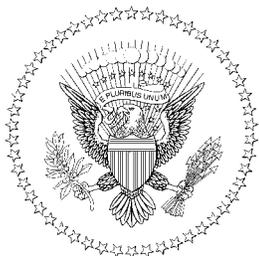


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 26, 2004
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Pages 1317–1377

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(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on July 23, 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.

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Week Ending Friday, July 23, 2004

Remarks in Beckley, West Virginia

July 16, 2004

The President. Thank you all.

Audience members. Four more years!
Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. What an honor to be here. Thanks for inviting me. And thanks for coming. Turns out I'm the first sitting President to visit the great town of Beckley, West Virginia. I don't know what the other Presidents were thinking—this is a beautiful place.

And I'm so glad to be here. Listen, I'm here to ask for your vote. I've got more to do for our great country, and I'm here to ask for your help. What you need to do is to call your friends and neighbors up and make sure they're registered to vote. Tell them they have a duty here in this great country to participate in democracy. And when you get them headed to the polls, you might just tell them that George Bush and Dick Cheney are ready to lead this country for 4 more years. With your help, I was proud to carry the great State of West Virginia in 2000, and with your help, we'll carry it in 2004.

My only regret is that Laura is not with me today.

Audience members. Aw-w-w!

The President. That's generally the reaction. [*Laughter*] Kind of, why don't you stay home and let her carry the load. [*Laughter*] The reason why is she's a great First Lady and a fabulous woman. I'm going to give you a lot of reasons why you need to put me back in office for 4 more years, but perhaps the most important one of all is so that Laura will be the First Lady for 4 more years.

She's not here, but one of our daughters is with us. Barbara is traveling with me today, and I'm so proud of Barbara. Thanks for coming, darling.

I appreciate very much Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito. I appreciate her serv-

ice. I appreciate her friendship. She's a breath of fresh air in the United States Congress.

I want to thank all the State and local officials who are here. I appreciate you coming. I appreciate the great hospitality.

I want to thank Susan Landis. I met Susan at the airport today. The reason I did is because she is an active volunteer in your community. You know, the strength of America is in our hearts and souls, and Susan represents the thousands in this part of the world who take time out of their lives to volunteer. She volunteers for Make It Shine beautification project. She works in food pantries. She represents the best of the country. Thanks for coming, Susan.

And when you're taking people to the polls, or when you're trying to convince them to vote for us, remind them of this: The last 3½ years have brought serious challenges, and we have given serious answers.

Remind them that we came to office with a stock market in decline and an economy headed into a recession. But we acted. We delivered historic tax relief. And over the past 3 years, America has the fastest growing economy of any major industrialized nation.

We saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning, so we pursued the terrorist enemy across the world. We have captured or killed many key leaders of the Al Qaida network. And we will stay on the hunt until justice is served and America is safe.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, so we acted against two of the most violent and dangerous regimes on earth. We liberated over 50 million people. Once again, America is proud to lead the armies of liberation.

I'm running with a really good man, Dick Cheney. When we came to office, the military was underfunded and underappreciated,

so we gave our Armed Forces the resource and respect they deserve. And today, no one can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

These accomplishments are important to the security and prosperity of America. You see, it is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. The President has to make hard decisions and keep his commitments. And with your help, that is how I will continue to lead our great Nation for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. I'm ready for the race. I'm looking forward to the contest. I like campaigning. I like to get out with the people. And this is going to be a tough race. That's why I'm here to ask for your help.

I'm running against an experienced United States Senator.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. He's been in Washington a long, long time—

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. —long enough to take both sides of just about every issue. He voted for the PATRIOT Act. He voted for NAFTA. He voted for No Child Left Behind Act, and he voted for the use of force in Iraq. Now, he opposes the PATRIOT Act, NAFTA, and the No Child Left Behind Act and the liberation of Iraq. If you disagree with my opponent on almost any issue, you may just have caught him on the wrong day.

He recently even tried to claim he was the candidate with conservative values.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I know it—I know it. That's what he said, though. [Laughter] It's kind of hard to square with the previous statement when he said, "I'm liberal and proud of it." [Laughter]

Now he's got him a runningmate. Senator Kerry is rated the most liberal Member of the United States Senate. And he chose a fellow lawyer who is the fourth most liberal Member of the United States Senate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Back in Massachusetts, that's what they call balancing the ticket. [Laughter]

Great events will turn on this election. The person who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. I'm here asking for your vote because I have a vision and a strategy to win the war on terror and to extend the peace and freedom throughout the world. I'm here asking for your vote because I have a plan to continue to create jobs and opportunity for every single American. I'm here asking for your vote because I have a plan and a strategy to continue to rally the compassionate spirit of this country, so every American has a chance to realize the great promise of America. We are going to win, and after 4 more years, America will be safer, stronger, and better.

A big issue for every family in America is the Federal tax burden. By providing the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was the President, we have left more money in the hands that earned it. By spending and investing and helping create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Federal Government could have.

This economy of ours is strong, and it's growing stronger. Since last summer, our economy has been growing at its fastest rate in nearly 20 years. In less than a year's time, we've added 1.5 million new jobs. Here in the great State of West Virginia, the unemployment rate is 5.2 percent. That's down more than a full point since last summer. The manufacturing sector of our country is growing stronger. The homeownership rate is at an alltime high. Business investment is growing. Consumer confidence is at a 2-year high. Personal incomes are on the rise. The tax relief we passed is working.

My opponents look at all this progress and somehow conclude that the sky is falling. [Laughter] Whether their message is delivered with a frown or a smile, it's the same old pessimism. And to cheer us up, they propose higher taxes, more Federal spending, and economic isolationism.

The surest way to end economic growth and put Americans out of work is to adopt their plan. This Nation is on the path of progress and opportunity, and we are not going back.

To sustain this growth, we need to keep taxes low. Higher taxes right now would undermine growth and destroy jobs, just as the economy is getting stronger.

To help grow the American economy and create more jobs for West Virginia workers and American workers, I have a better idea: The Congress needs to make the tax relief permanent. The Congress does not need to raise taxes on the working people of America.

We've got money to spend in Washington. We just need to set priorities. We need spending discipline in the Nation's Capital, and that starts with understanding whose money we spend. We don't spend the Government's money; we spend the people's money.

I've got a plan to make sure this economy not only grows this year but in the years to come. We've got to stop these frivolous lawsuits that make it hard for small-business owners to expand. You cannot be pro-small-business and pro-trial-lawyer at the same time. You have to choose. My opponent has made his choice, and he put him on the ticket. [*Laughter*] I made my choice: I will continue to push Congress to end the junk and frivolous lawsuits that hurt the small-business owners of America.

In order to make sure we've got jobs not only this year but in the years to come, we've got to make sure Americans have better health care and more affordable health care. That means association health plans and giving Americans more control over their health care through tax-free health savings accounts. And for the sake of reasonable costs in health care and for the sake—for the availability of health care, we need to have medical liability reform in Washington, DC.

To make sure we grow our economy, we must reject economic isolationism. We must be a confident nation. See, here's what I believe: If there is a level playing field, American workers, American entrepreneurs, American farmers and ranchers can compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere.

And in order to make sure this economy is strong today and strong tomorrow so the people of West Virginia can continue to find jobs, we need a sound energy policy. I submitted an energy plan to the United States Congress. It's stuck. Here in West Virginia—

you know this—a vital part of an energy strategy is coal. When I campaigned in this State in 2000, I said that we would have coal as an integral part of our national energy strategy and that I would push clean coal technology. I have met that promise. And I will continue to support clean coal technology so powerplants can burn West Virginia coal and America can be less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

There is a difference of opinion in this campaign. My opponent calls coal a dirty energy source.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Last year, he supported a bill that the Department of Energy estimates would cost up to 50,000 jobs in the coal industry over the next two decades. He voted against Senator Byrd's legislation to save the mining industry in this State. On the campaign trail here in Beckley, Senator Kerry said he plans to declare energy independence for our country, but you cannot be independent without West Virginia coal.

America's future also depends on our willingness to lead in the world. The momentum of freedom in our time is strong, but we still face serious dangers. Al Qaida is wounded but not broken. Terrorists continue to attack in Afghanistan and in Iraq. Regimes in North Korea and Iran are challenging the peace. If America shows weakness or uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. This will not happen on my watch.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. After the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, this Nation resolved, and I resolved, to fight the terrorists where they dwell. We resolved to hold regimes that hide and sponsor terrorists to account. Afghanistan was a terrorist state. It was a training camp for Al Qaida killers. Because we acted, Afghanistan is a rising democracy. Because we acted, Afghanistan is an ally in the war on terror. Because we acted, many young girls now go to the school for the first time in Afghanistan.

Iraq, only last year, was controlled by a dictator who threatened the civilized world and had used weapons of mass destruction

against his own people. For decades, he tortured and tortured the people of Iraq. Because we acted, Iraq is a free and sovereign nation. Because we acted, its dictator now sits in a prison cell and will receive the justice he denied so many for so long.

September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson I will never forget, and it is the lesson America must never forget. America must confront threats before they fully materialize. Remembering the past behavior of Saddam Hussein, remembering the fact that he hated America, my administration looked at the intelligence, and we saw a threat. Members of the United States Congress from both political parties looked at the intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence, and it saw a threat. I want you to remember that the previous administration and Congress looked at the intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our country.

In 2002, I went to the United Nations. The U.N. Security Council demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. As he had for over a decade, Saddam Hussein refused to comply. He deceived the inspectors. He would not allow for the inspectors to find out what he had. So I had a choice to make: Either ignore the warnings of September—lessons of September the 11th and take the word of a madman, or take action to defend the United States. Given that choice, I will defend America.

Although we have not found the stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, I believe we were right to go into Iraq, and America is safer today because we did. We removed a declared enemy of America who had the capability of producing weapons of mass destruction and could have passed that capability to terrorists bent on acquiring them. In the world after September the 11th, that was a risk we could not afford to take.

We still have an important and difficult work to do. Our immediate tasks in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere is to capture or kill the terrorists and foreign fighters. You see, you cannot talk sense to the terrorists. You can't negotiate with terrorists. You cannot sit back and hope for the best. We will engage the enemies in Afghanistan and Iraq

and around the world so we do not have to face them here at home.

In a country as big as ours, there is no such thing as perfect security. And the threats to our homeland are real. We know the terrorists want to strike us. They want to spread fear and disrupt our way of life. We reorganized our Government to better protect our homeland. You just need to know, there's a lot of really good people at the Federal level, at the State level, at the local level working hard on your behalf. We're doing everything we possibly can to run down intelligence leads and to disrupt a potential threat to the United States of America. And I know you join me in thanking the police and firefighters and emergency teams of Beckley, West Virginia, for their hard work.

For the next 4 years, we will defend our homeland; we will defeat the terrorists abroad. Yet in the long run, our safety requires something more. We must work to change the conditions that give rise to terror in the Middle East, the poverty and the hopelessness and the resentment that terrorists can exploit. Life in that region will be far more hopeful and peaceful when men and women can choose their own leaders, when the people decide their own future.

By serving the ideal of liberty, we're bringing hope to others, and that makes America more secure. By serving the ideal of liberty, we serve the deepest ideals of our country. You see, freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world.

America is leading the world. We're leading the world, and the world is changing for the better. Three years ago, Afghanistan was home to Al Qaida. Now, the terror camps are closed, democracy is rising, and the American people are safer. Three years ago, Pakistan was a safe transit point for terrorists on missions of murder. Now, the Pakistan Government is committed to bringing Al Qaida to justice, and the American people are safer. Three years ago, Saudi Arabia—in Saudi Arabia, terrorists were moving with little opposition. Now, the Saudi Government is taking the fight to Al Qaida, and the American people are safer for it. Three years ago, there was a proliferation network run

by A.Q. Khan. The CIA discovered the plot. We have disrupted it and dismantled the organization, and the American people are safer for it. Three years ago—just 3 years ago—Libya was spending millions to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Now, thousands of Libya's chemical munitions have been destroyed. Libya has given up nuclear processing equipment, and the American people are safer for it.

The world is changing because of American leadership. The dictator in Iraq had the capability of producing weapons. He could have passed them on to terrorists. Now he's sitting in a prison cell, and the American people are safer for it.

We will finish the work in Afghanistan and Iraq. Free societies in that troubled part of the world are in the interest of the United States of America. Free societies are peaceful societies. Free societies will serve as an example for other people and other troubled countries. Afghanistan and Iraq now have strong leadership, people who have stepped up and are willing to battle the terrorists for the good of the people in those countries. These people are counting on us. They're counting on the United States of America to support them in their ambitions for liberty. And when America gives its word, America keeps its word.

We've got a lot of fine troops here from the West Virginia National Guard who have served our country with distinction, and I want to thank them for their service. At bases across our country and the world, I have had the privilege of meeting those who wear our uniform. I've seen their great decency, their unselfish courage. I have met with the loved ones of those who have sacrificed, paid the ultimate sacrifice. I have assured them, to honor the memory of their loved one, we will complete the mission.

And I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in really good hands. I'll make sure our troops have the best. They deserve the best. And that's why last September, I proposed supplemental funding to support our military in its mission. This legislation provided funding for body armor and other vital equipment, for hazard pay, health benefits, ammunition, fuel, spare parts. In the Senate, only a small, out-of-the-main-

stream minority voted against the legislation. And 2 of those 12 Senators—2 of the 12—are my opponent and his runningmate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. When asked to explain his vote, Senator Kerry said this: "I actually did vote for the \$87 billion, before I voted against it." [Laughter] End quote. Now he's offering a different explanation. Earlier this week, Senator Kerry said he is proud that he and his runningmate voted against the funding for the troops.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. And yesterday, he said that his vote against funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan was complicated. No, there's nothing complicated about supporting our troops. As the Commander in Chief of a great United States military, I will make sure they have what is necessary so they can do their jobs.

America is leading the world with confidence and moral clarity. And we've got others to help us. We've got a vast coalition of nations working together, and that's good. There are over 60 nations involved in the Proliferation Security Initiative. Nearly 40 nations are involved in Afghanistan. More than 30 nations are involved in Iraq. I'll continue to work to build alliances and to work with our friends for the cause of security and peace, but I will never turn over America's national security decisions to leaders of other countries.

This Nation is prosperous and strong. Yet we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the character of our citizens. The night before he came to Beckley, my opponent said that a bunch of Hollywood entertainers conveyed the heart and soul of America.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. The heart and soul of America is found right here in Beckley, West Virginia.

Our Nation is strong—our Nation is strong because of the values we try to live by: courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help give us direction and purpose: our families and our schools and our religious congregations. These values and institutions are

fundamental to our lives, and they deserve the respect of our Government.

Listen, we stand for high standards in our public schools. We stand for local control of our public schools. We stand for accountability in our public schools so no child is left behind in America. We stand for the fair treatment of faith-based groups so they can receive Federal help for their works of compassion and healing. We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage, which have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We stand for a culture of life in which every person matters and every person counts. We reject the brutal practice of partial-birth abortion. We stand for institutions like marriage and family which are the foundations of our society. We stand for judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law, instead of legislating from the bench. We stand strongly for the Second Amendment, which gives every American the individual right to bear arms.

My position and my record stands in stark contrast to my opponent's record of voting against the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Listen, as a sportsman, I understand that gun ownership carries serious responsibilities. When someone uses a gun to commit a crime, they should be prosecuted and sent to jail. Over the past 3 years, Federal prosecutions of crime committed with firearms have increased by 68 percent. The way to make our communities safer is to lock up more gun-toting criminals, not to restrict the constitutional liberties of law-abiding citizens.

And we're building a culture of responsibility in America. The culture of our country is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and, "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're worried about the quality of education in the community in which you live, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you are responsible for telling the truth to

your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

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

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It's a day I'll never forget. There were workers in hardhats yelling, "Whatever it takes." A guy grabbed me by the arm—I can't remember if he was a firefighter or a policeman—and he said, "Do not let me down."

As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend our country, whatever it takes. [*Applause*] Thank you all.

In these times, I have also been witness to the character of this Nation. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in this country. And we've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most. We will need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace.

We have a duty to work to spread opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our blessed Nation, the best days lie ahead.

Thanks for coming. Proud you're here. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:08 p.m. at the Raleigh County Armory Civic Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

July 16, 2004

Dear _____:

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–114), (the “Act”), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beginning August 1, 2004, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Richard G. Lugar, chairman, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Ted Stevens, chairman, and Robert C. Byrd, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7802—Captive Nations Week, 2004

July 16, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year during Captive Nations Week, the United States reaffirms our commitment to building a world where human rights, democracy, and freedom are respected and protected by the rule of law. As Americans, we believe the nonnegotiable demands of human dignity must be upheld without regard to race, gender, creed, or nationality. We stand in solidarity with those living under repressive regimes who seek democracy and peaceful changes in their homelands.

Throughout our Nation’s history, our brave men and women in uniform have fought for the freedom of those suffering under authoritarian governments. From Nazi Germany to Bosnia, and Afghanistan to Iraq, American service members have fought to remove brutal leaders. The American people and their generous contributions have helped to rebuild traumatized nations and given the oppressed hope for the future. More than a year ago, American service members and our coalition partners freed the Iraqi people from a dictatorship that routinely tortured and executed innocent civilians. Since then, Americans have helped the Iraqi people establish institutions for the protection of human rights, based on democratic principles, to ensure that freedom will endure in the new Iraq.

Earlier this summer, as our Nation paid respect to President Ronald Reagan, we recognized his contributions to ending the Cold War and advancing freedom around the world. In his first Inaugural Address, President Reagan said: “Above all, we must realize that no arsenal or no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have.” These words carry forward today as we continue to push for democratic freedoms and human rights around the world.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as “Captive Nations Week.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim July 18 through July 24, 2004, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth 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-ninth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 20, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on July 21.

The President's Radio Address

July 17, 2004

Good morning. Every day in America, parents struggle to raise their children in a culture that too often glorifies instant gratification and irresponsible behavior. During this time of great change in our Nation, Government must stand with families to help them raise healthy, responsible children.

Yesterday, the Federal Government released its annual report called "America's Children in Brief." This report collects a broad range of statistics that tell us about the promises and challenges facing America's young people. The good news is, is that we have made significant progress during the past decade. Strong families and communities are instilling responsibility and character in our children, and we are seeing encouraging results.

Violent crime among our teenagers has decreased dramatically. From 1993 to 2002, the rate of teens committing violent crimes dropped 78 percent, and the rate of teens becoming victims of violent crimes dropped 74 percent. Among our youth, smoking and illicit drug use have declined. Teen birth rates have fallen to the lowest levels ever recorded, with the greatest progress occurring among African American teenagers.

Studies tell us that children raised in a household with married parents are far less likely to live in poverty, fail at school, or have behavioral problems. Fortunately, after a decades-long downward trend, the percentage of children living with married parents has remained steady since 1995. And through

our proposed Healthy Marriages Initiative, my administration is committed to ensuring that more of our children grow up in a stable home with a married mother and father.

We are headed in the right direction, but we still have work to do, so my administration is acting to encourage teens to make healthy choices. Although teen drug use has decreased, we can and must do more. We know that random drug testing in schools is effective, and it allows us to identify kids who need help. In my most recent budget, I proposed spending an additional \$23 million for school drug testing. And although teen birth rates have declined, about 3 million of our teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases each year. So we've requested a doubling of Federal funding for abstinence-only education programs. We have also requested \$25 million for our Character Education Initiative. This program will encourage schools to develop curricula that promote good character and help children develop a sense of responsibility to their community. Today I urge the Congress to act on all these important initiatives.

When parents, schools, and government work together, we can counter the negative influences in today's culture and send the right messages to our children. As yesterday's report shows, we are making progress in changing the culture of America from one that said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. The decisions our children make now will affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. And when they make the right choices, they are preparing themselves to realize the bright future our Nation offers each of them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:16 a.m. on July 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Ricardo Lagos of Chile and an Exchange With Reporters

July 19, 2004

President Bush. We'll answer a couple of questions. First, I'll say something; the President will say something. I'll call upon an American correspondent; he'll call upon a Chilean correspondent; and we'll do this two times.

First, *bienvenidos*. I'm glad you're here, Mr. President. Ricardo Lagos is a very wise man, who is—understands the politics of South America very well and is very worldly, and so I always enjoy visiting with him. He's a man of good advice and sound counsel. And so I'm looking forward to our continued discussions over lunch.

One of the things that has worked well is the free trade agreement with Chile, and we talked about that today. It turns out, Chilean exports to the United States are up, but United States exports to Chile are up as well. And that's a positive development. It's good for the people of Chile, and it's good for the people of the United States. And our relations are strong, and they're important relations.

