

And so I've come to the great State of Michigan to help—I asked these citizens to help highlight a problem. And we have a duty to solve problems, and this is a problem. And I hope you let your Senators know and your Congresspeople know that we've got a problem and that you as citizens expect people of good will to come together, to forget vested interests, to focus on a solution for the good of the people of this country.

I want to thank you all for coming to give us a chance to discuss this vital issue. I told Mary Lou—I told you too—that I intend to make this an issue. Starting today, we've made it an issue for the year 2005, and I look forward to working with the Congress to get something done.

God bless you all, and thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts at Macomb Community College. In his remarks, he referred to Albert Lorenzo, president, Macomb Community College.

---

## 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.

---

### **December 31**

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### **January 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### **January 2**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

### **January 3**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government to discuss the upcoming elections and the security situation in Iraq.

During the day, the President and Mrs. Bush, along with former Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, went to the Embassies of India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, where they signed books of condolence for victims of the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey Robert Brown to be a member of the Social Security Advisory Board.

The President announced his intention to designate Robert D. Jamison as Acting Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

### **January 4**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker of Luxembourg, in his capacity as President of the European Union, to congratulate him on his reelection and to discuss their upcoming meeting to be held February 22 in Brussels, Belgium. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida to discuss relief efforts following the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson. He also met with Secretary of Education Roderick R. Paige.

### **January 5**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss the upcoming meeting of Iraq's neighboring countries to be held January 6 in Jordan. He then had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to discuss the situation in Iraq and the upcoming Arab League ministers meeting to be held January 12 in Cairo.

Later in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Ghazi al-Ujayl al-Yawr of the Iraqi Interim

Government to discuss the upcoming elections in Iraq. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Collinsville, IL, arriving in the afternoon. Upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Connie Bergmann.

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

The President announced his intention to name Claude A. Allen as Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Daniel Bartlett as Counselor to the President.

The President announced that he has named Nicolle Devenish as Assistant to the President for Communications.

### **January 6**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Mikheil Saakashvili of Georgia to discuss the situation in Ukraine and other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with individuals to discuss class-action lawsuit reform.

Later in the afternoon, on the South Lawn, the President and Mrs. Bush publicly welcomed their new pet, Miss Beazley, to the White House.

During the day, the President met with Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida to discuss relief efforts following the December 26, 2004, earthquake and tsunamis in the Indian Ocean.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush and family members attended the 60th wedding anniversary dinner of former President George Bush and former First Lady Barbara Bush.

The White House announced that the President will host President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland at the White House for a meeting and lunch on February 9.

### **January 7**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office,

he met with Chairman Connie Mack and Vice Chairman John B. Breaux of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform and Secretary of the Treasury John W. Snow.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Clinton Township, MI, arriving in the afternoon. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John C. Danforth to discuss the situation in Sudan. Upon arrival in Clinton Township, the President met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Don Kotchman.

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

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform: Connie Mack III (Chairman); John B. Breaux (Vice Chairman); William Eldridge Frenzel; Elizabeth Garrett; Edward P. Lazear; Timothy J. Muris; James Michael Poterba; Charles O. Rossotti; and Liz Ann Sonders.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert B. Zoellick to be Deputy Secretary of State.

---

## **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 January 4**

Samuel W. Bodman,  
of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of Energy,  
vice Spencer Abraham, resigned.

Alberto R. Gonzales,  
of Texas, to be Attorney General, vice John  
Ashcroft, resigned.

Carlos M. Gutierrez,  
of Michigan, to be Secretary of Commerce,  
vice Donald Louis Evans, resigned.