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Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, July 12, 2004
Volume 40—Number 28
Pages 1201–1236

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(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was in York, PA, on July 9, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

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SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

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Week Ending Friday, July 9, 2004

Statement on the Death of Marlon Brando

July 2, 2004

With the passing of Marlon Brando, America has lost a great actor of the stage and screen. His award-winning performances in films such as "On the Waterfront" and "The Godfather" demonstrated his outstanding talent and entertained millions across the country. Marlon Brando was one of the 20th century's finest actors and will be missed by his many fans and admirers. Laura and I send our prayers and condolences to his family and friends.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7801—Returning the Flag of the United States to Full-Staff

July 2, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By the authority vested in me as President of the United States by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, it is hereby ordered that the flag of the United States shall be displayed at full-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States beginning July 3, 2004. I also direct that beginning on that same date, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at full-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 7, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 8. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

July 3, 2004

Good morning. As Americans gather this weekend to celebrate the Fourth of July, we can take pride in our country's great history and look to the future with confidence. America remains a shining example to the world of all that free people can achieve. And our goal as a nation is to make sure that all Americans can share in the promise of our country.

Our economy is showing steady progress. We've completed our 10th consecutive month of job creation. We added 112,000 jobs in June and have added more than 1.5 million new jobs since last August. The unemployment rate has steadily declined, to 5.6 percent from 6.3 percent a year ago. With more jobs and lower unemployment, we are seeing rising consumer confidence, higher incomes, continued gains in the rate of homeownership, and a restored sense of opportunity.

Our strengthening economy is a tribute to millions of American entrepreneurs and workers. By their hard work and optimism, our Nation has overcome recession, terrorist attack, corporate scandals, and the many economic challenges that come in a time of war.

Our Government is also doing its part. With progrowth policies in Washington, we aim to encourage the hard work and optimism of our people. With tax relief, we are

strengthening the spirit of enterprise. When people are allowed to keep more of what they earn, that is good for families trying to make ends meet, good for businesses looking for new customers, and good for those looking for jobs in our expanding economy.

Now that jobs are coming back, we must build on this progress and help American workers and families continue to meet the challenges of our changing economy. My plan will help America continue to lead the world, help our workers gain the skills they need, and create an environment where small businesses will thrive and create new jobs.

Our first responsibility is not to raise taxes on hard-working Americans. All of the tax relief we have passed should be made permanent, so families can continue to keep more of what they earn, and businesses can plan for the future with confidence. I have a plan to help businesses and families with the rising costs of health care and reduce the burden of frivolous lawsuits that unnecessarily punish the job creators in America. I'm working to open more markets and level the playing field for American entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers.

Our global economy requires Americans to remain prepared for change and innovation. That is why I have proposed to help our public schools and community colleges teach our future workers the skills they need to succeed. For the sake of economic security and job creation, I proposed a national energy policy that encourages conservation and production at home and makes us less dependent on foreign sources of energy. All of these proposals are aimed at helping Americans prepare to meet new economic challenges, and I will continue to push the Congress to see them enacted into law.

This Fourth of July weekend, as Americans celebrate our freedom, our thoughts are also with the men and women who defend that freedom as members of the United States military. In Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, they are fighting terrorists that threaten America and helping to build hopeful, democratic societies where the ideology of terrorism has no place. Our Nation honors their sacrifice. And one of our greatest sources of pride on this Fourth of July is that men and women like them wear the uniform of our country.

I thank all of our service men and women for standing post. I wish all Americans a happy Independence Day.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:01 p.m. on July 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Independence Day in Charleston, West Virginia

July 4, 2004

Thank you all. They got the best seat in the house. [*Laughter*] Glad you all are here. Thanks for coming. Happy Fourth of July. I am thrilled to be back in your great State to celebrate once again Independence Day, this time in the capital of the Mountain State, the great city of Charleston, West Virginia. I appreciate the good people of this State. You work hard. You look after your neighbors, and you love your country. And you sure know how to make a President feel welcome. Thank you all.

West Virginia is an important State to our Nation in many ways—in many ways. You're one of the most beautiful places to visit in America. People ought to come here and see the beauty of West Virginia, to see the Almighty's work. There are hard-working people here making the factories hum and the farms producing products we need. Listen, this country is better off because of the coal found here in West Virginia.

Presidents have been coming to this State for a long time. I did a little research. It turns out that a lot of the land owned around Charleston was owned by George Washington. I call him George W. [*Laughter*] And today we remember names like Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin. We honor their courage, and we honor their vision on the Fourth of July. We're thankful that this Nation they created 228 years ago remains

free and independent and the best hope for all mankind.

Today is the day we gather with our friends and family and give thanks to the United States of America, give thanks to the fact that we are citizens in a free land. I give thanks to Shelley Moore Capito for serving the people of West Virginia so well in the United States Congress.

I was greeted by your mayor today. I'm honored the mayor, Mayor Danny Jones, took time to say hello. Mr. Mayor, thanks for having me here, and thanks for serving your community. I know, you want me to tell him to fill the potholes. [*Laughter*] I appreciate the president of the Charleston City Council, Councilman Tom Lane, for being here as well. Thank you, Councilman—all those who work hard for the people of Charleston.

We've got a lot of State and local officials. I'm honored you all are here. Thanks for inviting me to this beautiful capitol. I appreciate the planning committee for this independence weekend celebration. You know, it takes a lot of effort to put one of these deals together, and a lot of people have been working hard to do so, starting with Spike Maynard, who is the cochairman and the Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. I told the judge I liked being in the presence with somebody who doesn't try to rewrite the Constitution.

I appreciate Mr. Sam Hindman, who is the retired publisher of your newspaper. He's a leader in your community. He's been a community leader for a long time. Thanks, Sam, for your hospitality. I want to thank my friend Bill Raney, president of the West Virginia Coal Association, for being here as well.

I appreciate the U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass Band for entertaining you. I want to thank the West Virginia Air National Guard and the 130th Airlift Wing Honor Guard for being here today as well. You've got a proud tradition here in West Virginia, and that is, you've got a fantastic Guard. You've got people—I appreciate you, General. And I appreciate the men and women who wear the uniform of the West Virginia Guard. I want to thank their families, their loved ones, for the sacrifice and dedication the Guard members have showed the United States of America.

There's still West Virginians overseas. We ask for God's blessings on their safety today. The day we celebrate our freedom, we thank them for guaranteeing the freedom of the United States.

And highly decorated Four Star General Doc Foglesong is with us today. General, thanks for being here. He's a son of West Virginia.

I want to thank all the singers and Scouts. By the way, if you're a Boy Scout or Girl Scout leader, thanks for doing what you're doing. Thanks for taking time out of your life to instill values in our children. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to teach character to the future of our country.

You know, I oftentimes talk about the strength of America is the hearts and souls of our citizens. Listen, one of our strengths is our military—will keep us strong. One of our strengths is that we're a great economic power—will keep us strong. But the true strength lies in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens, people who have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, people who understand that America can be a hopeful place if somebody who hurts is surrounded by somebody who says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I help make your life a better place?"—people who step up and not only teach character to our young but feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, take care of the elderly. No, the strength of this country—make no mistake about it, the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of millions of loving American citizens.

I want to thank Aaron Tippin for being here. I like a good country and western singer. He's a good one. I appreciate Barnabus, the group that performed the National Anthem. Thank you all for taking time on your—on the Fourth of July to entertain these good folks.

Finally, I was to head to Pastor Thornton's church, the Bible Center Church here in West Virginia. Pastor Shawn Thornton and his family came in the capitol to meet me, and I was grateful. But I assured him that

I was looking forward to his sermon. That's not the reason I missed it. I missed it because the plane broke down. [*Laughter*] But Pastor, thank you and your congregation for rolling out the red carpet for what would have been a Presidential visit to your fine church, but more importantly, Pastor Thornton, thank you for ministering to those who hurt. One of the great things about this particular church is that the outreach program, into the lives of those who suffer, into the lives of those who wonder if there's hope, is strong and vibrant and real.

I want you to know that on the Fourth, we are proud of our Founders, but I know that the Founders would be proud of America today. They would take a look at this great country and see a place where opportunity is common, where all stand equal before the law, where all can hope for a better life. They'd see a country full of promise and hope; that's what they would see. They would see a nation that is the world's foremost champion of liberty. They would see a nation which stands strong in the face of violent men. They would see a reliable friend of any dissident or political prisoner who dreams of justice. That's what they would see in the great land they created. They would see Americans who care for a neighbor in need and are generous to the sick, to those who struggle here at home, and to those who look for hope around the world. They would see a strong, decent, good-hearted country, and they would see millions of people proud to say, "America is my home." And they would see an America on Independence Day, 2004, that is moving forward with confidence and strength.

Listen, we've been through some tough times in this country. Everybody knows that. We've been tested. But this Nation has responded as we always do, with courage, determination, and optimism. Our economy is healthy and growing, and that's good news, because more people are finding work every single day. That's what we want. We're all working on our public school system. We want to raise the standards, so every child can learn to read and write and add and subtract. No, our forefathers would see a nation of strong values, faith in God, love of our families. They would not only find those values strong all across the country; they'd find them very strong in the State of West Virginia.

I'm thankful you invited me here, especially because you're paying special tribute to the men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. I want to thank you for that. America has always been able to count on the might of our military and on the character and the courage of those who serve.

We've got a lot of veterans here. I want to thank the veterans for setting such a good example, for setting such a good example for those who have followed you. We're proud of your service. We're grateful for the example you have set for America.

On July the 4th, 1942, in the midst of the Second World War, President Franklin Roosevelt gave encouragement to our troops abroad by reminding them of our Nation's founding creed. They were fighting, he said, because Americans believe in "the right to liberty under God." The President said, "for all peoples and races and groups and nations everywhere in the world." Today, a new generation of Americans is wearing the uniform. They are serving the same creed. They are showing the same courage, and they make us proud every single day.

The war on terror has placed demands on our military. In Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere, our people in uniform have been unrelenting in their performance of duty. They've been skillful and courageous. They've accepted hard missions, long deployments, and the difficulties of being separated from their homes and their families. Some have returned home wounded. Some have died. Each is mourned and missed, and each one will be honored by our country forever.

As in other times, Americans are serving and sacrificing to keep this country safe and to bring freedom to others. After the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, this Nation resolved to fight terrorists where they dwell. We resolved to arm the terrorist enemy. Afghanistan, at the time, as you remember, was a terror state, a training camp for Al Qaida killers. Because we acted, Afghanistan today is a rising democracy and an ally in the war on terror.

Iraq, only last year, was under the control of a dictator who threatened the civilized

world, who used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. He tormented and tortured the people of Iraq. Because we acted, Iraq today is a free and sovereign nation. And because we acted, the dictator, the brutal tyrant, is sitting in a prison cell, and he will receive the justice he denied so many for so long.

We got a job to do. We have got a job to do, and that is to protect our country. And I've called on good men and women to do so. I'm honored that you're thanking the men and women of uniform today in Charleston, West Virginia.

Our immediate task in battlefronts like Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere is to capture or kill the terrorists. That's our immediate task. We made a decision, you see: We will engage these enemies in these countries and around the world so we do not have to face them here at home.

You can't talk sense to them. You can't negotiate with them. You cannot hope for the best with these people. We must be relentless and determined and do our duty.

There's no such thing as perfect security in a country as big as ours. And the threats to our homeland are very real. We know the terrorists want to strike the United States again. They do because they want to disrupt our way of life. They want to spread fear. So we've done a lot of things to help, and there's some folks here who are working hard on your behalf. See, we reorganized the Government to make sure there's better communication between the Federal Government and the State Government and the local governments. And on behalf of a grateful people, I want to say thanks to the firefighters and the police and the emergency teams of Charleston, West Virginia.

There's a lot of people in this country working hard to make sure this homeland of ours is as secure as it can possibly be without disrupting the freedoms of our fellow citizens. They're working hard, and I am grateful—I am grateful for the hard work they are doing.

