AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

acts of courage and kindness that have followed. Together, Americans are moving forward with confidence and faith. We do not know God's plan, but we know His ways are right and just. And we pray He will always watch over this great country of ours.

I want to thank you for the chance to speak to this distinguished convention. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 10:42 a.m. from the Map Room at the White House to the convention meeting in Colorado Springs, CO. In his remarks, he referred to Ted Haggard, president, National Association of Evangelicals.

Remarks on Departure for Bay Shore, New York

March 11, 2004

Terrorist Attack in Spain

Today I spoke to His Majesty the King of Spain—Jose Maria Aznar as well—about our country's deepest sympathies toward those who lost their life as a result of terrorist bombings in Spain. I told him we weep with the families. We stand strongly with the people of Spain. I appreciate so very much the Spanish Government's fight against terror, their resolute stand against terrorist organizations like the ETA. The United States stands with them. Today we ask God's blessings on those who suffer in the great country of Spain.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:51 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to King Juan Carlos I and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA).

Remarks in a Discussion on the National Economy in Bay Shore, New York

March 11, 2004

The President. Thanks for having me.

Vincent Trapani. Any time, any time. You can make the call; we're here.

The President. I've been looking for some auto parts.

Mr. Trapani. I can hook you up real easy.

The President. That's good, yes.

Mr. Trapani. I know a guy. [*Laughter*]

The President. You know a guy? Here's what we're—we're here to talk about how the economy works and how people can find work. We've got some challenges to face. And Vince, I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come and visit with people involved in this community. We've got some entrepreneurs, and we've got some hard workers, and we've got some educators and people helping people get education. And that's what we're going to talk about.

First, I want to thank you, Vince, and your family for greeting me. Nothing like being in the presence of an entrepreneur, somebody who dreams big dreams, works hard, and ends up employing good, hard-working people to provide a product somebody wants to buy.

Mr. Trapani. That's the American Dream.

The President. That is the American Dream. I said, "Did you buy this company?" He said, "No, I started it on a shoestring." And it's one of the most fantastic aspects about our society, and frankly, it's the entrepreneurial spirit that we're heralding today that is enabling us to overcome a lot of obstacles.

Before I talk about the obstacles, I do want to say thanks to my friend Governor George Pataki, the great Governor of this State. He's a great buddy of mine, and he and Libby are great friends of Laura and me as well. And he's doing a good job. He's a solid, solid, smart, capable public servant.

I also flew down on the airplane today with two fine Members of the United States Congress—Peter King, from this part of the world. Peter, thank you for coming. If he looks different, he just had some cataract surgery so he doesn't wear his glasses anymore. I said, "You're looking more beautiful than ever, Congressman." [*Laughter*] And I appreciate my friend Vito Fossella is with us today. Where are you, Vito? Glad you're here. These are two strong leaders. They care deeply about the citizens of the communities which they represent. They were talking New York the entire way from Washington, DC,