And so, Mr. President, welcome. I'm glad you're here. I'm looking forward to our continued discussions.

President Lagos. Thank you. Well, let me tell you that I am extremely happy to be here again, to be able to discuss and talk with President Bush about what are the major areas in the region. Also, we were update on the later developments in the Middle East.

And at the same time I think, as President Bush have say, our free trade agreement has been working in the right direction. And we're extremely happy to see that. Later on, we would like also to see what do we have in the next APEC meeting in November and what are the trade discussions in the Doha round next month—next week.

And I will say that so that from the point of the view of the region, President Bush has been able to have a lot of commitments to the region, and we were discussing also our own commitment in Chile with regard to Haiti, what we are doing in the region. And

I think that it's very important, as President Bush has told us, in a sense, that the U.S. is going to continue backing, helping the Haitian people. In Spanish?

President Bush. Si.

[At this point, President Lagos spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. Pues, la primera pregunta de el hombre de AP.

President Lagos. I will translate. [Laughter]

Q. Thank you.

President Bush. That would be you.

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States Recommendations on Intelligence

Q. Thank you. The Acting Director of the CIA says he sees no need to create a Cabinet-level National Director of Intelligence. Does he speak for you and your administration when he says that, Mr. President? And speaking of the CIA, can you give us an update on when you expect to name a new Director?

President Bush. The 9/11 Commission will issue a report this week and, evidently, will lay out recommendations for reform of the intelligence services of the United States. I look forward to seeing those recommendations. They share the same desires I share, which is to make sure that the President and the Congress gets the best possible intelligence.

I have spoken about the reforms. Some of the reforms, I think, are necessary: more human intelligence; better ability to listen or to see things; and better coordination amongst the variety of intelligence-gathering services. And so we'll look at all their recommendations, and I will comment upon that, having studied what they say.

Director of Central Intelligence Nomination

Q. And the new Director appointment?

President Bush. Still thinking about it. Let you know when it's going to happen. I wouldn't—I know there's intense speculation over time; people get their hopes built up. And still—still taking a good, hard look.

Riggs Bank Investigation

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Yes.

Q. —from Chile. We've been hearing a lot in the past few days about the Riggs investigation that found out hidden accounts of Senator Pinochet. I understand two Senators that are working in that committee are asking the Justice Department to take legal actions. Is that possible? What consequences can that have?

President Bush. Well, I think the people of Chile must know that there will be a full investigation. It's important for the facts to be *en la mesa*, as we say, on the table, and—so that we know what course of action may or may not be needed. And that's what you're seeing. You're seeing a transparent society dealing with allegations and/or—and the Riggs Bank is being fully investigated, and they'll be investigated in a very open way.

And the President brought this issue up. Of course, he's concerned about it as well. He wants to know the truth. And I appreciate that, and we'll make sure that people do know the truth. And that's what you're seeing. You're beginning to see the process of truth-finding.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Q. Sir—

President Bush. *Esteban.*

Iran

Q. Thank you. We're hearing now that eight of the September 11th hijackers passed through Iran before attacking the United States. Do you think there's a September 11th link to Iran?

President Bush. Well, listen, we want—of course, we want to know all the facts. Acting Director McLaughlin said there was no direct connection between Iran and the attacks of September the 11th. We will continue to look and see if the Iranians were involved. I have long expressed my concerns about Iran. After all, it's a totalitarian society where free people are not allowed to exercise their rights as human beings.

I have made it clear that if the Iranians would like to have better relations with the United States, there are some things they must do. For example, they're harboring Al Qaida leadership there, and we've asked that they be turned over to their respective countries. Secondly, they've got a nuclear weap-

ons program that they need to dismantle. We're working with other countries to encourage them to do so. Thirdly, they've got to stop funding terrorist organizations such as Hezbollah that create great dangers in parts of the world.

No, this has been an issue that I have been concerned about ever since I've been the President. As to direct connections with September the 11th, we're digging into the facts to determine if there was one.

Chile's Role in Haiti

Q. —from Chile. What do you think about the role that Chile is playing in the reconstruction in Haiti and as observer of the political referendum in Venezuela?

President Bush. Listen, the Chilean response in Haiti was rapid and important. President Lagos is a decisive man, and when he saw a problem, he went to the people of Chile and explained the problem and responded. And I want to thank him for that. It was—Chile is making a very important contribution to the stability and, hopefully, the prosperity of Haiti. And we spent a lot of time talking about, today, about how the United States can continue to not only stay involved but to help. And I find it very interesting that the United Nations is sending a very distinguished citizen from Chile to Haiti to help stabilize that country so the people of Haiti have a chance to live a hopeful life.

And that's going to require security measures, and as the President mentioned—I think you said in Spanish—there's a donors conference tomorrow—it's a very important conference, and that we will be attending, along with Chile, to see if we can't set priorities for the people of Haiti * so they have a chance to live a good life.

And the second part of the question was?

Chile's Role in the Venezuela Referendum

President Lagos. Venezuela.

Q. About political referendum—

President Bush. Oh, Venezuela, yes, again, this is a—Chile plays a very important

* White House correction.

role in our neighborhood, and the referendum in Venezuela is an important referendum. And the referendum must be conducted in a honest and open way. And the influence of President Lagos is a very important influence, because he has made it clear that for the credibility of the current Government, they must welcome observers, they must encourage observers, and they must not interfere with the process, so that the people of Venezuela have a chance to express their opinion without fear of reprisal.

And so again, I want to thank my friend Ricardo Lagos for playing a very constructive role.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John E. McLaughlin, Acting Director of Central Intelligence; and Juan Gabriel Valdes, U.N. Special Representative and head of the U.N. Mission in Haiti. A reporter referred to Chilean Senator Augusto Pinochet, former President of Chile.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad bin Badawi of Malaysia

July 19, 2004

President Bush. We'll have just two statements.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

Prime Minister Abdullah. Thank you very much.

President Bush. We just had a very wide-ranging discussion. I appreciate the Prime Minister's friendship. I want to thank him for his leadership. I want to thank him for the cooperation on counterterrorism efforts.

We talked about how we can work together to improve the economic condition of both our countries, as well as the Middle East. He had some very interesting suggestions about the Middle East. We talked about the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and I assured him I am fully committed to the development of a Palestinian state that can live side by side with Israel in peace.

We talked about Iraq, and I told him I was pleased with the progress being made in Iraq. And the Prime Minister had some

helpful suggestions. So, all in all, it's been a very constructive meeting.

I was pleased to hear that there are 7,000 Malaysian students in U.S. schools, and I think that's a constructive sign, Mr. Prime Minister. And I wish them all the best, and I know they'll be treated well here in the United States.

So welcome, sir.

Prime Minister Abdullah. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for accepting me to come here to call on you in spite of your very busy schedule.

But I would like to say this, that our bilateral relation between the United States and Malaysia is certainly very strong. You cannot judge our bilateral relations simply on the basis of what you hear—that we may have some differences on Iraq or on Palestine. But the foundation of the bilateral relation has remained strong all the time. And our economic cooperation is excellent, I must say, and our education programs, and we have some other cooperation in defense and many areas of cooperation, which has made our relation with the United States—our relation is very, very, very strong.

And we believe—and I believe that more can be done, and we have already improved a lot. And today I have this assurance from the President, himself. And I am certainly grateful you have been able to explain to me so many aspects of the issues pertaining to Palestine and Israel. There's nothing better than to get from the President of the United States, himself, on all these issues because he is very much involved. And management of all these problems and issues relating to this Palestine and Israel and so—other issues too.

And we talked about Islam, and we believe that the Muslim countries can be helped to better understanding the unique capacity-building. And we are also trying to do whatever we can. I think this capacity-building can help to reduce poverty, the condition of poverty, and with that, deprive the terrorists of their own agenda to hijack these people, and to support them.

And at the same time, I'd like just to tell you that Malaysia is ready to send a medical team, a sizable medical team to Iraq.

President Bush. That's great. Thank you.

Prime Minister Abdullah. And we hope to be able to also participate in reconstruction of Iraq and do whatever job we can to help.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:39 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks in a Discussion at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

July 20, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. Please be seated.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for being here. That's what I'm here to tell you: I'm ready to serve this Nation for 4 more years. And I've got a reason. I've got a reason. I want to continue to make this a safer and stronger and better place for every citizen.

We've got a little different format today. It's an opportunity for me to interface with some of your citizens about why I've done some of the policies that I've done, give them a chance to explain to you how these policies might have helped. Oh, I know, you're probably here thinking I'm going to spend most of the time attacking my opponent. I've got too much good to talk about.

It's very important for the people of this important State to know that we're going to carry the State of Iowa. And I need your help. Listen, there's a place you can go on the web page—I mean, on the Internet called georgewbush.com. And you need to get on there if you want to figure out how to help. So you can get on there, and you can register to vote, or you can figure out ways to help people register to vote, or you can sign up to work in your neighborhood. And that's what I'm here to ask you to do, because we've got a plan to make sure this country is a better place. And I want your help to convincing people from all walks of life, Republicans and discerning Democrats and wise independents.

I am sorry that Laura is not with us.

Audience members. Aw-w-w!

The President. That's generally the reaction. [*Laughter*] It's kind of like, "I wish she'd come and you'd have stayed at home." [*Laughter*] Fortunately, however, our two daughters came today, and I'm proud—I'm really glad they're on the campaign trail with me. It's makes the days a little shorter and the trips a lot more fun.

I want to thank the good people here at this wonderful community college. Norm, I want to thank you. Thanks for having me, Norm, here at Kirkwood. I'm going to talk a little bit about community colleges. They're an integral part of making sure America's future is hopeful, as we want it to be. Thanks for opening it up. It's not easy to host the President. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate the mayor; Mayor Paul Pate from Cedar Rapids is with us today. Thanks for coming, Mayor. I know Chuck Gipp is here. I want to thank Chuck for coming as well, the majority leader of the house of representatives. I want to thank all the other State and local officials. Most of all, I want to thank you all. I want to thank you all.

It's very important—it's very important for the people of this country to understand the stakes that we're confronted with, to understand the challenges we face. The enemy declared war on us, and you've just got to know, nobody wants to be the war President. I want to be the peace President. I want to be the President that after 4 years, 4 more in this office, I want people to look back and say, "The world is a more peaceful place. America is a safer country." Four more years, and America will be safer and the world will be more peaceful.

But in this world, you just can't hope for the best; you have to lead. You have to make the hard decisions to make sure America is a safer place and the world is a more peaceful place.

It's very important never to forget the lessons of that fateful day which changed American history. Let me tell you some of the lessons that I have learned and will continue to apply as your President. First, the terrorists, these radicals who use terror to scare us and frighten us and shake our will, are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. You cannot talk sense to them. You cannot negotiate with them. They must be brought

to justice, in order to make the country more secure. This country is a peaceful country. This country is a country that yearns for freedom and peace. But when the enemy hit us, we resolved—we as a nation resolved—to stay firm and diligent, to do whatever it takes to defend our security.

The second lesson I learned and America must always remember is that when the country says something, we better mean it. In order to make this world a more peaceful place, when we say something, we better act on what we say. And so I said, “If you harbor a terrorist, you’re just as guilty as the terrorists, themselves.” That’s a part of making sure America is more secure. It’s one thing to resolve to bring the terrorists to justice—and we are. Al Qaida is slowly but surely being dismantled because of our brave troops and because of our allies. But I also recognized that you cannot allow these radicals, these people who have hijacked a religion, nonreligious people who have hijacked a great religion, to find safe haven.

And so we said to the Taliban that was running Afghanistan, “Get rid of them. Join our side.” They refused, of course, and so I had the tough decision to make—and that is to enforce our word in order to make the world a better place. And we did, and we removed the Taliban. And there are no longer Al Qaida training camps. As a matter of fact, Afghanistan is going to hold Presidential elections. And you need to be proud of the fact that your Nation liberated a country so that many young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives.

A second lesson of September the 11th is this very important lesson that I will always remember and I hope the country will always remember, that when we see a threat, we must deal with it before it fully materializes; that we can no longer, when we see a threat, we can no longer hope for the best. We used to think we could hope for the best, until September the 11th changed it all. And now we must deal with it. The military will always be our last option—the last option. But we must deal with threats.

And so I just want to step back and remind you all of the facts. Saddam Hussein was a sworn enemy of the United States of America. He is a person who had used weapons

of mass destruction on his own people. He is a person that was allowing terrorists to exit and enter his country, and he provided safe haven for terrorist organizations like that of Abu Nidal or Zarqawi. In other words, he was a danger. Everybody knew he was a danger. After all, the United Nations Security Council had said he was a danger in resolution after resolution after resolution.

I looked at the intelligence—I looked at the intelligence, and it said Saddam Hussein was a threat to the United States. Members of the United States Congress of both political parties looked at the same intelligence, and they came to the same conclusion I came to. Then the U.N. Security Council, yet again, looked at the intelligence and said, “The man is a threat.” They also said, “Disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences.” That’s what was said by the free world. The world came together and said that. And so we said, “Okay, fine, we’ll give him one last chance. It’s his choice to make; he gets to make the choice.” And he deceived the inspectors. These people who have been over there studying what went on have made it clear. I saw that happening. And then—at least we thought it was happening; it’s been verified that it was happening. “What did he have to hide,” the free world was saying to themselves. “Why would he not allow inspectors in?” See, he was a threat. He made the choice, not the United States of America. He defied the world.

And I had a choice to make: Do I forget the lessons of September the 11th and hope for the best? Do I trust the word of a madman? Or do we take action to defend this country? Given that choice, I will defend America every time.

For a while, we were marching to war; now, we’re marching to peace. The world is becoming more peaceful. I told you about Afghanistan; it’s a free society. No one would have thought 3 years ago—remember what the world was like 3 years ago? Three years ago, Afghanistan was a troubled area run by the Taliban. Three years ago, Iraq was run by a sworn enemy of the country who was torturing his own people; he had mass graves by the thousands for the people in his country. And today, Iraq is run by a person who believes in the hopes and aspirations of the

Iraqi people, a strong leader named Prime Minister Alawi, a person who wants there to be a free society in Iraq.

And I'm going to tell you something, this is an historic moment. A free Iraq will change the world. A free Iraq will not only make America's short-term security interests better; it will make our long-term security interests better, because the way to defeat the radicals who promote terrorist activity to frighten us and drive us out of the world is to spread freedom. Free societies are peaceful societies. Because we have led—because we have led, 50 million people that once lived in tyranny are now free, and the world is better for it.

Three years ago, Pakistan recognized the Taliban, and Al Qaida was able to transit their country without worry. Today, Pakistan is an ally in the war on terror. They're chasing down Al Qaida leadership in the remote regions of that country, and America is safer for it. Three years ago, Saudi Arabia wasn't that worried about Al Qaida. Today, Saudi Arabia is chasing down the Al Qaida leadership. They are bringing them to justice. America is safer for it. Three years ago—3 years ago, Libya—Libya was a friend of the terrorists. Libya had weapons of mass destruction programs. Libya was a danger. Today, Libya has dismantled her programs, and America is safer for it. In three short years, because America has led with friends and allies, the world is changing for the better. The world is becoming a more free place, and therefore, the world is becoming a more peaceful place.

I want to make a couple of more points about our foreign policy and what I intend to do over 4 years. First, let me share an interesting story with you. It's one that has touched my heart deeply. Seven men walked into the Oval Office from Iraq. First of all, coming to the Oval Office is a—it's a pretty powerful experience, American or Iraqi. [Laughter] It's the kind of place where people stand outside the door, and they say, "I can't wait to get in there and tell him what for." [Laughter] And they walk in, and they get overwhelmed by the Oval Office and say, "Man, you're looking pretty, Mr. President." [Laughter]

So these seven come in; all of them had their right hands cut off by Saddam Hussein. You know why? Because his currency had devalued and he needed somebody to blame. This story was picked up and put on TV, and a fellow in Houston, Texas, saw it, a guy named Marvin Zindler. He flew them down, at his—I guess at the expense of a foundation he's put together, and they got new hands. And now they're coming to the United States to see me. I can't tell you what a powerful moment that was. A guy grabbed a pen, and he wrote "God bless America" in Arabic. What a stark contrast between the brutality of a dictator and the great compassion of a free country. He told me, he said—one of those men said, "Thank you, Mr. President." I said, "You don't thank me." I said, "You thank the men and women who wear the uniform of the United States and their loved ones."

We have done the hard work, and there's more hard work to do. But this world is a more peaceful world. And when you give me 4 more years, it's going to be even more peaceful than it is today. We're making progress. We're making progress.

By the way, to whom much has been given, much is owed. Not only are we leading the world in terms of encouraging freedom and peace, we're feeding the hungry; we're taking care of, as best as we possibly can, the victims of HIV/AIDS. No, this is a strong nation, but we are a compassionate nation. And this country ought to be proud of the great heart, the collective heart of the American people. I sure am.

One other point I want to make; then I want to talk about our economy and how to make sure America is a stronger place. We will—we've got great allies. Listen, Great Britain is leading, Poland, Italy. There are 60 countries working on the Proliferation Security Initiative. There are 30 countries in Iraq, 40 countries—nearly 40 in Afghanistan. We've got people working well together. But you need to know something about me: I will never turn over America's national security decisions to leaders of other countries.

We need to make sure the country is a stronger country. That starts by making sure the economy continues to grow. Right quick, we've been through a recession. We've been

through an emergency. We've been through a war. We have been through corporate scandals, and we're growing—and we're growing. The economy is strong, and it's getting stronger. And I think one of the reasons why is because I understand the role of Government is not to try to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur, the small-business person, the farmer can thrive. And we have done just that.

The unemployment rate here is 4.3 percent. That's good. The people of this State are working. Our economy is growing at nearly the fastest rate in 20 years. Home-ownership rate is at the highest ever. That's what we want in America, isn't it? We want people owning their own home. We want people owning their own piece of property. Manufacturing is up. And I believe one of the main reasons why is because we cut the taxes on the working people here in the country. We let people keep more of their own money. I like to say, when the American people invest, save, they help create new jobs, which shows they can spend their money far better than the Federal Government can.

So the question is, what are you going to do over the next 4 years to make sure the job growth continues? Here's what we're going to do. We're going to make sure tax policy is fair and consistent. We're not going to let them raise the taxes on you. And I'm going to talk to a couple—we're about to talk to a couple from Cedar Rapids that will help me make my point. By the way, we're about to talk to a small-business owner. You'll find that much of the progrowth program that I promoted in Congress is aimed right at the small-business sector of America. Do you know why? Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by the small-business owners. We've got to make sure the small-business sector is healthy in this country.

In order to make sure we continue to grow, we need sensible energy policy in America. You know something? Driving in this—through this part of the world, which I have done before, I might add, quite a few times—I'm better for it—[laughter]—it just reminded me once again, wouldn't it be wonderful for somebody to walk up and say, "Mr. President, the corn crop is up, and we're less dependent on foreign sources of energy." So

any reasonable energy policy is to encourage research and development to make sure we can use ethanol better and biodiesel better. It makes sense. It makes sense.

We've got to make sure that we conserve energy better. But listen, we can do things in environmentally friendly ways that we couldn't do 20 years ago. For the sake of national security and economic security, we need to be developing the resources we have here at home to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

You can't have a healthy economy if everybody is getting sued. We need legal reform in this country. We need to make sure people aren't constantly—you ask these small-business owners what it's like to fear a lawsuit, and they're going to tell you, it makes their future uncertain. And with an uncertain future, it makes it more difficult to risk capital.

We need good trade policy. I came to the people of this State and said, "I will work to open up markets for Iowa farmers." I said two things during the campaign. I said, one, we'll promote ethanol, alternative sources of energy. We have done that. And the second thing I said is, we will work to open up markets for Iowa farmers. When you're good at something, we ought to be encouraging it. We're good at growing soybeans. We're good at growing corn, and we're now selling it all around the world.

The temptation is to say, well, you know, we better shut her down; we better have economic isolationism. That would be bad for Iowa. To make sure that we got jobs in the future, we need to be confident. Now look, we've opened up our markets for foreign goods. That's good for consumers. It just wasn't me. It was Presidents before me that made that decision. See, if you have more goods coming in, you have more choices. And when you have more choices as a consumer, you're going to get better quality at better price. That's how the marketplace works. What we need to do is make sure other countries treat us like we treat them. We've got to make sure we have a level playing field for Iowa's entrepreneurs and farmers.

