

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on September 30, 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

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Week Ending Friday, September 30, 2005

**Remarks During a Briefing on
Hurricane Rita in Colorado Springs,
Colorado**
September 24, 2005

Admiral, thank you very much for a series of briefings that really do comfort me in knowing that our Federal Government is well-organized and well-prepared to deal with Rita. I've come here to watch NORTHCOM in action, to see first hand the capacity of our military to plan, organize, and move equipment to help the people in the affected areas, in this case, of Louisiana and Texas.

We've had full briefings on the storm, it's activities. The first order of business now is to surge search-and-rescue teams, to pull people out of harm's way. Just had an assessment by General Honore, of Lake Charles, Louisiana. It got hit hard. We've got teams on the ground, beginning to analyze the situation and prepare the necessary response to stabilize the situation and, more importantly, save lives there as well.

It's very important for the citizens who have headed into east Texas to understand that even though the storm has passed the coastline, the situation is still dangerous because of potential flooding. A lot of people have left the coastline and headed into east Texas and parts of western Louisiana. It is important for them to listen carefully to the local authorities about whether or not it is safe to return back to their home. It's going to take a while for the authorities on the ground to fully understand the impact of the flooding. And therefore, people who are safe now ought to remain in safe conditions.

At any rate, Admiral, thank you very much for your hospitality. I appreciate your leadership. I want to thank all the folks who work here in NORTHCOM for doing their duty, which is to organize and rally the assets of the of the Federal Government, to help our fellow citizens who are in need.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:50 a.m. at Peterson Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN, commander, U.S. Northern Command; and Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore, USA, commanding general, First United States Army.

The President's Radio Address
September 24, 2005

Good morning. This weekend I will visit U.S. Northern Command in Colorado where we're monitoring Hurricane Rita. As the hurricane continues along its destructive path, the American people can know, courageous and dedicated men and women are responding to our citizens in need. We are marshaling resources of the Federal Government to save lives and property, and bring comfort to those who have evacuated because of this storm.

Over the past week, Federal, State, and local governments have been closely coordinating their efforts for Hurricane Rita. The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA prepositioned food, water, ice, and emergency response team, and helped with the evacuations in Texas and Louisiana. Military assets were also prepositioned so they could be deployed immediately after the storm passes.

At this moment, the following Navy ships are in the region: the *Iwo Jima*, the *Shreveport*, the *Tortuga*, the *Grapple*, the *Patuxent*, and the *Comfort*. The Texas National Guard has activated its Guardsmen, nearly 3,500 so far, with more on call if they are needed. Coast Guard cutters, aircraft, and helicopters are in place, ready to rescue, evacuate, and relocate civilians trapped by the storm. And additional Coast Guard air crews and aircraft are now arriving from around the country.

We've also organized and identified civilian volunteers, including more than 200 doctors and more than 400 registered nurses. The American Red Cross is prepared to deliver hundreds of thousands of meals a day. Our Government is taking every step possible to protect life and bring comfort to those affected.

As we respond to Hurricane Rita, we're continuing our efforts to help the citizens of the gulf coast recover from Hurricane Katrina, a storm that has caused unprecedented destruction across an entire region. The recovery of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi is a commitment of the American people, and in this effort, all Americans have a role to play. In the recovery effort, the Federal Government has a vital role, and we'll do our duty. We'll help rebuild roads, bridges, schools, water systems, and other infrastructure in the disaster zone. We will cut through redtape in Washington so we can speed the work of rebuilding and get the gulf coast region back on its feet.

In the recovery effort, State and local leaders will play a vital role in laying out their plans and vision for the future of their communities. Earlier this week, I met with community leaders and local officials in the region to hear their ideas on rebuilding and recovery. I told them that the vision of a revitalized New Orleans should come from the people of New Orleans, and the vision of a new gulf coast of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama should come from the people of those States. We will do everything we can to guide the recovery effort and help them realize their vision so that communities along the gulf coast are better and stronger than before the storm.

In the recovery effort, the private sector will play a vital role. To rebuild lives and communities, we need to encourage small-business growth in that region, with immediate tax relief and other incentives for job-creating investment. Private enterprise is the engine for creating new jobs in America, and it will be the engine that drives the recovery of the gulf coast.

In the recovery effort, the American people will play a vital role. This week, Laura visited Texas to thank leaders of faith-based groups who've rallied to help their Louisiana

neighbors in desperate need. Charities and houses of worship and idealistic men and women across America have opened up their homes, their wallets, and their hearts to the victims of Katrina. And with the arrival of another violent storm, our neighbors in the gulf coast will need continued help. Our fellow citizens in the affected areas can know they can count on the good hearts of the American people.

The past 3 weeks have tested our Nation and revealed the strength and resilience of our people. Americans have the determination and the will to overcome any challenge from man or nature. The courageous spirit of America will carry us through any storm, and the compassionate soul of our Nation will help us rebuild.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 12:50 p.m. on September 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on September 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the Texas Emergency Operations Center in Austin, Texas *September 24, 2005*

Listen, I want to stop by to thank you all for the hard work you're doing. I appreciate Senator Hutchison and Cornyn, Congressman DeLay, Governor Perry.

First of all, the people of the State are counting on you. And I know you're working hard, and I appreciate the response. Nobody asks for these things, but when they come, we have a duty. I'm really here to let the folks in Texas know that the Federal Government knows we have a responsibility to support you in the mission of saving lives, first and foremost, and then help and rebuild their lives.

There's some issues that we've been briefed on that I think it's important for our fellow citizens to understand, in Texas, that for those who feel like they need to get back to a city like Houston, it's important to delay

your trip so that essential personnel are able to get to the affected areas. We've got—we're moving assets—military assets, for example—trying to help people who need help, and if the highways are clogged, it's going to make it hard to get those assets into the affected areas.

Houston hospitals, for example, are in need of nurses. Nurses who are now trying to get back in are having problems getting on the highways. And so I would ask for those of you in the State to—who are in safe places now, not to hurry back to a city like Houston and let these highways flow the necessary goods and services to the people in deep east Texas who have been affected.

I know for a lot of folks in this State, it's miserable times. I hope you can take some comfort knowing there's a lot of people—like the people in this room—who are working overtime to save you and to help you, and that I think you'll be amazed by the extraordinary compassion of the people of Texas as they rise up to help their fellow citizens in need.

At any rates, it's good to see you all. Thank you for your hard work. May God bless those who have been affected, and may God bless those who are helping those who have been affected, and may God bless the country. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas.

Remarks on Arrival in San Antonio, Texas

September 24, 2005

The President. Mr. Mayor, thanks—[*inaudible*]*—*and the Judge. It's good to see you all, thanks. It's good to be back in San Antonio.

The country and the world has seen the great compassion of the Texas people after Hurricane Katrina. Over 300,000 people moved east to west, and they found home here in Texas. And the city of San Antonio, Mr. Mayor, and Judge, was—really rose up with great compassion. And I cannot thank you enough and the people of this city enough, for providing safe haven for people whose lives were turned upside down by this

horrific storm. And it made me so proud to be from the State of Texas, to see the Texans rise to the occasion.

Again, I want to thank you, Mayor, and thank all the—

Mayor Hardberger. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. —houses of worship and community groups and individuals who love their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We're now dealing with another storm, and the State of Texas is prepared for and is now responding to the storm that's affecting east Texas. I briefed today up in Colorado about the Federal Government's response to the storm and then went to Austin to be briefed by the State officials, to make sure that we're working in concert with the State. And then tomorrow morning General Clark is going to come over and brief me once again about how the Federal Government is helping the State of Texas and Louisiana recover.

But at any rate, it's good to be back here. I'm proud of my fellow Texans, and I'm proud of the people of the San Antonio.

Mayor Hardberger. Well, we're mighty glad to have you here, Mr. President. Thank you for being with us.

The President. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:26 p.m. at Randolph Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Phil Hardberger of San Antonio, TX; Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff; and Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, USA, commander, Joint Task Force—Rita.

Remarks During a Briefing on Hurricane Rita in San Antonio

September 25, 2005

The President. Yes, having said that about Katrina, there were still some amazingly heroic efforts in pulling people off roofs. I don't know how many sorties were flown in Katrina, but there must have been thousands of sorties.

