

And in the responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves. No, the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. These are not one of these times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high, when the challenges are difficult, a time when firm resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I'll never forget the day. A fellow pointed at me and said, "Do not let me down." Workers in hardhats and police and firefighters were shouting, "Whatever it takes—whatever it takes." As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

In these times, I have also been witness to the character of this Nation. You know, not so long ago, some had doubts about our character. They questioned our capacity to meet a serious challenge or to serve a cause greater than self-interest, but Americans gave their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. And we've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We'll all need these qualities for the work ahead. I'm here to ask for your help and ask for your vote because we have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. I'm here because I believe we have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of America. I'm here to ask for your help so we can make this country safer and stronger and better. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we know that for our great land, the best days lie ahead.

Thanks for coming. May God bless. God bless our great country. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:54 a.m. at the Grand River Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Terry Duggan of Dubuque; country music entertainer Michael Martin Murphy; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Remarks in Lancaster, Wisconsin

May 7, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thank you all for coming out. Come on, Laura. As you can see, I'm traveling with the A team of the Bush family. We're really glad to be here in Wisconsin, and I want to thank you all for coming out to say hello.

We're on a bus trip because I'm out asking for the vote. I'm here to tell the people of this State I'd like to be your President for 4 more years. And one of the best reasons why is to keep Laura as the First Lady for 4 years.

I'm not really here to politic you too much, but I do want you to know that I've got a plan to win this war on terror, and I've got a plan to spread freedom and peace. That's what I want to do. We're going to have to be tough in the years coming, and we've got to be compassionate too. This economy of ours is getting better. I hope the people in this part of the State are working. I know the farm economy is strong, and that's good for America. It's good for this part of Wisconsin.

I've got a plan to keep us going, so people can find work and realize their dreams. We got some good news today. They added—we added 288,000 new jobs last month. That's a good sign. Part of it has to do with making sure you get to keep more of your own money. That stimulus plan is working.

And finally, my job is to tap into the compassion of America. Let me tell you where the strength of the country is. The strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, like the people living right here in Lancaster. That's the strength of this country, and for those of you who are—those of

you who are loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, I'm here to thank you for that; thanking you for mentoring children; thanking you for feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless; thank you for hearing that universal call—that universal call to help change this country one heart and one soul at a time. My job is to rally the spirit of this great country, and that's what I'm—that's what I'm doing, traveling your great State.

I'm proud you're here, Mr. Mayor. Thanks for coming. Come on up here, Mr. Mayor. I always like to give the mayors advice. My advice is: Fill the potholes. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming, Mayor.

[*Mayor Jerry Wehrle of Lancaster made brief remarks and presented the President with a key to the city.*]

The President. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thanks for coming.

Again, thank you all for coming out to say hello. We're kind of heading down the road, but before I leave I do want to say, I ask for God's blessings on you, and may God continue to bless our country.

Thank you. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. at the Grant County Courthouse Square. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

May 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He also had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Defense Don-

ald H. Rumsfeld to discuss the prison system in Iraq. Later, he met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to South Bend, IN, arriving in the afternoon, where they began a bus tour. While en route to Niles, MI, aboard the bus, the President participated in an interview with representatives of regional media including the Detroit Free Press, the Detroit News, and Booth Newspapers.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kalamazoo, MI. In the evening, they traveled to Sterling Heights, MI.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to the White House on June 3.

May 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Maumee, OH, where he continued his bus tour. Later in the morning, he traveled to Dayton, OH.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Lebanon, OH.

In the evening, the President traveled to Cincinnati, OH. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

May 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. He then met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and ground saturation beginning on March 26 and continuing.

May 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss their April 12 meeting at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, and the situation in the Middle East. He then had an intelligence briefing.