Two other quick points: One, we've got to have reasonable health care, affordable health care. That's why I support association health plans, health savings accounts, and

medical liability reform. Listen, no one has ever been healed by a frivolous lawsuit. Ask your docs what it's like to have the legal system look like a lottery. It doesn't do the consumers any good; it doesn't do the providers any good; it doesn't do small-business owners any good to have a legal system that is not fair and balanced. We need medical liability reform.

So last night on the Truman Balcony, guess who was up there? Chuck Grassley. He said, "Would you mind mentioning my name?" [Laughter] I said, "Okay." [Laughter] I just did. [Laughter] He said, "When you go to Iowa, remind them of a promise you made and I made and we kept, and that was to reform Medicare." We reformed Medicare not only to help our seniors—and it's a good bill, and it's going to make a big difference in the lives of the senior citizens of this country—we also reformed Medicare to make sure that Iowa's rural hospitals are treated fairly. So when you see the Senator, you tell him I mentioned his name.

Finally, I want to work hard for 4 more years to make sure the country is a better country. There's two ways to do—that there's a lot of ways to do that; let me talk about two. One, we must continue on education reform. We must make sure that every child—every child—can learn to read and write and add and subtract. And we're making great progress; we really are. We've raised the standard. We've raised the standard. And in return for increased Federal money, we're now asking this question, "Can you read?" That's not an unreasonable question to ask, is it? No. We want every child reading at the third-grade level. And it starts by asking, "Show us whether you can."

See, the system oftentimes quit on people. They just shuffled them through. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. And guess who got left behind oftentimes? Families—kids of families who don't speak English as a first language—that's pretty easy to quit on them, isn't it? You walk into a classroom—"Oh, these are the hard-to-educate; just move them through." And that doesn't work. Or how about inner-city, African American kids, oftentimes they're just moved through. We've stopped that practice in Washington, DC. We said, "We'll increase

the money, but we're raising the bar, because we know every child can learn to read and write and add and subtract. And now, we want you to show us."

And not only do we want to make sure people are literate in the 4th grade, we're going to make sure people are able to have access to community colleges and to make sure that community colleges continue to teach subjects which are relevant. We're about to talk to a fellow Iowan who went back to school at a community college, and as result of continuing education, now makes more money than she did in her previous job. I mean, education is crucial to make sure the economy continues to grow, and it's crucial to make sure we're a better America.

Now finally, one of the most important initiatives that—I think one of the most important initiatives that we put forth was the Faith-Based and Community-Based Initiative. I'll tell you why. You see, some of the problems that people face are really problems of the heart. And Government can't change hearts, but hearts can be changed by loving individuals who are inspired by something greater than Government.

Take, for example, alcohol and drug abuse. We want to save people's lives in America, and sometimes it requires a higher power to help change somebody's life. You change their heart; they change their habits. And Government, therefore, ought not to fear welcoming and opening up grants to programs whose sole being is based upon faith.

In the past it wasn't that way. In the past, they'd say, we can't have an interface with Government and faith. And, by the way, many in the faith community say, "Why do I want to interface with Government? Bureaucracies cause me to lose my mission." We've changed that attitude in Washington. Over the next 4 years, I will continue to promote this Faith- and Community-Based Initiative so that we help save more lives and provide more hope for the American people.

I'm running because I want to make sure America is a safer and stronger and better place. And that's why I'm here, to ask for your help.

Now, let me tell you something. I met John today, John Bloomhall. There he is. Stand up, John. [Applause] Yes, that's kind

of nice, scattered round of applause for him. I've asked John to come because he is the president and chief executive officer of Diamond V Mills. Accurate?

Mr. Bloomhall. Yes, correct.

The President. Let me say one thing about how his company is structured, to put this in context. His company is what's called a Subchapter S corporation. As a matter of fact, 90 percent of small businesses—about 90 percent—are either called Subchapter S corporations or sole proprietorships. And what that means is they pay tax at the individual income tax level. So part of our tax policy, as you might recall, was to reduce income taxes at the individual income tax level, including all income tax rates—not just some, not just the politically favored. But the view was, if you pay tax, you get relief.

So what does your company do?

Mr. Bloomhall. We—it's yeast fermentation; we manufacture a animal feed ingredient for animal feeds.

The President. Good. Are the animals eating it this year?

Mr. Bloomhall. A lot of it. [Laughter]

The President. That's good. [Laughter] Are they eating enough of it to—like, have you hired anybody?

Mr. Bloomhall. Yes, we've added five net new jobs this year.

The President. Yes. See, let me stop you there. Most new jobs are created—started by small businesses. John just stood up and said, "Five net new jobs." Now, that's not a lot, when you think about it. It's a lot for the person who got the job. [Laughter] And by the way, there are a lot of Johns in this country who have their own business. There's a huge number of small businesses. They're adding five employees here, five there.

Keep going.

Mr. Bloomhall. Well, we've got 124 employees worldwide. They're the best and the brightest, because as we can save taxes and reinvest it in our business—in capital, in the equipment to automate our manufacturing lines, in science—we hire Ph.D.'s, real good-paying jobs. And we can grow jobs and investment in our country better than the Government can by collecting taxes.

The President. I didn't tell him to say that. But I couldn't have said it any better

myself. John said, "Investment." One of the things in the tax relief plan that we passed, it says to small businesses, "We'll encourage you to invest by allowing you what they call bonus depreciation." These are fancy tax words; I'm trying to simplify it. It says, "You invest in planned equipment; you get a tax break for doing so."

Are you going to invest, do you think, this year?

Mr. Bloomhall. Yes, we're investing about 1.3 million this year.

The President. Yes. What do you—when you say "invest," what does that mean? Are you buying things?

Mr. Bloomhall. Primarily capital investment in our plant and equipment.

The President. Like what kind of plant and equipment?

Mr. Bloomhall. Automation equipment so that our employees are not doing the manual jobs; they're doing the thinking jobs. They create greater value to us; we can pay them more; and everybody wins.

The President. Okay. Now, listen, this is a very interesting lesson here, because I think it will explain why we insisted on tax relief and why part of the tax relief was aimed at small businesses. He just said, he's going to invest a million dollars in new plant and equipment. And so when he buys new equipment with that million dollars, that the tax relief has encouraged him to do, somebody has got to make the equipment, see. So he has made a decision that affects an employee—not only his own company, because they have become more productive and he can pay them more, he just said—but an employee in somebody else's business who is making the equipment that John has said, "I want to purchase."

It's these—all these decisions by small-business owners have the cumulative effect of encouraging economic vitality and growth. That's what we're here to understand. And therefore, if we raise the taxes on John, he's not going to make these decisions. It will change his decisionmaking thought process—I presume. Now, I'm not a lawyer, you'll be happy to hear. That's the other team. This is the pro-small-business team.

So anyway, raising taxes—and so let me say something to you so you hear—in the

campaign, you'll hear, "We're going only to tax the rich." That's what you'll hear. Now, this is from a fellow who has promised about \$2 trillion of new spending thus far. And only taxing the rich, first of all, creates a huge tax gap, which means buyer beware. You see, if you can't raise enough by taxing the rich, guess who gets to pay next? Yes, the not-rich. [*Laughter*] That's all of us.

On the other hand, when you say you're going to raise those rates at, say, \$200,000 or more, that's who he's talking about right there. When you're talking about raising those individual rates, I want our fellow citizens to remember, he's raising taxes on small businesses like John's. Now is not the time to be raising taxes on the small-business owners of America. Thanks, John.

We got the Schlotterbacks with us—Mike and Kathie. Hi, Mike, what do you do?

Mr. Schlotterback. I'm a photographer. I have a photo studio here in town called Fisheye.

The President. Anybody needs some photos developed, take it right over to Mike. [*Laughter*] And Kathie, a mom?

Mrs. Schlotterback. Yes.

The President. How many kids you got?

Mrs. Schlotterback. Two girls—two daughters.

The President. Oh, yes. [*Laughter*]

Mrs. Schlotterback. Lindsie and Cora.

The President. Good to see you all.

Let me tell you something about the tax relief. Some people look at it, and they say, "Oh, tax relief, what's it mean?" I'm going to tell you what it means. Let me tell you what it meant to Mike and Kathie. They saved \$1,700.

Mrs. Schlotterback. Correct.

The President. The tax relief we passed—remember, we raised the child credit. So if you got kids, you get a little tax relief, because we want to make it easier for people to raise kids. We reduced the penalty on marriage. What kind of system is it—I don't think it's a very wise Tax Code to penalize marriage. We're trying to encourage marriage in America. And we reduced all rates, and they saved \$1,700. That may not seem like a lot to some of the big shots in Washington, but ask them if it's a lot to them.

Mr. Schlotterback. Yes, we were able to take that money which you sent us—

The President. No, no, no, I didn't send it to you. It's your money to begin with.

Mr. Schlotterback. That's right, absolutely.

The President. You just got to keep—you just got to keep more of your own money.

Mr. Schlotterback. Right, right. But these two girls are our top priority, and so we took that money, bought a computer, set up a home office. It allows me to work a little more from home and spend time with these girls.

The President. Yes, that's interesting, isn't it? One of the ways we got to make sure this economy continues to grow is to make sure there is broadband technology throughout the entire country, so people like this good man, people like Mike, can work out of home if they want to or can bring educational information into their home. I mean, this is a tale of the changing economy we're in. Here's a fellow who owns his own business, and he can work out of his home, doing his duty, just like Kathie is, to love their children with all their heart and soul.

Now, let me say something about this. They saved \$1,700 in '03, \$1,700 in '04. But some of this tax relief is getting ready to expire, see, which means his taxes go up. That's what that means. So when you hear all this stuff about the tax cuts are going to expire, you need to think tax increase—because this couple isn't going to save \$1,700 the next time. As a matter of fact, they're going to save something substantially less than that. That will mean they have less money in their pockets, less after-tax disposable income, which is their money to begin with. Congress needs to make the tax relief permanent and not raise taxes.

Where's Dawn? Dawn, where are you? Cayton. Oh, there she is, yes. You were trying to hide.

Ms. Cayton. I'm in red.

The President. Oh, yes, you're in red. This is an interesting story. I feel like—kind of like a talk show host here. [*Laughter*] So I met Dawn, and I said, "What do you do?" And she said—

Ms. Cayton. I'm a registered respiratory therapist with St. Luke's Home Care Services here in Cedar Rapids.

The President. Very good. She is in health care. What did you do before?

Ms. Cayton. I was a mom, but I always worked part-time to help out. I taught gymnastics at Twisters, and I also worked in a hotel a couple nights a week doing night audit.

The President. Okay. And then what happened? You decided to—

Ms. Cayton. Go back to school.

The President. Okay, let me stop you. Actually, right here at Kirkwood, she came back to school. Why? Why did you decide to go back to school?

Ms. Cayton. What motivated me was, my oldest daughter was going into 8th grade, and all of a sudden I realized we had 5 years before she was going to college. And I had always helped out here and there, but I needed to really retrain myself so I could go out and make a lot more money.

The President. Yes. This is a really interesting story. First of all, Government can't make somebody, say, go back to school. That has to come from inside a person's soul. And she said, "I want to go back to school." Government can help, through Federal loans, in this case, I think. But this is something people need to hear, because in order to make sure the economy continues to grow, there's a constant kind of—people have to constantly be educated to meet—to have the skills for the new jobs that are being created.

Health care is a field that is growing all across America, and they're looking for workers. We have a shortage of health care workers, and these workers need to be retrained. Community colleges are a fantastic place for people to be retrained for the jobs of the 21st century. Give me 4 more years, and we will continue to invigorate our community colleges, to help people like Dawn gain the skills necessary to fill the jobs that are being created.

Was it hard to go back to school? I want people listening out there to listen to this story. Because I know somebody's going to say, "I don't want to go back to school. I don't have the energy to go back to school. I kind of think I need to go back to school

so I can make more money." Was it hard to go back to school? Tell the truth.

Ms. Cayton. Seriously—

The President. Yes, seriously. [Laughter]

Ms. Cayton. I thought about it for one year before I actually did it—

The President. So it was a little hard, otherwise you would have dug right into it.

Ms. Cayton. Right—but, no, I had the support of my family. My husband, Marlin, did all the laundry. [Laughter]

The President. Marlin, if we stay in this room any longer, you're going to have a lot to do.

Ms. Cayton. And I have two girls, and they understood; you know, it was a sacrifice for them too, because sometimes I couldn't go to their things, because when you're in the medical field you are in clinical practice as well, so I was at different hospitals, basically getting my schooling.

The President. There are jobs available all across the country. Sometimes people need to be—to gain new skills. There is money available and help available for people to go to community colleges. And when you get new skills, you make more money; you become a more productive employee. That's the kind of economy we're in. I really thank you for sharing that with us. Congratulations.

Ms. Cayton. Thank you.

The President. Okay. I want to talk about—before we all start falling out here—[laughter]—I want to talk about one more interesting story. Listen, we've got a lot of strength to this country. Our military is a strength. We'll keep it strong. I will keep it strong. I will work with Congress to do that—which means, by the way, we're going to make sure the people who wear the uniform have got all they need. We owe it to the families, don't we, to say, your son or daughter or husband or wife are getting all you need. That's why that vote on the supplemental last fall was an interesting vote. It kind of explained a different philosophy.

I called it up. I said, "Congress, support these troops. We've put them in harm's way; support them." And the Congress did. We had a good vote. Twelve Senators voted no on the 87 billion, 2 of whom I'm running against. [Laughter] And my view is, is that

when you put people in harm's way, they deserve the best. No excuses, by the way.

Secondly, the economy is strong, but the true strength of the county is the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's the strength of America, and I recognize that. I recognize that the role of Government is to promote and to foster this strength.

Today I met Dr. Jim Bell. This is an interesting story. He's what I call a social entrepreneur. He is—he is cofounder of His Hands Ministries. He is a doctor who operates a free clinic in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that provides help to people who need medical help.

Why did you do this?

Dr. Bell. It was because we're just answering the call.

The President. Yes. It's a faith-based ministry.

Dr. Bell. We're a Christ-centered ministry. And we understand that even as our economy improves—and it is in Cedar Rapids—that there's always going to people who fall between the cracks and that are going to need help. And not only are they going to need help physically, but we believe that our greatest measure of success is seeing a changed life for Christ. I've never been called a social entrepreneur before. I've been called a lot of things.

The President. Do what now?

Dr. Bell. I've never been called a social entrepreneur before.

The President. Well, you are now. Yes, well, it's kind of—you are. First of all, the reason why is entrepreneurs are self-starters. They're motivated by something other than Government law, for example. You don't start your business—you can't pass a law that says, you will start your own business. You decide to start your own—you decided to start your own faith ministry to heal people because you heard a call, you see. And you stepped out, and said, "I've got the courage necessary," you and your cofounders. I presume there's somebody else?

Dr. Bell. Yes.

The President. Yes, okay, the two of you said, "What can we do?" And they started this ministry. It's a fabulous ministry, isn't it?

There's Jim Bells all over America. He's not alone. There's hundreds of thousands of people who have asked themselves, "What can I do to save a life?" And if we had more Jim Bells in the world saving lives, America would be a more hopeful place, wouldn't it? Think of this issue—and I'll get back to you in a minute.

You know there are about a million children whose mothers and fathers—who have a mother and father in prison. Those are kids who wonder whether or not America's promise belongs to them. They think that. Imagine if we could find a mentor for each one of those children. That's the mission. That's one of the goals we're on, is to encourage programs, community-based—you don't have to be a faith-based program, although it turns out faith-based programs are pretty good places to find people who want to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

Government can help. We're not a competitor of Jim. We complement Jim with what's called community health centers. We've been expanding them. I think this is a really good role for Federal taxpayers' money, is to put primary care facilities for the indigent and the uninsured available to keep them out of emergency rooms.

But I really appreciate Jim's program. Anything you need from us—like better liability law? Are you protected under liability law?

Dr. Bell. We are, and we could sure—

The President. Yes.

Dr. Bell. I almost wanted to start talking about medical liability when you were talking about that earlier.

The President. Good.

Dr. Bell. But the partnership that you mentioned is one of the best things that we found in working with Government. And they're going to start a community—they're working on starting a community health center here in Cedar Rapids too, with Federal funding.

The President. Yes.

Dr. Bell. Not only that, we also have found great friends in partnering with our Government organizations here in Cedar Rapids. And I think the most important thing

for us is that we know that we have an administration behind us, is very sentimental towards what we do.

The President. I am sentimental. You know why? Thank you, buddy. I'll tell you why: Because we can change America, one heart and one soul at a time. And Jim recognizes he can't save every soul and help every life, but he can help 1,000, which is what he's done.

The true strength of this country is found in the hearts of people like Jim Bell. Now, he's not going to like hearing me say that, see. He just wants to be anonymous and go about his business. I can look at him in his eyes and tell that. [Laughter] But that's what makes him such a great steward.

We got some time for questions, maybe? Unless everybody is about ready to fall out—it's up to you. [Laughter] You want me to answer some questions for a while? Yes, what you got? You got a question right there.

The Presidency/Freedom

Audience member. Do you like being President?

The President. Do I like being the President? So much so that I want to do it for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. I'll tell you why—I'll tell why. This is a job where you have a chance, working with others, by the way, and working with our country, to say the world is a better place; to use the influence of the United States of America to spread freedom and peace not only for our own sake but for the sake of others.

And I mentioned to you, little fellow, I think—we're just beginning. I talked about five countries that have changed over the past 3 years, that have made a difference, and your life is going to be better for it. Your life is going to be better because somebody your age can live in a free society in a part of the world that doesn't know freedom.

See, Americans have this great faith in our ideals. And it stems from this: We don't think freedom is America's gift to the world; we know that freedom is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world.

Anybody got a question? How about here in the end zone? Yes.

HIV/AIDS Initiative

Audience member. [Inaudible]—HIV will work here?

The President. Right. Very good question. Obviously, you're a knowledgeable person. ABC method is the method to—used in Uganda to reduce the number of HIV—incidence of HIV/AIDS, and it's worked. There's three components to it: Abstinence—which, by the way, works every time—[laughter]—be faithful, and use condoms. Now, those are—that's what ABC stands for. And it is a method that says that countries must seize the initiative and educate their people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS as part of a prevention program. And it's working. And it's—it's applied everywhere, including the United States; I mean, it makes sense. We do it a little differently in the United States, but nevertheless, it is a strategy that is working.

The second aspect, by the way, of the HIV/AIDS Initiative is to make sure that we get antiretroviral drugs to those poor souls who are suffering from this devastating disease. What's interesting when you talk to the experts, there's something called the Lazarus effect. In other words, people who have had no hope all of a sudden see their neighbor take an antiretroviral drug, and their lives begin to improve, and then they start asking the question, "Gosh, maybe I ought to do this for myself." Now, we don't have the cure for AIDS, but antiretrovirals surely improve the quality of life.

And the third aspect of our strategy is to help the orphans of those—you see, what's happening in our lifetime on the continent of Africa, there is a pandemic. We're losing an entire generation of people. We have 14-year-old young girls raising their brothers and sisters.

And I made the decision—and fortunately, a lot of Members of Congress joined—that we can afford to help, and we should be doing more. And we are. We've got a 15 billion, 5-year program to help save lives. I believe it is in—I know it's in our interests to do so, and I know it's in our heart. In other words, we've got to work here at home too. Don't ever get me wrong, when I talk about foreign initiatives; we're not neglecting the home front. But with this pandemic raging, I believe we have a duty and an obligation.

Thanks for asking the question. It was a great question. We're making a difference. The United States is leading.

Yes, sir.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Thank you, sir. Yes, I'm for that.

Yes, sir. Man with the baby—how old is that baby?

Audience member. Twelve days.

The President. Twelve days? Baby probably think it's in an incubator. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. Yes, I'll get a picture. Is that the question—can I?

Iraqi Reconstruction

Audience member. How do we get our friends in the media back there to report the positive, good things there are going on in Iraq?

The President. You know history—the question was, how do we get friends in the media to promote the good things in Iraq? Well, that's up to them to do that. One thing we will always honor is a free press here in America. It makes us a better country for it.

History will judge. Let me tell you something interesting about Iraq and history. I read a lot of history. I love history, and I'm reading about—I'm getting clips from the post-World War II period. And there was a lot of discussion right after World War II as to whether or not Germany could be free, whether or not the reconstruction effort was worth it, whether or not the plans and strategies we had in place were working, whether or not they really—had a well thought out strategy to help rebuild Germany. Same in Japan. There was a lot of wondering whether or not Japan could conceivably self-govern, whether or not the reconstruction efforts were working—a lot of doubters, by the way, during that period of time.