Maj. Gen. White. Well, as I left last Wednesday, it was close to 18,000 sorties

flown. Now, sir, that includes every agency, and it's a lot of the airlift in there too.

The President. Your point is, on a Katrina, had there been a better coordinated effort between Guard choppers—Coast Guard choppers, regular Army choppers, it would have been less dangerous?

Maj. Gen. White. It would have been a better orchestrated plan. You wouldn't have seen a lot of—for instance, one of the things that we've learned out of that—we had someone that needed to be rescued, and that comes up on the net. Five helicopters show up at the same place to get one person. That's the sort of simplistic thing we'd like to avoid, and we're not maximizing the use of our forces to best efficiency.

Certainly, that was a train wreck that we saw in New Orleans, and I know everybody is jumping in, trying to help at one time, and that's the right thing to do. But if we can have a national plan that would address the search and rescue at this magnitude, is what we're out to try to do.

Maj. Gen. Mayes. Sir, if I might add, I would say that it wouldn't necessarily make it less dangerous. I would tell you the professionalism and the plan came together. I believe that all participants would agree that with the fog that we had and the weather that we were battling, nighttime, all the things that went into that environment, that I'm not sure we can make it less dangerous. There may be a factor there, but the main point would be, with a national plan, we'll have a quicker jump-start and an opportunity to save more people. That would be my input there.

Lt. Gen. Clark. A national plan, good training against the plan, gets you to this state faster in extremis. And that's the goal.

The President. Part of the reason I've come down here and part of the reason I went to NORTHCOM, was to better understand how the Federal Government can plan and surge equipment, to mitigate natural disasters. And I appreciate very much, General, your briefing, because it's precisely the kind of information that I'll take back to Washington to help all of us understand how we can do a better job in coordinating Federal, State, and local response.

The other question, of course, I asked was, is there a circumstance in which the Department of Defense becomes the lead agency? Clearly, in the case of a terrorist attack, that would be the case, but is there a natural disaster which—of a certain size that would then enable the Defense Department to become the lead agency in coordinating and leading the response effort. That's going to be a very important consideration for Congress to think about.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:30 a.m. in the headquarters of the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base. Participating in the briefing were Maj. Gen. John White, USAF, member, Maj. Gen. M. Scott Mayes, USAF, member, and Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, USA, commander, Joint Task Force—Rita. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at the Federal Emergency Management Agency Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

September 25, 2005

The President. Thank you all. The Governor and I just got briefed by Admiral Allen on the progress here in Louisiana. There's still assessment on the damage of Hurricane Rita. One of the things that is important for the citizens of this State to do is to listen to the Governor about when it is okay to return back to your homes. I know a lot of people want to get back home. It's important that there be an orderly process. It's important there be an assessment done of infrastructure. And it's important for the people of the affected areas of Louisiana to listen carefully to the Governor and local authorities about the proper timing of return home.

We also got briefed on the levees in New Orleans. There is flooding, obviously, in the 9th ward. The Corps of Engineers gave us a briefing about the building—repairing levees and then, once again, pumping the water out of that part of New Orleans. It's—I would say it's an optimistic appraisal, in the sense that work has started now, and they can start to—draining that part of the city again.

But I'm here to really thank the people in the Operations Center for their hard work and their dedication to helping the people of Louisiana recover from a second major storm in a very quick period of time.

Governor, thank you for your hospitality, again. I know you've been through a lot, and I know the people of this State have been through a lot. We ask for God's blessings on them and their families.

Thank you.

Governor Blanco. Well, we want to welcome you back. I'm sorry that we brought you back under another stressful event. But we do appreciate your support. And I do want to tell you how much we appreciated watching all of the integrated forces at work as one. And as we talked, I know that it was possible to do it quickly, and to move in as one, with Federal, State, and local folks working all together.

We talked about what happens next here and how quickly we could marshal the right kind of forces again. And I think that, together, we're going to work out some very important plans that citizens of the United States can feel will work very effectively and efficiently.

Thank you.

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana; and Vice Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, U.S. Coast Guard Chief of Staff.

Remarks at the Department of Energy and an Exchange With Reporters

September 26, 2005

Energy Supply

The President. I want to thank Secretary Bodman for welcoming us here at the Energy Department; Secretary Norton. We've just had a full briefing on what we know thus far about the effects of Hurricane Rita on the energy situation in the Gulf of Mexico.

A lot of our production comes from the gulf, and when you have a Hurricane Katrina followed by a Hurricane Rita, it's natural, unfortunately, that it's going to affect supply. There's about 1.56 million barrels of oil that

is shut in. And before Rita, just to put that in perspective, that was approximately 880,000 barrels a day that was shut in due to Katrina, so that when you really look on a map you have, if you follow the path of Katrina and the path of Rita, it pretty much covers a lot of the production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Right now the producing companies are assessing damage to the platforms and rigs. It's important for our people to know that we understand the situation and that we're willing to use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to mitigate any shortfalls in crude oil that could affect our consumers. And I've instructed the Secretary of Energy to be mindful once again about the effects of the SPRO and how it can help settle price. He did a fine job after Katrina, and we're paying close attention to the markets as we speak.

Secondly, gasoline prices, obviously, are on our mind, and so we've watched very carefully the assessments done on the refining—the refineries there on the gulf coast. There are a lot of—a lot of gasoline refineries in the Houston area, in the Beaumont area, in the Port Arthur area, as well as Lake Charles, and the Louisiana area. There was about 5.4 million barrels per day that were shut in as a result of Rita and Katrina. A million of it is back up already, and we expect another 1.8 million barrels a day to get back on line relatively quickly because the storm missed a lot of refining capacity down the Texas coast.

We don't know yet about 1.7 million barrels a day that were located right in the path of Rita. And the Secretary has got his people in contact with the energy companies to find out exactly what we have to deal with. About 900,000 barrels a day are still shutdown as a result of Katrina. For those of you who went with me to the Chevron plant in Pascagoula, Mississippi, might remember the size of that facility and the scope of the damage it had sustained. They're working hard to bring these plants back up.

The other thing that's going to affect the ability for people to get gasoline is, of course, the pipelines. In other words, you manufacture the gasoline in a refinery, and you have to ship it across the country. There's three of the four major gasoline pipelines—three

of the four pipelines in the affected area are major gasoline pipelines that supply the Midwest and the east coast.

The Plantation Pipeline, which is an east coast pipeline, is at 100-percent capacity. That's one of the real success stories of this storm. In other words, it didn't go down at all. Colonial, which sends gasoline up to the Midwest, is at 52-percent capacity. It will soon be about 70 percent and should be at 100 percent by the end of the week. The Explorer in the Midwest, sending gas to the Midwest, is at 67-percent capacity, should be at 100 percent next week. The Capline, which sends gasoline to the Midwest as well—it's a major crude pipeline, by the way, that sends crude to be refined in the Midwest—will be at about 75-percent capacity now, and obviously they're going to do everything they can to get it up to capacity.

My point is, is that the storm affected the ability to get gasoline to markets. I know the Governors of Florida and Georgia have done some creative things to try to anticipate what will be a temporary problem. Governor Perdue of Georgia I thought did a—showed some leadership by saying we've got to—anticipating a problem, "Here's what we need to do to correct it."

There's going to be some, by the way, and here's what we have done and will continue to do. We have suspended certain EPA winter-blend rules so that it makes it easier to import gasoline from overseas. In other words, there's a supply of gasoline in Europe, and by suspending these rules, it's a lot more likely to be able to get gasoline into our markets. And so while there's a shortfall because of down refining capacity, we will work with—we have instructed EPA to leave the rules in place—or to suspend the rules that were in place, keep the suspension in place, which would make it easier to increase supply and continue to get supply of gasoline here. And that's important for our consumers to know.

In Houston, the challenge in Houston, as I understand it, is to get drivers and trucks into Houston so they can deliver gasoline to the retailers. And the Secretary is working with the local authorities there to help do anything we can to help get that done so that people in that big city will be able to get

some gasoline. Beaumont, Port Arthur are still under assessment. We're not sure yet the full extent of the damage.