Yet in the long term, our security and safety requires more than defending the homeland and defeating the terrorists abroad. We must work to remove the conditions that give rise to terror in parts of the world like the Middle East: the poverty, the hopelessness, and the resentments that the terrorists exploit. Life in the Middle East will be a far more hopeful and, therefore, a more peaceful place when men and women can enjoy the benefits of a free society, when men and women can elect their own leaders, when the people can decide their own futures.

On this Fourth of July, we confirm our love of freedom, the freedom for people to speak their minds, the freedom for people to worship as they so choose. Free thought, free expression, that's what we believe. But we also understand that freedom is not America's gift to the world. Freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world. And by serving that ideal, by never forgetting the values and the principles that have made this country so strong after—228 years after our founding, we will bring hope to others and, at the same time, make America more secure.

Because we've taken the fight to the enemy, because we've been strong and determined to do our duty to protect America, and because freedom is rising in places they claim as their own, the terrorists are desperate, and they are furious. They're running out of places to hide. They know their cause is failing. They know that time is against them, and their only chance is to shake the resolve of Iraqis, Americans, anybody else who loves freedom. And that's why their actions have grown more cruel and sadistic.

They cover their faces in videos, in the videos of their crimes. But those hoods cannot hide the face of evil. We've seen their kind before, in overseas death camps and gulags. And as before, America will persevere. We will fear no evil, and we will prevail.

The conditions for successes are now coming together. Afghanistan and Iraq now have responsible leaders. President Karzai of Afghanistan is a good, honest man who wants his people to be free. Prime Minister Alawi of Iraq—he's a good, honest, courageous man who will stand square in the face of these terrorists trying to stop the march of freedom. We've got an ally in these two leaders, because they understand what we know: Free men and women will be peaceful men and women; free men and women will be able to realize their deep desires. Listen,

moms and dads in Iraq want to be able to raise their children in a society where their children can have a bright future, just like the moms and dads in America do.

These leaders have said, "We want your help." And America has responded. And nations of the world have rallied to them as well. The NATO Alliance and the EU and the United Nations are all standing behind the newly liberated people of Afghanistan and Iraq. And these good people are taking on more of their own responsibility. Listen, they understand their future depends on their ability to deal with the thugs and criminals and foreign terrorists. And so we're helping them train to do their duty, to do their civic responsibility in a free society.

But what's important for those people is that they can count on America. We have promised to help deliver them from tyranny, to restore their sovereignty, and to set them on the path to democracy. And when America gives its word, America keeps its word.

There was a time not so long ago when America was a young democracy. When the Declaration was signed, not many in this world would have bet on the success of the American cause. We were a little group of colonies on the edge of a continent. Our small and hungry band of soldiers was against the army of a great empire. Many in that empire considered July the 4th, 1776, to be just another day on the calendar. Yet, America's Founders knew that something very important had happened that day, something new and hopeful in the course of human events.

They called the American experiment a "new order of the ages." The time has confirmed their belief. The Colonies became a country. The people of America crossed a continent, and the ideals that created America have crossed the globe.

This history we celebrate today is a testament to the power of freedom to lift up a whole nation. And we still believe, on America's 228th birthday, that freedom has the power to change the world.

May God bless you, and may God bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:57 p.m. at the West Virginia State Capitol Grounds. In his remarks, he referred to Sam Hindman, former publisher, Charleston Daily Mail; Maj. Gen. Allen E. Tacket, adjutant general, West Virginia National Guard; Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, commander, Allied Air Forces Northern Europe, and air component commander, U.S. European Command; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Rev. Shawn R. Thornton, senior pastor, Bible Center Church; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; and Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi Interim Government.

Memorandum on Delegation of Authority Under Section 517(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004

July 5, 2004

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Delegation of Authority Under Section 517(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004

By the authority vested in me the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the authority vested in the President under section 517(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108–136).

The authority delegated by this memorandum may be redelegated in writing no lower than the Under Secretary of Defense level.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

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., July 13, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 6, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 14.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister David Oddsson of Iceland and an Exchange With Reporters

July 6, 2004

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of Iceland to the Oval Office.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for coming.

I'll have an opening statement. He'll have an opening statement. We'll answer a couple of questions.

I remember my first NATO meeting, and I walked in, and the person who greeted me and made me feel most at home was my friend here. And I've never forgotten that. Iceland has been a steady friend of the United States of America, and they have been an important friend.

We had an interesting discussion on some important issues, and it was a frank discussion. And that's what you expect among friends. It was open and honest. And the Prime Minister is a person who cares deeply about the security of his country and the welfare of his people, and that's why he's been such an effective leader for the good people of Iceland.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Oddsson. Thank you so much, Mr. President. I'm very happy to be here, not least on the President's birthday. It's a privilege.

President Bush. Thank you for remembering.

Prime Minister Oddsson. Well, we discussed some things—I will make two points. You had just recently, a week ago, in a NATO meeting in Istanbul, a very good meeting, I think, not least because of the firm leadership of the President and his open manner, his easy-speaking manner that everybody understands when he speaks. And he changed the atmosphere inside NATO for the better. The past is behind us. People are united to a future. Secondly, we had the opportunity to discuss the defense issues in Iceland, which is very important to us. And the President is looking on that in a positive way. But of course, he has to see the issue from all sides. This was a fruitful discussion about the future. Thank you.

President Bush. Yes.

A couple of questions. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

2004 Election

Q. Mr. President, the Republican National Committee says that John Edwards is disingenuous, inexperienced, and unaccomplished. I wonder, do you agree with that? Is that the tone that you want to set in talking about——

President Bush. Listen, I welcome Senator Edwards on the ticket. The Vice President called him early this morning to say—after the announcement was made—to say that he welcomes him to the race, and as do I. And I look forward to a good, spirited contest.

Have you got somebody from your press corps?

Prime Minister Oddsson. Okay. From Iceland somewhere?

Iceland-U.S. Defense Issues

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, did you reach an agreement on the defense treaty with Iceland?

Prime Minister Oddsson. That was never—the meeting—was to have an agreement. Now, today I had the opportunity to explain my view of the issue to the President, and he is looking into my position and the Iceland position, but he had an open mind.

President Bush. Yes. Let me comment on this, about—this is an issue related to the F–15s, for the American press. We've got four F–15 fighters stationed there. The Prime Minister pressed very hard for us to keep the fighters there. He was very eloquent, very determined that the United States keep the troops there. And I told him, I said I'm open-minded about the subject. I want to make sure I understand the full implications of the decision as to whether or not to leave them there. And we will gather more information. He is going to provide information about the basing there in Iceland and the requirements there. I will talk to the respective departments here, and I will make a measured judgment as to the finality of this issue.

I told the Prime Minister I'm—I appreciate our alliance. I appreciate his friendship.

I fully understand the arguments he's made, and we will work together to solve the issue.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters], where are you?

Central Intelligence Agency

Q. Here, sir. Thank you. There's a story today that the CIA held back information from you that Iraq had abandoned its WMD programs. Is that true? And what's your timetable on nominating a new CIA director? Are you going to wait until after the election?

President Bush. I haven't made up my mind on the nomination process. Secondly, I will wait for the report, the Senate report, to come out. This is information from the report of the United States Senate, Chairman Roberts' committee. I will look at the whole report.

I will tell you, however, that I know that Saddam Hussein was a threat. He was a threat to the neighborhood. He was a threat to the people of Iraq. He harbored terrorists. Mr. Zarqawi, who continues to kill and maim inside of Iraq, was in the country prior to our arrival. Saddam Hussein had the intent. He had the capability. And the world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power. And the world will be more peaceful when this Iraqi Government, under Prime Minister Alawi, emerges and there are elections.

And that's what we're seeing. We're seeing a transformation in a part of the world that needs liberty and freedom. And so I look forward to the full report, and I'll react to it when I see it.

Anybody else?

Prime Minister Oddsson. Well, I just—on this, I must say I agree with the President about Iraq. The future of Iraq is—the future of the world is much better because of the undertaking that the United States, United Kingdom, and their alliances took there. And without that done, the situation in that area of the world would be much more dangerous than it is now. There's hope now. There was no hope before.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

[*At this point, all present sang Happy Birthday to the President.*]

President Bush. Thanks. You actually call that singing? [*Laughter*] No, it was beautiful.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:59 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi Interim Government.

Message to the Congress Transmitting Legislation To Implement the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement

July 6, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit legislation and supporting documents prepared by my Administration to implement the United States-Australia Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This Agreement adds an important dimension to our bilateral relationship with a steadfast ally in the global economic and strategic arena. This FTA will enhance the prosperity of the people of the United States and Australia, serve the interest of expanding U.S. commerce, and advance our overall national interest.

My Administration is committed to securing a level playing field and creating opportunities for America's workers, farmers, and businesses. The United States and Australia already enjoy a strong trade relationship. The U.S.-Australia FTA will further open Australia's market for U.S. manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services, and will promote new growth in our bilateral trade. As soon as this FTA enters into force, tariffs will be eliminated on almost all manufactured goods traded between our countries, providing significant export opportunities for American manufacturers. American farmers will also benefit due to the elimination of tariffs on all exports of U.S. agricultural products.

The U.S.-Australia FTA will also benefit small- and medium-sized businesses and their employees. Such firms already account for a significant amount of bilateral trade. The market opening resulting from this Agreement presents opportunities for those

firms looking to start or enhance participation in global trade.

In negotiating this FTA, my Administration was guided by the negotiating objectives set out in the Trade Act of 2002. The Agreement's provisions on agriculture represent a balanced response to those seeking improved access to Australia's markets, through immediate elimination of tariffs on U.S. exports and mechanisms to resolve sanitary and phytosanitary issues and facilitate trade between our countries, while recognizing the sensitive nature of some U.S. agricultural sectors and their possible vulnerability to increased imports.

The U.S.-Australia FTA also reinforces the importance of creativity and technology to both of our economies. The Agreement includes rules providing for strong protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, promotes the use of electronic commerce, and provides for increased cooperation between our agencies on addressing anticompetitive practices, financial services, telecommunications, and other matters.

The Agreement memorializes our shared commitment to labor and environmental issues. The United States and Australia have worked in close cooperation on these issues in the past and will pursue this strategy and commitment to cooperation in bilateral and global fora in the future.

With the approval of this Agreement and passage of the implementing legislation by the Congress, we will advance U.S. economic, security, and political interests, and set an example of the benefits of free trade and democracy for the world.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 6, 2004.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Judicial Nominees and an Exchange With Reporters in Raleigh, North Carolina

July 7, 2004

The President. Good morning. It's good to be in the great State of North Carolina. I just met with three judicial nominees from this State, Judge Terry Boyle, Bob Conrad, Jim Dever. These are men with broad experience, good character. They've been rated by the ABA as qualified to serve on the bench. They represent mainstream values. They will strictly and faithfully interpret the law. They won't use the bench from which to legislate.

Their nominations are being held up, and it's not right, and it's not fair. The people of North Carolina deserve better. These judges deserve better treatment in the United States Senate. A minority of Senators apparently don't want judges who strictly interpret and apply the law. Evidently, they want activist judges who will rewrite the law from the bench. I disagree. Legislation should come from the legislative branch, not from the judiciary.

Judge Boyle—Judge Terry Boyle of North Carolina has waited for a vote since May of 2001, and there's no reason why this good man should have been kept waiting for so long. He's an exceptional candidate for the appeals court. He was appointed to the district court in 1984 by President Ronald Reagan and has spent the last 7 years as Chief Judge of the Eastern District of North Carolina. He'd make a superb addition to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and he is vitally needed on that court.

The seat I nominated him to fill has been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States, because when they name something a judicial emergency, it means there's a shortage of judges. I put this good man up, and he can't get an up-or-down vote on the floor of the Senate. He is—he, along with Bob Conrad, have waited too long.

Bob Conrad I named for one of the district courts here in North Carolina. He served as a Federal prosecutor for 15 years, including 3 years as the U.S. attorney in Charlotte. He did a really good job in that capacity. He's waited for more than 14 months for a vote.

