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The details of these proposals are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 8, 2004

Intelligence Reform

I want to thank the Members who are here. Thank—thank you all for coming today. We are going to discuss intelligence reform. I will be submitting a plan to the Congress that strengthens intelligence reform—strengthens the intelligence services. We believe that there ought to be a National Intelligence Director who has full budgetary authority. We'll talk to Members of Congress about how to implement that. I look forward to working with the Members to get a bill to my desk as quickly as possible.

It's important we get our intelligence gathering correct. After all, we're still at war. We've got to find the enemy before they hurt us. We've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. We're still on the offense here in this country. We're chasing down these killers overseas so we don't have to face them here at home. We're making good progress.

Ultimately, we will prevail because liberty changes countries, and liberty changes the habits of people. Liberty promotes peace. And that's why we appreciate the sacrifice of the men and women who wear the uniform. They're serving a great cause. We mourn every loss of life. We'll honor their memories by completing the mission.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Visit to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida

September 8, 2004

The President. Good afternoon. I want to thank Max Mayfield for this really interesting tour of this important facility. And I want to thank you, Max, for your service to our country.

Director Max Mayfield. My pleasure.

The President. You did a fabulous job. You did a fabulous job. It's good to be here with my brother, Jeb, as well.

A short time ago, I visited the relief efforts at Port St. Lucie, and I've just toured the National Hurricane Center. The people I met today are committed, and they are compassionate. They're doing a fantastic job, and I appreciate their dedicated service to our country.

Once again, Florida has faced the devastation of a hurricane. And once again the people of Florida are showing their character and their strength and their deep concern for their neighbors.

The damage from high winds and flooding reaches the Atlantic Coast to the Panhandle. Some have lost their lives. Many have had their homes damaged. Some have lost their homes. Families have lost power. Small businesses have suffered. Citrus growers have lost much of their crop. And all those here in Florida are in the thoughts and prayers of the American people. People all across this country know that—know what you've been through and care deeply about you.

I want the people of Florida and other affected areas to know that the Federal Government is doing everything we can to help you. This morning, I signed legislation providing $2 billion in additional funding for cleanup and FEMA relief operations and emergency food, shelter, and medical care. I want to thank the Members of Congress for their bipartisan support of this bill. I've also directed the Department of Agriculture to help compensate citrus growers for lost crops and trees, to help fund the clearing of debris, and with other agencies to help migrant farm workers find shelter. As the damage is assessed, I will ask Congress for