I'll be going down there in the area tomorrow, and by then there will be a pretty clear assessment. I look forward to dealing with local—talking to local leaders about what—the situation and the problems they face.

Let me repeat, we'll use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to help refineries with crude oil. We will continue the waivers to allow the winter blends of fuel to be used throughout the country. We will continue to waiver that—to allow broader use of diesel fuel, because we understand there's been a disruption in supply, and we want to make sure that we do everything we can to help with the supply disruption.

The Homeland Security waived the Jones Act on restrictions on fuel transportation. We're allowing foreign-flag ships to temporarily transport fuel from one U.S. port to another. That's going to be important for expediting supply to deal with bottlenecks. We will continue that waiver. The Treasury and IRS announced that dyed diesel fuel for off-road use would be allowed on on-road use without penalty. In other words, we're taking action to help deal with the shortfall caused by Katrina and Rita.

Two other points I want to make is, one, we can all pitch in by using—by being better conservers of energy. I mean, people just need to recognize that the storms have caused disruption and that if they're able to maybe not drive when they—on a trip that's not essential, that would be helpful. The Federal Government can help, and I've directed the Federal agencies nationwide—and here's some ways we can help. We can curtail nonessential travel. If it makes sense for the citizen out there to curtail non-essential travel, it darn sure makes sense for Federal employees. We can encourage employees to carpool or use mass transit. And we can shift peak electricity use to off-peak hours. There's ways for the Federal Government to lead when it comes to conservation.

And finally, these storms show that we need additional capacity in America. We need additional refining capacity, for example, to be able to meet the needs of the American people. The storms have shown

how fragile the balance is between supply and demand in America. I've often said one of the worst problems we have is that we're dependent on foreign sources of crude oil, and we are. But it's clear as well that we're also really dependent on the capacity of our country to refine product, and we need more refining capacity. And I look forward to working with Congress, as we analyze the energy situation, to expedite the capacity of our refiners to expand and/or build new refineries.

It is clear that when you're dependent upon natural gas and/or hydrocarbons to fuel your economy and that supply gets disrupted, we need alternative sources of energy. And that's why I believe so strongly in nuclear power. And so we've got a chance, once again, to assess where we are as a country when it comes to energy and do something about it. And I look forward to working with Congress to do just that.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press].

Race, Poverty, and the Hurricanes

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to ask you about a different result of these storms, and that is the racial divide that's been exposed in this country. Blacks and whites feel very differently about what happened. We all recognize that the response to Rita was much better than the response to Katrina, but there are some strong feelings in the black community that that difference had a racial component to it, that the white, you know, rural residents got taken care of better than the black urban residents did. How do you respond to that?

The President. Well, I think about Houston, my own hometown of Houston, which is an incredibly diverse city. And we had what looked like a category 5 hurricane headed right for Houston, and the Federal, State, and local officials worked together to warn the citizens of the impending storm. The message wasn't sent to one group of people; it was sent to the entire city. I mean, Texas is a diverse State. The rural part of Texas you're talking about has got a significant African American component to it. But I can assure you that the response efforts, and now the recovery efforts, are aimed at—aimed at

saving everybody. And the response was directed toward everybody.

I think that what a lot of Americans saw was a—some poverty that they had never imagined before. And we need to address that, whether it be rural or urban. And I have done that as the President. I have said that education systems that simply shuffle children through are—can be discriminatory in nature. And therefore, we've got to have high standards and high expectations and focus money on Title I children to teach—so that children can learn to read. And we're beginning to make progress.

I have said that ownership is a way to counter poverty and being stuck in impoverished situations, and so homeownership is up. And business ownership is up amongst minorities. I have said that the faith-based programs are more likely able to address some of the hopelessness of people and therefore have empowered faith-based programs to interface with people. We've promoted mentoring programs for children whose parents might be in prison, as a way to help provide hope for people.

But this is an issue that this country must continue to address. Poverty is an issue that's an important issue, and poverty exists in New Orleans, Louisiana, and it exists in rural Texas, and it needs to be addressed in a significant way.

Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters].

New Supreme Court Nomination

Q. Mr. President, now that Judge Roberts is heading for confirmation, how close are you to choosing your second nominee for the Supreme Court? And how much of a factor is diversity going to be?

The President. First of all, I will—I'm cautiously optimistic about Judge Roberts' vote in the Senate. I will—he's done a fantastic job of showing the Senate and the American people he's not only a brilliant person but a decent person with a great heart. And so I await confirmation and hope it goes well. It looks like it might.

Your question indicated that it looked like it was headed in the right direction. I will withhold judgment until the Senate exercises their consent, part of the advice-and-consent relationship with the White House.

I have interviewed people from—in the past and thought about people from all walks of life. And I will put the person in to do the job. But I am mindful, you know, that diversity is one of the strengths of the country.

Any other questions? Yes.

Federal Response to Disasters

Q. Thank you. In suggesting that the Department of Defense might become the first-responder in catastrophic disasters, are you not conceding that the Department of Homeland Security is not up to the task?

The President. Oh, no, no let me—I appreciate you asking that question. One of the reasons I went out to NORTHCOM was to see the operations there, to look at how well organized NORTHCOM is, to listen to them talk about lessons learned from a major storm like Katrina, to think about ways for our country to properly respond to a catastrophic event, whether it be a natural catastrophic event or perhaps a terrorist attack.

And what I want the discussion to—I want there to be a robust discussion about the best way for the Federal Government, in certain extreme circumstances, to be able to rally assets for the good of the people. I don't want to prejudge the Congress's discussion on this issue, because it may require change of law.

But I do want them to think about a circumstance that requires a lot of planning and a lot of assets immediately on the scene in order to stabilize. And so what I was speculating about was a scenario which would require Federal assets to stabilize the situation, primarily DOD assets—DOD assets, and then hand back over to Department of Homeland Security, for example. And I think it's very important for us as we look at the lessons of Katrina to think about other scenarios that might require a well-planned, significant Federal response right off the bat to provide stability. That's what I was talking about.

Kuwaiti Oil Proposal/New Domestic Refineries

Q. Mr. President, you had mentioned refining capacity. I'd like to ask you about an offer from the Kuwaiti oil minister, who has said that he is willing to offer to build a ca-

capacity—a refining capacity in the U.S. It would be the first time in about 30 years. Says he's asked for White House assistance—assistance getting permits and Federal support and so forth. What do you think of a proposal like that?

The President. I am for increasing supply, because I understand when the more supply there is of a product, that will take pressure off of price. I haven't seen this specific proposal. But I've also talked to U.S. refiners who have said, "We'd like to expand onsite, but the amount of paperwork necessary to do so is staggering." The issue of New Source Review, for example, is one that we've reviewed and said that, for the sake of, in this case, the expeditious expansion—and wise and careful expansion—of refining capacity, we ought to look at those rules and regulations. And yet we're back in court.

And so I think if you take a good look at what it means to build a refinery or expand a refinery, you'll find there's a lot of regulations and paperwork that are required, thereby delaying the capacity for more product to come on to the market and discouraging people from doing—building refineries. That's why we haven't had one since 1970-something.

So it's an interesting offer, and we'll, of course, look at it. The first thing we need to look at is how to encourage people to do just that without getting—without all kinds of time being taken up through the bureaucratic hurdles.

Okay, thank you—yes, ma'am.

Reconstruction

Q. Some have called for the continued idea of the reconstruction czar. Has your administration reconsidered having someone in charge, a Federal person of the—

The President. Yes, "reconsidered" means we've ruled it out. I never have. I'm considering. "Reconsidered" means at some point in time, I decided not to have that. But I think the idea of having a Federal interface with local folks might be—might be a good idea.

First things first, however. Remember in my speech in New Orleans, I strongly said that this reconstruction vision ought to be a local vision. And if you might remember,

the other day I went down to Mississippi and was with Governor Barbour and Jim Barksdale—he was the founder of Netscape, a local business guy who has put together a group of distinguished citizenry to help plan what south Mississippi ought to look like. And we'll see what else emerges—comes from that idea in Louisiana.

But the idea is, once these groups get up and running, they're going to have to interface with the Federal Government. And so I'm considering how best to balance the need for local vision and Federal involvement.

