warm hospitality accorded to us. President Bush and I had a very good conversation. We exchanged views on some important issues of mutual interest. The meeting has been constructive and productive.

We all agree that China and the U.S. are two great nations sharing extensive and important common interests. The two sides should increase exchanges and cooperation in economic, trade, cultural, educational and

other fields. We should step up dialog and coordination on major international and regional issues, and constantly move our constructive and cooperative relationship forward.

We are satisfied with our counterterrorism cooperation of the past year. We agreed to strengthen such cooperation in a two-way and mutually beneficial manner and work together against terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

We have had a frank exchange of views on the Taiwan question, which is of concern to the Chinese side. I have elaborated my Government's basic policy of peaceful unification and one country, two systems, for the settlements of the Taiwan question. President Bush has reiterated his clear-cut position that the U.S. Government abides by the "one China" policy.

We did, indeed, discuss the nuclear issue concerning DPRK. I point out that China has all along been supporter of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula and wants peace and stability there. I agreed with President Bush that we will continue to consult on this issue and work together to ensure a peaceful resolution of the problem.

We have also discussed human rights, religion, and other issues. I told President Bush that democracy and human rights are the common pursuits of mankind and that China's human rights situation is at its best time, characterized by constant improvement. Regarding our differences in these areas, the Chinese side stands ready to continue exchanging views with the U.S. side on basis of mutual respect and seeking common ground while shelving differences, with a view to deepening understanding and enhancing consensus.

I'm confident that, so long as the two sides persist in viewing and handling their relations from a strategic height and with a long-term perspective and keep expanding cooperation and enhancing mutual trust, China-U.S. relations will be able to grow steadily and bring benefits to both peoples.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

I told the President that we would—asked him if we could take some questions. He said,

"Sure." There will be two questions from each side. And I promised him I would do my very best to make sure that the questioners would only ask one question, if you know what I mean, Mr. Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. [Laughter]

President Jiang said he remembered a couple of the American reporters were quick to break the one-question rule, and he asked if a fellow, Fournier, would be there. And I said, "Well, surely he won't do it this time."

Mr. Fournier. [Laughter]

Q. I understand that means I can ask each President one question? [Laughter]

President Bush. That's exactly the problem. [Laughter]

North Korean Nuclear Program

Q. I'll be glad to—I'll be glad to—your question, President Bush, is, are you willing to negotiate with North Korea, while North Korea maintains a nuclear weapons program?

And President Jiang, could you tell us, do you think North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a threat to your country and, if so, how do you plan to stop it?

President Bush. See, I told you he wouldn't abide by the one-question rule. [Laughter]

Our first step, to make sure we resolve this peacefully, is to work with our friends, is to remind our friends of the dangers of a nuclear regime on the Korean Peninsula. President Jiang made it clear that China, like the United States, believes in a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons.

This is a chance for the United States and China to work very closely together to achieve that vision of a nuclear free—nuclear-weapons-free peninsula. And so I've instructed Secretary Powell to work very closely with his counterpart, as well as with their counterparts in South Korea and Japan and Russia, to come up with a common strategy to convince Kim Chong-il to disarm. And we look forward to working to that end.

And so to complete our—the important dialog of developing a strategy that will hold North Korea to account in terms of disarming, I'm going to be visiting with the Prime Minister of Japan and the leader of South Korea tomorrow in Mexico.

President Jiang. I can answer your question in the most clear-cut terms and most definitely that we Chinese always hold the position that the Korean Peninsula should be nuclear-weapon-free. We are completely in the dark as for the recent development. But today President Bush and I agreed that the problem should be resolved peacefully.

Thank you.

China-U.S. Relations/“One China” Policy

Q. I'm from CCTV. My first question is for President Jiang. This is your third meeting with President Bush. How do you evaluate China-U.S. relations in the past year, and how do you envisage the future of the relationship?

And also a question for President Bush. Just now you—

President Bush. It's an international problem. [Laughter]

Q. —said that the United States supports a “one China” policy. What concrete step would you take to translate this commitment into reality?

President Jiang. In the past year, China and the United States have expanded their cooperation and enhanced mutual understanding and trust. On the whole, the relationship has enjoyed a good momentum of growth. Facts have proven once again that, despite the profound changes in the international situation and despite the differences of one type or another between China and the U.S., our two countries have more, rather than less, common interest. And the prospect of cooperation between us has become broader, rather than narrower.

President Bush. In terms of your question about the “one China” policy—“one China” policy means that the issue ought to be resolved peacefully. We've got influence with some in the region. We intend to make sure that the issue is resolved peacefully, and that includes making it clear that we do not support independence.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters].

