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our economic recovery, we will propose further steps to add new jobs, reduce the burden on our taxpayers, and to strengthen investor confidence. Our economy is strong, and we're going to make it even stronger. It's important work, and Steve Friedman will be a key member of our team. And I'm pleased to welcome him to full-time public service.

Thank you very much, Steve. Appreciate it.

[*At this point, Director Friedman made brief remarks.*]

The President. You're welcome. I'm glad you're here. Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Director Friedman's wife, Barbara, and their children Susie, Caroline, David, and Sam. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Friedman.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

December 11, 2002

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy To Act as Director

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 et seq., I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.* During any period when the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (Director) has died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, the following officers of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Director, if they are eligible to act as Director under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as the Director is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Associate Director for Technology;
Associate Director for Science; and
Chief of Staff and General Counsel.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity shall, by virtue of so serving, act as Director pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345–3349d, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Director.

Sec. 3. *Publication.* You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Remarks Announcing the Smallpox Vaccination Plan

December 13, 2002

Good afternoon. Since our country was attacked 15 months ago, Americans have been forced to prepare for a variety of threats we hope will never come. We have stepped up security at our ports and borders. We've expanded our ability to detect chemical and biological threats. We've increased support for first-responders. We made public—made our public health care system better able to track and treat disease. By preparing at home and by pursuing enemies abroad, we're adding to the security of our Nation. I thank the members of my team who are here who are adding to the security of our Nation.

One potential danger to America is the use of the smallpox virus as a weapon of terror. Smallpox is a deadly but preventable disease. Most Americans who are 34 or older had a smallpox vaccination when they were children. By 1972, the risk of smallpox was so