Now, there's going to be a lot of Federal involvement because we're going to spend money—wisely, I might add. And so it's an idea that I'm still considering. And I want to watch—because the reason why I'm comfortable about saying “still considering” is because we're still recovering. And we've got a lot of work to do to recover. I mean, when I go down to Mississippi, I appreciate the vision that they're beginning to think about, but my first priority was to help those local folks remove debris. And then the next question is, what do we do with the debris once it's removed? And there's a lot of immediate needs.

If I were to go down to New Orleans today—I'm not—if I were, I'd be talking to the mayor; I'd be interested in the vision—but I'd be more interested in how we're going to get that water out of the 9th ward. And so I'm now interested—the next step of the recovery is how to get temporary housing in place, to get workers back so that jobs can get cranked up again.

In terms of Texas, when it comes to where my thought process is now, I'm interested in getting electricity to people and gasoline to people. But the vision element of reconstruction is just beginning, and there may be a need for an interface with a particular person to help make sure that the vision becomes reality. It's a long answer to a short question.

Thank you all. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:59 a.m. in the Emergency Operations Center at the U.S. Department of Energy. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia; Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi;

James L. Barksdale, chairman, Governor Barbour's Commission on Recovery, Rebuilding, and Renewal; and Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA. A reporter referred to Minister of Energy and Oil Ahmad Fahd al-Ahmad Al Sabah of Kuwait.

Memorandum on Energy and Fuel Conservation by Federal Agencies

September 26, 2005

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Energy and Fuel Conservation by Federal Agencies

Residents of the Gulf Coast States affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have lost loved ones, lost homes, and been displaced from their communities. The Federal Government will continue to assist victims of the hurricanes. Our priority is first to save, sustain, and protect lives and then to restore important infrastructure needed for recovery.

A key component of this Administration's hurricane response plan is to ensure that sufficient supplies of natural gas, gasoline, and diesel fuel are available throughout the country, including in those areas hardest hit by the hurricane, as well as in those areas served by refineries and pipelines originating in the affected areas. Already we have made available oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) to refineries that are short on supplies of crude oil, and we will continue to monitor this situation and the use of the SPR. The Department of Energy has deployed personnel and is working with local power companies, local authorities, and State authorities to help get electricity functioning and to ensure the repair and continuity of oil and gas pipelines that may have been affected by power outages. In addition, the Environmental Protection Agency has issued temporary fuel waivers under the Clean Air Act, and the Department of Transportation has suspended “hours of service” rules for fuel tanker trucks to make additional supplies of gasoline and diesel fuel available in those

areas of the country affected by the hurricane. However, it is important that the Federal Government lead by example and further contribute to the relief effort by reducing its own fuel use during this difficult time.

Therefore, I hereby direct the heads of executive departments and agencies (agencies) to take appropriate actions to conserve natural gas, electricity, gasoline, and diesel fuel to the maximum extent consistent with the effective discharge of public responsibilities. All agencies should conserve fuel so we can reduce overall demand and allow extra supplies to be directed towards the hurricane relief effort. In particular, agencies should temporarily curtail non-essential travel and other activities that use gasoline or diesel fuel, and encourage employees to carpool, telecommute, and use public transportation to reduce fuel use. Federal agencies should also take action to conserve natural gas and electricity during periods of peak consumption by shifting energy-intensive activities to non-peak periods wherever possible and by procuring and using efficient Energy STAR-rated energy intensive appliances and products.

In addition, agencies should review their existing operating and administrative processes and conservation programs and identify and implement ways to reduce overall fuel use. Agencies should report to me, through the Secretary of Energy, within 30 days from the date of this memorandum on the fuel conservation actions taken. Agencies shall take these and other appropriate energy and fuel conservation actions using existing budget authority.

George W. Bush

Presidential Determination Relating to Assistance for Saudi Arabia

September 26, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-38

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination Relating to Assistance for Saudi Arabia

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United

States, including section 575 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (FY 2005 FOAA) (Div. D, Public Law 108-447), I hereby certify that Saudi Arabia is cooperating with efforts to combat international terrorism and that the proposed assistance will help facilitate that effort, and hereby waive the application of section 575 of the FY 2005 FOAA, as well as any provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision, including subsequently enacted provisions.

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

George W. Bush

Remarks to Reporters in Beaumont, Texas

September 27, 2005

I just met with local county judges and mayors, along with the Governor. Obviously this area is hurt. The Governor knows that. I saw it firsthand, how it's hurt. We've got some priorities that we're in the process of working together to achieve. The first is food and water. The second is electricity and generators moving this way; there's a rational plan to distribute the generators. Thirdly, there's fuel. We fully understand that it's hard to maintain order if you don't have fuel for your cars and first-responders.

And I appreciate the planning that the Governor put into this. The State of Texas is—took precautions before the storm hit and is now responding. And our job is to work with the State. I have the top people here with me, the Coast Guard Admiral, who is in charge of the Federal response. I had the head of FEMA with me, and I had a three-star Army general here, all of them here to help make sure these people can get their lives back together.

Again, the Governor has got a plan to make sure people don't come back too early. He's listening to the local judges and the mayors. Obviously, we want people to come home as quickly as possible. We want them to be able to do so in an orderly way. And when

they get home, they find that there's a—you know, as best as possible, power and water.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. at the Southeast Texas Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Rear Adm. Larry L. Hereth, USCG, commander, Fifth Coast Guard District; R. David Paulison, acting Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency; and Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, USA, commander, Joint Task Force—Rita. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Rita in Lake Charles, Louisiana

September 27, 2005

The President. Governor, thank you very much for your hospitality. It's been my honor to talk to some of these parish presidents and mayors of the affected area. I came down to make sure that things are going as best as they possibly can go.

First of all, I want to compliment the local folks for the heroic efforts they made to save life. I understand there's a lot of frustrations with the people who left this part of the country. People that are scattered around want to come back and see their homes, and they want to come back to the communities they love. But it's very important for them to understand that now is not the time to come back, until they get the utilities up and running and until they can get the sewer systems running and until they get some water people can drink.

I heard loud and clear from the parish presidents and the mayors that, you know, people are getting frustrated. And I understand that frustration. But I think it's very important to listen to the Governors—the Governor and the local folks about the conditions at home. People are working hard to get the utilities up. They're working hard to get fuel here for people. And this area is going to rebuild, and it's going to grow again.

Those who've been displaced, those in the affected areas know that they can call a FEMA number to get a \$2,000 check for each family. And that will help you in your time away from your home, so please call

and register. Last night we made the decision that the people affected by Rita will be treated the same way, with a \$2,000 check, as those treated—those affected by Katrina.

So anyway, Governor, thanks for having me. Senators and Congressmen, thank you for coming. I particularly want to thank these parish presidents and mayors for their—if you look at them, you see—if you look in their eyes you see people who have been through a lot. And they're showing strong leadership, and I admire their stand and the courage they take.

Governor, if you'd like to say something.

Governor Blanco. Well, Mr. President, first, let me say thank you for joining us today. You know, as you understand well, our people have been through a lot in southwest Louisiana. I do want to tell you that some things worked right this time. We learned a lot of lessons from our previous experience with Katrina. Our communications network stayed up. All of these folks could continue communicating their needs to us because there was a communications system that was—not in place; it was brought in by your people and our people, working together.

I want to thank you because we have to continue a very close partnership in order for our recovery to be effective and in order for Louisiana to become whole again. We want to be players in this national economy. Our industries across this State have been impaired for the time being, but we know we can bring them back. The oil and gas industry is dependent on our health—on a healthy Louisiana. The fisheries are dependent on Louisiana. We provide food to the people of the United States out of these parishes. Our agricultural industry is tremendously stressed.

But we know we can make it back, but we only can make it back with your help. So thank you again for coming. Thank you for letting all these folks tell you about their personal experiences. And we believe that we're going to make it back because you're here with us, and we know we have a good partnership.

The President. Listen, thank you all. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:36 p.m. at the Chennault International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana.

Remarks on the War on Terror

September 28, 2005

Good morning. I just had a good meeting with Generals Abizaid and Casey. We discussed the war on terror in which this country is engaged. General Abizaid talked about the global scope of this war. He talked about the nature of an enemy we face, an enemy which is ruthless and brutal, an enemy which has got strategic goals and tactics necessary to achieve those goals. We also talked about the fact that we're determined to defeat the enemy. We discussed our strategy for victory in Iraq as well. After all, Iraq is a key battlefront in this war on terror.