Jim Dever is the magistrate judge. He has had strong bipartisan support. He's waited for more than 2 years for a vote. The post to which I have nominated Judge Dever has also been declared a judicial emergency. This is a disservice to the State. I repeat, there's a minority of Senators blocking the process. They're playing politics with something as

important as the judiciary. You might remember, I had named six nominees to appellate benches. They had enough votes to be confirmed, and they—their nominations were filibustered on the floor of the United States Senate. These are not the three I've discussed. These are other judges.

Now, we recently got 25 nominees through, and I appreciate that. But there's an issue in North Carolina that needs to be solved, and the only people who can solve it are the United States Senators, who are holding these nominations up.

I laid out earlier in the year some proposals that would make the process go better. Judges would provide one year advance notice of retirement or departure. Presidents would select a nominee within 180 days of receiving notice of an upcoming vacancy. And then the Senate would hold both a hearing and an up-or-down vote within 180 days. That's fair. That ought to apply to both Republican as well Democrats. This is the kind of reform that is necessary to make the system work better.

The—when we see vacancies where people are declaring judicial emergencies, it seems like to me the Senate ought to pay attention to them and give these good nominees an up-or-down vote and a confirmation hearing in some cases. The Senate ought to let them go in front of the Judiciary Committee and get them to the floor. It's not right, and it's not fair.

I told these three men that I'm standing with them. And I've said, "I am sorry that you're having to wait so long. I'm sorry that you're being hung out by a handful of United States Senators." I appreciate their service. I'm honored that they would be willing to serve our country by going on the bench. It's time for them to get—to at least get an up-or-down vote.

Let me answer some questions for you. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press]. Yes, I stiffed you the other day. I'm glad to call you this time.

2004 Election

Q. Mr. President, Kerry, during the primaries, often said that John Edwards was not ready to be President. Do you believe that he is ready to be a heartbeat away from the Oval Office?

The President. Well, that will be up to the voters to decide, but I tell you what I think about North Carolina. I did well here in 2000 because the North Carolinian voter understood we shared values. I'm going to do well again in 2004. They know we share those values. People in North Carolina remember I came to this State and said we'll make sure our troops are well-paid and well-housed and taken care of, and we've done that. I told them we'd cut their taxes, and we've done that. The economy is strong here in North Carolina. I also know that when they go to the polls to vote for President that they'll understand that the Senator from Massachusetts doesn't share their values.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Mr. President——

The President. Yes, speak up. I'm getting a little——

Q. If I could try another Edwards question—he's being described today as charming, engaging, a nimble campaigner, a populist, and even sexy. How does he stack up against Dick Cheney?

The President. Dick Cheney can be President.

Next.

Q. Mr. President, does this John Edwards selection force you to spend more time in the South and change your strategy in the Southern States now?

The President. I'm going to carry the South because the people understand that they share—we share values that they understand. They know me well. And I am—I believe that I did well in the South last time; I'll do well in the South this time, because the Senator from Massachusetts doesn't share their values. And that's the difference in the campaign.

Yes.

Q. Will you have to spend more time, strategy-wise?

The President. Well, talk to—talk to the schedulers. I'm not the scheduler. I'm just the simple candidate. [*Laughter*]

Yes.

Q. Mr. President, candidate——

The President. Welcome. No, "Mr. President," thank you.

Judicial Nominations

Q. The judiciary you hope to create with these nominees, could you——

The President. Those aren't the nominees.

Q. Well, they're——

The President. That's Senator Burr—to be.

Q. Could you offer thoughts as to how that judiciary is different from the one that might exist under a Democratic Kerry-Edwards administration, and perhaps with particular reference to issues of civil damage suits and abortion?

The President. Well, look, I've—first of all, on issues like abortion, I don't have a litmus test. In other words, when the nominees come before people in my administration, we don't say, "What is your specific position on that issue or another issue?" What we say to the person is, "What is your judicial temperament? Will you be willing to faithfully interpret the law, or will you view your position on the bench to rewrite law?" And that is the difference of judicial philosophies. I've been consistent in naming people to the bench that will faithfully interpret the law. I suspect that's one of the reasons why a minority of Senators are blocking my nominees and creating a judicial emergency.

And after I leave here, I'm going to Michigan to bring up the same point. There are six judges that are being withheld because of their judicial temperament, not because of a specific issue but because of their temperament. And I don't believe in litmus tests. I do believe in making sure that we share a philosophy. As I said before, I want the legislators legislating. I don't want the judges legislating.

Look, you look awfully hot, and I think it's time for us to go to the next event. Thank you.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—difference from a Kerry-Edwards administration—could you see how they might——

The President. Of course. They're the ones blocking the nominees in the first place. They're the types of Senators who are blocking the advance of these nominees.

Take for example here in North Carolina. Senator Edwards will not allow two of the nominees to whom I referred to even get to the committee for a hearing.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:27 a.m. at Raleigh Durham International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Richard Burr of North Carolina, candidate for U.S. Senate.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Judicial Nominees in Waterford, Michigan

July 7, 2004

Good afternoon. I just met with six of my judicial nominees from the State of Michigan. I knew these were decent people, capable people, when I nominated them. My meeting with them today confirmed that. These are good people.

They are of the highest caliber. They've been rated well by the ABA, "qualified" or "well-qualified." In other words, the experts have taken a look at them and said these are qualified people to do the job. They're devoted public servants. They—their nominations are stalled because of the tactics of a minority of Senators. These are superb nominees. They deserve a vote. They deserve to have their day on the Senate floor.

Four of the nominees are waiting to join the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. David McKeague was confirmed unanimously by the Senate 12 years ago to serve as a Federal judge for the Western District of Michigan. Susan Neilson is an outstanding judge with more than a decade of experience on the bench. Henry Saad is a State appeals court judge. Richard Griffin has had 16 years of experience as a State judge. These experienced and dedicated individuals are needed, vitally needed, on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. I'll tell you why. Congress has authorized 16 judges for this court, yet 4 seats are vacant. All four of these vacancies have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States. It is irresponsible for the United States Senate to deny an appeals court 25 percent of the judges it needs.

My nominees for the district courts in Michigan have also waited far too long. Tom Ludington, a respected State judge for nearly

10 years, has waited more than 21 months without a vote. Dan Ryan, a jurist with a decade of experience on the State bench, is held up for more than a year. I believe this treatment is unfair. I believe it's disrespectful. It is a disservice to the people of this State.

My Michigan nominees are not only the ones—are not the only ones being blocked by a Senate minority. Since I took office, more appeals court nominees have been forced to wait over a year just for a hearing than in the past 50 years combined. Six of my appeal court nominees have earned enough support to be confirmed by a vote on the floor of the Senate yet have been filibustered. It's an unprecedented step against appeals court nominees.

I believe this is unfair treatment. I believe that some Senators are doing this because they don't appreciate the fact that I named judges who will faithfully interpret the law, not legislate from the bench. They apparently want activist judges who will rewrite the law from the bench. I believe if laws need to be written, they need to be written by the legislature, by the legislative body.

Some Members are undermining the quality of justice in America by playing politics with these nominees. You see, vacancies on the bench leave sitting judges overworked. They cause needless delays in the provision of justice.

Now, I am pleased that the Senate recently voted on 25 of my judicial nominees. That was a welcome step. Yet it's not enough. These six from Michigan have waited far too long. The Senate must hear that there is an emergency. The time for giving these men and women a fair hearing is now. They deserve an up-or-down vote. I proposed a way to fix this system, and that is for judges to provide a one-year advance notice on retirement or departure. Upon that notice, the President would select a nominee within 180 days. And then the Senate would hold both a hearing and an up-or-down vote within 180 days of the nomination. This seems fair to me. It would treat these people who are willing to serve fairly.

I met with the six members, six nominees, because I wanted to assure them I was not going to abandon their nomination, no matter what the politics was like in the U.S. Senate. And I wanted to thank them for their patience. It's not easy to be nominated and then have your hearing held up for political purposes.

These are good, decent people. I asked them to thank their families. And now I'm calling upon the Senators from this State and the minority of Senators who were refusing to move my nominees along to be fair and just give them a vote. They can express their opinions about whether or not they think these judges are qualified. Obviously, I think they are. They can argue about their judicial temperament, and that's a fine debate. But for fairness sake, give them a vote, up or down.

The people of Michigan must know that six good, decent Michiganders who are capable people are not being allowed to serve their State on the Federal benches because of politics being played in Washington, DC.

Thank you for giving me a chance to come by and discuss this very important issue. I appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:50 p.m. at the Oakland County International Airport.

Executive Order 13344—Amending Executive Order 13261 on the Order of Succession in the Environmental Protection Agency

July 7, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345, *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13261 of March 19, 2002, is amended as follows:

Section 1. In section 2, subsections (a), (b), and (c) are deleted and replaced with the following new subsections (a), (b), and (c):

(a) Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste;

(b) Assistant Administrator for Toxic Substances;

(c) Assistant Administrator (Air and Radiation).

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 7, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:42 a.m., July 8, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 9.

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

July 7, 2004

Memorandum for the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.* (the "Act"), I hereby order that:

Section 1. *Order of Succession.*

During any period in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Administrator), the Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the officers designated by Executive Order 13261 of March 19, 2002, entitled, "Providing an Order of Succession in the Environmental Protection Agency and Amending Certain Orders on Succession," as amended, to perform the functions and duties of the Administrator have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, the following officers of the Environmental Protection Agency, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator, if they are eligible to act as Administrator under the provisions of the Act, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Administrator:

Regional Administrator, Region I; and

Deputy Regional Administrator, Region IV.

Section 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 Administrator pursuant to this memorandum.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains discretion, to the extent permitted by the Act, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Administrator.

Section 3. *Prior Memorandum Superceded.*

This memorandum supercedes the Presidential Memorandum of March 19, 2002, entitled, "Designation of Officers of the Environmental Protection Agency."

George W. Bush

Satellite Remarks to the League of United Latin American Citizens Convention

July 8, 2004

Hector, thank you very much. I appreciate so very much the invitation to take part in your celebration of the 75th anniversary of LULAC. And I'm so honored to speak to members of America's oldest leading Latino civil rights organization.

Listen, you picked a great place for your convention, Hector. San Antonio and Texas are—San Antonio is a wonderful city, and Texas, of course, is a great State. And thanks for giving me a chance to speak to you.

I appreciate—listen, one of the reasons I enjoy working with LULAC so much is I appreciate your commitments to freedom and to entrepreneurship and to the values of *familia y fe*, which help to make our society a stronger place. And what I believe is those commitments deserve recognition and respect of all of our Americans. See, we share the same goal: We will keep working to make this Nation a welcoming place for Hispanic people, a land of opportunity *para todos* who live here in America.

And so, thanks, Hector. I appreciate your leadership, and I want to thank your friendship. It is good to see you via video, and I appreciate you working closely with my administration. I want to thank Ken Cole for the introduction as well, and I want to thank you for sponsoring this important gathering of American leaders.

I also want to thank people there who are representing my administration. I know that Tommy Thompson is with you. He's doing a fantastic job in running the Department of Health and Human Services. Thank you for being in Texas, Tommy, and thanks for the job you're doing on behalf of all America.

I also see a great Texan and great American, a person who greeted me at the base of the stairs of Air Force One when I snuck off from Texas last Thanksgiving to go say thanks to our troops in Baghdad, Iraq, and that, of course, is General Rick Sanchez. General Sanchez, God bless you, sir, and thank you for your great service to America.

You know, when I think of General—when I think of the story of Rick Sanchez, it reminds me that America is the Nation of the open door and must remain that way. Every generation of our history has brought new immigrants and new stories. And those immigrants have brought great strengths. When men and women arrive here ready to work hard or care for their families and honor the law, they make our country more, not less, American. And Rick Sanchez's history and his family history reminds me of that aspect of our country.

You see, in the United States our aspirations matter more than our origins. And my administration is committed to this basic principle: *El Sueno Americano es para todos.* And all deserve a chance to achieve the American Dream.