U.N. Resolution on Iraq

Q. Sir, do you feel like you've got China's support for a new resolution on Iraq? And are you willing to make any more concessions in the language of a U.N. resolution, now

that Russia and France have offered a watered-down resolution?

President Bush. Thank you for asking one question. [Laughter] Now I'll try to answer it.

I made it clear to the President of China that I am interested in seeing to it that the United Nations is effective—effective in disarming Saddam Hussein. That's what the United Nations has said for 11 years, that Saddam ought to disarm. And therefore, any resolution that evolves must be one which does the job of holding Saddam Hussein to account. That includes a rigorous, new, and vibrant inspections regime, the purpose of which is disarmament, not inspections for the sake of inspections.

And any resolution which will be effective must have—there must be consequences. Let me put it bluntly: There must be consequences in order to be effective. And therefore, in order for there to be consequences, we won't accept a resolution which prevents us from doing exactly what I have told the American people is going to happen. That is, if the U.N. won't act and if Saddam won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him. And we're working with all countries, particularly those on the Perm 5, to do just that.

And that's what we'll accept, something that will enable us to do precisely what I have just described and what I describe almost every day that I'm out there talking to the American people.

You tried to violate the rule, but I'm not going to let you.

China-U.S. Relations

Q. I'm from Xinhua news agency. For some time, certain people inside the United States call for containment against China. These people believe that a rising China poses a growing threat to the United States. What is your comment?

President Jiang. Given their different national conditions, it is only natural for China and the United States to disagree from time to time. Such a disagreement should be viewed and handled with a broad perspective. China has chosen a development path suited to its national conditions. It has enjoyed a rapid progress in economic growth,

cultural development, and the building of democracy and rule of law, bringing tangible benefits to the Chinese people. Their quality of life and standard of living are improving.

As the biggest developing country in the world, this road is still very long before China achieves full modernization. Our central task and long-term goal remain one of economic development and improvement of people's living standards.

The Chinese people have a tradition of peace loving. China has never engaged in expansion nor sought hegemony. We sincerely desire peace all over the world. Even when China becomes more developed in the future, it will not pose a threat to others. Threats have and will continue to prove that China is a staunch force for the maintenance of world and regional peace.

Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 1:41 p.m. outside the Governor's House at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. President Bush also referred to the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN, which took the lives of Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota; his wife, Sheila Ison; his daughter, Marcia Wellstone; campaign aides Will McLaughlin, Tom Lopic, and Mary McEvoy; pilot Richard Conroy; and co-pilot Michael Guess. President Jiang referred to the DPRK, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. President Jiang spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

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.

October 20

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

October 21

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and later met with the National Security Council.

In the evening, the President traveled to McLean, VA, where he attended a Republican National Committee dinner at a private residence. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 22

In the morning, the President had FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Downingtown, PA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Bangor, ME, and later returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary to Washington, DC, on November 8 to discuss cooperation against terrorism, the upcoming NATO summit in Prague, and other issues.

October 23

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey concerning the Turkey-U.S. strategic partnership, cooperation on Iraq, and other issues. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he participated in a roundtable discussion with Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials on online safety for children.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dana Gioia to be Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis Algiere as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

October 24

In the morning, the President had FBI briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

to discuss his support for Russia concerning the terrorist takeover and hostage situation at a Moscow theater.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Charlotte, NC, and then to Columbia, SC. In the afternoon, he traveled to Auburn, AL.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. While en route, he had a telephone conversation with Montgomery County, MD, Police Chief Charles Moose to congratulate him and other law enforcement officials for the apprehension of suspects in the recent sniper attacks in the Washington, DC, area.

October 25

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush welcomed President Jiang Zemin of China and his wife, Wang Yeping, to the Bush Ranch.

In the afternoon, the two Presidents toured the ranch. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with President Jiang and his wife.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**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 October 19

Fact sheet: President Takes Action To Protect Pensions and Retirement Security for All Americans

Released October 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: President Takes Action To Lower Prescription Drug Prices by Improving Access to Generic Drugs

Released October 22

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary

Released October 23

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming meeting with President Jiang Zemin of China and the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum

Fact sheet: Increasing Online Safety for America's Children

Released October 24

Transcripts of press gaggles by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved October 21

H.R. 5531 / Public Law 107-245
Sudan Peace Act

Approved October 23

H.R. 2121 / Public Law 107-246
Russian Democracy Act of 2002

H.R. 4085 / Public Law 107-247
Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Act of 2002

H.R. 5010 / Public Law 107-248
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2003

1864

Administration of George W. Bush, 2002

H.R. 5011 / Public Law 107-249
Military Construction Appropriation Act,
2003