I asked the Generals to go up to Capitol Hill to brief Members of the House and Senate on our strategy for victory, on our operations in Iraq. They updated me on what recently took place in Baghdad, in which Iraqi and coalition forces tracked down and killed Abu Azzam, the second most wanted Al Qaida leader in Iraq. This guy is a brutal killer. He was one of Zarqawi's top lieutenants. He was reported to be the top operational commander of Al Qaida in Baghdad. He is one of the terrorists responsible for the recent upsurge in attacks in the Iraqi capital, which is part of their campaign to stop a referendum on the Iraqi constitution and is part of their efforts to break the will of the American people and the will of our coalition.

Our strategy is clear in Iraq. We are hunting down high-value targets like Azzam and Zarqawi. We're coordinating aggressive counterterrorism operations in the areas where the terrorists are concentrated. We're constantly adapting our tactics to the changing tactics of the terrorists. We're training more Iraqi forces to assume increasing responsibility for their country's security.

The growing size and increasing capability of the Iraqi security forces are helping our coalition address a challenge we have faced since the beginning of the war. And General Casey discussed this with us in the Oval Office.

See, it used to be after we cleared the terrorists out of a city, there wasn't enough qualified Iraqi troops to maintain control, so when we left to conduct other missions, the terrorists would move back in. Now, the increasing number of more capable Iraqi troops has allowed us to better hold onto the cities we have taken from the terrorists. The Iraqi troops know their people. They know their language, and they know who the terrorists are. By leaving Iraqi units in the cities we've cleared out, we can keep the cities safe while we move on to hunt down the terrorists in other parts of the country.

We saw such success in the country's northwest region, where Iraqi and coalition forces recently targeted an area that was one of the main routes that foreign terrorists use to enter Iraq from Syria. During the operations in the key town of Tall 'Afar, Iraqi security forces outnumbered coalition forces for the first time in a major offensive operation. General Casey brought us up to date on that operation. Because of our joint efforts, hundreds of terrorists have been killed or captured or flushed, which makes it more difficult for the foreign terrorists to enter Iraq through the northwest route.

As part of General Casey's strategy, Iraqi forces remain in Tall 'Afar to ensure that the terrorists are not allowed to return and regroup. Coalition and Iraqi troops are on the hunt for terrorists in western Iraq. We're on the offense. We have a plan to win. We're working to stop those terrorists from crossing into the country through Syria, and we're denying safe haven to Al Qaida in the Anbar province.

Members of Congress will get the latest information about our strategy, and I want to thank them for taking time out of their schedules to listen to these two Generals. They will hear about the strategy and the progress in increasing the size and capability of the Iraqi security forces. At this moment, more than a dozen Iraqi battalions have completed training and are conducting antiterrorist operations in Ramadi and Fallujah. More than 20 battalions are operating in Baghdad, and some have taken the lead in operations in major sectors of the city.

In total, more than 100 battalions are operating throughout Iraq. Our commanders report that the Iraqi forces are operating with increasing effectiveness. As Iraqi forces show they're capable of keeping the terrorists out, they're earning the trust and confidence of the Iraqi people, which ensures the success of a free and democratic Iraq.

The terrorists have a history of escalating their attacks before Iraq's major political milestones. Two key elections are fast approaching. As these milestones approach, we can expect there to be increasing violence from the terrorists. They can't stand elections. The thought of people voting is an anathema to them. You see, democracy and freedom are the exact opposite of what's in their mind, in their vision.

Next month the Iraqis will vote on a democratic constitution. If that constitution is approved, they will return to polls later this year to elect a fully constitutional government. The terrorists will fail. See, the Iraqis want to be free. They proved that last January when over 8 million citizens, in the face of violence and threats, voted. And the terrorists are going to fail this time. But we can expect they'll do everything in their power to try to stop the march of freedom. And our troops are ready for it.

I urge the Members of Congress to attend the briefings with General Abizaid and Casey. I urge them to ask questions about our efforts in Iraq and to listen carefully about the type of war we fight. The support of Congress for our troops and our mission is important, and Americans need to know about the gains we've made in recent weeks and months. They need to know the way we're adopting our tactics and the way we're changing our strategy to meet the needs on the ground.

As Members of Congress speak with Generals Abizaid and Casey, I'm confident they'll see what I see—our leaders, these two Generals are men of vision and determination, and it is their leadership that is helping bring victory in the war on terror.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, com-

batant commander, U.S. Central Command; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarkawi. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services for Libya for Chemical Weapons Destruction

September 28, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-39

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfers of Defense Articles or Services for Libya for Chemical Weapons Destruction

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including sections 40(g) and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), I hereby:

- determine that the transaction, encompassing sales or licensing for export of defense articles or defense services necessary to assist in chemical weapon (CW) destruction in Libya, is essential to the national security interests of the United States and important to the national interests of the United States;
- waive the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the AECA related to such transaction; and
- assign to you the functions under AECA section 40(g)(2) to consult with and submit reports to the Congress for proposed specific exports or transfers, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this waiver determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this certification to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Transfers of Defense Articles or Services and Brokering Activities for Libya Relating to Disposition of Libyan-owned C-130H Aircraft

September 28, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-40

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfers of Defense Articles or Services and Brokering Activities for Libya Relating to Disposition of Libyan-owned C-130H Aircraft

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including sections 40(g) and 40A of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), I hereby:

- determine that the transaction, encompassing sales or licensing for export of defense articles or defense services and brokering activities necessary to assist in the disposition, including any required refurbishment, of Libyan-owned C-130H aircraft, is essential to the national security interests of the United States and important to the national interests of the United States;
- waive the prohibitions in sections 40 and 40A of the AECA related to such transaction; and
- assign to you the functions under AECA section 40(g)(2) to consult with and submit reports to the Congress for proposed specific exports or transfers, 15 days prior to permitting them to proceed, that are necessary for and within the scope of this waiver determination and the transaction referred to herein.

You are authorized and directed to report this certification to the Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol Amending the France-United States Taxation Convention

September 28, 2005

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, signed at Paris on August 31, 1994 (the "Convention"), signed at Washington on December 8, 2004 (the "Protocol"). Also transmitted for the information of the Senate is the report of the Department of State with respect to the Protocol.

The Protocol was negotiated to address certain technical issues that have arisen since the Convention entered into force. The Protocol was concluded in recognition of the importance of U.S. economic relations with France.

The Protocol clarifies the treatment of investments made in France by U.S. investors through partnerships located in the United States, France, or third countries. It also modifies the provisions of the treaty dealing with pensions and pension contributions in order to achieve parity given the two countries' fundamentally different pension systems. The Protocol makes other changes to the Convention to reflect more closely current U.S. tax treaty policy.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Protocol and that the Senate give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 28, 2005.

**Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony
for John G. Roberts, Jr., as Chief
Justice of the Supreme Court of the
United States**

September 29, 2005

The President. Good afternoon and welcome to the White House. Laura and I are pleased that all of you could join us in witnessing a very meaningful event in the life of our Nation. It's a rare privilege to welcome seven current Justices of the Supreme Court. Thank you all for coming. We also welcome Mrs. Thurgood Marshall and Mrs. Potter Stewart.

It was 19 years ago, almost to the day, that Chief Justice William Rehnquist took the oath of office in this very room with President Ronald Reagan as a witness. Each gathering of this kind is an historic occasion for our country and gives eloquent testimony to the wisdom and continuity of the system created by the Framers.

In a few moments, John Roberts will take his place in a distinguished line that began in 1789, when President Washington appointed Chief Justice John Jay. This is a proud day for John Roberts' family. We extend a special welcome to his wife, Jane, their daughter Josie, and son Jack—[laughter]—a fellow who is comfortable with the cameras. [Laughter] Also with us are the Judge's mom and dad, Rosemary and Jack Roberts; two of his sisters, Peggy and Barbara, as well as other members of the Roberts family. We're so pleased you'd be with us today.