Success in America, of course, depends on personal effort. I believe that a compassionate Government should encourage and reward that effort. An opportunity society must educate every single child, encourage a spirit of enterprise, treat immigrants with fairness and respect. I believe America has made progress in all these areas, and I want you to know I look forward to working with LULAC to do more.

The first commitment of an opportunity society is a good public school in every neighborhood. To succeed and rise in the world, a student must know the basics of reading and math. Parents are entitled to expect these basics from their schools. I believe strongly, every school has a duty to teach the basics.

My judgment is, too many children in America have been just shuffled through the system without learning essential skills *. It's easy to quit on a boy or girl from an immigrant family. We've got to end that practice of social promotion. We've got to stop the practice of hearing only excuses from a bureaucracy. When it comes to our fundamental obligation to children, there is no excuse for failure, because I believe every child can learn. And that is why I proposed and signed the No Child Left Behind Act.

We've increased Federal funding for Title I schools, which serves the poorer students, by 41 percent over the last 3 years. And in return, because I believe every child can learn, we're requiring schools to measure performance of all students to make sure every child is learning. And that is how you make sure that every child can read and write and add and subtract. That is how you can make sure the dreams of every parent in America can be achieved.

We're measuring achievement in math and reading, and we're getting results. You see, when you raise the bar and call upon results, you can get results. The Council of Great City Schools released a study on the progress since the No Child Left Behind took effect. The study examined 61 urban school districts and found that more than two-thirds of grades tested showed improvement in both reading and math amongst Hispanic students, and that's what we want. We want progress, substantial progress. And my pledge to you is I'm going to continue to work to bring about more progress so every child can have a chance to realize the great promise of a country.

What I hope you do is join me in understanding that when politicians criticize testing and high standards, they do a disservice

* White House correction.

to our schools, to the parents, and to the students. In other words, what they're saying is they're choosing bureaucracy over our children. Instead of undermining standards, we're striving to meet those standards in every part of America. I made a promise to LULAC and to others to improve the Nation's public schools. I'm delivering on that promise.

Secondly, the commitment of an opportunity society is a healthy and growing economy in which entrepreneurs are encouraged to take risks and to build their businesses and to hire new workers. I believe that starts with a respect for the earnings of those who pay the taxes.

And so, in order to get this economy moving after a recession, an emergency, and an attack, we've given tax relief to every person who pays Federal income taxes. And by leaving more money in the hands that say—that spend and save and earned, our economy is strong and getting stronger.

And one reason why is because tax relief has helped millions of small-business owners and entrepreneurs who pay taxes at the individual income tax rate. You see, if you're a small-business owner, you're likely to be what they call a Subchapter S corporation or a sole proprietorship, and therefore, you pay taxes at the individual income tax rate. And because new jobs or most new jobs are created by small businesses, I thought it was wise to cut taxes on small businesses to encourage economic growth. And we're seeing the results of this tax relief and the stimulus for small businesses.

America has had now 10 consecutive months of job growth. Since last August, our economy has added more than 1.5 million jobs. The unemployment rate today is lower than the average rate in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. But most importantly, and I think one of the most important statistics of all, is that there are millions of new small businesses owned by members of the Hispanic community. And that doesn't surprise me, because the entrepreneurial tradition is strong amongst Americans—Hispanic men and women.

According to the most recent data, Hispanic-owned companies employ about 1.4 million Americans and carry a payroll of nearly $30 billion. And what I'm here to tell you today is our economy is stronger, our society is better off because Hispanic-owned businesses are thriving and creating jobs all across America.

We have many issues to discuss, but I want to end on this important issue. The third commitment of an opportunity society is a policy of fairness and justice toward those who have come to America to live and work. Our country must confront this basic fact: Jobs being generated in our growing economy are not being filled by American citizens, and these jobs represent an opportunity for workers who come from abroad, who want to put money on the table for their children. Yet current law says to those workers, "You must live in a massive, undocumented economy."

And so we've got people in America working hard who live in fear and who are often exploited. And this system isn't fair, and it's not right. So I proposed reforms that will match willing foreign workers with willing American employers when no Americans can be found to fill the jobs, a system that would grant legal status to temporary workers who are here in the country working, that will increase the number of men and women on the path to American citizenship.

The reason I do so is because I know this proposal is good for our economy, because it would allow needed workers to come into the country under an honest, orderly, regulated system. And the reason I made this proposal is because it's humane. It would bring millions of hard-working people out of the shadows of American life. This proposal reflects the interest and best values of America, and Congress should pass it into law.

As a citizen of Texas and the Governor of Texas, I have been privileged to see the many contributions of Latinos to our economy, to our State, to our culture, and to our Nation. As President and Commander in Chief, I've seen other great contributions. Some 85,000 Latinos have served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. More than 100 have given their lives. Over 400 have been injured in combat. Our Nation will never forget their service and their sacrifice to our security and to our freedom.

I want to tell you about one of the most meaningful moments of my Presidency, if you've got a minute. I had the privilege of meeting Master Gunnery Sergeant Guadalupe Denogean. Sergeant Denogean was an immigrant from Mexico who had served in the Marine Corps for more than 26 years. He was wounded in combat in Iraq. When he was brought home for treatment, they asked the Sergeant if he had any special requests. He said he had two. First, he wanted a promotion for the Corporal who had helped to rescue him, and second, he wanted to become an American citizen. And I was privileged to be right there at the Bethesda Naval Medical Center the day he raised his right hand and took the oath of citizenship. I'm proud to be the Commander in Chief of this good Sergeant, and now I'm proud to call him fellow citizen.

You see, brave Americans like Sergeant Denogean are sacrificing for the cause of our country, and America has needed that sacrifice. Our men and women in uniform have removed two terrorist regimes that threatened our people and are now helping the Iraqi and Afghan people get on the path to democracy and self-government. By fighting the terrorists abroad they have made American people more secure here at home. By standing for the cause of freedom, they're making our world more peaceful, and by acting in the best traditions of duty and honor, they're making our country proud.

This country of ours has been through challenging times in the past few years. We're overcoming those challenges, thanks to the courage and the character of the American people. We're ready to meet every challenge that comes our way and, of course, to seize new opportunities. And as always, America looks to the future with confidence.

Once again, I appreciate the good work of LULAC and of your members and of your leadership. Thank you so very much for having me. *Que Dios los bendiga, y que Dios bendiga a los Estados Unidos. Gracias.*

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 2:20 p.m. from the Map Room at the White House to the convention meeting in San Antonio, TX. In his remarks, he referred to Hector M. Flores, national president, League of United Latin American Citizens; Kenneth W. Cole, vice president, government relations, General Motors Corp.; and Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, USA, commander, Multi-National Force - Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Death of Austrian President Thomas Klestil

July 8, 2004

Laura and I offer our deepest condolences to the people of Austria and to the Klestil family on the death of President Thomas Klestil.

President Klestil was a distinguished statesman who had previously served as Austria's Ambassador to the United States and as Austria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations. President Klestil was well known in the United States as a man dedicated to freedom and human dignity, and as President he was a committed and eloquent advocate of these values. We join all the people of Austria in mourning his passing.

Executive Order 13345—Assigning Foreign Affairs Functions and Implementing the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

July 8, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (ATDA Act), as amended, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (Foreign Assistance Act), as amended, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Functions to be Performed by the Secretary of the Treasury.* (a) The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby designated to perform the functions of the President under the following provisions of law:

(1) sections 603(b), 604(a), and 611 of the ATDA Act (7 U.S.C. 1738b(b), 1738c(a), and 1738j); and

(2) sections 703, 704(a), 805(b), 806(a), 807(a), 808(a), and 812 of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2430b, 2430c(a), 2431c(b), 2431d(a), 2431e(a), 2431f(a), and 2431j).

(b) The Secretary of the Treasury shall:

(1)(A) make determinations under the provisions of sections 703(b) and 805(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act in accordance with any recommendations received from the Secretary of State with respect to subsections 703(a)(1)–703(a)(4) and the corresponding recommendations under section 805(a)(1) of that Act; and

(B) make determinations under the provisions of section 805(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act in accordance with any recommendations from the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with respect to section 803(5)(B) of that Act;

(2) exercise the functions under the provisions listed in section 1(a)(1) of this order in consultation with the Secretary of State and with the National Advisory Council on International Monetary and Financial Policies (Council) established by Executive Order 11269 of February 14, 1966;

(3) consult, as appropriate, with the Secretary of State, the Administrator of USAID, the Council, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the performance of all other functions under the provisions listed in section 1(a) of this order.

Sec. 2. *Functions to be Performed by the Secretary of State.* (a) The Secretary of State is hereby designated to perform the functions of the President under sections 607 and 614 of the ATDA Act (7 U.S.C. 1738f and 1738m) and section 813(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2431k).

(b) The Secretary of State shall consult, as appropriate, with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administrator of USAID, in the performance of functions under the provisions listed in subsection 2(a) of this order.

(c) The Secretary of State shall consult, as appropriate, in the performance of functions under section 607 of the ATDA Act, with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of such other executive departments and agencies as the Secretary of State determines appropriate.

(d) The Secretary of State is hereby designated to receive advice or supplemental views on the President's behalf consistent with the following provisions of law:

(1) section 610(c)(1) of the ATDA Act (7 U.S.C. 1738i(c)(1)); and

(2) section 813(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2431k).

Sec. 3. *Recommendation by USAID.* The Administrator of USAID shall make recommendations with respect to 803(5)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2431a(5)(B), in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of State.

Sec. 4. *Government Appointees to the Enterprise for the Americas Board.* (a) Pursuant to section 610(b)(1)(A) of the ATDA Act (7 U.S.C. 1738i(b)(1)(A) and section 811(b)(1)(A) and (b)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act (22 U.S.C. 2431i(b)(1)(A) and (b)(2)), the following officers or employees of the United States are hereby designated to serve as representatives on the Enterprise for the Americas Board:

(i) the designee of the Secretary of State, who shall be the chairperson of the Board;

(ii) the designee of the Secretary of the Treasury;

(iii) two designees of the Secretary of Agriculture, one of whom shall be an officer or employee of the United States Forest Service International Programs Office with experience in international forestry matters, and the

other shall be an officer or employee of the Foreign Agricultural Service;

(iv) the designee of the Secretary of the Interior;

(v) the designee of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(vi) the designee of the Administrator of USAID, who shall be the vice chairperson of the Board; and

(vii) the designee of the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

(b) The Board shall permit the following officers or employees of the United States to attend and observe a Board meeting:

(i) a designee of the Secretary of Commerce; and

(ii) a designee of the head of any executive department or agency, if the meeting will relate to matters relevant to the activities of such executive department or agency.

(c) An officer of the United States listed in subsections 4(a) and 4(b) shall make a designation for purposes of those subsections in writing submitted to the Secretary of State and shall change any such designation in the same manner. The authority to make such a designation may not be delegated.

(d) The Secretary of State may, after consultation with the officers of the United States listed in subsection 4(b) and the Attorney General, as appropriate, establish such procedures as may be necessary to provide for the governance and administration of the Board.

Sec. 5. *Guidance for the Performance of Functions.* In performing functions under this order, officers of the United States:

(a) shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the President's constitutional authority to (i) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States, including the commencement, conduct, and termination of negotiations with foreign countries and international organizations, (ii) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties, (iii) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary or expedient, and (iv) supervise the unitary executive branch;

(b) may further assign functions assigned by this order to officers of any department or agency within the executive branch to the extent permitted by law except as provided in subsection 4(c) of this order and such further assignment shall be published in the *Federal Register*; and

(c) shall consult the Attorney General as appropriate in implementing this section.

Sec. 6. *Revocation of Executive Orders.* The following Executive Orders are hereby revoked:

(a) Executive Order 12757 of March 19, 1991;

(b) Executive Order 12823 of December 3, 1992;

(c) Executive Order 13028 of December 3, 1996; and

(d) Executive Order 13131 of July 22, 1999.

Sec. 7. *Judicial Review.* This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 8, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 12, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 13.