And fortunately, my predecessors—predecessor—was optimistic and believed that people yearned to be free and that no matter how hard the work is, that people would eventually become self-governing—it's in their interest—this understanding that no matter the culture in which people live, moms and dads want their children to grow

up in a peaceful world and have the very best for their children. And they were diligent and optimistic, and now I can sit at a table with somebody like Prime Minister Koizumi—the leader of a country against whom my dad fought and many of your dads fought as well—and talk about peace. See, he is a partner in peace. He is a friend because a predecessor didn't give up on understanding the power of liberty to change the habits of men and women for the better.

Some day an American President will be sitting down with a duly elected Iraqi official, talking about how to keep the peace, and America will be better off for it.

Yes, little fellow. All right—yes, I'll sign it. I'll be there in a minute. He wants a card signed.

Yes, ma'am. Yes, what you got?

President's Pets

Audience member. What kind of pets do you have in the White House?

The President. I can't stand these tough questions. [*Laughter*] “What kind of pets have we got in the White House?” [*Laughter*] Thank you for asking that question. We have got two. We had three, and unfortunately little Spot has passed on. It was a sad moment. She is—interestingly enough, Spot was born in the White House, when Mother and Dad were there. And curiously enough, Spot passed away in the White House, a happy dog. [*Laughter*] She was happy. We were sad. We loved her dearly—15 years old, I want you to know.

Now we have—we got two left: The cat—the cat's got about nine lives and nine names. [*Laughter*] I just call it Willie. Is that all right? Yes. The girls love Willie. And then the alltime great dog, Barney. [*Laughter*] Barney—Barney is a near-4-year-old Scottish terrier. Gosh, I'm glad you asked. [*Laughter*] He's a fabulous little guy.

Yes, sir, and then you're next.

Former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV

Audience member. Did Ambassador Wilson lie?

The President. Did Ambassador Wilson lie, is that what you asked? Well, you need to ask the press that question. [*Laughter*]

Yes.

2004 Presidential Election

Audience member. Do you think you can beat John Kerry?

The President. Do I think I can beat John Kerry? I do. I do. I need your help, though. I know you're not old enough to vote, but you can put a sign in the yard. And you can go to your neighbor, who may not have made up their mind, and say, "I'll pick up your newspaper for a week—if." [Laughter]

Yes, sir, what have you got?

Immigration

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. That's okay, I get the drift. You're trying to figure out how you can get a permanent residence card? Yes. Well, we have a system that I know—first of all, I hope you think it is interesting that you get to come, as a person newly arrived, and ask the President a question. That's our system. It's an open system. I think it's a great thing about America. I love that aspect of the country. And we've got to be a welcoming country, but we've got rules, of course. A nation must have rules.

There is a system that determines whether or not you qualify for asylum. And there's a system that then says that if you're here, if you've got a job, you can stay here for a period of time. But we have rules, and we've got to honor those rules. And it's very important for those who have been here legally not to have somebody who hasn't been to jump ahead of them in line for citizenship purposes. But you're welcome here, and we hope you—you know, good luck. I mean, I think that was your question.

Yes, ma'am.

Faith-Based Initiative

Audience member. [Inaudible]—missionary. How can we get more—[inaudible]—all the paperwork is so hard.

The President. Great question. The question is, is that she is a inner-city missionary program that gets overwhelmed by the paperwork. Well, I think there are—there are groups involved that help people with papers. In other words, there's kind of a—a better way to put it, a centralized overhead group that will help you with your paperwork. You need to call our faith-based shop in Wash-

ington, DC—seriously—and ask, because there are programs that help people such as yourself become unburdened by the paperwork and legal and accounting requirements.

Okay, a couple more and then we'll get out of here. Yes, ma'am.

Freedom of Religion/Prayer

Audience member. I just got back from Mexico—

The President. *Hablo Espanol?*

Audience member. *Si, yo hablo poquito Espanol.*

The President. Okay, I can hear that. That means, "I speak a little Spanish." [Laughter]

Audience member. It made me realize how truly blessed this country is. I think that a lot of people don't understand how truly blessed we are until we see the poverty. But we spent about 10 days praying for this country. But I guess my question to you, Mr. President, is, do you find the importance of actually dedicating a moment in time on your knees in prayer for this country and for the next coming-up election?

The President. That's a great question. Let me just talk about religion and politics. First—first—first, it is essential that this country never abandon the principle that people can worship the way they want to, that you can worship, that you can choose to worship or not worship and be equally patriotic. That's important for people to know.

The second principle is that if you choose to worship, you're equally American if you're a Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu. That's an important part of our society. It's essential that we always honor that. That's called freedom of religion. It's an integral part of the American past, present, and future. The state should never be the church, and the church should never be the state.

Now, having said that, I am inspired, uplifted, and comforted by the fact that millions of our fellow citizens whom I will never know actually take time to pray for me and Laura and our family, for which I am eternally grateful. It's an amazing country, when you think about a country that prays for its leaders, regardless of their political party. It's an amazing—

Audience member. Love you—

The President. Thank you. It's an amazing country, and I can't tell you how grateful I am and touched I am and humbled I am by this—the outpouring of prayer by fellow citizens.

A couple more questions, then we've got to—yes, sir.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Thank you, sir. Thank you. Thanks for saying that.

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. Okay. If you can't hear it, I'll translate it. And if it's a lousy question, I'll just ask myself a question. [Laughter]

Significance of September 11, 2001, Attacks

Audience member. It appears that some people are forgetting 9/11—[inaudible]—remember 9/11 and those who are fighting for our freedom—[inaudible].

The President. Interesting question. He says it appears to him, there's an effort to forget about 9/11. We'll never forget 9/11. I mean, it is a—I appreciate that question. I think that there is a tendency for people to want to hope that there is normalcy. I remember talking to the country and saying, this is going to be a different kind of experience we're going through and that there will be—people want to live in normalcy.

And his question is, is there a concerted effort to kind of try to push 9/11 out of our memories. No, I don't think so. I don't think so; as a matter of fact, quite the contrary. I think it is one of those events that is a defining moment. Like, 30 years from now when you and I are kind of creaking around and we run into each other, we'll say, “Gosh, you remember where you were on 9/11?” You will, and I will.

The key thing about September the 11th, 2001, is never to forget the lessons that we learned that day. That is the most important aspect of that tragedy, and never forget the lives lost, either. But I think it's going to be—this will be one of those monuments in our history. I mean, it's one of those moments that we just will never forget. And they'll analyze—there will be a lot of history written about it. But my job, and my call to the country, is to never forget—never forget: we've got to take threats seriously, before they ma-

terialize; when we say something, mean it; and that we have an obligation to remember there are still people out there that are so evil in their hearts, they will be willing to try to kill again.

And you've got to know something about the homeland. This is—it's hard to defend our homeland. Do you know why? Because we're free. And that's the way we intend to keep it. It's hard to defend a free country. And so the best way to do so is, we've reorganized the Government. We're sharing intelligence like we've never shared intelligence before. And there are really a lot of good people working hard on your behalf, at the Federal level, the State level, and right here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. And I know you'll join me in thanking the local police and firefighters and EMS teams for their work.

You know what? So I'm looking around the room trying to figure out who is going to be the first to fall out. [Laughter] I remember campaigning here with Chuck Grassley in the caucuses, and it was the dead of winter. [Laughter] And we went to an elementary school, and it was like really hot inside the elementary school. And I was speaking, and to my left, boom, he hit the deck. And then pretty soon, somebody over here hit the deck. It was a lesson I learned, and that is that I stop speaking before people hit the deck. [Laughter]

So I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to give everybody an oxygen break. But before I do, I can't thank you enough for coming. We have a fabulous country. We have got a fabulous country. Together we have been through some hard times. Together we've done some hard things. The spirit of this country is strong and vibrant and real. It's a great country because the people who are fortunate enough to be called Americans are great people.

And there will be—there's lessons we have learned, and the hard work we have done is paying off. The next 4 years will be peaceful years, prosperous years, and hopeful years for everybody fortunate enough to be a citizen of this great country.

I can't tell you how grateful I am you have come. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:42 p.m. in the recreation center. In his remarks, he referred to Norm Nielsen, president, Kirkwood Community College; Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was found dead in his apartment in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2002; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Remarks in St. Charles, Missouri

July 20, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. I am proud to be back in Missouri, in this great city of St. Charles. John Ashcroft told me this morning that St. Charles was the first capital of Missouri. Today, the way things look, St. Charles is the capital of Bush-Cheney country. I always enjoy coming to the St. Louis area. You might remember the last time I was here, I brought my 30-mile-an-hour fastball. Now look at the Cardinals.

I'm here to ask for your vote. I'm here to let you know I've got more to do for this country, and I want your help. I want you to go to your community centers and your places of worship and your—all around this important part of the country and tell folks they have an obligation to vote. And you might remind them, if they want optimistic, hopeful, determined leadership, vote for George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

With your help, we carried Missouri in 2000. With your help, we'll carry Missouri in 2004 as a part of a great nationwide victory. So thanks for coming. My only regret is that Laura is not traveling with me.

Audience members. Aw-w-w!

The President. That's generally the reaction. [Laughter] And the reason why is because the people understand she is a great First Lady. And I understand I'm a lucky man to have such a fine person as my wife. Tonight I'll give you some reasons why you need to put me back in office, but perhaps the most important reason is so that Laura will have 4 more years.

I want to thank Madam Speaker for her kind introduction. Catherine, thank you for your leadership and your service. I want to thank my friend Matt Blunt. Good to see you, Governor. Peter Kinder is here, and I'm

proud Peter is here. I want to thank him for his friendship. Mike Gibbons, all those who serve at the State and local level, thank you for serving our communities and our country.

I particularly want to say thanks to the grassroots activists who are here, the unsung heroes who make all the phone calls and put up the signs and get people to register to vote and remind people that if they're interested in helping, they can get on the Internet at the georgewbush.com site. I'm counting on your help. I'm counting on your support. I'll lay out the vision. You get the people to the polls, and we'll have 4 more years.

And when you're convincing people to do their duty, remind them that the last 3½ years have brought serious challenges, and we have given serious answers. We came to office with the stock market in decline and an economy headed into recession, but we acted. We delivered historic tax relief, and over the past 3 years, America has had the fastest growing economy of any major industrialized nation.

We saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning. So we pursued the terrorist enemy across the world. We have captured or killed many leaders of the Al Qaida network. We will stay on the hunt until justice is done and America is secure.

We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror, the spread of weapons of mass destruction. So we acted against two of the most violent and dangerous regimes on Earth. We liberated over 50 million people. Once again, America is proud to lead the armies of liberation.

When our great Vice President, Dick Cheney, and I—when we came to Washington, the military was underfunded and underappreciated. So we gave our Armed Forces the resources and respect they deserve, and today, nobody can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

These accomplishments are important to the security and the prosperity of America. You see, it is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. A President must make the hard decisions and keep his commitments. And with your help, that

is how I will continue to lead our great Nation for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. I'm looking forward to the contest, and it's going to be a hard race. That's why I'm here to ask for your help. I'm running against an experienced United States Senator.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. He's been in Washington a long time—long time. He's been there long enough to take both sides of just about every issue. [Laughter] He voted for the PATRIOT Act, NAFTA, the No Child Left Behind Act, and for the force—use of force in Iraq. Now, he opposes the PATRIOT Act, NAFTA, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the liberation of Iraq. [Laughter] If you disagree with the Senator on most any issue, you may just have caught him on the wrong day. [Laughter]

And as you know, he's picked a runningmate. Senator Kerry is rated as the most liberal Member of the United States Senate. And he chose a fellow lawyer, who is the fourth most liberal Member of the United States Senate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Now, in Massachusetts, that's what they call balancing the ticket. [Laughter]

Great events will turn on this election. The person who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. I'm asking for your vote because I have a vision and a strategy to win the war on terror and to extend freedom and peace throughout the world. I'm asking for your vote because I have a plan and strategy to continue to create jobs and opportunity for every single American. I'm asking for your vote because I have a plan to continue to rally the armies of compassion, the compassionate spirit of this country, so every single American has a chance to realize the great promise of our land. I'm asking for your help, and after 4 more years, America will be safer, stronger, and a better nation.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. A big issue for every family is the Federal tax burden. By providing the largest—

Audience member. Oh, it's killing me! [Laughter]

The President. By providing the largest Federal tax relief since Ronald Reagan was the President, we've left more money in the hands that earned it. By spending and investing and helping create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Federal Government would have.

This economy of ours is strong, and it's getting stronger. Since last summer, our economy has been growing at its fastest rate in nearly 20 years. In less than a year's time, we've added 1.5 million new jobs. In this great State, in the State of Missouri, 27,600 people went to work at a new job in June. Your unemployment rate is now 5.2 percent, down from 5.8 percent last July. The homeownership rate is at its alltime high. Business investment is up. Consumer confidence is strong. The tax relief we passed is working.

My opponent looks at all this progress and somehow concludes that the sky is falling. [Laughter] Whether their message is delivered with a frown or a grin, it's the same old pessimism. And to cheer us up, they propose higher taxes, more Federal spending, more lawsuits, economic isolationism.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. The surest way to end economic growth and to put Americans out of work is to adopt their vision. This Nation is on the path to progress and opportunity, and we're not going back. To sustain economic growth, we need to keep taxes low. Higher taxes would undermine growth and destroy jobs just as the economy is gaining more steam. To help grow the economy so people can find work, my message to Congress is: Do not raise taxes on the American people.

In order to make sure Americans can find work today and work tomorrow, we must be wise about how we spend the people's money. My plan calls for spending discipline. It calls for setting clear priorities. I also understand whose money we spend in Washington, DC. We don't spend the Government's money; we spend the people's money.

In order to make sure this economy continues to grow and people can find work, we must stop the frivolous lawsuits. You cannot be pro-small-business and pro-trial-lawyer at

the same time. You have to choose. My opponent has made his choice, and he put him on the ticket.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I made my choice. I will continue to push the United States Congress to reform the legal system to end the junk and frivolous lawsuits that plague our small businesses.

In order to make sure we continue to expand our job base, I have a plan to help more Americans afford health insurance, by giving people better access to health care through association health plans, giving Americans more control over their health care through tax-free health savings accounts. And to make sure that people have got affordable and available health care, we need medical liability reform in Washington, DC.

In order to make sure people can find work today and tomorrow, we need to pass sound energy legislation. I have proposed a plan to the United States Congress over 2 years ago. It is a plan that calls for more conservation. It's a plan that says we will develop renewable sources of energy. It's a plan that says we must modernize our electricity grid. It's also a plan that recognizes we can explore and use resources in the United States in environmentally friendly ways. For the sake national security and for the sake of economic security, we must become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

I know we've got some farmers here. Thanks for working the land. The best way to make sure you continue—your prosperity continues is to sell your products overseas. The best way to make sure we've got jobs today and tomorrow is to make sure countries treat us like we treat them. We open our markets to their products; they open their markets to our product—American compete with anybody, anytime, anywhere if the playing field is level.

To sustain economic growth, we need to make sure you reelect a pro-small-business, pro-entrepreneur, pro-farmer administration. And that is the Bush-Cheney administration.

America's future also depends on our willingness to lead in the world. The momentum of freedom in our time is strong. We still

face serious dangers. Al Qaida is wounded but not broken. Terrorists continue to attack in places like Afghanistan and Iraq. Regimes in North Korea and Iran are challenging the peace. If America shows weakness or uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. This will not happen on my watch.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. After the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, this Nation, the people of America resolved to fight the terrorists where they dwell. We resolved to hold regimes that hide and sponsor terrorists to account. Afghanistan was a terrorist state, a training camp for Al Qaida killers. Because we acted, Afghanistan is a rising democracy; Afghanistan is an ally in the war on terror. And because we acted, many young girls go to school for the first times in their lives.

Iraq, only last year, was controlled by a dictator who threatened the civilized world and had used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. For decades he tormented and tortured the people of Iraq. Because we acted, Iraq is free and a sovereign nation. Because we acted, its dictator now sits in a prison cell and will receive the justice he denied so many for so long.

September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson I will never forget. And it is a lesson this country must never forget: America must confront threats before they fully materialize. With this lesson in mind, my administration looked at the intelligence, and we saw a threat. Members of the United States Congress from both political parties looked at the same intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence, and it saw a threat. The previous administration and the United States Congress looked at the intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our Government.

In 2002, the United Nations Security Council yet again demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. And as he had for decades—for over a decade, he deceived the world. As he had for over a decade, he refused to comply.

So I had a choice to make: Either trust the word of a madman, or take action to defend our country. And given that choice, I will defend America every time.

Although we have not found the stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction that we thought were there, we were right to go into Iraq. America is safer because we did. We removed a declared enemy of America who had the capability of producing weapons of mass destruction and could have passed that capability to terrorists bent on acquiring them. In the world after September the 11th, that was a risk we could not afford to take.

We still have important and difficult work to do. Our immediate task in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere is to capture or kill the terrorists. You can't talk sense to the terrorists. You cannot negotiate with these terrorists. You cannot sit back and hope for the best. We will engage these enemies in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world, so we do not have to face them here at home.

In this big, sweet country of ours, there's no such thing as perfect security, and the threats to this homeland are real. We know that the terrorists want to strike the United States again. They want to disrupt our way of life or cause panic or great fear. We reorganized this Government of ours to better protect the people. There's much better communication now between the Federal, State, and local governments. The FBI has changed its mission to make sure—changed its priorities to make sure that counterterrorism is the most important thing they do.

I want you to know there are a lot of really good people working on your behalf—good, decent, honorable people. I know you'll join me in thanking the police and firefighters and emergency teams of St. Louis, Missouri.

Over these next 4 years, we will defend our homeland. Over the next 4 years, we'll be relentless in the pursuit of the enemy abroad. Yet in the long run, our safety requires something more. We must work to change the conditions that give rise to terror in the Middle East, the poverty, the hopelessness, and the resentments that terrorists can exploit.

See, life in that region will be far more hopeful and peaceful when men and women

can choose their own leaders, when the people can decide their own future. You see, by serving the ideal of liberty, we're bringing hope to others. And that makes America more secure. By serving the ideal of liberty, we serve the deepest ideals of our country. Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world.

America is leading the world, and the world is changing because of our leadership. Three years ago, Afghanistan was the home base of Al Qaida. Now, the camps are closed; democracy is rising; and the American people are safer. Three years ago, Pakistan was a safe transit point for terrorists on missions of murder. Now, Pakistan forces are rounding up the terrorists. Pakistan is an ally in the war on terror, and the American people are safer. Three years ago, in Saudi Arabia, terrorists were moving with little opposition. Now, the Saudi Government has taken the fight to Al Qaida, and Americans are safer for it. Three years ago, Libya was spending millions to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Now, thousands of Libya's chemical munitions have been destroyed. Libya has given up nuclear processing equipment, and the American people are safer for it.

Three years ago, there was a network run by a Pakistan nuclear scientist named A.Q. Khan that was selling secrets, nuclear secrets to countries like Iran and North Korea and Libya. Thanks to the hard work of CIA agents, thanks to cooperation between the British and United States Government, that network has been dismantled. It is no longer a problem, and America is safer for it.

In the last 3 years, the world is changing for the better, just like Iraq is changing for the better. We will finish our work of spreading democracy and helping the Iraqis achieve democracy. We'll finish our work to help the Afghan citizens achieve democracy. Democratic states, free states are peaceful states. It's in our long-term interest that these countries survive, and we've got good allies there. President Karzai believes in the future of the people of Afghanistan. Prime Minister Alawi believes in the future of the people of Iraq. He wants there to be a free country, just like the fathers and mothers of Iraqi children

want their children to grow up in a free and peaceful country.

People in Iraq are stepping up. They understand the stakes. They're fighting the foreign fighters and the terrorists. They're bringing them to justice so they can live in a free society. And the people of those countries can count on the United States of America. When we give our word, when we'll stay with people striving to become a free society, we will keep our word.

America is safer not only because we've led; America is safer because we've got a great United States military. At bases around our country and around the world, I have had the privilege of meeting with those who defend our country and sacrifice for our freedom. I've seen their great decency, their unselfish courage. And I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in good hands.

And we must make sure those who wear our uniform have the best training, the best pay, and the best equipment. That's why last September, I proposed supplemental funding to support our military in its mission. This legislation provided funding for body armor and vital equipment, for hazard pay, for health benefits, for ammunition, for fuel, for spare parts. In the Senate, only a small, out-of-the-mainstream minority voted against that legislation. Two of those twelve Senators are my opponent and his runningmate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Senator Kerry tried to explain his vote by saying, quote, "I actually did vote for the \$87 billion, before I voted against it." [Laughter] End quote. That sure clears things up. [Laughter] Now, he's offering a different explanation. Last week, Senator Kerry said he's proud that he and his runningmate voted against funding for the troops. Later he said his vote against funding for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan was a complicated matter. [Laughter]

There's nothing complicated about supporting our troops in combat. Over the next 4 years as the Commander in Chief, I will see to it our troops have the best possible pay, equipment, and training.

