

our blessed and generous Nation is fulfilling that duty.

Now it is my honor and high privilege to sign this lifesaving piece of legislation. God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:20 p.m. in the Dean Acheson Auditorium at the U.S. Department of State. In his remarks, he referred to Representatives Christopher H. Smith of New Jersey and Peter T. King of New York; and John Galbraith, president and chief executive officer, Catholic Medical Mission Board. H.R. 1298, approved May 27, was assigned Public Law No. 108-25.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
(Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo**
May 27, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a combined 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

**Remarks on Signing the Jobs and
Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act
of 2003**
May 28, 2003

Thank you all very much. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. Today we are taking essential action to strengthen the American economy. With my signature, the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation

Act of 2003 will deliver substantial tax relief to 136 million American taxpayers.

We are helping workers who need more take-home pay. We're helping seniors who rely on dividends. We're helping small-business owners looking to grow and to create more new jobs. We're helping families with children who will receive immediate relief. By ensuring that Americans have more to spend, to save, and to invest, this legislation is adding fuel to an economic recovery. We have taken aggressive action to strengthen the foundation of our economy so that every American who wants to work will be able to find a job.

I want to thank the members of my team who have worked so hard to get this bill to this desk. [Laughter] I particularly want to thank Secretary John Snow and Secretary Don Evans for their tireless efforts to convince members of both political parties what we're doing today is the right thing to do on behalf of all Americans.

I want to thank Steve Friedman for his good work, and his staff. I want to thank Mitch Daniels, "the Blade." [Laughter] I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao and Mel Martinez. Thank you both for coming.

I particularly want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who worked closely with the administration to do what was right for the American people. Speaker Hastert—Speaker Denny Hastert isn't with us, but he put forth a monumental effort to get this bill done, as did Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

I'm particularly pleased that not only did the majority leader join me up here, but so does the chairman of the Ways and Means, Chairman Bill Thomas. He got the job done along with Senator Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the Finance chairman in the Senate. These two good men worked out differences in a quick period of time and got the bill to the respective bodies quickly, where both Republicans and Democrats supported this major piece of legislation.

I want to thank the Members from the United States House of Representatives who are with us today as well as Senator Thad Cochran, representing other Members of the Senate. We're honored you all are here. I