I appreciate the Vice President being here, Attorney General Al Gonzales. I thank Harriet Miers, Counsel to the President, and members of my administration who worked on the nomination and confirmation. I particularly want to thank former Senator Fred Thompson for his leadership. I thank the members of my Cabinet who are here.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Senate who are here, Majority Leader Bill Frist, Senate President Pro Tem Ted Stevens, and Majority Whip Mitch McConnell. Thank you all for coming. I thank the members of the Judiciary Committee who are here, starting with the chairman, Arlen Specter, ranking member Pat Leahy. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate Senators

Grassley, Hatch, Brownback, Kyl, Sessions, Cornyn, and Graham. I also want to thank all the other Senators here with us. I really want to say something about Senator Dick Lugar from Indiana, who introduced the Chief to the Senate. I appreciate very much all of you taking time out of your day to witness this historic event.

Today we complete a process set forth in Article II of the Constitution, which provides that the President shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate shall appoint the judges of the Supreme Court. The nomination power is one of the most serious responsibilities of a President. When a President chooses a Supreme Court Justice, he is placing in human hands the full authority and majesty of the law.

Each member of our highest court holds a position of extraordinary influence and respect, and can hold it for a lifetime. The office of Chief Justice has added responsibilities as leader of the Court and as presiding officer of the Judicial Conference of the United States. To carry out all these duties, I submitted to the Senate a nominee of integrity, deep humility, and uncommon talent.

During the confirmation hearings this month, Members of the Senate and American people saw far more than the intellectual gifts and broad experience of Judge John Roberts. They witnessed as well the character of the man, his reverence for the Constitution and laws of our country, his impartiality and devotion to justice, his modesty and great personal decency.

Across the Nation, Americans have grown in respect and admiration for this good man. From the day of Judge Roberts' nomination, the Judiciary Committee and Senators of both parties have received him with courtesy and fair mindedness. The civility of the confirmation process has served the interests of the Nation and reflected very well on the United States Senate.

And I appreciate the majority leader and the chairman and their colleagues for setting a tone of dignity and goodwill. The Senate has confirmed a man with an astute mind and kind heart. As a member of the Federal judiciary, John Roberts has carried out his duties with discernment and humanity and without fear or favor.

As Judge Roberts prepares to lead the judicial branch of Government, all Americans can be confident that the 17th Chief Justice of the United States will be prudent in exercising judicial power, firm in defending judicial independence, and above all, a faithful guardian of the Constitution.

With these qualities, the incoming Chief Justice will carry on in the tradition of his mentor and friend, the late William H. Rehnquist. I know that Chief Justice Rehnquist had hoped to welcome his former law clerk as a colleague. Although that was not meant to be, we are thinking of William Rehnquist today. The Nation honors his memory, and we remain grateful for his example of integrity and service.

In welcoming an exceptional new leader as Chief Justice, we also honor the Supreme Court itself, and we mark a day of renewal for one of the noblest institutions in our land. Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve our country and for accepting this new call to duty.

And now I ask Senior Associate Justice of the Court, Justice John Paul Stevens, to please step forward and administer the oath.

[At this point, Justice John Paul Stevens administered the oath of office.]

Chief Justice Roberts. Thank you very much. Let me begin by thanking Justice John Paul Stevens for being here today. In December, Justice Stevens will mark 30 years of service on the Court. It's a great honor to take the oath from him, and it will be a great privilege for me to sit next to him on the bench on Monday.

Thank you, Mr. President, for nominating me. There is no way to repay the confidence you have shown in me, other than to do the best job I possibly can do, and I will try to do that every day. And thank you for the remarkable team that you assembled to assist me throughout this process. I benefitted greatly from the wisdom, judgment, and plain hard work of Ed Gillespie, Senator Thompson, Harriet Miers, Bill Kelley, and everyone on the team. I am very grateful to each and every one of them.

Chairman Specter, Senator Leahy, all the members of the Judiciary Committee, with this nomination, the Committee faced a very

special challenge. And yet, working together, we met that challenge. We found a way to get Jack into the Committee room—*[laughter]*—introduced to the Committee and back out again without any serious crisis. *[Laughter]* Thank you.

More seriously, thank you very much for the conduct of the hearings, conducting them in a civil and dignified manner as the President requested on the night of the nomination. I appreciate it very much.

Senator Frist, other Members of the Senate, I view the vote this morning as confirmation of what is for me a bedrock principle, that judging is different from politics. And I appreciate the vote very much.

The process we have just completed epitomizes the separation of powers that is enshrined in our Constitution. My nomination was announced some 10 weeks ago here in the White House, the home of the executive branch. This morning, further up Pennsylvania Avenue, it was approved in the Capitol, the home of the executive [legislative]* branch. And tomorrow, I will go into the Supreme Court building to join my colleagues, the home of the judicial branch, to undertake my duties. The executive and the legislature have carried out their constitutional responsibilities and ensured the succession of authority and responsibility in the judicial branch.

What Daniel Webster termed “the miracle of our Constitution” is not something that happens every generation. But every generation in its turn must accept the responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution and bearing true faith and allegiance to it. That is the oath that I just took. I will try to ensure, in the discharge of my responsibilities, that with the help of my colleagues, I can pass on to my children's generation a charter of self-government as strong and as vibrant as the one that Chief Justice Rehnquist passed on to us.

Over the past 10 weeks, many people who I did not know came up to me and offered encouragement and support. Many of them told me that I and my family was in their prayers and in their hopes. I want to thank all of those people. I will need in the months

* White House correction.

and years ahead that encouragement and those prayers.

Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Members of the Senate. And thank you, colleagues, for being here to share this special moment. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:54 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Cecilia Marshall, wife of former Justice Thurgood Marshall; Mary Ann Stewart, wife of former Justice Potter Stewart; John G. Roberts, Sr., and his wife, Rosemary Roberts, Chief Justice Roberts' parents; Margaret "Peggy" Roberts and Barbara Burke, Chief Justice Roberts' sisters. Chief Justice Roberts referred to Edward W. Gillespie, founder and co-chairman, Quinn Gillespie & Associates; and William Kelley, Deputy Counsel to the President.

Memorandum on Transfer of Funds From FY 2004 and 2005 Foreign Assistance Act and Arms Export Control Act Accounts to the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Account To Support the G-8 Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative
September 29, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-41

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Transfer of Funds from FY 2004 and 2005 Foreign Assistance Act and Arms Export Control Act Accounts to the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Account to Support the G-8 Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 610 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the "Act"), I hereby determine it necessary for the purposes of that Act that \$5 million in FY 2004 funds made available under the Support for East European Democracy Act (\$1 million) and FY 2005 funds made available under chapter 9 of part II of the Act (\$1.2 million) and under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (\$2.8 million) be

transferred to, and consolidated with, funds made available under chapter 8 of part I of the Act, and such funds are hereby so transferred and consolidated.

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

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

Message to the Congress Giving Notification of Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia
September 29, 2005

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with title I of the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108-335, I am notifying the Congress of the proposed use of \$10,151,538 provided in title I under the heading "Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia." This will reimburse the District for the costs of public safety expenses related to security events and responses to terrorist threats.

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

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 29, 2005.

**Executive Order 13385—
Continuance of Certain Federal
Advisory Committees and
Amendments to and Revocation of
Other Executive Orders**
September 29, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and consistent with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Each advisory committee listed below is continued until September 30, 2007.

- (a) Committee for the Preservation of the White House; Executive Order 11145, as amended (Department of the Interior).
- (b) National Infrastructure Advisory Council; section 3 of Executive Order 13231, as amended (Department of Homeland Security).
- (c) Federal Advisory Council on Occupational Safety and Health; Executive Order 12196, as amended (Department of Labor).
- (d) President's Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13256 (Department of Education).
- (e) President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities; Executive Order 13270 (Department of Education).
- (f) President's Commission on White House Fellowships; Executive Order 11183, as amended (Office of Personnel Management).
- (g) President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities; Executive Order 12994, as amended (Department of Health and Human Services).
- (h) President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities; Executive Order 12367, as amended (National Endowment for the Arts).
- (i) President's Committee on the International Labor Organization; Executive Order 12216, as amended (Department of Labor).
- (j) President's Committee on the National Medal of Science; Executive Order 11287, as amended (National Science Foundation).
- (k) President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology; Executive Order 13226, as amended (Office of Science and Technology Policy).
- (l) President's Council on Bioethics; Executive Order 13237 (Department of Health and Human Services).
- (m) President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports; Executive Order

13265 (Department of Health and Human Services).