Executive Order 13346—Delegation of Certain Waiver, Determination, Certification, Recommendation, and Reporting Functions

July 8, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The functions of the President in making certain waivers, determinations,

certifications, recommendations, and reports to the Congress are assigned as follows:

(a) The Secretary of State is authorized to make waivers, determinations, certifications, and recommendations, and to undertake related reporting, as described in:

(i) Section 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1)), with respect to the extension of Jackson-Vanik waivers;

(ii) Section 609 of Division A of the Omnibus Consolidated and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1999 (Public Law 105–277) as continued in effect by section 612 of Division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–199) with respect to cooperation related to persons missing in action and prisoners of war; and

(iii) Section 102(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2799aa–1(a)), with respect to any Presidential determination under section 102(a)(1) that is also the subject of a determination and certification by the President pursuant to section 102(a)(2).

(b) The United States Trade Representative shall submit the report relating to sub-Saharan Africa under section 106 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Public Law 106–200, title 1).

Sec. 2. The functions of the President in making certifications to the Congress consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Chemical Weapons Convention adopted by the Senate on April 24, 1997 (Resolution) are assigned as follows:

(a) The Secretary of State is authorized to make a certification consistent with section 2(7)(C)(i) of the Resolution with respect to the effectiveness and viability of the Australia Group.

(b) The Secretary of Commerce is authorized to make a certification consistent with section 2(9) of the Resolution with respect to the interests of certain firms in the United States.

Sec. 3. Executive Order 12163 of September 29, 1979, as amended, is further amended, in section 1–100(a), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (12) and inserting a semicolon, and by inserting the following new paragraphs:

"(13) title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–115), under the heading "Assistance for the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union," in subsections (g)(4) and (6);";

"(14) section 512 of Division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108–199);";

"(15) sections 5(c) and 6 of the Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–415), as amended.".

Sec. 4. Executive Order 13277 of November 19, 2002, is amended in section 1(b)(3) by adding after the phrase "Section 2105(a)(1)" the terms "(A) and (C)".

Sec. 5. References in this order to provisions of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provisions.

Sec. 6. In carrying out sections 1 and 2 of this order, officers of the United States shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the President's constitutional authority to: (a) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States; (b) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties; (c) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary and expedient; and (d) supervise the unitary executive branch.

Sec. 7. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

Sec. 8. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity

by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 8, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 12, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 13.

Memorandum on Delegation of Responsibility Under Section 1523 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, as Amended

July 8, 2004

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Delegation of Responsibility under Section 1523 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, As Amended

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions conferred upon the President by section 1523 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105–261), as amended (the "Act").

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of any Act shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

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

George W. Bush

Remarks in a Discussion at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania in Kutztown, Pennsylvania

July 9, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming. I'll be there in a minute. Please be seated. Thanks for coming. It's an honor to be here in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Thank you for coming out to say hello. I appreciate it.

If you see some of your neighbors who were lining the road, waving to us in the bus, tell them thanks too. It's great hospitality here in this part of the world.

I'm here for a reason. I'm here to let you know that I want to serve the people of this country for 4 more years. I'm here to let you know—and I have a reason to ask for your help and your vote. I want this country to be safer and stronger and better for every one of our citizens.

I'm also the first to admit that I can't win without your help. So I'm here to ask for your help. I would like for you all—not only am I asking for the vote, I'm asking for you to register your friends and neighbors to vote. And then when you ask—when you register them, you might get them to vote for old George W., while they're at it.

I'm looking forward to the campaign. I'm looking forward to the campaign. I've got plenty of energy to run a race. I know who I want to lead this country, and I'm here to ask for your help.

One good reason to put me back in there for 4 more years is so that Laura will be the First Lady. [*Applause*] Thank you. I married well. What a fabulous woman she is. It's been a fantastic experience to have her by my side for 3½ years serving this Nation. She is a—she's come to know what I know, that we can make a difference in people's lives, a positive difference in their lives. Laura has got the capacity to touch people in a way that inspires them. Every time she sees a teacher, she says, "Thanks for teaching." And since she's not here, I want to say thanks for teaching.

She loves books. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. [*Applause*] Yeah! How are all you librarians out there? She didn't particularly care about politics or politicians. Now she's married to one. [*Laughter*] She's doing a great job. And by the way, this is a special day for me. One of our daughters, newly graduate of the University of Texas, is traveling with me. Jenna, thanks for coming. She's already given me good advice. She said, "Dad, change your shirt." [*Laughter*]

Today I want to talk about how to make sure America is safer, stronger, and better. I'm going to talk to some of our fellow citizens here. I'd like to answer some questions, if we have time. This is a little different format than you're used to, as opposed to a guy just sitting there lecturing. So what I try to do is get others involved in the conversation, to help make the points about why I want to be your President.

Before I do so, I want to say thanks to Arlen Specter for traveling with me today. He's on the ballot. I hope he wins. Thank you for coming, Senator. Also, we managed to get old Rick Santorum to come with us as well. I asked him how all his kids were doing. He said, "We only got six." [*Laughter*]

I want to thank very much Congressman Jim Gerlach for being here today. Congressman, thanks for coming. Congressman Todd Platts is with us. There he is. His mother made me some peanut butter fudge. [*Laughter*] She expects me to eat it on the bus ride. [*Laughter*] I don't know. But anyway, tell her thanks for the fudge. [*Laughter*]

I was traveling today with Charlie Dent. He's a State senator from right down the road. I'm glad he's here. And like Charlie, Scott Paterno is running for the Congress. Appreciate you being here. I don't know about these guys with famous fathers. [*Laughter*]

The job of the President is to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. The job of the President is to do the hard work so that people can grow up in a society which is a safer society, a stronger society, and a better society.

You know, when I ran for office in 2000, I spent a lot of time in Pennsylvania. And by the way, we're going to do a little better this time than last time.

I never thought I'd be a war President. As a matter of fact, you know, I was hoping I wouldn't be a war President. But the enemy attacked us on September the 11th. It's an event that I will never forget. It is a duty that I will honor, which is to keep America safe.

And there's a lot of people working hard to make sure the homeland is secure. I picked a good man to run the new Department of Homeland Security. You trained Ridge well. [*Laughter*] He's doing a fine job. It's a hard task, when you think about it, to bring all these agencies together in a seamless organization, all designed to help protect the homeland. And there's a lot of really good people at all levels of government who are doing everything they can to do our collective duty, which is to protect you.

And so I want to thank all the first-responders who are here, the firefighters, the police officers, the EMS teams that work hard on behalf of the Pennsylvania citizens. As I tell them, as I've tried to explain to the American people, we've got to be right 100 percent of the time; the enemy only has to be right once. And it's a hard job. The best way to defend America is to stay on the offense, is to use every asset at our disposal and to hunt the terrorists down before they hurt America. And that's what this administration is going to do. I am determined. I am focused. I will not relent in my quest to make sure America is safe and secure.

We must use all our assets, including the United States military. When I got into office, along with the fine Vice President, Dick Cheney, our military was underappreciated and underfunded. We worked with the United States Congress to make sure the military had the resources it needed. And today, nobody can question the skill, the strength, and the spirit of the mighty United States military. And it is my high honor to be their Commander in Chief.

Let me tell you a couple of lessons I learned from September the 11th. We face an enemy which has hijacked a religion. They're not religious people. They've hijacked a religion. Secondly, therapy is not going to work with them. You cannot negotiate with these people. You can't discuss it. The only way to make sure America is more secure is to bring them to justice. Thirdly, I learned about this enemy that they try to find soft spots in the world. They try to find safe havens. They try to burrow in and corrupt a government. They become parasitical. And that's why I laid out a doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist and feed one, you're just as guilty as the terrorist."

Let me tell you something else about the Presidency—one other thing about this job

that I have is that when you say something, you need to say it clearly so people will understand, and you better mean what you say. And I meant what I said, and the Taliban in Afghanistan found out exactly what we meant. Al Qaida no longer has the training bases and the safe haven they had throughout most of Afghanistan. Oh, they try to get in and out all the time, but now we've got an ally in Afghanistan.

And when people ask you about the decision, you remind them that it was more than just upholding doctrine. My decision was more than just routing out Al Qaida. See, I care deeply about the fact that young girls were not allowed to go to school in Afghanistan. I care deeply about the fact that there was a barbaric regime that was so dim in their view of the world that they not only suppressed women; they suppressed young girls. They would not allow for dissent. They did not believe in the ideals we believe in. Today, thanks to the United States and our broad coalition, Afghanistan is free, and they're going to have elections in a couple of months.

Now, we have a duty to defend ourselves—we have a duty to defend ourselves. I believe we also have a duty to work to free people from tyranny.

I also said that—told the American people this, another lesson of September the 11th is that when you see a gathering threat, you've got to deal with it before it materializes. Obviously, the first choice, when I say "deal with it," is diplomacy. The first choice is to try to convince people to come to their senses if they're a threat. And that's precisely why I went to the United Nations. I saw a threat in the form of Saddam Hussein. Who wouldn't have seen a threat? He's the guy who used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. He's a person that harbored terrorists. Abu Nidal was a known terrorist living in Baghdad. Zarqawi, the murderer who still kills innocent Iraqis, received health care in Baghdad after getting wounded in Afghanistan. You don't think Saddam Hussein knew he was there? It was a tyrannical society that he was running.

This was a guy who attacked his own neighborhood. It's a guy who professed hatred for America. He was a threat, see. And I said, "He's a threat." I went to the United Nations and said, "He's a threat." And they agreed with the fact that he was a threat, by a 15 to nothing vote in the United Nations Security Council. See, the world spoke. Not only did* America speak, the world spoke. I looked at the intelligence, Members of the United States Senate looked at the same intelligence and saw a threat. And the United Nations saw the threat. They said, "Disclose. Disarm, or face serious consequences.

See, I think when you say something you better mean it, in order to make the world a more peaceful place. He said—and so what did Saddam Hussein say to the world? He said, "Forget it. I'm not going to—we're going to play games with the inspectors." Intelligence clearly says that he was gaming the system. He wasn't going to disclose. He wasn't about to show the world what he had. Inspectors, like they had for years, were denied access. And so I had a choice to make. I'm the President who was in office during September the 11th. I remember the lessons well. The choice was to trust Saddam Hussein or to make the decisions necessary to defend our country, and given that choice, I will defend America every single time.

It's hard work. We've done hard work before. It's hard work to take a country from tyranny to freedom. It's hard when you've got a society in which people have been brutalized. It's hard to convince them that, you know, "Trust us. Freedom is a good thing." But it's happening. It's happening day by day, and it's necessary work, because in the short term, the best way to protect America is to stay on the offense; the long term, the best way to protect America and others is to spread freedom. We know that free societies are peaceful societies.

It's hard work, but we've done this kind of work before. You know, right after World War II, there were a lot of doubters and skeptics as to whether or not Germany could be rebuilt and become a democracy. You can understand why. They were tyrannical and brutal and gassed millions. People said, "Well, you can't rebuild them." And there was a lot of doubt, and there was a lot of skepticism and a lot of second-guessing of the strategies. And the same in Japan. The

* White House correction.

skeptics were saying, "Japan can't possibly self-govern. After all, they're not Caucasian." But fortunately, the pessimists and the skeptics didn't have their day, did they? My predecessors were strong in their faith for the capacity of all people to self-govern, and as the result of adhering to the values we hold dear to our hearts, today, German and Japan are free, and they're allies with the United States in this war against terrorism.

It is hard work—it is hard work. We will complete our job. Iraq will be free. The Middle East will see freedom in its midst, and America will be better off.

A stronger America is an America where people are working. Now, we've got some citizens here today that will help make my point. Listen, we want everybody working. That's what we want. We want people going to work. We want our people putting food on their table to feed their kids. We want our entrepreneurs to feel like there's—feel so confident about the future that they're willing to invest.

Things are getting better. A President must lead. Right after I got in, we had a recession. That means we're going backwards. It means people aren't working. It means the future looks a little cloudy. Then we had an attack. That hurt our economy. Then we uncovered corporate scandal. By the way, the message out to be clear to everybody in corporate America now that we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America.

