

you on it. You spend. I propose. Together, we're responsible. And this is going to be a challenging year for making sure we spend the people's money wisely, and I sent up an initiative to do just that. It cuts the deficit—the plan cuts the deficit in half over the next 5 years. And we look forward to working with you to make sure we meet that important goal, so that we can say to the American people, "We've set priorities. We understand whose money we spend, and we're going to cut this deficit in half through wise policy."

And finally at home, it's important for us to kind of play to the strength of the country, to remember the true strength of America. It's not our military—and by the way, we'll keep the military strong—and it's not the size of our wallets, although we want to make sure our wallets all across the country are healthy. The strength of the country is the hearts and souls of the American people. That's where we find our true strength. See, we understand the proper relationship between Government and the people. It's the people's Government we represent.

And as well, we shouldn't be afraid to empower those organizations that are serving our fellow citizens in an incredibly important and efficient way. They're serving because of love, first and foremost. They're following their hearts to mentor a child or to feed the hungry or to help the addicted. Congress understands—I know the leadership does, and I know you do as well—the true strength of America is the American people. We must listen to them. We will trust their judgments, and we must empower them to love their neighbors just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

Oh, '04 is going to be an unusual year for us all. It's an election year, and the people are probably saying, "Well, they're going to play politics with our time." That's not my attitude, and I know it's not the leadership's attitude. Working together, like we have done over 3 years, working together to accomplish important things for the people, we can show the cynics and the critics that we're capable of doing the people's business, election year or not.

And I look forward to working with you. I appreciate your friendship. I'm proud to be serving with such a fine group of people

during historic times. And there's no doubt in my mind, we're making a significant difference for this country's security, prosperity, and freedom.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Senators Mitch McConnell, Rick Santorum, and Jon Kyl; Representatives Tom DeLay, Bill Blunt, Deborah Pryce, William M. Thomas, and Heather Wilson; comedian Dennis Miller; and 10-year-old Timmy Kelly, who sang the national anthem.

### **Statement on Representative Jennifer Dunn's Decision Not To Seek Reelection**

*January 31, 2004*

Jennifer Dunn is a good friend and an outstanding public servant. For more than a decade, she has delivered results for the people of Washington State. She has championed sound policies that encourage economic growth and create jobs. She has led the way in providing tax relief for the American people; promoting the advancement of small and women-owned businesses; helping America's children, including by sponsoring the Amber Alert bill; and protecting the environment. She is a superb legislator and a strong leader who has stood for the best of Washington State's values and who has improved the lives of its people.

Laura and I are grateful for Jennifer's friendship, and we extend our best wishes to her, her husband, Keith, and her two sons.

### **Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 2, 2004*

**The President.** I want to thank the members of my Cabinet for their service to our country. I'm proud of the team I've put together to serve our citizens. These are good, honorable people who have come to Washington, DC, to put the Nation's interests above their self-interest.

We had a good discussion today about our Nation's priorities. Secretary Powell briefed us on the alliances—the strong alliances we have around the world, a deep desire to continue to work with nations to bring freedom and peace around the world. The Secretary of Defense briefed us on the progress we're making in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Appreciate the briefing I got from Tom Ridge about homeland security efforts. And we've got a lot of really fine people in the country who are working overtime, long hours, to protect the American people, and they're doing a really fine job.

And finally, Josh Bolten gave us a briefing on our budget. This administration is putting together—has put together a budget and will be submitting it to Congress, which sets clear priorities: winning the war on terror, protecting our homeland, making sure our children get educated, making sure the seniors get a modern Medicare system. And at the same time, we're calling upon Congress to be wise with the taxpayers' money. We look forward to working with them to bring fiscal discipline to the appropriations process so we can cut the deficit in half over a 5-year period of time.

Again, I'm proud of the Cabinet—appreciate your work.

I'll be glad to take a couple of questions. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press], you might have a question.

### **Intelligence Investigation**

**Q.** Yes, Mr. President. I'd like to ask you about this intelligence investigation that you're going to order. Do you think that the country is owed an explanation about the Iraq intelligence failures before the election, so that voters have this information when they elect a new President?

**The President.** Well, the—first of all, I want to know all the facts. We do know that Saddam Hussein had the intent and the capabilities to cause great harm. We know he was a danger, and he was not only a danger to people in the free world; he was a danger to his own people. He slaughtered thousands of people, imprisoned people.