America is leading this world with confidence and moral clarity. We've got a lot of fine folks helping us too. There's over 60 na-

tions involved in the Proliferation Security Initiative. Nearly 40 nations are involved in Afghanistan. Some 30 nations are involved in Iraq. I'll continue to work with allies such as Tony Blair and Silvio Berlusconi and Prime Minister Koizumi of Japan, to work together to protect our peoples and to spread freedom and democracy. But I will never turn over America's national security decisions to leaders of other nations.

This Nation is prosperous and strong. Yet, we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the character of our citizens. Earlier this month, my opponent said that a bunch of entertainers from Hollywood conveyed the heart and soul of America.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I believe the heart and soul of America is found in places like St. Charles, Missouri.

Our Nation is strong because of the values we try to live by, courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We are strong because of the institutions that help give us direction and purpose, our families and our schools and our religious congregations. These values and institutions are fundamental to our lives. They deserve the respect of our Government.

We stand for high standards in our public schools. We stand for local control of schools. We stand for strong accountability in schools, so no child is left behind in America. We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage, which have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and everybody matters. We stand for institutions like marriage and family. We stand for judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law, instead of legislating from the bench.

We are building a culture of responsibility in America. We're changing the culture of America from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life.

If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're worried about the quality of the

education in the community in which you live, you are responsible for doing something about it, like supporting your teachers. If you are a CEO in corporate America, you are responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

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

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It is a day that I will never forget. There were workers in hardhats who shouted at me, "Whatever it takes." Either a fireman or a policeman grabbed me and said, "Do not let me down."

As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend our country, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops, seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most. We will need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our blessed country, the best days lie ahead.

God bless. Thanks for coming. Thank you, sir. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:31 p.m. at the Family Arena. In his remarks, he referred to Catherine L. Hanaway, speaker, Missouri State house of representatives; Missouri gubernatorial candidate Matt Blunt; State Senators Peter Kinder

and Michael R. Gibbons of Missouri; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy; and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan.

Statement on Senate Action To Block a Vote on the Nomination of Bill Myers To Be a Judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

July 20, 2004

Today a minority of Senators once again used obstructionist filibuster tactics to block a vote on an outstanding nominee to the United States Court of Appeals. Bill Myers has had a distinguished career as a public servant and practicing attorney and enjoys widespread support from across the political spectrum, yet he has been denied a simple up-or-down vote.

These tactics are unfair to Bill Myers and unfair to the American people. Bill Myers has the support of a bipartisan majority of Senators and would be confirmed if given an up-or-down vote. He would be an asset to the Ninth Circuit, which is seriously overworked and in need of more judges. He would fill a seat that has been designated a judicial emergency by the Judicial Conference of the United States. More Americans will be denied speedy access to our justice system by the obstruction of a few.

I continue to call on the minority in the Senate to stop playing politics with the American judicial system and give judicial nominees the fair treatment they deserve and the American people expect.

Remarks on Signing the Project BioShield Act of 2004

July 21, 2004

The President. Thank you all. Mr. Speaker. Please be seated. Thanks. Good morning, and welcome to the Rose Garden.

On September the 11th, 2001, America saw the destruction and grief terrorists could inflict with commercial airlines turned into

weapons of mass murder. Those attacks revealed the depth of our enemies' determination but not the extent of their ambitions. We know that the terrorists seek an even deadlier technology. And if they acquire chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, we have no doubt they will use them to cause even greater harm.

The bill I am about to sign is an important element in our response to that threat. By authorizing unprecedented funding and providing new capabilities, Project BioShield will help America purchase, develop, and deploy cutting-edge defenses against catastrophic attack.

This legislation represents the collective foresight and considered judgment of United States Senators and Members of the House of Representatives from both political parties, many of whom experienced bioterror firsthand when anthrax and ricin were found on Capitol Hill. It reflects 18 months of hard work and cooperation by many dedicated public servants in Congress and in the White House. It sends a message about our direction in the war on terror: We refuse to remain idle while modern technology might be turned against us; we will rally the great promise of American science and innovation to confront the greatest danger of our time.

I want to thank the Vice President for his hard work. He was the point man in the White House on this piece of legislation and did an excellent job. I appreciate Secretaries Tommy Thompson and Tom Ridge for their leadership on this important piece of legislation as well.

I appreciate the Speaker and Leader Frist for making this bill a priority. I want to thank Senator Gregg and Senator Kennedy and Senator Cochran for working on this bill. I appreciate the efforts. I appreciate Congressmen Barton, Billy Tauzin, Chris Cox, and Henry Waxman as well for their hard work.

I appreciate the members of my administration who are here. Thanks for coming. These will be the implementers of this important piece of legislation.

Project BioShield will transform our ability to defend the Nation in three essential ways. First, Project BioShield authorizes \$5.6 billion over 10 years for the Government to purchase and stockpile vaccines and drugs to

fight anthrax, smallpox, and other potential agents of bioterror. The Department of Health and Human Services has already taken steps to purchase 75 million doses of an improved anthrax vaccine for the Strategic National Stockpile. Under Project BioShield, HHS is moving forward with plans to acquire a safer, second-generation smallpox vaccine, an antidote to botulinum toxin, and better treatments for exposure to chemical and radiological weapons.

Private industry plays a vital role in our biodefense efforts by taking risks to bring new treatments to the market, and we appreciate those efforts.

By acting as a willing buyer for the best new medical technologies, the Government ensures that our drug stockpile remains safe, effective, and advanced. The Federal Government and our medical professionals are working together to meet the threat of bioterrorism; we're making the American people more secure in doing so.

Second, Project BioShield gives the Government new authority to expedite research and development on the most promising and time-sensitive medicines to defend against bioterror. We will waste no time putting those new powers to use. Today Secretary Thompson will direct the NIH to launch two initiatives, one to speed the development of new treatments for victims of a biological attack and another to expedite development of treatments for victims of a radiological or nuclear attack. Under the old rules, grants of this kind of research often took 18 to 24 months to process. Under Project BioShield, HHS expects the process to be completed in about 6 months. Our goal is to translate today's promising medical research into drugs and vaccines to combat a biological attack in the future, and now we will not let bureaucratic obstacles stand in the way.

Third, Project BioShield will change the way the Government authorizes and deploys medical defenses in a crisis. When I sign this bill, the Food and Drug Administration will be able to permit rapid distribution of promising new drugs and antidotes in the most urgent circumstances. This will allow patients to quickly receive the best treatments in an emergency. Secretary Thompson has directed the FDA to prepare guidelines and

procedures for implementing this new authority. By acting today, we are making sure we have the best medicine possible to help the victims of a biological attack.

Project BioShield is part of a broader strategy to defend America against the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Since September the 11th, we've increased funding for the Strategic National Stockpile by a factor of 5, increased funding for biodefense research at NIH by a factor of 30, secured enough smallpox vaccine for every American, worked with cities on plans to deliver antibiotics and chemical antidotes in an emergency, improved the safety of our food supply, and deployed advanced environmental detectors under the BioWatch Program to provide the earliest possible warning of a biological attack.

The threat of bioterrorism has brought new challenges to our Government, to our first-responders, and to our medical personnel. We are grateful for their service. Not long ago, few of these men and women could have imagined duties like monitoring the air for anthrax or delivering antibiotics on a massive scale. Yet, this is the world as we find it. This Nation refuses to let our guard down.

Tomorrow the 9/11 Commission will issue its findings and recommendations to help prevent future terrorist attacks. I look forward to receiving the report. I will continue to work with the Congress and State and local governments to build on the homeland security improvements we have already made. Every American can be certain that their Government will continue doing everything in our power to prevent a terrorist attack. And if the terrorists do strike, we'll be better prepared to defend our people because of the good law I sign today.

It's my honor to invite the Members of the Congress to join me as I sign the Project BioShield Act of 2004. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:43 a.m. in the the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission). S. 15, approved July 21, was assigned Public Law 108-276.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania and an Exchange With Reporters

July 21, 2004

President Bush. There will be two opening statements, one by me, one by the Prime Minister. I'll call upon a member of the American press. The Prime Minister will call somebody from the Romanian press. And then we'll do that one more time.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. We've just had a very good visit. It's the kind of visit that friends would have. We talked about our relationship. I complimented Romania and the Prime Minister's understanding that we need to work together to fight terror. We talked about the need to continue to work together to spread freedom and, therefore, peace in troubled parts of the world. And I want to thank him very much for his understanding and his vision.

We talked about economic ties. He asked if it would be possible to spread the word that Romania is a good place to invest, and I told him that because the country makes the right decisions, that American companies will take a look at Romania. Trade is up, which is good for Romanian people and for the American people. There is commerce going back and forth, which is a positive development.

I congratulated the Prime Minister on Romania's role at the United Nations. I think he handled the Presidency very well, and we appreciate that very much.

So it's been a very good visit. And I'm glad you're back, and I look forward to further discussions with you.

Prime Minister Nastase. Thank you very much, Mr. President. It's good to be back. Mr. President, thank you for your hospitality. It is, by the way, the first time that I've been here representing an ally of the United States. And I am very proud to come here to confirm to the President our continuous support for fighting together terrorists in the world and also our support for the vision of President Bush, not only on general issues but very specifically on a very complex process of changes in Iraq.

I had the honor to chair the Security Council during the Romanian Presidency, in New York. And, well, I briefed the President with major decisions, prospects, possibilities which are now offered for a wise political decision concerning Iraq. Reconstruction, stabilization, political development are the keywords for the future of Iraq. And we want to encourage the Iraqi people to take the ownership of their own choices.

Well, I briefed the President also on regional developments. I briefed the President with some of the developments on the continuous reforms that we are making in Romania. But also, well, I wanted to assure him that we are interested in opening more transparent procedures and, well, better integrity standards for civil servants and politicians.

I think this is part of the end of the transition in a country which suffered a lot but where there is a huge willingness to understand what can make us speed up the process of modernization. And we count very much on President Bush, on his colleagues, and also on the American businessman.

It was also very important to discuss about what happens now in areas in, like, the Black Sea, the Balkans. And I offered the President a five-star location for military bases, and there will be a decision on that very soon.

Mr. President, may I say also that the honor for us, being here—it's a great privilege, a great honor. We remember with great pleasure your visit to Bucharest and the rainbow speech and the gathering of more than 200,000 people.

Thank you very much again.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

Okay, Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

Alleged Mishandling of Classified Documents by Former National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. President Clinton suggested that perhaps politics was behind the disclosure of the Sandy Berger investigation. Do you have anything to say about that? And also, when did you learn about this probe?

President Bush. I'm not going to comment on this matter. This is a serious matter,

and it will be fully investigated by the Justice Department.

Q. When did you learn, sir, if I may?

President Bush. I'm not going to comment on it. It's a very serious matter that will be fully investigated by the Justice Department.

Prime Minister Nastase. Romanian Public Television.

Romania-U.S. Economic Relations

Q. Mr. President, please, you said something about improving of economic relations between Romania and the U.S. Could you be more specific on that issue, please?

President Bush. Relations improve as market conditions improve inside Romania. In other words, American businesses look for places to invest capital where they can get a reasonable rate of return. American businesses like environments where there's transparency and strong anticorruption rules, where people—where the workforce is well educated and hard-working.

And the Prime Minister and I talked about those ingredients. He said he's had some good visits with business leaders here in America. But those are decisions, in our country, that are made apart from Government. In other words, each individual business will make that decision. They are investment decisions in Romania apart from the offices of Government. And that's what the Prime Minister understands. And as he said, he had some good visits today. I'm sure he'll brief you on those visits later on.

Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

Q. Your advisers were meeting today with the Chairmen of the 9/11 Commission.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. In light of what you know now, do you think the attacks were preventable? And also, do you plan to meet personally with the Commissioners to discuss their findings and recommendations?

President Bush. First of all, I haven't talked to my advisers who have met with the Commission yet. I will later on. Secondly, I am going to meet with, as I understand it, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the

Commission. So I haven't had a chance to fully see—read that which they have developed. I look forward to it. This is a—I've always said this is an important Commission.

And the main reason why is, is because a President and a Congress must have the best possible intelligence to make good decisions about how to protect America and our friends and allies. We've spent a lot of time today talking about counterterrorism or counterproliferation. And the best way to succeed in counter—those efforts is to share intelligence. And therefore, we need to have good intelligence. And the main recommendations, as I understand it, from the 9/11 Commission will be as how best to structure the intelligence agencies.

Again, I haven't seen the report. I hope they talk about more human intelligence, because human intelligence is one of the most effective ways for us to gather intelligence in the first place. I hope they talk about it—and I suspect they will—about using modern technologies to better listen and see events taking place so that we can protect ourselves. And then, of course, there needs to be a full discussion about how best to coordinate the different intelligence-gathering services here in the country.

Let me say one other thing about the 9/11. I told the Commissioners right here in the Oval Office that had we had any inkling whatsoever that terrorists were about to attack our country, we would have moved heaven and Earth to protect America. And I'm confident President Clinton would have done the same thing—any President would have.

So anyway, I'm looking forward to the report. I'm glad—they've done a lot of good work, and it's going to be very useful for the country to listen to what they have to say.

Upcoming Romanian and U.S. Elections

Q. Thank you, sir. Question for President Bush. Sir, in both United States and Romania, you have elections this autumn. It might be four possibilities: Either you win and Mr. Nastase is winning; either you both lose; ei-

ther one of you is winning, the other one is losing.

President Bush. Right.

Q. Sir, which one of these four possibilities represents the biggest disadvantage for Romania? [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, let me answer you this way: I am going to win. And the Prime Minister told me he is going to win. And therefore, the other three possibilities you've outlined are not going to happen. The interesting thing is, is that here we are talking about elections in Romania. That's what I was thinking during this discussion, that we—a person standing for election in Romania and the United States President are now talking about what it means to campaign, a conversation which would not have been taking place 20 years ago.

You know, I'll never forget my trip to Bucharest, at the rainbow speech. It was one of the most moving experiences of my Presidency. And the reason why was that the rainbow itself, that appeared in the midst of a rainstorm in front of 200-plus-thousand people, ended right behind—from my vision, ended right behind the place where the tyrant Ceausescu gave his last speech. It was a very powerful message. It moved me deeply during the moment. And it still moves me to think that there was a powerful message being delivered by nature, to the point where I remember turning back to the people of Romania and said, "God is smiling on Bucharest." And I meant that.

And part of my beliefs, Mr. Prime Minister, is that one of the great universal values of the world is that men and women deserve to be free. And here we are talking about an election voted on, in your country and mine, by free people.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Thomas H. Kean, Chairman, and Lee H. Hamilton, Vice Chairman, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission).

Memorandum on Eligibility of Iraq To Receive Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the Arms Export Control Act, as Amended

July 21, 2004

Presidential Determination No. 2004-40

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Eligibility of Iraq to Receive Defense Articles and Services Under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the Arms Export Control Act, as Amended

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 503(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and section 3(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, I hereby find that the furnishing of defense articles and services to Iraq will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

You are authorized and directed to report this finding to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks at the President's Dinner

July 21, 2004

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming. Gosh, thanks for the warm welcome. It is really good to be with you all tonight. There's nothing like being the President at the President's Dinner. [Laughter] And with your help, I look forward to being your guest next year as well.

I want to thank Tom Reynolds, who is my good friend, for his kind introduction. I appreciate the organizers of this fantastic dinner. Thank you all for coming. We're here for a really good cause, and that is to make sure Denny Hastert remains Speaker of the House and Bill Frist majority leader of the Senate. It's not only a worthy cause; it is an important cause. The stakes of the country depend upon their leadership, their contin-

ued leadership. Plus, they're really good people.

I'm sorry that Laura is not with me tonight.

Audience member. Aw-w-w!

The President. Yes, I know. She is—she's camping. [Laughter] But you know something? I am one lucky man that Laura said yes when I asked her to marry me. She's a great First Lady. There's a lot of reasons why I think I ought to be given 4 more years, but perhaps the most important one is so that Laura will be the First Lady for 4 more years.

I want to thank George Allen and Lamar Alexander for representing the Senate at this dinner. Thank you for your strong leadership. And I appreciate Bob Ney as well and Tom Reynolds for representing the House at the dinner and helping to raise the money. These men did a fine job. I also am proud to recognize my fellow Texan, the majority leader of the House of Representatives, Tom DeLay. Thank you for coming, sir.

I appreciate all the dinner hosts who are here at the table. It kind of looks like the old politburo—[laughter]—doesn't act like the old politburo.

I want to thank all the Members of the Congress who are here. I'm proud to work with you. And thank you for representing our country with such dignity and class.

I want to thank Secretary Ann Veneman, Secretary Elaine Chao, Secretary Tommy Thompson, for coming tonight. And thank you for being such good Cabinet members in my administration.

I appreciate John Popper for lending his talents tonight. And I love the voice of Sara Evans.

As we meet tonight, there are a little over 100 days until an historic election, and the campaigns are hitting full swing. In recent days, I've been in Pennsylvania and Michigan and Minnesota and Wisconsin and West Virginia and Iowa and Missouri. Everywhere I go, the crowds are big, the enthusiasm is high, the signs are good: We are on our way to victory.

My opponent has been spending some time with his base as well, at a recent gala with his Hollywood friends. [Laughter] Evidently, things got a little out of hand. My name came up a few times. [Laughter] And now the Senator refuses to release a tape of

that whole enchanted evening. [*Laughter*] Could be that his friends, whom he said conveyed the “heart and soul of America,” actually embarrassed themselves and the candidate. I have a different theory: You see, the tape shows a meeting of all those unnamed foreign leaders that the Senator says have endorsed him. [*Laughter*]

Now he has a runningmate. Some people say that Senator Edwards was chosen in part because of his boyish good looks. After all, *People Magazine* once named John Edwards the sexiest politician. One of my administration’s great goals for a new term is to get Dick Cheney on that list. [*Laughter*] In the meantime, I value the Vice President’s experience in Government, his expertise in national security, and his sound judgment.

It’s now been 3½ years since the Vice President and I took office. We’ve faced significant challenges. We have met them head on. I believe it’s the President’s job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. Because of our actions, America is becoming a safer and stronger and better country.

Four years ago, our economy was headed into a recession, and the stock market was in decline, so we passed historic tax relief for families and small businesses. Because we acted, our economy, since last summer, has been growing at the fastest rate in nearly 20 years. Because we acted, America has added more than 1.5 million new jobs since last August. Because we believe in economic freedom and left more money in the people’s hands, America is a stronger country.

My opponents look at all this progress and somehow conclude that the sky is falling. Whether their message is delivered with a frown or a smile, it is the same old pessimism. And to cheer us up, they propose higher taxes, more Federal spending, and economic isolationism. But that’s the surest way to end economic growth and to put Americans out of work. This Nation is on a rising path, and with 4 more years, we’ll achieve more growth, new and higher paying jobs, and greater opportunity for all of our citizens.

Four years ago, too many of our public schools were stuck in a cycle of mediocrity and excuse-making, with children often shuffled from grade to grade, year after year. So

we insisted on high standards and accountability, local control of schools. And now, children across America are showing real progress in reading and math, and America is better for it.

Four years ago, our Medicare system was falling behind modern medicine. Many seniors were not getting the drugs they needed. Because we have updated Medicare and passed prescription drug coverage for our parents and our grandparents, America is a better place.

Four years ago, some of the finest, most effective charities in our country were viewed with suspicion or even hostility by our Government, just because they were faith-based charities. Because we have ended discrimination in Government contracting, the armies of compassion are transforming more lives in our country, and America is better for it.

In each of these areas, we are keeping our promises. We are doing our duty. Because of our actions, our economy is stronger. Our schools are better. Our country is safer. We have turned a corner, and there’s no turning back. And in the weeks ahead, I will lay out an agenda worthy of this advancing and confident country.

The American economy is creating good jobs. Now we must move forward and make America even more job-friendly by keeping taxes low, more job-friendly by making regulations reasonable and fair and opening up new markets around the world. To keep our economy growing, we must pass a comprehensive energy plan to make America more energy-independent.

We will help more Americans get training at our community colleges for the jobs of the future. We’ll protect workers and entrepreneurs from junk lawsuits that threaten to close the doors of too many small businesses and factories. You cannot be pro-small-business and pro-trial-lawyer at the same time. You have to choose. My opponent has made his choice, and he put him on the ticket. [*Laughter*] I’ve made my choice: I will continue to work with Congress to end the junk lawsuits that hurt small businesses and threaten jobs all across our country.