In spite of all that, this economy is strong. You know why? Not because of Government but because the spirit of the American people. We've got great workers, hard-working people. We've got wonderful entrepreneurs. Our small-business sector is vibrant and strong because of the dreamers who live here in America. And the job of Government is to inspire, is to help. The role of Government is not to try to create wealth, but it's an environment in which people are willing to take risk.

And that's why I was so strong on tax relief. Listen, when your economy is going bad, you want people to have more of their own money in their pocket, because when they have more of their own money in their pocket, they will spend or invest. And when they spend or invest, it means the economy is going to pick up, and sure enough, it has. The numbers here in the State of Pennsylvania are strong. It wasn't all that long ago that people were worried about unemployment here in Pennsylvania. Today, the rate is 5.1 percent, as I understand it. There was 44,700 jobs created in this State since last February. In other words, people are going back to work.

It was great driving through this country. I'm telling you, I love beautiful country; this is beautiful country, the farm country. The farmers are doing well here in Pennsylvania. That's a good sign. It's a good sign when you can stand up and say the farm economy is strong.

Audience member. Come visit our farm!

The President. What do you grow?

Audience member. Corn and—[*inaudible*].

The President. There you go. I may just do that, but when you ask for that, just remember, 400 policemen, 8 buses, an entire press corps—[*laughter*].

No, this tax relief is working. And the thing that is necessary to make sure it continues to work is not to raise your taxes. That's going to be—this is an issue in the campaign, see. You have a person who's willing to lay out a bunch of new ideas that cost a lot of money. And the campaign is just getting started. There's no telling how much they're going to promise by the time this is over. And therefore, you're going to have to ask the question, how are they going to pay for it?

Yes, it's going to be a lot of money. They're going to say, "Oh, only—all we're going to do is tax the rich." It doesn't work that way. You can't raise enough money by taxing the rich to pay for all the programs. So guess who's going to pay? You are. It's the wrong time to be raising taxes on the American people. This economy is strong. It's growing stronger, and we ought not to be raising taxes.

A couple of other points. See, my job is to be thinking down the road. This economy is strong. It's growing stronger. I want it strong 10 years from now as well. And then we need to do some things to make sure that people are comfortable hiring people. We need an energy policy. You got coal in this

State. We ought not to be afraid to use it, and we ought to be using technologies to make sure it burns cleanly. Someday we're going to figure out to use that corn you're growing more efficiently, so you can grow energy on your farm. And so we're spending our research and development money.

See, we got some fuel here at home that we need to use, but technology is going to enable us in the long run to do what we need to do, which is to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy. That's what we need to do.

A couple other points I want to make right quick. We have a changing economy too. I mean, this is a growing economy, and it's changing. And you're going to hear from some people who changed jobs and actually made more money when they changed jobs. One of the things we got to make sure is that we educate people for the jobs which will actually exist in the 21st century. That's why I'm such a big believer in the community college system. I think the community college system really works well because community colleges are available, they're accessible, they're affordable, and they change curricula to meet the changing times. If you got—a business walks in and says that, "We need to hire"—a health care business, for example, says, "We need to hire health care technicians," the community college system is able to design a curriculum to train those folks for the jobs which exist. In order to make sure we're competitive, we've got to be wise about our education policy.

In order to make sure we're competitive, we've got to make sure health care costs are reasonable. You talk to these small-business owners here in America, and they will tell you the cost of health care makes it awfully hard to expand their job base. So I've got some practical suggestions, all of which make sure that the Federal Government doesn't run the health care system. I don't want people in Congress running your health care system.

Health savings accounts—those are tax incentive savings accounts for people to put money aside with a catastrophic health care plan. This is a good idea. This is a new product. One of my jobs is to make sure people know they're available, and people ought to look into them. You ought to look into them, Mr. Businessowner. Association health care plans allow small businesses to pool risk, just like big businesses get to do and, therefore, lower the cost of insurance for small businesses.

But I'll tell you what else Pennsylvania needs to do and America needs to do in order to make sure health care costs are reasonable. You need medical liability reform in this State. You need to make sure—everybody ought to have their day in court. Everybody ought to have their day in court if they get hurt, but these frivolous and junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine. They're driving docs out of business. They're making it harder for small businesses to hire new people. I'm telling you, the lawyers in Washington, DC, are blocking progress for medical liability reform.

I want to thank these two Senators for joining me on this important issue. I wish you lived in another State where they had a Senator that was blocking it. You'd let them know, wouldn't you?

I met Roger Schmidt. Thank you, Roger. He's a business guy here. He's about to tell you what he does, at least what his business does. He runs the business. I've asked him to come because I want you to understand clearly what this tax relief has meant for the small-business sector of America.

Most people don't know this, but this is a fact. By far, the vast majority of small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax level. Now, people don't know that, but it's true. See, if you're a sole proprietorship or, in Roger's case, a Subchapter S corporation, your business pays tax at the individual income tax rate. And so when you hear us talking about cutting individual rates, make sure you understand, when you think about it, and your neighbors talk about it, that they understand we're really stimulating the small-business sector when we do so.

Now, why would you do that? Well, 70 percent of new jobs in America are created by small-business people—70 percent. And if one of the things you're worried about is job creation, it's a logical conclusion to say, "Let's stimulate growth in the small-business sector," which is precisely what we did.

Roger, welcome. Thank you for coming.

Roger Schmidt. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I just had coffee with Roger down the road. I want you to know I picked up the tab. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Schmidt. Thank you.

The President. No problem. [*Laughter*] It is an election year. [*Laughter*] Anyway, what do you do, Roger?

Mr. Schmidt. I work at E.J. Breneman. We're a 62-year-old highway construction firm working in the eastern United States.

The President. Good. He's a Subchapter S corporation. I've asked him to come because he's one of millions of Subchapter S corporations around America, which means when you pay tax you pay at the——

Mr. Schmidt. The highest rate, individual rate, yes, sir.

The President. That's called leading the witness. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Schmidt. I'm a good follower. [*Laughter*]

The President. You have got—okay, so you hired people this year, have you not?

Mr. Schmidt. Yes, sir. We've put new—eight hires to work this year so far.

The President. Yes. If you have confidence in the future—like, you're a business guy, you have confidence in the future, guess what you do when your business is growing? You hire people. So one of the things I ask when I travel around the country, I ask the small-business owners, "Are you hiring?" It's a good sign when they are. You know, it's not easy to hire people.

Mr. Schmidt. No, sir.

The President. And you hired them, why?

Mr. Schmidt. Why? Because our business is expanding.

The President. Expanding. It's like, they tell me, "Expand, Mr. President." Expand, Roger. [*Laughter*]

[*Mr. Schmidt made brief remarks.*]

The President. Let me stop him there. That's called investment. And when you hear somebody say, "I'm investing," it's important to say, really what's happening is they're creating jobs. You know why? You just heard him say, "I'm buying a new piece of equipment." Well, somebody has got to make the equipment, right? So when Roger says, "We're buying equipment," somebody is producing the equipment he's buying, which means somebody is likely to at least keep a job. And if there's more Rogers around, they may have to add somebody to make more equipment. That's how the economy works.

When he says he's investing, doubling his investment, that investment creates jobs. Not only does it create jobs from the person that he's purchasing the equipment from, he's going to need somebody else to either maintain or drive that equipment.

Mr. Schmidt. Correct.

The President. That's how job expansion works.

And so one of the key ingredients of the tax relief plan was to say to Roger and small businesses all over America, "Not only are you going to keep more of your own money as you make money, but when you make investments, we're going to provide a little extra tax break for you." It's called bonus depreciation. What we're trying to say, good tax policy is, "Feel comfortable making an investment. Here's a little extra in your pocket when you do so." And so the bonus depreciation aspect of the tax plan was equally important to cutting all the tax rates.

Roger, how's your business like? I mean, so you sit around the table; you're saying good future, bad future?

Mr. Schmidt. Right now, Mr. President, we are very optimistic. We'll probably have the best year this year that we've had in the last five.

The President. There you go. Keep working. Keep hiring. Thanks for coming.

Good tax policy affects businesses, but most importantly, it affects families and individuals. You know, we had a big debate in Washington about tax relief. My attitude on tax relief is that if you're going to cut tax rates, you cut them on everybody who pays taxes, not just a few, not those who are the political favored. You say, if you're going to have relief, "Everybody pays. Everybody gets relief." It's the only fair way to do something like that. And it's been effective. It's working. It really is working.

One of the reasons it's working is because—people like Dale and Sharon Stump, who are with us. Thank you all for coming. I had coffee with them as well.

Dale Stump. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. You do what for a living?

Mr. Stump. I'm a self-employed builder/remodeler for 20 years.

The President. Great. And Mom is a teacher.

Sharon Stump. Yes. I was in the insurance industry for a number of years but retired to be a full-time mom and wife, and we home-school our three children now.

The President. That's fantastic. Thank you for doing that.

The Stumps saved $2,200 in 1903—I mean, 2003. [*Laughter*] That would have been a lot in 1903. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Stump. I'm not that old. [*Laughter*]

The President. They saved $2,200 in 2003. Now, I know that doesn't sound like a lot of money to the folks in Washington, DC, who are talking in huge numbers, but it's a lot to them. That's $2,200 of their own money, by the way, that they get to keep to decide what they want to do with it. You see, my attitude is, once Government sets priorities, people ought to have more of their own money to put in their pocket. I always say—and I believe this firmly—that the Stumps can spend their money far better than the Federal Government can.

What did you spend it on? None of my business but—[*Laughter*]

Mr. Stump. Well, since we're home-schooling, we did purchase some curriculum. We have to do that every year, so we did that. And we also were able to purchase with part of it a property in northern Pennsylvania to——

The President. Okay—landowner.

Mr. Stump. Landowner.

The President. Nothing better. By the way, every day is Earth Day if you own your own land. [*Laughter*]

The reason they got tax relief is we dropped all rates. We created a low—a new 10-percent bracket, which makes sense. We raised the child credit to $1,000 per child. They've got three children. That helps a lot. A guy with children is nodding his head. We reduced the marriage penalty. If one of the things you're trying to do in America is encourage families and marriage, it doesn't make any sense to tax marriage, does it? I just don't understand—"marriage penalty." Why would you want to penalize marriage? We want to be encouraging marriage in America.

These parts of the tax relief are set to expire. This is one of these—they giveth, and they taketh away. And I've been working with the Congress and the Senate to make it clear that they're not—what they're doing is they're taking money out of the Stumps' pocket. That's what they're doing, just as the economy is coming back. If they don't make sure this tax relief stays in place, they're really raising their taxes. They'll have—their tax burden will increase by $1,000 in '05 if Congress doesn't act.

And the reason I've asked them to stand here in front of you, this is a great American story. He's self-employed. In other words, he's taking a risk. Mom stays home and teaches the kids. They're doing their duty as a mom and a dad, which is the most sacred duty anybody has got in America. And here the Government—and the Government is fixing to take $1,000 out of their pocket. And it doesn't make sense.

Thank you for coming. I appreciate you all being here. Good job.

Mr. Stump. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. We've got the Griesemers with us today. Thank you all for coming. We're proud you're here. Debbie is with us, and Jim. Tell us your story, Jim.

[*Jim Griesemer made brief remarks.*]

The President. I was talking to him over coffee. I had a lot of pretty good coffee experience today—[*laughter*]—except for getting stuck with the tab. Anyway—[*laughter*]—it must have been miserable for you. Here's a guy who is maybe over 40, but barely. And he's laid off, you know. It must be a miserable experience, and he said it was. And then he told me what a joyous experience it was to be in an economy or a part of the world where the economy is strong. He's now working.

Go ahead, put the mike closer. As Debbie says, put the mike up——

Mr. Griesemer. I'm sorry, I missed what you said, sir.

The President. I said you're doing well.

Mr. Griesemer. Yes. Yes, yes.

The President. You're working.

Mr. Griesemer. Yes, at C.H. Briggs Hardware. It's an expanding economy. With that company, it's been tremendous.

The President. Making a little more money now than you were?