- (n) President's Export Council; Executive Order 12131, as amended (Department of Commerce).
- (o) President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12382, as amended (Department of Homeland Security).
- (p) Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee; Executive Order 12905 (Office of the United States Trade Representative).

Sec. 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other Executive Order, the functions of the President under the Federal Advisory Committee Act that are applicable to the committees listed in section 1 of this order shall be performed by the head of the department or agency designated after each committee, in accordance with the guidelines and procedures established by the Administrator of General Services.

Sec. 3. The following Executive Orders that established committees that have terminated or whose work is completed are revoked:

- (a) Executive Order 13328, establishing the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction; and
- (b) Executive Order 13326, establishing the President's Commission on Implementation of United States Space Exploration Policy.

Sec. 4. Sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13316 are superseded by sections 1 and 2 of this order.

Sec. 5. Section 3 of Executive Order 13231, as amended, is further amended by striking section 3, except subsection (c) thereof, and inserting immediately preceding subsection (c), the following:

“Section 3. *The National Infrastructure Advisory Council.* The National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC), established on October 16, 2001, shall provide the President through the Secretary of Homeland Security with advice on the security

of the critical infrastructure sectors and their information systems.

- (a) Membership. The NIAC shall be composed of not more than 30 members appointed by the President, taking appropriate account of the benefits of having members (i) from the private sector, including but not limited to banking and finance, transportation, energy, communications, and emergency services organizations and institutions of higher learning, and State, local, and tribal governments, (ii) with senior leadership responsibilities for the reliability and availability, which include security, of the critical infrastructure and key resource sectors, (iii) with expertise relevant to the functions of the NIAC, and (iv) with experience equivalent to that of a chief executive of an organization. Unless otherwise determined by the President, no full-time officer or employee of the executive branch shall be appointed to serve as a member of the NIAC. The President shall designate from among the members of the NIAC a Chair and a Vice Chair, who shall perform the functions of the Chair if the Chair is absent, disabled, or in the instance of a vacancy in the Chair.
- (b) Functions of the NIAC. The NIAC shall meet periodically to:
- (i) enhance the partnership of the public and private sectors in protecting critical infrastructures and their information systems and provide reports on this issue to the President through the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate;
 - (ii) propose and develop ways to encourage private industry to perform periodic risk assessments;
 - (iii) monitor the development and operations of private sector coordinating councils and their information sharing mechanisms and provide recommendations to the President through the Secretary of Homeland Security on how these organizations can best foster improved cooperation among the sectors, the Department

of Homeland Security, and other Federal Government entities;

- (iv) report to the President through the Secretary of Homeland Security, who shall ensure appropriate coordination with the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs under the terms of this order; and
- (v) advise sector specific agencies with critical infrastructure responsibilities to include issues pertaining to sector and government coordinating councils and their information sharing mechanisms.”

In implementing this order, the NIAC shall not advise or otherwise act on matters pertaining to National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) Communications and, with respect to any matters to which the NIAC is authorized by this order to provide advice or otherwise act on that may depend upon or affect NS/EP Communications, shall coordinate with the National Security and Telecommunications Advisory Committee established by Executive Order 12382, as amended.

Sec. 6. Executive Order 12367, as amended, is further amended by:

- (a) Striking “including the Millennium” in section 2;
- (b) Changing the title of section 3 to read “Administrative and Project Support”; and
- (c) Adding the following new subsection 3(c):
“(c) Additional project support may be provided, to the extent permitted by law, by the Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services after consultation with the Chairpersons of the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.”.

Sec. 7. Executive Order 12216, as amended, is further amended by revising subsection 1–101 to read as follows:

“1–101. There is established the President’s Committee on the International Labor Organization (ILO). The members will be

the Secretaries of Labor, State, and Commerce, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and one representative each from organized labor and the business community, to be designated by the Secretary of Labor.”

Sec. 8. Executive Order 13226, as amended, is further amended by:

- (a) Striking “not more than 25 members,” in section 1 and inserting in lieu thereof “not more than 45 members,”;
- (b) Striking “24 of whom” in section 1 and inserting in lieu thereof “44 of whom”;
- (c) Adding the following new subsection 2(d):
- “(d) PCAST shall serve as the President’s Information Technology Advisory Committee under subsections 101(b) and 103(b) of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–194), as amended (15 U.S.C. 5511(b) and 5513(b)).”

Sec. 9. Executive Order 13283 is revoked.

Sec. 10. This order shall be effective September 30, 2005.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 29, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., October 3, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 4.

Remarks at the Farewell Tribute for General Richard B. Myers and Swearing-In for General Peter Pace as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Arlington, Virginia
September 30, 2005

Thank you for the warm welcome. It is a pleasure to join you in paying tribute to a fine American and a superb Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Dick Myers. I’m glad to see the Myers family here:

Dick’s great wife, Mary Jo; their children, Rich, Nicole, and Erin; their grandchildren, Sophie and Cole. I know those grandkids are proud of their grandfather today; I want you to know, kids, you’re joined by the Commander in Chief and the American people.

Today we also honor the outstanding Marine succeeding General Myers as the Chairman, General Pete Pace. I’m glad that Pete’s family has joined us today: his wife, Lynne; their daughter, Tiffany; their son, Lieutenant Pete Pace; and the General’s brothers, Tom and Simone; as well as his sister, Elizabeth and his mom, Doris.

I have come to know Pete Pace well during his time as the Vice Chairman. I appreciate his wisdom and commitment to serve, and I look forward to having Pete by my side in the years ahead.

I want to appreciate the Vice President for being here. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your continued strong leadership. I appreciate the Secretary of State, Condi Rice, joining us. I want to thank all the members of the administration who have come to pay tribute to this fine man and his wife. I particularly thank the President of the World Bank, Paul Wolfowitz, who served with Dick Myers for 4 years at the Defense Department. I thank the members of the diplomatic corps who have joined us.

When I asked Dick Myers to take his job back in the summer of 2001, I knew we had some important things in common. We both made a good decision early in life when we married a teacher. We both flew fighter jets, although I never won the Grey Eagle Award. We both knew it would take all of our combined strength, energy, and resolve to defend the American people—and to keep up with Don Rumsfeld. [*Laughter*]

When General Myers was sworn in as the 15th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff 4 years ago, he joined a long line of distinguished military leaders that stretches back to General Omar Bradley. Every Chairman faced difficult tests, yet none took up his duties under more demanding circumstances than Dick Myers. In his first week as the Chairman, we launched strikes on terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. By the middle of December, American troops and our allies had driven the Taliban from power, put Al

Qaida on the run, and freed more than 25 million people. In other words, Dick had plenty to do in his first 10 weeks on the job.

We asked more of General Myers in the years that followed. He helped design a broad and innovative military strategy to win the war on terror. His leadership and flexibility were essential to the liberation of Iraq and to adapting our tactics to defeat the terrorists and help Iraqis build a peaceful democracy. General Myers forged strong relationships with his military counterparts around the world and helped unite more than 90 nations in the war on terror.

He also helped us prepare for the new threats of the 21st century by helping transform the NATO Alliance and making our Armed Forces lighter, more lethal, and more capable of conducting joint operations. And as he did all this, he led our military through a series of extraordinary humanitarian challenges, from tsunami relief in Asia to the rescue operations along the gulf coast in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. General Myers brought skill and determination to all these tasks, and he leaves his post with a record of remarkable accomplishment.

Yet through every challenge, what stood out most about the Chairman was his total devotion to the men and women who wear the uniform. As he traveled the world, General Myers always made time to thank American forces serving in distant lands and to honor the sacrifice of military families here at home. He personally reenlisted service men and women in America and overseas. He advocated tirelessly for better pay and housing and benefits for our troops and their families. And he and Mary Jo made frequent visits to the wounded in military hospitals. General Myers often said how inspired he was by the selflessness and integrity and compassion of Americans in uniform. And he always inspired those under his command because they saw the same values in him.