Across America, teachers and parents and principals are now working hard to raise the standards at our elementary schools and to

see that every child can read by the 3d grade. Now we must move forward and make certain that our high schools are doing their jobs as well. Every high school diploma must mean that our graduates are prepared for jobs, for college, and for success.

The quality of health care in America is one of our great achievements. Now we must move forward to expand access to care and to keep important health decisions in the hands of patients and doctors, not in Government bureaucrats'. We need to make health care more affordable by making health insurance available to more Americans, by harnessing the power of information technology and by limiting the costly and abusive litigation that threatens health care in America. America needs medical liability reform. No one has ever been healed by a frivolous lawsuit.

Our country has made a lot of progress in ending dependency on Government. Now we must move forward to strengthen work requirements that lead people from welfare to stable jobs. We need to encourage marriage and the family ties that improve the lives of our children.

During the next 4 years, we'll help more citizens to own their health plan, to own a piece of their retirement, to own their own home or their own small business. We'll usher in a new era of ownership in America with an agenda to help all our citizens save and build and invest, so every person owns a part of the American Dream.

This broad agenda we will carry into the new term comes from a basic conviction: Government should never try to control or dominate the lives of our citizens. Yet Government can and should help citizens gain the tools to make their own choices and to improve their own lives. When men and women have a sound education and the skills to seize new opportunities and the security of health care, they will achieve great things for themselves and for our Nation. There is no greater force for good in the world than the energy of free people.

Our opponents have a very different agenda. Senator Kerry has spent almost 20 years in the Federal Government, and he's concluded that it just isn't big enough. [*Laughter*] He's proposed nearly \$2 trillion in addi-

tional Federal spending, and we're just getting started. But he hasn't told us how he plans to pay for it all. I think we can guess. He has a history of voting to raise taxes. But we're going to make it clear to him that would be the wrong medicine for America's improving economy.

He and his runningmate consistently oppose reforms that limit the power of Washington and place trust in the individual. They share the same old Washington mindset: They will give the orders, and you pay the bills. But we've gone beyond that way of thinking, and we're not going back.

America's future also depends on our willingness to lead in the world. On a September morning, the world changed. And since that day, we have changed the world. Before September the 11th, Al Qaida terrorists were plotting and moving across borders with little fear. Today, two-thirds of Al Qaida's known leaders have been captured or killed, and America and the world are safer.

Before September the 11th, the security of the American homeland was in grave danger. Our Government was not organized to meet the new threat. We transformed our defenses. We created a new Department of Homeland Security. We rallied the world to pursue terrorists abroad and strengthened our laws to act against terrorists at home. We're using the PATRIOT Act to track terrorist activity and break up terror cells. We're using intelligence and law enforcement better than ever before. The mission of the FBI is now focused on preventing terrorism. In a vast and free nation such as ours, it is impossible to guarantee perfect security. But I can assure you, many fine professionals in intelligence and national security and homeland security and law enforcement are working around the clock. They're doing everything they can to protect us, and because of their vigilance, America is safer.

Before September the 11th, Afghanistan served as the home base of Al Qaida, which trained and deployed thousands of killers to set up terror cells in dozens of countries, including our own. Today, Afghanistan is a rising democracy, an ally in the war on terror, and America and the world are safer.

Before September the 11th, Pakistan was a safe transit point for terrorists. Today, Pakistani forces are aggressively helping to round up terrorists; they're an ally in the war on terror. America and the world is safer.

Before September the 11th, in Saudi Arabia, terrorists were raising money and recruiting and operating with little opposition. Today, the Saudi Government is taking the fight to Al Qaida, and America and the world are safer.

Before September the 11th, Libya was spending millions to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Today, because America and allies have sent a strong and clear message, the leader of Libya has abandoned his pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and America and the world are safer.

Before September the 11th, the ruler of Iraq was a sworn enemy of America. He was defying the world and firing weapons at American pilots enforcing the world's sanctions. He had pursued and used weapons of mass destruction. He threatened his neighbors. He subsidized the families of suicide bombers. He had murdered tens of thousands of his own citizens. He was a source of great instability in the world's most volatile region. That's why, even before September the 11th, the policy of our country was regime change in Iraq. After September the 11th, the risk that Saddam Hussein could have used weapons or could have shared his capability to produce them with terrorists was simply too great.

We went to the United States Congress, which overwhelmingly agreed, then to the United Nations Security Council, which unanimously demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. When he again refused to comply and continued to systematically deceive the weapons inspectors, we made the decision to remove him from power.

Although we have not found the stockpiles of weapons that our intelligence showed would be there, we were right to go into Iraq. With Saddam Hussein in prison, America and the world are safer.

We still have important and difficult work to do. Our immediate task is to work with friends and allies around the world to continue aggressively pursuing the terrorist and

foreign fighters in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and elsewhere. You can't talk sense to the terrorists. You cannot negotiate with the terrorists. We must engage these enemies in Afghanistan and Iraq and around the world so we do not have to face them here at home.

The conditions for success in Afghanistan and Iraq are now coming together. These two nations are now governed by strong leaders, committed men, people who want peace and freedom for their people. The people of Iraq are taking more and more responsibility for their own security. They want to live in a free society. Men and women in Iraq want their children to grow up in a peaceful world. Schools and hospitals are being reopened. Citizens' lives are improving. Both nations are on the path to elections.

The people of those countries can count on America and our coalition. When we acted to protect our own security, we also promised to help deliver them from tyranny, to restore their sovereignty, to set them on the path of democracy. And when America gives its word, America keeps its word.

Over the next 4 years, we will continue to defend our homeland; we'll continue to defeat the terrorists abroad. Yet, in the long run, our safety requires something more. We must work to change the conditions that give rise to terror in the Middle East, the poverty and the hopelessness and the resentments that terrorists too often exploit. Life in that region will be far more hopeful and peaceful when men and women can choose their own leaders, when the people can decide their own future.

A free and peaceful Iraq, a free and peaceful Afghanistan will be powerful examples to their neighbors. Free countries do not export terror. Free countries do not stifle the dreams of their citizens. By serving the ideal of liberty, we are bringing hope to others, and that makes America more secure. By serving the ideal of liberty, we also serve the deepest ideals of our country. Freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world.

Our men and women in the military are serving the cause of freedom. They're taking great risks on our behalf. At bases across the country and the world, I've had the privilege

of meeting with those who defend our country and sacrifice for our security. I've seen their great decency and their unselfish courage. And I assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in good hands.

We must make sure our troops have the very best. Last September, while our troops were in combat in both Afghanistan and Iraq, I proposed supplemental funding to support them in their missions. The legislation provided funding for body armor and other vital equipment, for hazard pay, for health benefits, for ammunition, for fuel, for spare parts for our military. In the Senate, only a small, out-of-the-mainstream minority of 12 Senators voted against that legislation, and 2 of those 12 Senators are my opponent and his runningmate.

Senator Kerry tried to explain his vote by saying, "I actually did vote for the \$87 billion, before I voted against it." [Laughter] End quote. Now he's offering different explanations. Last week, Senator Kerry said he was proud that he and his runningmate voted against the funding for the troops. Then he further said the whole thing is a complicated matter. There's nothing complicated about supporting our troops in combat. Leaders need to stand behind our military and back them up 100 percent, and that's what I will do every day that I am your President.

America is leading the world with confidence and moral clarity. We put together a strong coalition to help defeat the terrorists. There are over 60 nations involved in the Proliferation Security Initiative; nearly 40 nations are involved in Afghanistan; some 30 nations involved in Iraq. We'll continue to build our alliances. We'll continue to work with our friends for the cause of security and peace. But I will never turn over America's national security decisions to leaders of other nations.

This Nation is prosperous and strong, yet we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the character of our citizens. Our Nation is strong because of the values we try to live by, courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help to give us direction and purpose, our families, our schools, our religious congregations. These values and institutions are fundamental to

our lives; they deserve the respect of our Government.

We stand for institutions like marriage and family, which are the foundations of society. We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and every person matters. We stand for judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law, instead of legislating from the bench.

And we're building a culture of responsibility here in America. The culture of this country is changing from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or father, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're worried about the quality of the education in the community in which you live, you are responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you're responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbors just like we'd like to be loved ourselves.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of the leaders. This isn't one of those times. None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It's a day I'll never forget. There were workers in hard-hats yelling at me, "Whatever it takes." A fellow grabbed me by the arm—I can't remember if he was a policeman or fireman—and he said, "Do not let me down."

As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of our country, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion

renewed in our country in the quiet love of neighbor for neighbor. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have come through much together. We've done the hard work. We've made our Nation better and safer. We've turned the corner in extending freedom throughout the world. We're expanding opportunity here at home. And now, we move forward with confidence. During the next 4 years, we will spread opportunity to every corner of this country. We will pass the enduring values of our country to another generation. We will continue to lead the cause of freedom and peace, and we will prevail.

May God bless you all. Thank you all very much. God bless our great country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to entertainers John Popper and Sara Evans; Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks on Receiving the Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States

July 22, 2004

The President. It's been my honor to welcome Chairman Kean, Vice Chairman Hamilton to the Oval Office. We just had a good discussion about the 9/11 Commission Report. I want to thank these two gentlemen for serving their country so well and so admirably. They've done a really good job of learning about our country, learning about what went wrong prior to September the 11th, and making very solid, sound recommendations about how to move forward. I assured them that where Government needs to act, we will.

I want to thank the Commission members as well. These people worked really hard, long hours. They took time out of their private lives to serve America and have left their mark in a very constructive and positive way.

These two men bring a commonsense approach to how to move forward. They recog-

nize what I recognize and America recognizes, that there's still a threat and that we in Government have an obligation to do everything in our power to safeguard the American people. And the report that they are about to present to me puts out some very constructive recommendations. And I look forward to studying their recommendations and look forward to working with responsible parties within my administration to move forward on those recommendations.

As well, we look forward to working with the Congress on the implementation of ways to do our duty. And the most important duty we have is the security of our fellow countrymen.

So, thank you, men, for your service. I'm proud you're here. You did a wonderful job.

Commission Chairman Thomas H. Kean. Mr. President, we'd like to present you a copy of our report. I thank you very much for giving me the honor of serving. I thank you also on behalf of the Commission for unprecedented access to documents and cooperation from your administration. We were able to see things that no commission or no Member of Congress has ever seen in doing our work. And we thank you for allowing us to do that.

The President. Thank you, Tom. Good job. Thanks, Lee. I appreciate you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy in Glenview, Illinois

July 22, 2004

Thanks for the warm welcome. It is a pleasure to be back in the great State of Illinois. It's an honor to be sharing the stage with some of America's finest citizens, our firefighters and policemen, EMS teams. Thanks for welcoming me here.

Our country faces new and unprecedented threats. The American people are counting on all who wear our Nation's uniform. We are counting on the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, who are serving in distant corners of the world. We're counting on

those who wear the uniform here at home: the police, the firefighters, the emergency rescue personnel, and others who risk their lives each day to protect our homeland and its citizens. The Nation is proud of your service. We're grateful for your sacrifices.

Here at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy, you're performing a critical mission. I've just seen an impressive demonstration of the training that you provide to protect our communities from acts of terrorism. You are showing the commitment of our Nation: We will work tirelessly to disrupt and prevent terrorist attacks, and if an attack should come, America will be prepared.

I want to thank my friend Tom Ridge for taking on a tough assignment. He's the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. His job is to coordinate agencies and groups of people that have really never worked together as well as they should have. He's done a fantastic job for the country. And I appreciate your service, Tom.

I appreciate Al. Thanks for having us. Thanks for your leadership here. And I want to thank Bob Lahey as well, who is the Director of NIPSTA. It sounds like Bob may have invited some of his family here today. [Laughter] I want to thank my friend Congressman Mark Kirk, who represents—[ap-*plause*].

You know, I'm traveling today by chopper from the O'Hare Airport, and I was honored that truly one of the country's great mayors welcomed me there and flew over, and that's Mayor Richard Daley of the great city of Chicago. I want to thank Mayor Larry Carlson from Glenview for joining us. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming. Mayor Peter Moy of Lincolnwood—thank you for coming, Peter. Mayor George Van Dusen of Skokie—thanks for coming, George, great first name. [Laughter] Fill the potholes. [Laughter]

I appreciate all the State and local officers who are here as well as the first-responders. Thanks for having me.

The events of September the 11th, 2001, demonstrated the threats of a new era. We found that oceans which separated us from other continents no longer separate us from danger. We saw the cruelty of the terrorists, and we glimpsed the future they intend for

us. They intend to strike the United States again. They're seeking increasingly powerful weapons that would allow them to kill our citizens on an unprecedented scale. That's the reality of the world we live in today. We didn't ask for it. It came to our shores because of what we believe in. It came to our shores because we're the beacon of freedom, and we're not going to change.

A new kind of threat has required a new kind of war, a new kind of response, and we are prosecuting the war on many fronts. Our military has captured or killed hundreds of terrorists, removed terrorist regimes in Iraq and Afghanistan that had harbored terrorists and threatened our people. Our intelligence community helped uncover the A.Q. Khan network that had supplied nuclear weapons-related equipment and plans to Libya and Iran and North Korea, and we put them out of business. Our diplomats, working with Great Britain, convinced Libya to give up its weapons of mass destruction. Our law enforcement officials, working with friends and allies around the world, have disrupted terrorist financing and broken up terrorist cells virtually on every continent.

The results of these efforts are solid, and they're clear: In just 3 years, we've captured or killed about two-thirds of Al Qaida's known leadership; we've removed two terrorist regimes from power and convinced a third to voluntarily disarm; we helped eliminate the world's most dangerous nuclear trading network. Because of these achievements, America and the world are safer.

As we conduct this war abroad, we will always remember where it began: here in our homeland. We will not permit the terrorists to find sanctuary or safe haven, especially not within our own borders. In the past 3 years, we have dismantled terrorist cells, prosecuted terrorist supporters from California to Florida to Massachusetts.

In Lackawanna, New York, we broke up a terrorist cell whose members had trained in an Al-Qaida-affiliated camp near Kandahar, Afghanistan. In New Jersey, we indicted a man who was trying to sell shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles for the purpose of downing a U.S. commercial airliner. Here in Illinois, we convicted a man with a longstanding ties to bin Laden, who had

been using a Chicago-area charity called the “Benevolence International Foundation” to channel money to Islamic militants.

Today, because we are on the offensive against terrorist networks, the American people are safer. But this does not mean that our Nation is fully secure. In a vast, free society such as ours, there is no such thing as perfect security. And no matter how good our defenses are, a determined enemy can still strike us. Terrorists only need to be right once; we need to be right every single time. Yet our fellow citizens can be certain of this: Our Government is doing everything we can to stop another attack. We’re using every resource and technological advantage we have as a nation to pursue our enemies, at home and overseas. We’re doing everything we can to protect our country. In the past 3 years, we have taken unprecedented steps to defend the homeland, to increase security, and to give our brave first-responders the tools they need to deal with a terrorist attack.

On September the 11th, 2001, there was no single Department of Government charged with protecting the American homeland, so we have undertaken the most sweeping reorganization of the Federal Government since the start of the cold war. Last year, we created the Department of Homeland Security, merging 180,000 personnel from 22 different Government organizations into a single Department with a single mission: to protect America from future attacks.

On September the 11th, many of the police, firefighters, and rescue personnel at the World Trade Center could not speak to one another by radio. It made it much more difficult to work as a single team to save lives. Since then, my administration has dedicated \$280 million specifically to improve the ability of our first-responders to communicate with each other and work together in a crisis. And later this year, a new program called RapidComm will ensure that first-responders in Chicago and nine other large cities have the ability to communicate clearly in a major emergency.

On September the 11th, we saw the character of America as first-responders from around the country flooded New York and Pennsylvania and Virginia with offers of assistance. Since then, we’ve helped States es-

tablish Mutual Aid Agreements and Regional Response Plans so that when first-responders need help from their neighbors, they can be certain the right assistance will get to the right people at the right time.

Before September the 11th, the Federal Government set—sent threat information to local authorities by fax machines. Since then, we’ve established 21st-century communication networks to make information on rapidly emerging threats available to local officials in real time. We’ve given them access to the Department of Homeland Security’s state-of-the-art mapping and imagery capabilities.

On September the 11th, the FBI did not have either the right tools or the clear mission to prevent terrorist attacks, so we are transforming the FBI into an agency whose primary focus is stopping terrorism. We have nearly tripled the number of FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces, where FBI agents work shoulder to shoulder with State and local partners to stop the enemy before the next attack.

On September the 11th, there was no unified military command in the Department of Defense whose job it was to protect the homeland of the United States, so we have created a new Northern Command, with the mission of defending the American homeland.

Before September the 11th, our intelligence and Federal law enforcement communities were often prevented from sharing information about potential terrorist activities. They couldn’t talk to each other. So we passed the PATRIOT Act, permitting investigators who sit next to each other to share information that could save American lives.

On September the 11th, the Federal Government often did not share classified information with local law enforcement, the ones most likely to first encounter terrorists and disrupt their planned attacks. Today, we’ve established secure connections to Emergency Operations Centers in every State and every Governor’s office so local officials will have information they need to recognize suspicious behavior.

On September the 11th, there was no one place focused on pulling together a complete picture of all the terrorist threats at home and abroad. So we created the Terrorist

Threat Integration Center to bring together all that information and to get it to the people at the Federal, State, and local level who need it to prevent attacks.

Since September the 11th, we have also implemented a new strategy to protect our borders. Posting Homeland Security personnel at foreign ports. We've beefed up airport and seaport security here at home. We've instituted better visa screening for those entering the country. We want to know who is coming in the country, why they're coming in the country, and if they're leaving the country, when they're supposed to leave the country. We have instituted new measures to protect critical infrastructure, including America's communications system and transportation networks.

After September the 11th, we created the Citizen Corps, a grassroots effort spearheaded by the Department of Homeland Security and the USA Freedom Corps to help Americans learn how to be prepared for and respond to attacks on our homeland.

Nicole Meier is with us. She is a member of the Citizen Corps Community Emergency Response Team. She is a volunteer. She completed 20 hours of training on disaster preparedness. By the way, Nicole and her three teenagers helped clean up debris in neighborhoods struck by a tornado near Utica, Illinois. I appreciate you being here, Nicole, and thank you for your voluntarism for the country. Thanks for bringing Gerhard. That would be the husband. *[Laughter]*

Since September of 2000, my administration has provided more than—along with the Congress, I might add—has provided more than \$13 billion to equip and train America's State and local first-responders. We've sent nearly one-half billion dollars to help the first-responders of the State of Illinois. Those funds have helped pay for mobile command centers, mobile decontamination equipment, hazmat trucks, mobile WMD-detection equipment, and other rescue equipment that is making this State and local communities safer. In all, more than a half a million first-responders across America have been trained since 2001.

We are also bringing the best technologies to bear against the threat of chemical and biological weapons. Through the BioWatch

program, we have placed state-of-the-art equipment in many major U.S. cities to detect biological agents. We have greatly expanded the Nation's stockpile of drugs and vaccines, including antibiotics to treat exposure to anthrax. We have enough smallpox vaccine for every American in case of an emergency. At the National Institutes of Health, we have increased our investments in biodefense medical research and development to more than \$1.6 billion a year. That's nearly a 3,000-percent increase since 2001.

Yesterday, I signed into law the Project BioShield Act to speed the development of new vaccines and treatments against biological agents that could be used in a terrorist attack. Project BioShield authorizes \$5.6 billion over 10 years to develop and stockpile the best and latest medical countermeasures for anthrax, for botulinum toxin, for Ebola, and for plague.

We have done all this in less than 3 years. There are good people working hard on your behalf. There is more to do. The report of the 9/11 Commission, which was released earlier today, will help us in our efforts. The Commission members have produced a serious and comprehensive report with thoughtful recommendations. These fine citizens dedicated more than a year of their lives in this effort. And on behalf of the American people, I thank them for their hard work.

I agree with their conclusion that the terrorists were able to exploit "deep institutional failings" in our Nation's defenses that developed over more than a decade. The Commission's recommendations are consistent with the strategy my administration is following to address these failings and to win the war on terror. But the job is not done. And this report will help our country identify even more steps we can take to better defend America.

The Commission has suggested a number of reforms to improve our intelligence capabilities so we can better anticipate emerging threats. We will carefully study all their proposals, of course. We agree that better coordination between the various intelligence agencies is needed. We agree that more human intelligence is needed, because we know the best way to figure out what the enemy is thinking is to get to know the enemy

firsthand. We agree that we need to improve the technology at our disposal and develop capabilities that allow us to track our enemies anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

I appreciate the hard work of the Commission and the spirit in which their recommendations are written. We will give serious consideration to every idea because we share a common goal: to do everything in our power to prepare for and to stop any terrorist attack.