Mr. Griesemer. Oh, yes, yes.

The President. Yes, you see, one of the things that's really important is to hear people are making more money. After-tax disposable income—that means money you have in your pocket after tax—has gone up by 11 percent since 2001. See, we want Jim having more money in his pocket. The economy does better. Families do better when you have more of your own money in your pocket.

Debbie, what do you do?

Debbie Griesemer. I'm executive assistant to the president of a manufacturing firm, SFS Intec.

The President. Good. You growing?

Mrs. Griesemer. Yes, it's growing—record sales through the second quarter this year.

The President. Manufacturing firm with record sales—that's a pretty interesting thought, isn't it?

You left because there was a better—you left your old job.

Mrs. Griesemer. Yes. Yes, better opportunity, more responsibility, better—optimistic future.

The President. A little more pay?

Mrs. Griesemer. A little more pay, doesn't hurt.

The President. Look, the reason I've asked them to come by is because it's important for the fellow citizens in this area to understand people who have been laid off are getting back to work. That's what's happening. People that were worried about their future—they can say it, not me.

But thank you all for coming. We're proud you're here.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Marcie Hartman is with us. Thanks, appreciate you. Hey, Marcie, thanks for coming. Tell us your story.

Marcie Hartman. I just recently switched positions to ServiceMaster by Round the Clock. It's a better-paying job. I'm a commissioned salesperson, and obviously, the economy is doing better because I'm getting commissions.

The President. There you go, yes. See, people are—in a growing economy—one of the things that's important for our citizens to understand, in a growing economy, when there's a sense of optimism about the future, when people are investing, new job opportunities come along. People are able to change jobs to embetter themselves. She worked in one job, voluntarily left, I think you told me.

Ms. Hartman. Yes, I did.

The President. That's always the best way—[*laughter*]—and is now making more money.

Ms. Hartman. Yes, I am.

The President. And keeping more money.

Ms. Hartman. No, I'm spending more. [*Laughter*]

The President. Oh, well, that's good for the person you're spending—for the store you're spending it in. That's what we like. That's how the economy works. It's an interesting point she just made. She just gave us an economic lesson, didn't she? She's making more money. Instead of keeping more money, she's spending more money. That's what we want. See, the economy works when she decides, "I've got a little extra money in my pocket. I'm going to demand an additional good or a service." Somebody has got to produce the good or service to meet her demand in the way our economy works.

She made the point about how tax relief works. That's why Congress must make sure they don't raise the taxes on people like this good lady.

Here's your chance. You got anything else?

Ms. Hartman. No, nothing else.

The President. All right, thanks for coming.

A stronger America is an America in which people are working. They're working here. And the question is, how do you make sure they're working not only this year but next year and in the following years. I got a plan to do that. I understand the proper role of Government. And I understand the need to make sure our small-business sector is strong. When you hear them talking about taxing the rich, just remember the lesson we heard today about the Subchapter S corporation. That's who they're taxing. They're going to

be taxing people who are creating jobs, because Subchapter S corporations, small businesses who are sole proprietorships pay tax at the individual income tax level.

Now, I want to talk about a better America right quick, and then I'm going to answer some questions. A better America means every child is educated; every child has a dream. This system that says if your—color of your skin is a certain color or your parents don't speak English as a first language, and therefore, you're going to move them through because they're too hard to educate, is ending in America. I refuse to accept low standards for every child. When you lower expectations, you get lousy results. See, what we're doing is challenging what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations, because I know every child can learn—every child can learn. And so we're insisting on raising the standards.

We've increased Federal money a lot since I've been the President, for mainly Title I students. The key thing—when you hear that you probably cringe. You say, "Well, not only are you doing that, but then you're going to try to run the schools." No, quite the opposite. I strongly believe in local control of schools. I believe the local folks can manage their schools far better than the people in Washington, DC, can.

But here's the thing. For the first time, the Federal Government says, "In return for money, show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. You, the State of Pennsylvania, design the system on accountability, but show us." We want to know. It seems like a reasonable request. "Can you read at fourth grade? If you can't read at fourth grade, you're not going to read at eighth grade. If you can't read at eighth grade, you've just been shuffled through the system as if you don't count." That's not what I believe. I believe every child can read by grade level in the fourth grade, and I want the schools to show me. That's what I want to see.

That's how you determine whether or not the curriculum being used at the local level is working.

We've got a fantastic reading initiative started here. It says, "We're going to use curriculum that works." It's working. I'm telling you, the test scores are going up all across America—most importantly, for some groups of children that people say, "Well, they could never learn to read," you know, and it's happening. America is going to be a better place because we've got high standards, strong accountability, and local control of our public schools.

America is going to be a better place as well because I think I've got a proper perspective of Government and its relations to the people. The great strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's an important principle which we're trying to help deliver help to people who hurt. See, if you believe that the great strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, then it makes sense for Government to encourage those loving citizens to help save lives, doesn't it?

I believe America—I know—I don't believe, I know—America can change, one heart at a time. And I also know, amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There are people who, you know, totally addicted to alcohol and drugs, who need help and love. There are children whose moms and dads are in prison, who wonder whether or not there is any future for them in America. There are people who are homeless, looking for help. And there's the hungry. And the best way, in my judgment, to heal the hurt is to call upon those who have heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves and empower them to do just that, is to surround the lonely with love, is to mentor the children who need help, is to say to the faith-based institutions in America, whether you be Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, "The Federal Government does not fear your works, but we welcome your works. We love your compassion."

We should not ask the question, what is the process involved in providing help? We ought to ask the question, can you save a life? Can you save a life? If you take the alcoholic, you know, sometime a Government counsel can make a difference. But a lot of times it requires somebody to put his arm around him and say, "There's a higher power. And I'm going to help you change your heart, and when you change your heart, you're

going to change your habits." No, Government ought to say, "Are you able to save lives?" And if so, these programs ought to be able to access the billions of dollars we spend on social services. A better America will happen when we understand the proper role between the Federal Government and the true strength of America, the hearts and souls of the American citizens.

And so when you hear me talk about "safer, stronger, and better," that's what I mean. And I know how to get us there. And I'm looking forward to have your help so I can work together with you to make sure the country is safer and stronger and better.

I'm honored you're here. Let me take a couple of questions. I haven't had a press conference in a while. [*Laughter*] Just last week, I think it was. Any questions? Yes, sir.

Senate Report on Intelligence

Q. Mr. President, I recently read, I think yesterday or the day before, in the Philadelphia Enquirer that the—I think it was the Senate Intelligence Committee was going to release a report that highlighted the fact that that CIA had given wrong information on Iraq prior to both you and the Congress. And I was wondering if you might comment on that.

The President. Yes, thanks. I think the—first of all, I appreciate the Senate's work, and I'll tell you why—because one of the key ingredients to winning the war on terror is to make sure that our intelligence agencies provide the best and possible intelligence to the Chief Executive, to the executive branch, as well as to the legislative branch. And so the idea that the Senate has taken a hard look to find out where the intelligence-gathering services went short is good and positive, and I commend the chairman of the committee for doing that.

We need to know. I want to know. I want to know how to make the agencies better, to make sure that we're better able to gather the information necessary to protect the American people. One of the key ingredients and one of the vital ingredients of keeping us safe is to gather the best intelligence we can gather.

And so this is a useful report. There's going to be a lot of talk about reform in Washington, reforms of the agencies. And I look forward to working with Members of Congress to put out reforms that will work. A couple of ideas that I think make sense: One, we need to bolster human intelligence. In other words, one of the best ways to figure out what the enemy is thinking is to get to know the enemy firsthand, I guess is the best way to put it, is to have as much human intelligence as possible, good-quality intelligence and enough human intelligence agents, assets, out there so that we can cover the globe.

Secondly, one of the key ingredients is to use our technologies to listen and look better. And so we've got to always make sure our intelligence agencies are on the cutting edge of change.

And thirdly, there are quite a few intelligence-gathering agencies within Washington, and there needs to be better coordination between the agencies.

Now, having said that, I want—I haven't seen the report yet. I know it's quite critical. It's very important for our fellow citizens to know there's some really good people working hard in our intelligence-gathering agencies, taking risks for their lives, doing the very best job they can. I will remind them that there has been some failures. Listen, we thought there was going to be stockpiles of weapons. I thought so. The Congress thought so. The U.N. thought so.

I'll tell you what we do know. Saddam Hussein had the capacity to make weapons. See, he had the ability to make them. He had the intent. We knew he hated America. We knew he was paying families of suiciders. We knew he tortured his own people, and we knew he had the capability of making weapons. That we do know. They haven't found the stockpiles, but we do know he could make them. And so he was a dangerous man. He was a dangerous man. The world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power. America is safer.

I want to know the truth. I want to know the facts. I appreciate the factfinders working hard, and I want to work to make it the very best system we can possibly have, because we've got a duty to do for the American people. This war goes on. There's a mighty ideological struggle taking place. Remember, it is really—the better way to describe what's

happening is, this is a war against an ideology which stands exactly opposite of what we believe. It's an ideology that can—if you just think, remember the Taliban—it's an ideology that brutalized people because of what they thought. It brutalized people because of how they worshiped. It brutalized people because of their gender. It's the exact opposite of what America stands for.

You see, we believe that you're as big a patriot if you worship the Almighty as if you don't. You have the freedom to do so, and if you choose to worship, whether it be as a Christian, Jew, or Muslim, you're equally as patriotic as your neighbor. That's what we believe. You have the freedom to worship as you see fit in America.

That's the exact opposite of the dim view of the people who are trying to cause us harm. They use terror as a tool. So this is really a ideological struggle where the enemy is willing to use terror as a tool. And they kill innocent life because they know our good hearts break every time we see an innocent soldier die and an innocent citizen die. They know the compassion we all feel. Forget political parties. All Americans grieve when we see a son or a daughter, a husband or wife, go down in combat. We weep when we see that. We care when suiciders bomb innocent children inside Iraq. That's the nature of our soul. And they know that.

And see, they want to use terror as a tool to drive us out. They want us to forget our duty. They want us to get scared and pale in the face of their horrific acts. They do not understand the American people. Yes, we'll weep, but we will never cower in the face of killers and thugs. [*Applause*] Thank you all.

Okay. Anybody got a question? Other than the United States Senators—their questions are always too hard. [*Laughter*]

Yes, sir.

President's Memoirs

Q. Thank you—[*inaudible*]—and I was wondering, there's a lot of talk right now about memoirs being written with the former President. After you are elected in 2004, what will your memoirs say about you, what will the title be, and what will the main theme say?

The President. I appreciate that. [*Laughter*] There is a painting on my wall in the Oval—first of all, I don't know. I'm just speculating now. I really haven't thought about writing a book. My life is too complicated right now trying to do my job. [*Laughter*] But if—there's a painting on the wall in the Oval Office that shows a horseman charging up a steep cliff, and there are at least two other horsemen following. It's a Western scene by a guy named W.H.D. Koerner called "A Charge To Keep." It's on loan, by the way, from a guy named Joe O'Neill in Midland, Texas. He was the person—he and his wife, Jan, introduced—reintroduced me and Laura in his backyard in July of 1977. Four months later, we were married. So he's got a—I'm a decisionmaker, and I can make good decisions.

And so we sang this hymn—this is a long story trying to get to your answer. [*Laughter*] This is not a filibuster. [*Laughter*] That's a Senate term, particularly on good judges. Anyway, the hymn was sung at my first inaugural church service as Governor. Laura and I are Methodists. One of the Wesley boys wrote the hymn. The painting is based upon the hymn called "A Charge To Keep." I have. The hymn talks about serving something greater than yourself in life—I—which I try to do, as best as I possibly can.

The book—I guess one way, one thing to think about it is—one of the themes would be, I was given a charge to keep. And I gave it all my heart, all my energy, based upon principles that did not change once I got into the Oval Office.

Secretary of State Powell

Q. Mr. President, my name is Craig——

The President. Hi, Craig.

Q. How are you? I just wondered, when you defeat your opponent this fall, Jane Fonda's poster boy—[*laughter*]—are you going to be able to keep Colin Powell on your team?

