AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

in Europe. And we're going to have an historic day on Thursday when we go to expand NATO. The people of Europe appreciate America. They appreciate our strength, and most importantly, they appreciate our compassion and our love for freedom. And I know you all share that side of America with me.

Again, I want to thank all the Senators in the room there for your hard work and look forward to seeing you when I get back.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. All right, well thank——

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I think that's important. Trent, that piece of legislation will help put hardhats back to work, and that's going to be good, and I appreciate you working on that as well.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I need to hear a Texas voice.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison. [*Inaudible*]

Senator Don Nickles. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Oh, that's good news. Well, thanks. Thanks for your good work, and I certainly appreciate it all.

Senator Lott. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Okay, sir. Thank you all very much. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The teleconference began at 1:23 p.m. The President spoke aboard Air Force One en route to Prague, Czech Republic. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Action on Legislation To Establish the Department of Homeland Security

November 19, 2002

The United States Congress has taken an historic and bold step forward to protect the American people by passing legislation to create the Department of Homeland Security. This landmark legislation, the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s, will help our Nation meet the emerging threats of terrorism in the 21st century.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter weapons of mass destruction, and creating a comprehensive response and recovery division.

I commend the employees who will move into this new Department for their hard work and dedication to the war on terrorism. Setting up this new Department will take time, but I know we will meet the challenge together.

I look forward to signing this important legislation.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Statement on Congressional Action on Terrorism Insurance Legislation

November 19, 2002

I commend the House and Senate for passing terrorism insurance legislation. Terrorism insurance will help get America's hardhats back on the job, create new jobs for America's workers, and spur billions in new investment in construction projects all across the country. This bill comes at a critical time, as commercial construction is at a 6-year low.

The legislation provides a Federal backstop for costs associated with acts of terrorism, ensures meaningful industry participation in any losses resulting from terrorist acts, fully consolidates lawsuits in a single Federal court, and provides fair and certain resolution of claims. While I supported even stronger liability measures to strengthen our economy and believe that further reforms need to be pursued, this bill significantly improves the legal system to prevent abusive lawsuits.

I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.