The new threats of the 21st century—they are dangerous and they are frightening, but America has the resources and the strength and the resolve to overcome them. We are waging a broad and unrelenting war on terror overseas and here at home. We're not going to give up. We're not going to weaken. Our resolve is firm. We have a duty to the American people. We are using this country's technological advantages to develop new cures and defenses to protect our citizens. We have dramatically improved our capacity to prevent and, if necessary, respond to a terrorist attack.

In nearly 3 years since September the 11th, life in America has in many ways returned to normal, and that's good for the country. It means that citizens are doing their jobs and raising their families and living as free people. Americans want to live in peace. I want peace for our country and peace for the world. Yet we have not forgotten what happened to our Nation on that day. We must do everything we can to prevent an even bolder and deadlier attack. We will never let our guard down.

Americans will always remember the courage we saw on that day as well, the unselfish heroism of police and firefighters and rescue personnel who rushed toward danger to save lives. All of you know that the next alarm could bring serious danger and even sacrifice. Americans are grateful that you are on the job. We're grateful that you're on the lookout for the enemy. We're grateful that you're prepared to respond if tragedy strikes.

You are vital to the Nation's defenses, the ones most likely to first encounter a terrorist, the ones who will be the first on the scene should there be an attack. You have dedicated your careers to serving others. That is

a noble calling. In these challenging times, with the Nation relying on your efforts, you deserve the full support of our governments, and you can count on that support.

It's an honor for me to be here with those who defend us and protect us. May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:49 p.m. in the field training facility. In his remarks, he referred to Albert Rigoni, president, Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy; A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission).

Statement on Senate Action To Block Votes on Nominations for Judges on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

July 22, 2004

Today a minority of Senators employed filibuster tactics to bar confirmation votes on three excellent judicial nominees from Michigan to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit—Judge Richard Griffin, Judge David McKeague, and Judge Henry Saad. Each of these nominees is eminently qualified, has the support of a majority of Senators, and would be confirmed if given an up-or-down vote.

These filibuster tactics are shameful and inconsistent with the Senate's constitutional obligation. All three of these fine men are distinguished jurists. Together they have more than three decades of experience on the Michigan State and Federal courts. All three have been rated either well-qualified or qualified by the American Bar Association. The vacancies these judges have been nominated to fill have been designated judicial emergencies by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Yet all three nominees have been waiting more than 2 years for an up-or-down vote in the Senate. By blocking votes on these nominations, a minority of Senators is continuing a crisis that has delayed the administration of justice in the Sixth Circuit.

Prior to this Congress, the filibuster had never been used to block the confirmation of a judicial nominee. But in recent months, the use of this obstructionist tactic by some Democrats has become commonplace. With today's action, 10 appeals court nominees have now been filibustered.

The Senate minority's unfair treatment of these nominees demonstrates the breakdown in the judicial confirmation process. More than 18 months ago, I proposed a plan that would ensure that judicial nominees receive timely hearings and up-or-down votes no matter who is President or which party controls the Senate. I again urge the Senate—Republicans and Democrats alike—to put an end to the partisan politics of the past and ensure judicial nominees are given the timely up-or-down votes they deserve. The Senate owes it to these fine men and women and to the American people.

Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation To Provide Funding for the United States Military

July 22, 2004

My most solemn duty as President is to protect the lives of the American people, and I have worked consistently for the largest defense buildup in a generation. America continues to be at war, and the legislation passed today by the Congress delivers the funding necessary to ensure that our troops are the best paid, the best equipped, and the best trained in the world.

I also commend the Congress for continuing to provide the resources necessary to support the critical missions of our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. As I have said repeatedly, our troops will have what they need to do their job, and I am pleased that a bipartisan majority in the Congress continues to stand with me to support our military.

I look forward to signing this legislation into law.

Executive Order 13347—Individuals With Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness

July 22, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to strengthen emergency preparedness with respect to individuals with disabilities, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy. To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in situations involving disasters, including earthquakes, tornadoes, fires, floods, hurricanes, and acts of terrorism, it shall be the policy of the United States that executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government (agencies):

(a) consider, in their emergency preparedness planning, the unique needs of agency employees with disabilities and individuals with disabilities whom the agency serves;

(b) encourage, including through the provision of technical assistance, as appropriate, consideration of the unique needs of employees and individuals with disabilities served by State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in emergency preparedness planning; and

(c) facilitate cooperation among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and private organizations and individuals in the implementation of emergency preparedness plans as they relate to individuals with disabilities.

Sec. 2. Establishment of Council. (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Homeland Security for administrative purposes, the Interagency Coordinating Council on Emergency Preparedness and Individuals with Disabilities (the "Council"). The Council shall consist exclusively of the following members or their designees:

(i) the heads of executive departments, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and

(ii) any other agency head as the Secretary of Homeland Security may, with the concurrence of the agency head, designate.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall chair the Council, convene and preside at its meetings, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Council, which shall consist exclusively of Council members.

(c) A member of the Council may designate, to perform the Council functions of the member, an employee of the member's department or agency who is either an officer of the United States appointed by the President, or a full-time employee serving in a position with pay equal to or greater than the minimum rate payable for GS-15 of the General Schedule.

Sec. 3. Functions of Council. (a) The Council shall:

- (i) coordinate implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;
- (ii) whenever the Council obtains in the performance of its functions information or advice from any individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time Federal employee, obtain such information and advice only in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation; and
- (iii) at the request of any agency head (or the agency head's designee under section 2(c) of this order) who is a member of the Council, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security declines the request, promptly review and provide advice, for the purpose of furthering the policy set forth in section 1, on a proposed action by that agency.

(b) The Council shall submit to the President each year beginning 1 year after the date of this order, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, a report that describes:

- (i) the achievements of the Council in implementing the policy set forth in section 1;
- (ii) the best practices among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments and

private organizations and individuals for emergency preparedness planning with respect to individuals with disabilities; and

- (iii) recommendations of the Council for advancing the policy set forth in section 1.

Sec. 4. General. (a) To the extent permitted by law:

- (i) agencies shall assist and provide information to the Council for the performance of its functions under this order; and
- (ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall provide funding and administrative support for the Council.

(b) 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.

(c) 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, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 22, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:37 a.m., July 23, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on July 26.

Executive Order 13348—Blocking Property of Certain Persons and Prohibiting the Importation of Certain Goods From Liberia

July 22, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601

et seq.) (NEA), section 5 of the United Nations Participation Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in view of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1521 of December 22, 2003, and 1532 of March 12, 2004,

I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, note that the actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, have undermined Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. I further note that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on August 18, 2003, and the related ceasefire have not yet been universally implemented throughout Liberia, and that the illicit trade in round logs and timber products is linked to the proliferation of and trafficking in illegal arms, which perpetuate the Liberian conflict and fuel and exacerbate other conflicts throughout West Africa. I find that the actions, policies, and circumstances described above constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States and hereby declare a national emergency to deal with that threat. To address that threat, I hereby order:

Section 1. (a) Except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), or regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, all property and interests in property of the following persons, that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of United States persons, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in:

(i) the persons listed in the Annex to this order; and

(ii) any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(A) to be or have been an immediate family member of Charles Taylor;

(B) to have been a senior official of the former Liberian regime headed by Charles Taylor or otherwise to have been or be a close ally or associate of Charles Taylor or the former Liberian regime;

(C) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the unlawful depletion of Liberian resources, the removal of Liberian resources from that country, and the secreting of Liberian funds and property by any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order; or

(D) to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order.

(b) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the type of articles specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by, to, or for the benefit of, any person whose property or interests in property are blocked pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in this order, and I hereby prohibit such donations as provided by paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) The prohibitions in paragraph (a) of this section include, but are not limited to,

(i) the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of, any person whose property or interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order, and

(ii) the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Sec. 2. Except to the extent provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted prior to the effective date of this order, the direct or indirect importation into the United States of any round log or timber product originating in Liberia is prohibited.

Sec. 3. (a) Any transaction by a United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

(b) Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 4. For purposes of this order: (a) the term “person” means an individual or entity;

(b) the term “entity” means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization;

(c) the term “United States person” means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States; and

(d) the term “round log or timber product” means any product classifiable in Chapter 44 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.

Sec. 5. For those persons whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to section 1 of this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render these measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in this order, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to section 1 of this order.

Sec. 6. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA and UNPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States Government, consistent with applicable law. All agencies of the United States Government are hereby directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out

the provisions of this order and, where appropriate, to advise the Secretary of the Treasury in a timely manner of the measures taken.

Sec. 7. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to submit the recurring and final reports to the Congress on the national emergency declared in this order, consistent with section 401(c) of NEA, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

Sec. 8. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to determine, subsequent to the issuance of this order, that circumstances no longer warrant the inclusion of a person in the Annex to this order and that the property and interests in property of that person are therefore no longer blocked pursuant to section 1 of this order.

Sec. 9. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

Sec. 10. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on July 23, 2004.

Sec. 11. This order shall be transmitted to the Congress and published in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 22, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 26, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 23, and it and its attached annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 27.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the Executive Order
Blocking Property of Certain
Persons and Prohibiting the
Importation of Certain Goods From
Liberia**

July 23, 2004

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

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) in which, in view of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1521 of December 22, 2003, and 1532 of March 12, 2004, I declared a national emergency with respect to the threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by certain actions, policies, and circumstances with respect to Liberia. These actions, policies, and circumstances include the undermining of Liberia’s transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources by former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property. These actions, policies, and circumstances also include the lack of universal implementation throughout Liberia of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed on August 18, 2003, and the related ceasefire. Finally, these actions, policies, and circumstances include the link between the illicit trade in round logs and timber products and the proliferation of and trafficking in illegal arms, which perpetuate the Liberian conflict and fuel and exacerbate other conflicts throughout West Africa.

To address this threat, I ordered that, except to the extent provided in section 203(b)(1), (3), and (4) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(1), (3), and (4)), or regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to the order, all property and interests in property of the persons listed in the annex to the order or any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet the criteria set forth in section 1(a)(ii) of the order, are blocked.

I further ordered that, except to the extent provided in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to the order, the direct or indirect importation into the United States of any round log or timber product originating in Liberia is prohibited.

I have enclosed a copy of the order, which became effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on July 23, 2004.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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

**Remarks to the National Urban
League Conference in Detroit,
Michigan**

July 23, 2004

The President. Thanks for the warm introduction. It’s really good to be here. You know, Marc, you’re right, the National Urban League is a vital and important part of the American scene. And I think the reason why is, not only is the mission important but the people involved in the Urban League are dignified, decent American citizens. And I am honored to be in your presence.

I see some friends like Willard, who is—I don’t know if you remember, Willard, but we were on the porch of the Governor’s mansion in Texas. I’m not saying you drank all my beer, but—[laughter]. Never mind. [Laughter] That’s unfair. [Laughter] But thanks for having me.

Marc, I appreciate your leadership. I’ve had the opportunity to work with Marc. I look forward to continue working with Marc. He’s a good man. He cares deeply about the country, the people in our country. He is—he has had a lot of experience. He has, after all, been a mayor. It’s a heck of a lot tougher job than being President. After all, you’ve got to fill the potholes—[laughter]—and empty the garbage. And he did a fine job as mayor. He’s doing a fine job for this very important organization.

Speaking about mayors, the mayor of Detroit was here. He’s cutting a ribbon, which most mayors do. He’s a fabulous mayor, by

the way. He's standing a little taller, as if he needed to, because the Detroit Pistons are now the NBA champs. I told him, I said—I asked Kwame if he took credit for it. He said, "Of course." [Laughter]

I appreciate so very much Mike Critelli, who is the chairman. Thank you, Mr.—Mike, it's great to see you again. And Charles Collins, senior—the vice chairman—these are distinguished gentlemen who are helping to lead a very distinguished board of directors. It was my honor to meet with members of the board before I came out here today. And I appreciate your service to our country.

Rick, thank you very much. Rick Wagoner is the CEO of General Motors, who is sponsoring this conference. I appreciate you doing that. It's an important conference, and corporate America needs to stand up and help organizations that are out to help other people, and you've done so. And I know people here appreciate that.

I appreciate Reverend Ernest Ferrell's blessings. They asked me before the speech whether or not I would object to a prayer. I said, "Absolutely not." All of us need prayer, and I appreciate that.

And I appreciate Reverend Jesse Jackson. Thanks for coming, again.

And it's hard to run for office. Isn't it, Al? [Laughter] Al Sharpton is with us. But I appreciate you putting your hat in the ring. [Laughter] It's not an easy thing. It looks easy.

Democratic Presidential candidate Rev. Al Sharpton. It's not over.

The President. There you go. It's not over. [Laughter] Just don't declare right now. [Laughter] Welcome. Glad you're here.

Thank you all for coming.

The thing I like about the National Urban League is you believe in the future of the African American community. You've got this great faith that the future is going to be better, and I share that. That's what I'm here to talk about. I believe the same thing. I believe this country can and will be a place of opportunity and hope for every single citizen. It's not a given; there's work to be done. But it's a goal, and it's an important goal.

I don't care what party you're in, what city you live in, or what State you're from, the goal has got to be—America has got to be

an hospitable, hopeful place for every single citizen. That's what I believe. That's kind of the heart of what they call compassionate conservatism, that the American experience must be alive and viable for everyone and that Government has a role to help people have the tools so they can help themselves. See, I believe in the human spirit; I believe if people have the opportunity and the ability, they will achieve their God-given talents. That's what I believe. And I think that's a proper role for the Federal Government, to help people.

The last 3½ years, we've worked hard on that. We've worked hard to make opportunity available and prosperity real and justice not a word. And I'm here to tell you, we're making good progress.

Progress for African Americans and all Americans require a healthy, growing economy. It's hard to realize dreams if you're in a recession; it's hard to realize dreams if jobs aren't being created; it's hard to realize dreams if the entrepreneurial spirit is flat, at best, and that's not the case today.

It says a lot about our country that we've recovered from a recession. Remember, the recession was started before September the 11th—as a matter of fact, right as I came to office. The stock market had been declining for 9 months. In other words, the indications weren't all that viable for the economy.

And then we got hit, and the attacks hurt. It hurt our psyche. It hurt our economy. It hurt the ability to find work.

And then we uncovered the fact that some of our citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen. See, we had some CEOs in corporate America that didn't tell the truth to their shareholders and their employees. That also hurt the economy. It took confidence away from a system that requires confidence. We acted. It should be clear now to all Americans that we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America. We expect the high standard, and there will be enforcement of law to enforce that standard.

So the economy went through a lot. But we acted. See, I happen to believe if people have more of their own money in their pocket, they're going to spend, save, or invest, and when they do, that revitalizes economic

growth and entrepreneurship. That's what the tax cuts were all about. That's why we raised the child credit. If you happen to have a 2-year-old son like Marc does, it enables you to be—have more money in your pocket. We reduced the marriage penalty. What kind of Tax Code is it, by the way, that penalizes marriage? We ought to be encouraging marriage in the United States of America.

We reduced the 10-percent bracket; we reduced taxes on everybody. I think that's the fair way to do things. And as a result, the economy is growing. The economy, since last summer, has been growing at the fastest rate in nearly 20 years. That's the truth, and that's positive news. If people are looking for work, you've got to have an economy which is vibrant and growing.

And that's the case. We've added 1.5 million new jobs since August. There's more work to do, of course. Job opportunity isn't in every neighborhood and every corner of the country; I fully recognize that. But the economy today is strong, and it's growing stronger. And we've always got to remember why. I mean, inherent in the—in new job creation is small businesses. That's the most important part of new job creation. See, most new jobs are created by the small-business owners of America. And therefore, policy has got to recognize that. That's why we've got to have fair—a fair legal system that doesn't—these frivolous lawsuits make it awfully difficult for a small-business owner to thrive.

We've got to have affordable health care. We must have trade policy that enables small businesses to sell products overseas, that says we're going to level the playing field. Listen, we can compete with anybody, anyplace, anywhere if the rules are fair, which is precisely what this administration is doing. They need less regulation on small businesses.

But remember about the tax policy in terms of small businesses. Most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate. See, that's reality. Ask your friends and neighbors who are entrepreneurs. They will tell you they're either a sole proprietorship or a Subchapter S corporation, which means they pay tax at the individual income tax rate. And so when you cut the individual income taxes, you're really helping small-business

owners. It's an entrepreneur—we're stimulating growth, and the small-business sector of America today is alive and well. And more minorities are owning their own small businesses, and that's really good for the future of the country.

See, if you own something, you have a vital stake in the future of America. This administration promotes what I call the ownership society. When people tell me statistics, they say more people are owning their own small businesses and a lot of minorities are owning their own small businesses. That's really good news for the future of the country. It also happens to be really good news for the economy. The more small businesses there are, the more likely it is people are going to find work.

And there's more we can do to help people start their own businesses. The SBA has got a vital role—that's the Small Business Administration. Loans to African Americans were up by 75 percent from last year. That's positive. In other words, somebody said, "I need some help." They've come to the Federal Government. They said, "I've got an idea. I want to start my own business. I want to say, 'I'm the owner.'" And the Government says, "We want to help you." It's a legitimate role, to encourage ownership.

And that's what's happening right now in our society. We've rewarded \$6 billion in new markets tax credits. Those are important. They promote economic and community development in low-income areas. And when you do that, the spinoff is more ownership of businesses. When there's a vitality in a neighborhood that has been—that needed help, new businesses spring up. That's all part of a vital tomorrow. Our plan is to help people help themselves, is to create an environment where the entrepreneur can flourish.

Marc, I read your comments, and the National Urban League is a partner in the \$127 million reward we announced in May this year just to do that, to create an environment where people have a chance to realize their dreams by owning their own business.

An interesting project that's going on inside inner cities, which makes life better but also helps the entrepreneurial spirit, is the cleanup of brownfields. Since I've come to

office, we've cleaned up more than 1,000 brownfields. Those are old industrial sites which have been abandoned. They're not only eyesores; they're blights in the communities. They've been cleaned up. They're now viable pieces of property. Businesses are springing up—businesses around—businesses are springing up. An integral part of stimulating economic growth and activity to give people a chance to start and own their own company is wise policy in the inner city, such as brownfields cleanup policy. We've been aggressive with brownfields just like we have with empowerment zones.

What I'm telling you is, the role of Government is to create an environment where people from all walks of life have a chance to realize their dream. And that's precisely what's taking place in America. And the economy is better for it, and more people are finding work. And we must not go backward to the days of high taxes, high spending, more regulation, and more lawsuits if we expect more people to own their own business.

Secondly, we've got work to do to encourage and train a new generation of entrepreneurs. And that's why I'm pleased to announce today that we're joining with the Urban League to expand minority businessownership. It's an interesting project. You can't say to somebody, "You must be an entrepreneur." You can't say that. But you can say, "If you want to start your own business, we'll help you." And I want to thank Marc's leadership on this and the board's leadership in understanding the need to work with the Federal Government to set up what they call one-stop centers where minority enterprise can receive business training. It's one thing to say, "Let's go be an entrepreneur." But if you're not certain how to do it, people need help. You may have a great idea, but you're not sure how to keep the books. It's a practical application of Federal assets to help people understand how to own and run their own business. You can develop contacts there. You get advice on financing. It's practical ways to help people realize their dreams, is what we're talking about here.

The Business Roundtable, I'm pleased to say—those are the CEOs of big corporate America—the Ewing Marion Kauffman

Foundation—he used to be the owner of the Kansas City Royals; he's a fine guy from Missouri—will support the work of the centers. And so, in other words, it's a collaborate effort. The Federal Government, the Urban League, and these other citizens are coming together and saying, "We're going to set up these centers to help people help themselves."

Progress for African Americans and progress for all Americans requires good schools. The system tended to shuffle kids through, and you know what I'm talking about. You know, the "hard-to-educate" were labeled that, and they just moved through; that's what was happening. We can play like it wasn't happening. It was happening. That's what you get when you get low expectations. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

When I first came to the Urban League, I vowed to change that attitude in Washington. It was one of the things I said. I said, "Give me a chance to work the education system." And we have. We passed good law. Listen, the Government has got a funding responsibility. We have. We've increased Federal funding for K through 12 by 49 percent from 2001. I label that significant.

But you know what else has changed? For the first time, the Federal Government is asking the question, "Can our children actually read?" And see, I feel comfortable asking that question, because I believe every child can read. You don't ask that question if you believe certain children cannot read; you say, "Okay, fine, shuffle them through"—the consequences of which, when people get out of high school, they're illiterate, they're lost, they're frustrated. They don't have a chance to realize the great promise of the country. We're changing that attitude in public schools.