I was reminded of Dick's convictions and ability every time he stepped in the Oval Office. As my principle military adviser, he brought a calm and reassuring presence, coupled with sound judgment and fresh thinking and unflinching candor. His approach was steady and practical. He had the vision to see the larger strategic picture and the tac-

tical awareness one would expect from an experienced fighter pilot.

Over the past 4 years, I've also come to know General Myers' character and decency and his easy sense of humor. He's a kind and humble man who believes in serving a cause greater than himself. It says something that for all the medals on his chest and the stars on his shoulder, one of his proudest accomplishments came last summer when he was named National Father of the Year.

The General's qualities have long been known to those he works with. One of Dick's former bosses described him this way, "He's a level-headed guy. He doesn't panic. He eats pressure for breakfast, and he doesn't have a personal agenda." General Tommy Franks called him a "solid anchor in the building." A former colleague said he knew Dick Myers was down to earth when he saw the four-star general standing in line at the Pentagon cafeteria. Those who served alongside General Myers admired the dignity and purpose he brought to the job, and they'll always be proud to know one of America's best Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Another of General Myers' many strengths is his ability to bring out the talents of those around him. For the past 4 years, he has encouraged and benefited from the superb work of all the Joint Chiefs, especially his Vice Chairman. General Pace has shown himself to be a brilliant thinker and an inspiring leader. His life is a story of the American Dream. From his early years in Brooklyn and New Jersey to his days as a Midshipman in Annapolis, to his decades of service in Vietnam and Thailand and South Korea and Somalia and elsewhere, in every place he has been, Pete Pace has impressed those around him with his bravery, his knowledge, and his devotion to duty.

As Chairman, his leadership will build on the vital work set into motion under General Myers. I look forward to witnessing his swearing-in and to calling him the first Marine ever to hold America's highest military office.

Forty years ago, Second Lieutenant Dick Myers left Manhattan, Kansas, with an Air Force commission and the beautiful wife he married in the university chapel. Over the

decades, Dick soared into the wild blue yonder and climbed to the highest ranks of the United States Armed Forces. He led our military to historic achievements in some of the most trying times America has known, and today he retires with the pride and appreciation of our entire Nation.

General Myers, I want to thank you for a lifetime of service to the United States. You have done your part to build a more peaceful world for our children and our grandchildren, and we will always be grateful.

My God bless you and your family, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:41 on Summerall Field at Fort Myer. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Tommy R. Franks, USA, (Ret.), former combatant commander, U.S. Central Command.

Executive Order 13386—Further Amendment to Executive Order 13369, Relating to the President’s Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform

September 30, 2005

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to further extend the reporting deadline of the President’s Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 5 of Executive Order 13369 of January 7, 2005, as amended by Executive Order 13379 of June 16, 2005, is further amended by deleting “September 30, 2005” and inserting in lieu thereof “November 1, 2005”.

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Executive Order 13369 of January 7, 2005, is further amended by deleting “30 days after submitting its report pursuant to section 5 of this order” and inserting in lieu thereof “November 15, 2005”.

Sec. 3. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the United States, its de-

partments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 30, 2005.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:57 a.m., October 4, 2005]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 5.

Message on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah, 5766

September 30, 2005

I send greetings to all those observing Rosh Hashanah.

On this holy occasion, Jews around the world are called by the sound of the Shofar to gather in celebration of the beginning of the New Year and the creation of all life. For the Jewish people, this marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a special time to reflect on the past year and welcome the year to come.

It is also a time to reflect on the history of the Jewish people, from the days of Abraham to the present, and remember God’s faithfulness to them. This year, we mark the completion of an especially joyous occasion, the 350th year of Jewish life in America. Throughout America’s history, Jewish Americans have strengthened and enriched the character of our Nation.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a blessed Rosh Hashanah. *L’shanah tovah.*

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

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.

September 24

In the morning, at the U.S. Northern Command in Colorado Springs, CO, the President had a briefing on Hurricane Rita by officials of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Later, he toured the facility.

Later in the morning, the President met with Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN, commander, U.S. Northern Command. He then had another briefing on Hurricane Rita.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Austin, TX.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to San Antonio, TX.

The President declared a disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Rita beginning on September 23 and continuing.

The President declared a disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Rita beginning on September 23 and continuing.

September 25

In the morning, at Randolph Air Force Base, the President had a briefing on Hurricane Rita. Later, he traveled to Baton Rouge, LA.

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

September 26

In the morning, in the Situation Room, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, the President went to the Department of Energy where he participated in a briefing on energy supply issues related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Later, he returned to the White House.

September 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Beaumont, TX. Later, he took an aerial tour of the area damaged by the hurri-

canes, concluding his tour in Lake Charles, LA.

In the afternoon, the President met with first-responders involved with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Kent D. Talbert to be General Counsel at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Horace A. Thompson to be a member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation (Government Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Timothy D. Adams as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Brig. Gen. Bill Grisoli, USA, as the Federal member of the Delaware River Basin Commission (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania), and as the Federal member of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania).

The President announced his intention to appoint William McDowell Matz, Jr., as a member of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Linda M. Springer as a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

September 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts. Later, he participated in a briefing on the war on terror.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley.

The White House announced that the President will host President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland at the White House

for a farewell meeting and lunch on October 12.

September 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, in the Roosevelt Room, the President, Chief Justice-designate John G. Roberts, Jr., and other officials watched the Senate vote for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President had lunch with Chief Justice-designate Roberts and his wife, Jane.

Later in the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and members of his family. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gigi Hyland to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Thomas Rosch to be a Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terrence L. Bracy to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jean B. Elshtain, Allen C. Guelzo, and Eugene Hickok to be members of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sarah M. Singleton to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Spellings to be a Representative of the United States to the 33d General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

September 30

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India to discuss India-U.S. relations, regional developments, and

other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a briefing on Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery efforts.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Arlington, VA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority to the White House on October 20.

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 September 28

Carol E. Dinkins,
of Texas, to be Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (new position).

Jendayi Elizabeth Frazer,
Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs), to be a member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for the remainder of the term expiring September 27, 2009, vice Constance Berry Newman.

Alan Charles Raul,
of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board (new position).

Kent D. Talbert,
of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Department of Education, vice Brian Jones, resigned.

Horace A. Thompson,
of Mississippi, to be member of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission

for a term expiring April 27, 2011, vice James M. Stephens, term expired.

Timothy C. Batten, Sr.,
of Georgia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, vice Willis B. Hunt, Jr., retired.

Kristi DuBose,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama, vice Charles R. Butler, retired.

Thomas E. Johnston,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia, vice Charles H. Haden II, deceased.

Virginia Mary Kendall,
of Illinois, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Susanne B. Conlon, retired.

W. Keith Watkins,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Alabama, vice William Harold Albritton III, retired.

Submitted September 29

Gigi Hyland,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2011, vice Deborah Matz, resigned.

James Hardy Payne,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, vice Stephanie K. Seymour, retired.

J. Thomas Rosch,
of California, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of 7 years from September 26, 2005, vice Thomas B. Leary, term expired.

Margaret Spellings,
of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Thirty-third Session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

**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 September 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released September 25

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released September 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S. Response to IRA Statement on Decommissioning

Fact sheet: President Bush Discusses Energy Supplies in the Gulf Region

Released September 27

Transcripts of press gaggles by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on amendment of earlier disaster assistance to Texas

Released September 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

Released September 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3649, S. 1340, and S. 1368

Released September 30

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S.-Russia Mark Major Nonproliferation Milestone

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Palestinian Authority President Mahmond Abbas to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2132, H.R. 2385, H.R. 3200, H.R. 3784, and H.R. 3864

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 68 and S. 1752

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 29

H.R. 3649 / Public Law 109-74
Sportfishing and Recreational Boating Safety Amendments Act of 2005

S. 1340 / Public Law 109-75
To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to extend the date after which surplus funds in the wildlife restoration fund become available for apportionment

S. 1368 / Public Law 109-76
United States Parole Commission Extension and Sentencing Commission Authority Act of 2005

Approved September 30

H.J. Res. 68 / Public Law 109-77
Making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes