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of the Press Secretary on March 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Khalid Sheik Mohammed, senior Al Qaida leader responsible for planning the September 11 attack, who was captured in Pakistan on March 1; Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management To Act as Director of the Office of Personnel Management

March 11, 2003

Memorandum for the Director of the Office of Personnel Management

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Office of Personnel Management to Act as Director of the Office of Personnel Management

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. 345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period when the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (Director), or the Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management, 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 Personnel Management, 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 at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Director:

Chief of Staff;
General Counsel;
Associate Director, Management and Chief Financial Officer;
Associate Director, Human Resources Policy;
Associate Director, Human Resources Products and Services;
Associate Director, Human Capital Leadership and Merit Systems Accountability;
Deputy Associate Director, Center for Investigations Services;
Director, Office of Congressional Relations;
Director, Office of Communications;
Senior Advisor, Homeland Security; and
Senior Advisor, Learning and Knowledge Management.

Sec. 2. *Exceptions.*

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall 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

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 12, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 13.

Memorandum on Implementation of Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Relating to Food for Education and Child Nutrition

March 11, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of Agriculture

Subject: Implementation of Section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Relating to Food for Education and Child Nutrition

Effective upon the publication of this memorandum in the *Federal Register,* there is established the program relating to food for education and child nutrition authorized by subsection 3107(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public

Law 107–171) (7 U.S.C. 1736o–1). Pursuant to subsection 3107(d) of the Act, the Department of Agriculture is designated to take actions specified in that subsection. The authorities and duties of the President under section 3107 (except the authority to designate under 3107(d)) are delegated to the Secretary of Agriculture.

In the implementation of a program for which section 3107 provides, the Secretary of Agriculture shall consult as appropriate with the Food Policy Assistance Council established by section 3 of Executive Order 12752 of February 25, 1991, as amended, and such heads of Federal departments and agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 14, 2003]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 17.

Letter to Senate Leaders on the Nomination of Miguel A. Estrada To Be Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit

March 11, 2003

Dear _____ *:*

The Senate is debating the nomination of Miguel A. Estrada to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Miguel Estrada's life is an example of the American Dream. He came to this country from Honduras as a teenager barely speaking English and went on to graduate with honors from Harvard Law School. He has argued 15 cases before the Supreme Court of the United States and served in the United States Department of Justice under Presidents of both political parties. The American Bar Association has given him its highest rating. When appointed, he will be the first Hispanic ever to serve on the D.C. Circuit.

I submitted Mr. Estrada's nomination to the Senate on May 9, 2001. But his nomination has been stalled for partisan reasons for nearly 2 years in which the Senate has not held a vote either to confirm or to reject the nomination.

The Senate has a solemn responsibility to exercise its constitutional advice and consent function and hold up or down votes on judicial nominees within a reasonable time after nomination. Senators who are filibustering a vote on Miguel Estrada are flouting the intention of the United States Constitution and the tradition of the United States Senate. The filibuster is the culmination of an escalating series of back-and-forth tactics that have marred the judicial confirmation process for years, as many judicial nominees have never received up or down Senate votes. And now, a minority of Senators are threatening for the first time to use ideological filibusters as a standard tool to indefinitely block confirmation of well-qualified nominees with strong bipartisan support. This has to end.

The judicial confirmation process is broken, and the consequences for the American people are real. Because of the Senate's failure to hold timely votes, the number of judicial vacancies has been unacceptably high during my Presidency and those of President Bill Clinton and President George H.W. Bush. The Chief Justice has warned that the high number of judicial vacancies, when combined with the ever-increasing caseloads, leads to crowded courts and threatens the administration of justice. When understaffed, the Federal courts cannot act in a timely manner to resolve disputes that affect the lives and liberties of all Americans. The courts cannot decide constitutional cases promptly, which harms people seeking to vindicate and protect their rights, and the courts cannot rule on commercial cases efficiently, which hurts the economy, businesses, and workers. Our system of equal justice under law administered fairly and efficiently is at risk. The American Bar Association in 2002 accurately described the situation as an "emergency."

My concern about the state of the judicial confirmation process is not new. In June 2000, I proposed timely votes for all nominees, stating that the confirmation process "does not empower anyone to turn the process into a protracted ordeal of unreasonable delay and unrelenting investigation." In May