We say we're going to have local control of schools. I really don't want the Federal Government trying to run the school systems of America. I think that would be cumbersome, too bureaucratic, stifling. It wouldn't encourage innovation; it wouldn't say to the school boards, "Be imaginative and strong and smart."

We stand with our teachers. But we're going to measure now in America, because

we want to know. Our goal is for every child to be reading at grade level by the third grade, because we believe every child can do that. And now we want us to show—just please show us whether or not it's—whether or not you're achieving the objective. Because every child matters, see. If you don't measure, you do not know. If you don't take time to determine whether or not a child has got the skills necessary to succeed in America, you'll never find out until it's too late.

The philosophy of the No Child Left Behind Act says every child can learn, we expect every child to learn, and we expect you to show us whether or not every child is learning.

And it's paying off. The test scores, the accountability systems are beginning to show that African American fourth graders are catching up. There is an education gap in America, and so long as there is an education gap, we must be relentless in our pursuit for excellence.

By the way, the law says that if—we're going to detect problems early, before they're too late, and correct them; that's why we started measuring early. And there's money in the budgets that say, "If you need extra help, we'll help correct them." It says to parents that if the schools continue to fail, if they won't adjust, if a child is trapped in mediocrity, parents have different choices to make. See, this is all part of making sure we focus on the child, not the process, so no child in America is left behind.

And there's more to do. I'm working with Congress, hopefully over the next 4 years, for intensive reading intervention programs. It's one thing to start early, but there's a—you can imagine there's a group of kids that need to be saved now, before it's too late—eighth and ninth grade intervention programs. I know in Florida there's some great intervention programs. Willard, you'll probably take credit for them, but they—[laughter]—they're beginning to work well. They're good. It says we're not going to quit on any child. We're going to be involved.

We need to make sure a high school diploma means something. When a kid comes out of high school, an employer or community college—the college says that means

something when they hold up a high school diploma.

And so we've got to make sure we continue to work not only in the early grades but in the later grades in public education so that people can say, "I've got something that means something." It's a certification for the ability to read, write, add, and subtract, to understand the sciences and maths as well. That's possible, see. You've got to think it's possible in the first place; otherwise, you wouldn't insist upon it.

Plus, I want to make sure the community college system is vibrant. I put money aside and will continue to do so for the community colleges. They're available, affordable. They're accessible. They're good things. They can change their curriculum to meet the needs of a local community. They actually train people for jobs which exist. They're good opportunities for kids coming out of high school. Look, education is the future of the country. And that's why, under my administration, we've increased the number of men and women who will be receiving Pell grants to nearly one million, and why, under my budget, funding for historically black colleges is at an alltime high. It's what I said I would do when I was running for President, see. I told people I'd do that, and I've done it. And the country is better off for it, because education is the cornerstone of a hopeful tomorrow.

I was proud to support Mayor Tony Williams. He's my Mayor right now. I've got one mayor in Crawford and one mayor in Washington. [Laughter] Tony is the Mayor of Washington. He's a very good Mayor, by the way. He's a good man. Maybe you know him. But he and I—I work with Tony. And I signed a bill into law creating taxpayer-sponsored scholarships for students in Washington, DC. And let me tell you why. I believe this: If school choice is good for the wealthy, it's good enough for disadvantaged children in America. This is a good piece of legislation. It's a good piece of legislation which is going to help improve education for all children in the Nation's Capital.

Progress for African Americans and all Americans depends on more citizens living the dream of owning their own home.

There's nothing better than somebody saying, "Welcome to my house. I'm putting out the welcome mat in my piece of property." And this has been a focus of this administration, because we want people owning their own home. It's a vital part of the American experience, isn't it.

So we're providing downpayment assistance, good counseling. Listen, people walk in, first-time home buyers, and they take a look at the contracts and the print's about that big, and they say forget it, you know? They get driven away by the complexity of the situation. Sometimes they get skinned by loan sharks, you know? And we're doing everything we can to make sure the loan application process is understandable and fair and open. We're proposing tax credits to encourage the building of more affordable housing, particularly in inner-city America. In other words, we want there to be a greater supply of homes.

Let me tell you something hopeful about the country. For the first time in our history, a majority of families and minority groups own their own homes. We're making progress. People are saying, "This is my home." And we must continue the progress we're making.

Progress for African Americans and all Americans depends on safe streets. Safe streets are important for any community, particularly important for communities in which parents feel like they've got to keep their kids locked in.

And so we're making progress there. We've increased Federal prosecutors. And I want to tell you something: Federal gun law prosecutions are up by 68 percent in the last 3 years. See, it's one thing to, you know, say we're going to pass laws. The thing is, you've got to enforce the law. If you're going to want safe streets, you've got to do a good job of enforcing the laws on the books, which is precisely what we're doing. And as a result, violent crime in America is down by 21 percent during my administration. That's positive for people. Property crime is down 13 percent.

But there's more than just fighting crime. We need to help the 600,000 men and women who are being released from prison each year. I went to the Congress in my State of the Union; I talked about a prison reentry

program. I said, "Put some money up to help these souls come out. Let's make sure we're the country of the second chance. Let's make sure people have got a chance to get an education and a job. Let's make sure there's—if need be, let's make sure there's church families available to welcome a person back in community." And so this prison reentry program is a vital part of making sure America is a safe country.

Progress for this country, for African Americans and all Americans, depends on the full protection of civil rights and equality before the law. My administration and its Justice Department has vigorously enforced the civil rights laws. The Civil Rights Division has opened a Federal investigation into the murder of Emmett Till. I'm the first President of the United States to ban racial profiling in Federal law enforcement. And to serve the cause of justice on the bench, the Federal bench, I have nominated outstanding men and women to the courts, including 6 superbly qualified African Americans for the courts of appeal and 11 for district courts.

Progress for African Americans and for all Americans depends on driving the drugs out of our neighborhoods. We put forth a comprehensive approach. We're doing everything we can to interdict drugs so they don't make it into the country in the first place. We have encouraged faith-based programs to help change hearts so people change habits. We've got money directed at the people who need the most help, which are the addicts of America—an intensive, focused, real effort to save lives.

But we're also working to reduce demand in the country. It's a community effort. We're bringing together all aspects of the community organizations to say to our youngsters, "Don't use those drugs." And we're making progress. From 2001 to 2003, youth drug use has declined by 11 percent. We're headed in the right direction. We're saying to our kids, "Be responsible with your bodies, be responsible with your behavior, and you have a chance to understand the great promise of America." It's a vital effort. This isn't a Republican cause or a Democrat cause. This is a community cause; this is an American cause; and it's important to work together.

Progress for all our citizens, including African Americans, depends on the spirit of compassion for others. Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's lives. And we'll have the traditional programs of help, the safety nets. They're there. And that's an important part of Federal funding. But I strongly believe the Federal Government must welcome programs of faith into the compassionate delivery of help and service to those who hurt.

My community- and faith-based initiative recognizes the true strength of this country is in the hearts and souls of our citizens; that we recognize that oftentimes there's—a change of heart will change behavior, and governments can't change hearts. That changes when somebody who has heard a universal call to love a neighbor puts their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you brother. I love you sister. What can I do to help you on your walk so your life is improved?" This community- and faith-based initiative is a vital part of this administration's program to help save lives. We've opened up Federal grants to the faith community for the first time. I shouldn't say "for the first time"—most vigorously, let me put it to you that way.

And so now we've had over a billion dollars go out the door to faith-based programs, programs all aimed at serving America by saving lives. And it makes sense. It just makes sense. It makes sense to tap into the great strength and spirit of the country.

The Associated Black Charities of Baltimore—ask them what it's like to be a partner with the Federal Government; or the Black Ministerial Alliance in Boston or the Metro Denver Black Church Initiative. These are all initiatives, all aimed at saying to somebody, "The future is better for you. Somebody loves you. We care, and we're going to help you. We're going to help mentor you. We'll save you from drugs and alcohol. We'll do everything in our power to save America one soul at a time."

We've done a lot in 3½ years. I ask you to look at the record of accomplishment. And I didn't do this alone. I've got a good administration, really good people. It's a diverse Cabinet. It's a Cabinet full of strong people.

It's a Cabinet who are serving our country first, people like Rod Paige. You've heard my talk about education. I hope you have a sense of my passion to make sure we get it right. I understand the importance of schools in America. I picked a good man to serve as the head of the Education Department, Rod Paige. He was—[*applause*].

You heard me talk about owning your own home; it's a vital part of this future of this country. Alphonso Jackson is the head of the Housing and Urban Development. Kay James runs the Office of Personnel Management. You know, the Government owns a lot of property. Steve Perry is the head of the GSA.

We've got a diverse cabinet, diverse administration, people who serve our Nation with dignity. You know, when it comes time to money, Alan Greenspan is a smart guy; so is the Vice Chairman, Roger Ferguson, of the Federal Reserve. Chairman of the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Powell—in other words, what I'm telling you is I feel I have an obligation to reach out to people from all walks of life. I have met that obligation, and the Government is better for it.

And when it comes to national security, thankfully I've had a good team. We've had some big challenges in this country. And I've got a strong foreign policy, because the architects of that policy are people like Condi Rice and Colin Powell. These are good people. I've seen them under incredible pressure. I know their steadiness and their clear vision.

See, our most solemn duty is to protect the American people. That's our most solemn duty. It's a duty brought upon us not at our asking, because we were attacked unmercifully by people who hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that we can have free dialog just like this. They hate the fact that there's open discourse. They hate the fact that we're a free society where people can worship any way they see fit. They hate the idea that we welcome people who worship God and we welcome people who don't worship God. They can't stand the thought that we're a society that says if you choose to worship, you're equally American if you're a Christian, Jew, or Muslim.

And so they attacked us. And we have a duty, all of us have a duty, to respond. This is an American effort to protect ourselves. And Colin Powell and Condi Rice have provided valuable, valuable advice and counsel during these tough times.

And we're making progress. Listen, we're trying to do everything we can to protect our homeland. There's people from all walks of life working hard to protect the American people. There's no such thing as perfect security. I tell people we've got to be right 100 percent of the time; those who want to cause us harm have to be right once. But there's a lot of people working. It doesn't matter what your party is, they're working hard to protect the American people. And we've got a lot of people overseas working to protect us too, by bringing justice to the enemies before they strike again.

Our foreign policy is tough, and it's compassionate. It's tough, and we have to be tough. It's compassionate. We liberated over 50 million people who were brutalized by tyrants. We're proud to lead the armies of liberation. We're standing true to this great American ideal that freedom is the Almighty God's gift to each man and woman in this world.

We've begun the largest initiative ever to combat global AIDS. America is in the lead on dealing with the pandemic that ravages the continent of Africa. We're taking the lead because we're a compassionate nation. We feed more of the hungry than any nation on the face of the Earth. We're a compassionate nation.

We're also a wise nation when it comes to smart policy. I signed the African Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004. It recognizes that the best way to help lift people out of poverty is to trade; it's through the free flow of commerce. And it's working on the—this policy is working on the continent of Africa.

Problems come to our desk because of our influence in the world. We've dealt with Liberia. We're now dealing with the Sudan. The United States is working closely with the United Nations. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of State was recently with Kofi Annan, talking about this very subject. We're working closely with the African Union to bring

relief to the suffering people in that region. We've made our position very clear to the Sudanese Government: They must stop the Janjaweed violence. They must provide access for humanitarian relief to the people who suffer.

Ours is a solid record of accomplishment. And that's why I've come to talk about compassionate conservatism and what I envision for the future. I'm here for another reason. I'm here to ask for your vote.

No, I know. I know—I know. The Republican party has got a lot of work to do. I understand that. *[Laughter]* You didn't need to nod your head that hard, Jesse. *[Laughter]*

Do you remember a guy named Charlie Gaines? Somebody gave me a quote he said, which I think kind of describes, maybe, the environment we're in today. I think he's a friend of Jesse's. He said, "Blacks are gagging on the donkey but not yet ready to swallow the elephant." *[Laughter]*

Now that was said a while ago. *[Laughter]* I believe you've got to earn the vote and seek it. I think you've got to go to people and say, "This is my heart. This is what I believe, and I'd like your help." And as I do, I'm going to ask African American voters to consider some questions.

Does the Democrat Party take African American voters for granted? It's a fair question. I know plenty of politicians assume they have your vote. But do they earn it, and do they deserve it? Is it a good thing for the African American community to be represented mainly by one political party? That's a legitimate question. How is it possible to gain political leverage if the party is never forced to compete? Have the traditional solutions of the Democrat Party truly served the African American community?

That's what I hope people ask when they go to the community centers and places, as we all should do our duty and vote. People need to be asking these very serious questions.

Does blocking the Faith-Based Initiative help neighborhoods where the only social service provider could be a church? Does the status quo in education really, really help the children of this country? Does class warfare—has class warfare or higher taxes ever created decent jobs in the inner city? Are

you satisfied with the same answers on crime, excuses for drugs, and blindness to the problem of the family?

Those are legitimate questions that I hope people ask as this election approaches. I'd like to hear those questions debated on talk radio. I'd like it debated in community centers, in the coffee shops. It's worthy of this country for this debate to go forward and these questions to be asked and answered.

I'm here to say that there is an alternative this year. There is an alternative that has had a record that is easy to see. If you dream of starting a small business and building a nest egg and passing something of value to your children, take a look at my agenda. If you believe schools should meet high standards instead of making excuses, take a look at my agenda. If you believe the institutions of marriage and family are worth defending and need defending today, take a look at my agenda.

If you believe in building a culture of life in America, take a look at my agenda. If you believe in a tireless fight against crime and drugs, take a look at this agenda. If you believe that our men and women in uniform should be respected and supported 100 percent of the time, take a look at my agenda.

If you're struggling to get into the middle class and you feel like you're paying plenty of taxes, take a look at my agenda. If you're a small-business owner who is trying to expand your job base and are worried about excessive lawsuits, increasing taxes, and over-regulation, take a look at this agenda.

And finally, if you believe in the power of faith and compassion to defeat violence and despair and hopelessness, I hope you take a look at where I stand.

You see, I believe in my heart that the Republican Party, the party of Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, is not complete without the perspective and support and contribution of African Americans.

And I believe in my heart that the policies and actions of this administration, policies that empower individuals and help communities, that lift up free enterprise and respect and honor the family, those policies are good for the Nation as a whole. That's what I believe. And I'm here to thank you for giving

me a chance to come and express those beliefs.

I'm proud to be with an organization that does so good—so much good for the American people. I'm honored that your chairman would extend an invitation to me. Thanks for coming. And may God bless you, and may God continue to bless the country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marc H. Morial, president and chief executive officer, National Urban League; Michael J. Critelli, chairman, and Charles M. Collins, senior vice chairman, National Urban League Board of Trustees; Mayor Kwame M. Kilpatrick of Detroit, MI; Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., founder and president, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition; and Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

Executive Order 13349—Amending Executive Order 13226 To Designate the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology To Serve as the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel

July 23, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (Public Law 108–153), and in order to designate the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel pursuant to section 4(a) of that Act, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Executive Order 13226 of September 30, 2001, as amended, is further amended by adding a new section 2(c), to read as follows:

“(c) PCAST shall serve as the National Nanotechnology Advisory Panel under section 4 of the 21st Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act (Public Law 108–153) (Act). Nothing in this Order shall be construed to require the National Nanotechnology

Advisory Panel to comply with any requirement from which it is exempted by section 4(f) of the Act.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 23, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
8:45 a.m., July 26, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 27.

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 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

July 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Iraqi women and wounded U.S. military personnel. Later, on the South Lawn, the President participated in a photo opportunity with Buddy Rice, winner of the 2004 Indianapolis 500, and his championship team.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania to the White House on July 21.

July 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had breakfast with economic advisers. Later, he had separate meetings with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA. In the afternoon,

upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dean H. Gesme, Sr.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to St. Charles, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Daffney Moore.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Lloyd O. Pierson to be Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (Bureau of Africa).

The President announced his intention to nominate Lloyd O. Pierson to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

The President announced his intention to designate C.W. Bill Young as the President's Personal Representative at the Farnborough International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition and Air Show July 19–25 in Farnborough, England.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 28 and continuing.

July 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with Apollo 11 astronauts Michael Collins, Neil Armstrong, and Buzz Aldrin to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing.

In the afternoon, on the steps of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President participated in a photo opportunity with White House summer interns.

July 22

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ayad al-Alawi of the Iraqi Interim Government to discuss counterterrorism efforts in Iraq and Iraqi national elections to be held in January 2005. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Chairman Thomas H. Kean and Vice Chairman Lee H. Hamilton

of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) to discuss recommendations in the Commission's report, which was released that day. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a signing ceremony for the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a signing ceremony for Executive Order 13347—Individuals With Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Glenview, IL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Nicolette Meier. He then toured the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. Later, he traveled to Winnetka, IL, where he attended a Victory 2004 dinner at a private residence.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Karen Alderman Harbert to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and Domestic Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gregory Franklin Jenner to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy.

The President announced his intention to designate Sharon Brown-Hruska as Acting Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sharon Brown-Hruska to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hector E. Morales to be U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anna Escobedo Cabral to be Treasurer of the United States.

The President announced his intention to designate John S. Shaw as Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety, and Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate John S. Shaw to be Assistant Sec-

retary of Energy for Environment, Safety, and Health.

The President announced his intention to nominate James S. Simpson to be a member of the Advisory Board of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jane Dee Hull to be a U.S. Representative to the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Yousif B. Ghafari to be a U.S. Alternate Representative to the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to the Federated States of Micronesia impacted by Typhoon Sudal on April 8–14, by authorizing an increase in the level of Federal funding for public restoration work in the State of Yap.

July 23

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Detroit, MI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Eric Rasmussen.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX, where he participated in a Victory 2004 event at a private residence and then went to the Bush Ranch.

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 19

Michael D. Gallagher,
of Washington, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, vice Nancy Victory, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Floyd Hall, of New Jersey, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Amy M. Rosen, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Theodore William Kassinger, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, vice Samuel W. Bodman, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Daniel R. Levinson, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Janet Rehnquist, resigned.

Jack Edwin McGregor, of Connecticut, to be a member of the Advisory Board of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, vice Vincent J. Sorrentino, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

B. Lynn Pascoe, of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Indonesia.

Brig. Gen. Don T. Riley, USA, to be a member and President of the Mississippi River Commission.

Withdrawn July 19

Albert Casey, of Texas, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2009, vice Tirso del Junco, term expired, which was sent to the Senate on January 21, 2004.

Submitted July 21

Lloyd O. Pierson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Constance Berry Newman.

Lloyd O. Pierson, an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, to be a

member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2009, vice John F. Hicks, Sr., term expired.

Submitted July 22

Christopher A. Boyko, of Ohio, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio, vice Paul R. Matia, retiring.

Sharon Brown-Hruska, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the term expiring April 13, 2009 (reappointment).

Anna Escobedo Cabral, of Virginia, to be Treasurer of the United States, vice Rosario Marin.

Yousif B. Ghafari, of Michigan, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Alan Greenspan, of New York, to be U.S. Alternate Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 5 years (reappointment).

Karen Alderman Harbert, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (International Affairs and Domestic Policy), vice Vickey A. Bailey.

Jane Dee Hull, of Arizona, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the 59th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Gregory Franklin Jenner, of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, vice Pamela F. Olson, resigned.

Hector E. Morales, of Texas, to be U.S. Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 3 years, vice Jose A. Fourquet, resigned.

Richard B. Roper III,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Jane J. Boyle, resigned.

John S. Shaw,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environment, Safety, and Health), vice Beverly Cook, resigned.

James S. Simpson,
of New York, to be a member of the Advisory Board of the St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, vice Jay C. Ehle.

Lisa Godbey Wood,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Richard S. Thompson, resigned.

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 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Adrian Nastase of Romania

Released July 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

Released July 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 15

Fact sheet: Progress in the War on Terror

Released July 22

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Cindy L. Courville as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 218

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3846, S. 103, and S. 1167

Statement by the Press Secretary on additional disaster assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia

Released July 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Fact sheet: Encouraging Minority Entrepreneurship

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 21

S. 15 / Public Law 108–276
Project BioShield Act of 2004

Approved July 22

H.R. 218 / Public Law 108–277
Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004

H.R. 3846 / Public Law 108–278
Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004

S. 1167 / Public Law 108–279
To resolve boundary conflicts in Barry and Stone Counties in the State of Missouri

S. 103 / Private Law 108–1
For the relief of Lindita Idrizi Heath