The President. That's going to be up to him. He is a—thank you for bringing up Colin. He is a fabulous Secretary of State. He's done a really good job. [*Applause*] Thank you.

It's really important for a President to surround himself with smart, capable, strong

people. I like being around smart, capable, strong people. I've got a great Cabinet. These are good, decent, experienced Americans who know what they're doing. Colin Powell is one such person. And it's hard work to work in Washington. It's asking a lot for people to serve their country. It's a tough town, and the hours are really long—really long. And I'm really grateful for people who have served our country who work with me.

The other interesting thing about Colin is that he is the kind of person that gives you his honest opinion, and that's what you want. I mean, you want somebody to be able to march inside that Oval Office, "Here's what I think." And I get a lot of opinions, and that's good, because I need to hear them. But you also got to know about me, I can make a decision. And when I make a decision, people in this administration said, "Yes, sir, Mr. President. We're with you all the way." And Colin Powell was such a man as well.

Manufacturing Jobs

Q. Mr. President, my name is Don Snyder. I left the legislature in Pennsylvania 3 years ago to head up a community college in this region.

The President. Well, thanks.

Q. And thank you for the support. My question to you is, the community colleges are certainly trying to provide the workforce training that's so necessary. So one of the things we are working with is the manufacturing industry, and Pennsylvania has always been a leader in manufacturing. Besides the tax policies that you've already enacted that certainly have helped, what is the additional agenda to keep manufacturing jobs not only staying in the United States but expanding?

The President. Yes. First of all, let's start with making sure that the workers are trained to do the jobs which exist. If you can't find a—if you're a manufacturing person, and you can't find the workers with the skills necessary to work at your plant, they're going to go elsewhere. It's as simple as that. That's why not only are we making sure that the community college system retains flexibility, that we restructure our WIA programs, Workforce Investment Act programs, which are way too bureaucratic—we spend too much on overhead and not enough on helping people—plus additional $250 million going to the direct relationship between the community college and those people looking for workers.

Secondly, you can't be a manufacturing society if you don't have good, reliable sources of energy. You ask some of these Pennsylvania manufacturers what it's like to have their electrical supplies cut off, and they're going to tell you it's a lousy place to try to do business. If you can't have reliable electricity and you're running a manufacturing company, you can't compete. And therefore, when I talk about good energy policy, really what I'm talking about is keeping jobs here at home.

The best way to prevent jobs from going overseas is to make sure our manufacturers have got reliable sources of energy. We need to get an energy bill out of the United States Congress. I proposed one 2 years ago. It encouraged more conservation, which makes sense. It encouraged using our own—being able to explore for oil and gas in our own country. I know that makes some nervous. We can do so in environmentally friendly ways. It makes no sense not to do so.

We need to be using coal. We've got ample reserves of coal, but we need to use technology as well, combined with coal. That's why I'm a big backer of clean coal technology. And there are a lot of things we can do, sir, to make sure that the energy—and we need to, by the way, get new rules for the electricity grids in America. I mean, like, these are really old rules, written during the Depression. They need to be modernized so more capital flows in to modernize your electricity grids. The blackout we suffered should be a reminder that we ought to modernize, and that's how you keep jobs here at home.

Thirdly, if the tort laws of America are not changed, job creators are going to say, "I'm tired of getting sued. I'm going elsewhere." There are some practical things. We're good at things here in America, by the way. There's a lot of talk about what they call economic isolationism. That basically says, "We're going to wall ourselves off from the rest of the world." I think it's a big mistake

to think that way. If you're good at something, you ought to be confident about competing.

Now, here's the issue on trade. Presidents prior to me have said, "Let us open up our market to other countries, because it's in our consumers' interest." Think about what I'm saying there. This is what they said. Because if you get more product coming in—in other words, consumers have more choices—a consumer will end up with a better price and better quality. That's how the marketplace works. And so administrations have said, "We'll open up our markets for the sake of the consumers."

Now, the problem has been, is that we haven't said forcefully enough to other countries, "Our markets are open. You open up yours. See, we've opened up ours, so let's make sure yours are open." And that's what this administration is doing. We're filing suits against countries that we think are dumping wrongly in our country. I've made action on the steel industry, because I felt like the steel industry needed some breathing room because of—for competitive reasons. In other words, what we've got to do is to make sure that countries treat us like we treat them, and it will make it more likely manufacturers will be able to compete here at home.

I want to—appreciate your question. Thanks for running the community college system. It's a vital part of making sure people are trained.

Yes, what you got? Let her go. Just yell it out. If I don't like the question, I'll change it. [*Laughter*]

Same-Sex Marriage

Q. I was wondering what your plans are for banning gay marriages in the 50 States?

The President. Yes. He asked about gay marriage. This is, first of all, a very sensitive issue that people need to take a deep breath and debate with the ultimate of respect, for starters. I believe in the sanctity of marriage. I believe that marriage is a—I believe a marriage is an important part of the future of families, the traditional definition of marriage. I think it's—history has shown us that marriage between men and women has served society well, and any redefinition by itself will weaken marriage.

Secondly, this is a subject which ought not be decided by courts. This is a decision which ought to be decided—this is too important a decision to have defined by four judges in a State, say, like Massachusetts. And therefore, I believe the people ought to be encouraged to participate in the process.

Thirdly, one of the interesting issues that we're confronted with here in the country is that if a State decides to redefine marriage, people who were then married in that State can come to a State like Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania must accept that marriage. Now, that is, right now, protected—what's called the Defense of Marriage Act, signed by President Clinton. But there's a lot of legal experts who tell me that that act is going to be struck down in the court of law, which would then mean that a court could decide, redefine marriage—a court—the people would get married, and they'd come to another State and say, "You must accept me as a married—us as a married couple," which then redefines the marriage in the new State.

Now, this is a sensitive issue that the people ought to decide, and the best way they ought to decide, in my judgment, is to be—is to have a constitutional process go forward that must be ratified by the State legislatures. That's how you get the people involved. And I repeat to you—my own view is, is that if a State—if people decide to—what they do in the privacy of their house, consenting adults should be able to do. This is America. It's a free society, but it doesn't mean we have to redefine traditional marriage.

She's coming right behind you.

2004 Election/War on Terror

Q. As a mother of two, my greatest concern is national security. What is your biggest fear with, if you'll excuse me, a Kerry administration?

The President. No, I'm—that's up to the voters to decide. Thanks for asking that. But my job is to lay out what I am going to do and talk about what I believe. My greatest fear is we're going to get attacked again. That's my greatest fear. And we're just working hard to stop it from happening. I am worried that there's—the enemy watches and sees other parts of the world kind of cower in the face of their barbaric behavior and,

therefore, draw the wrong lessons from it. That's my worry.

And you've just got to know there's a lot of people—I mean, there's a lot of really good people working as hard as they possibly can to uncover any information that would give us an indication of something that might happen, and they're fully prepared to respond. They're ready to make a move.

This is a different kind of war. I remember, right after September the 11th, saying to the American people that this is a different kind of war. This is something that's just beyond our—the way we have thought before about how war goes. First of all, nobody likes war. You just got to know that about me. I love peace. I long for peace. But I also understand the nature of this enemy. And I told the American people that sometimes you'll see action and it will look like things are normal, but beneath the surface will lurk this enemy. And that's just the way it is. And I want the American people to live a normal life. It's my job to worry about it. It's your job to go about your business. If you see something strange, of course, let the local authorities know. But it is a—this is a—we're in this for a while. And I fully understand the fatigue that comes with being told information as best as we know it that something might happen, but it's my duty. I've got to be as open with the American people as I can and realistic in my assessment about the realities of the world.

And I will repeat what I said, then I've got to get on the bus and head on out. But I will repeat what I said to Lancaster. Let me say what I said before about this—about the world we live in. We have a capacity to leave behind a better world. I say "we"—my—our generation, those of us who have been given the responsibility of assuming the duties of a civil society. We have a chance—and we will—leave behind a better world for future generations of America, by sticking to what we believe, by understanding the great power of liberty in societies, of believing that credo that all people, regardless of their faith or the color of their skin, have the capacity to self-govern.

You see—let me end on this note. I understand and most Americans understand that liberty and freedom are not America's gift to the world. Freedom is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world. We will defend America—we will defend America. We will be unrelenting in our defense of this country, by finding the enemy before they find us. Listen, we want to whip them in Iraq before we have to face them here at home. We want to—but ultimately, we will prevail, ultimately prevail, because of the great values, the great universal values that this country lives by.

Listen, thanks for coming. Thanks for your help. God bless, and God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was found dead in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2002; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Remarks in Pottstown, Pennsylvania

July 9, 2004

Thank you all very much for coming out to say hello. I'm honored to be here. I'm here to ask for your vote. I'm campaigning because I want America to be a safer place, a stronger place, and a better place.

It's such an honor to be in the great State of Pennsylvania, and it's such an honor to represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth. Thanks for coming out to say hello. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:41 p.m. 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.

July 3

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Charleston, WV, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sister Joan Marie Coleman. Later, at the West Virginia State Capitol, he participated in an interview with the Charleston Daily Mail.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush viewed the Independence Day fireworks display on the National Mall from the White House.

July 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with Hispanic Magazine.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Abdullah bin Ahmad Badawi of Malaysia to the White House on July 19.

July 7

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. M. Jodi Rell of Connecticut to congratulate her on taking office. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Raleigh, NC, where, upon arrival at Raleigh Durham International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Valerie Chaffin.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a Victory 2004 lunch at a private residence.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Waterford, MI, where, upon arrival at Oakland County International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Scotty Maconochie.

In the evening, the President traveled to Bloomfield Hills, MI, where he participated in a Victory 2004 dinner at a private residence.

Later in the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with King Mohamed VI of Morocco.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with King Mohamed VI of Morocco. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with 2004 Scripps Howard Spelling Bee champion David Tidmarsh.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the funeral of President Thomas Klestil of Austria on July 10: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California, who will lead the delegation; and U.S. Ambassador to Austria W.L. Lyons Brown and his wife, Alice.

July 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Kutztown, PA, where he began a bus tour.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Pottstown, PA, and then to Lancaster, PA, where he made remarks at Lapp Electrical Service, Inc.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to York, PA. While aboard the bus en route to York, he participated in an interview with representatives of regional media.

In the evening, at the York Expo Center, the President participated in a rally.

Later in the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Natsagiyn Bagabandi of Mongolia for a visit on July 15.

The President announced his intention to appoint Michael J. Hansen as a Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate George Perdue to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain as a member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Ballinger and Terence Alan Teachout to be members of the National Council on the Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Help America Vote Foundation: Donetta Davidson; Elizabeth G. Flores; J. Hayden Fry; and Keith J. Jackson.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Madeleine Will (Chairman); Vijayalakshmi Appareddy; James Brett; Claudia Coleman; Olivia Colvin; Kathleen Hargett; Kenneth Lohff; Edward Mambruno; Lon Solomon; Karen Staley; and Annette Talis.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 7

Keith Starrett,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, vice Charles W. Pickering, Sr., elevated.

Submitted July 8

Valerie Lynn Baldwin,
of Kansas, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, vice Sandra L. Pack, resigned.

Christopher J. LaFleur,
of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Malaysia.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released July 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Abdullah of Malaysia

Released July 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 97, H.R. 884, H.R. 2751, and S. 2017

Fact sheet: Judicial Nominees

Released July 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed legislation renewing import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's meeting with King Mohamed VI of Morocco

Released July 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of President Natsagiyn Bagabandi of Mongolia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the decision by the UN-Afghan Joint Electoral Management Board to schedule Afghanistan's Presidential and Parliamentary elections

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 7

H.R. 884 / Public Law 108–270
Western Shoshone Claims Distribution Act

H.R. 2751 / Public Law 108–271
GAO Human Capital Reform Act of 2004

H.J. Res. 97 / Public Law 108–272
Approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003

S. 2017 / Public Law 108–273
To designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Luis A. Ferre United States Courthouse and Post Office Building"