What we don't know yet is what we thought and what the Iraqi Survey Group has found, and we want to look at that. But we

also want to look at our war against proliferation and weapons of mass destruction kind of in a broader context. And so I'm putting together an independent, bipartisan commission to analyze where we stand, what we can do better as we fight this war against terror.

Before I move forward with the commission, I want to sit down with Mr. Kay. I appreciate his service. I've invited him to come down to the White House. I'll be doing so soon. I do want to get a briefing from him.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

### **Fiscal Year 2005 Budget**

**Q.** Sir, do you worry that your budget passes along problems to future generations? You often say you don't want to do that.

**The President.** No, I'm confident our budget addresses a very serious situation, and that is that we are at war, and we are dealing—had dealt with a recession. And our budget is able to address those significant factors in a way that reduces the deficit in half. We propose; the Congress disposes. And so we look forward to working with the appropriators to meet our priorities and to reduce the deficit in half. We're confident we can do so.

The reason we are where we are, in terms of the deficit, is because we went through a recession, we were attacked, and we're fighting a war. And these are high hurdles for a budget and for a country to overcome, and yet we've overcome them, because we've got a great country full of decent people. And the economy is getting better. And as the economy gets better, it enables us to send up a budget to the Congress that does cut the deficit in half.

### **Super Bowl XXXVIII**

**Q.** What part of the Super Bowl did you like the best? The halftime or the ending? [Laughter]

**The President.** I don't want to admit it, but because this White House starts early, I missed it—again. Saw the first half; did not see the halftime. I was preparing for the day and fell asleep, but don't tell anybody. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to David Kay, former CIA Special Advisor for Strategy Regarding Iraqi Weapons of Mass Destruction Programs; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Remarks on Signing the American Heart Month Proclamation** *February 2, 2004*

**The President.** Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for the kind introduction. [*Laughter*] I don't know why you reminded them about the pretzel. [*Laughter*] I am so pleased you all are here. I want to thank Members of the United States Senate who came today, starting with Majority Leader Bill Frist, and Karyn. We're honored you are here. Thanks for coming. Thad Cochran, Susan Collins, and Byron Dorgan, you all are really kind to join us here. It's really important for the Congress to be involved with this initiative, as well as the White House.

I appreciate my friend Elias Zerhouni. He's doing a fabulous job at the National Institute of Health. You really have taken on a tough assignment, and you've done it with such class. Thank you for your service.

I want to thank all the survivors of heart disease who are here. I asked the Vice President what he was up to. [*Laughter*]

**The First Lady.** What did he say?

**The President.** He said he was heading to the treadmill. [*Laughter*] I want to thank everybody who is—who shares in this important cause. I really appreciate Laura for helping to lead The Heart Truth, the campaign to educate women about heart disease. I'm really proud of you.

By spreading vital information, this campaign will save women's lives. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women—and men—so it's important that we send this heart truth message to all our citizens, to all Americans.

It's also important for people to know that the risk of heart disease can be greatly reduced with good diet and regular exercise. Whatever our age or physical condition or

however busy we may be, we can all do something to stay healthy, and that's important.

The miracles of modern medicine we now enjoy make us forget some wisdom from the past, such as, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. It made sense then, and it makes sense today, particularly when you're dealing with heart disease. And so we started what's called the HealthierUS Initiative, which is encouraging Americans to focus on four simple goals: Exercise daily, eat right, avoid tobacco, drugs, and excessive alcohol, and get preventive screenings to detect problems early.

By focusing on these commonsense steps, we can save many lives we lose each year to preventable conditions like heart disease. In other words, just do some wise things with your life. It's just not all that complicated, but it's up to you to make the right choice. It's up to our fellow citizens to make the right decision necessary to protect their bodies.

I want to thank all of you all for working so hard to help citizens make the right choice, to send a clear message, to help people understand the need for healthier lives in America.

And now it's my honor to welcome the heart disease survivors to join Laura and me as I sign the proclamation of American Heart Month, 2004.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:59 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Karyn Frist, wife of Senator Bill Frist.

### **Proclamation 7754—American Heart Month, 2004** *February 2, 2004*

*By the President of the United States  
of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. It affects men and women of every age and race. During American Heart Month, we encourage all Americans to join the fight against heart disease and to learn more about how to prevent it.