

heard is people are concerned about gasoline. A lot of the gasoline—the lines that people are standing in will be alleviated by new ships coming in, and they'll be able to off-load the gasoline to make sure the stations have got fuel. But a lot of the gasoline issue relates to the fact that electricity is not up and running.

I know people are frustrated because they don't have power on yet, but I've been told by Jeb and others that at least 6,000 people from out of State are working with the power people here in-State to get people's lines up as quick as possible. In other words, this is a priority. These people are working hard to get your electricity back on.

The mayor wanted me to make sure that I told the citizens here that water and ice are moving quite rapidly, and that one of her concerns is generators. And Jeb and I spoke to her about the generators that are being moved from a central location to parts of Florida that need the generating capacity to get their life up and running.

Things don't happen instantly, but things are happening. Right here on this site people are getting fed. Soon, more and more houses will have their electricity back on and life will get back to normal. In the meantime, the Federal Government, working with the State and local government, is responding as best as we possibly can.

Again, I'm impressed by the deep compassion and care of our fellow citizens. Out of these disasters oftentimes comes some good. And one of the good that comes out of a disaster is it gives people a chance to love a neighbor, to help somebody in need.

So thank you all for giving me a chance to come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and Mayor Kristen Jacobs of Broward County, FL. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement Announcing the Withdrawal of the Nomination of Harriet E. Miers To Be an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court**

*October 27, 2005*

Today I have reluctantly accepted Harriet Miers' decision to withdraw her nomination to the Supreme Court of the United States.

I nominated Harriet Miers to the Supreme Court because of her extraordinary legal experience, her character, and her conservative judicial philosophy. Throughout her career, she has gained the respect and admiration of her fellow attorneys. She has earned a reputation for fairness and total integrity. She has been a leader and a pioneer in the American legal profession. She has worked in important positions in State and local government and in the bar. And for the last 5 years, she has served with distinction and honor in critical positions in the executive branch.

I understand and share her concern, however, about the current state of the Supreme Court confirmation process. It is clear that Senators would not be satisfied until they gained access to internal documents concerning advice provided during her tenure at the White House—disclosures that would undermine a President's ability to receive candid counsel. Harriet Miers' decision demonstrates her deep respect for this essential aspect of the Constitutional separation of powers—and confirms my deep respect and admiration for her.

I am grateful for Harriet Miers' friendship and devotion to our country. And I am honored that she will continue to serve our Nation as White House Counsel.

My responsibility to fill this vacancy remains. I will do so in a timely manner.

### **Statement on the Launch of a Nationwide Effort To Respond to the South Asia Earthquake**

*October 27, 2005*

Five distinguished private-sector leaders have agreed to launch a nationwide effort to encourage private donations for relief and reconstruction in response to the South Asia

earthquake that occurred on October 8. These leaders will work with other Americans to raise awareness and resources to help those in need as a result of this disaster.

This private-sector effort will complement the commitment the United States Government has made in terms of funding, relief commodities, and critical military logistical support. In addition, the United States has sent a delegation, headed by USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, to the United Nations Emergency Donors' Conference for South Asia Earthquake Relief in Geneva.

The business leaders are Jeff Immelt, chairman and CEO of the General Electric Company; Hank McKinnell, Jr., Ph.D., chairman and CEO of Pfizer, Inc.; Sandy Weill, chairman of Citigroup, Inc.; Anne Mulcahy, chairman and CEO of Xerox Corporation; and Jim Kelly, former chairman and CEO of United Parcel Service of America, Inc. In the coming days, they will ask Americans to donate directly to a fund set up to provide help to the earthquake victims.

### **Message to the Senate Transmitting the Bangladesh-United States Taxation Convention**

*October 27, 2005*

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I transmit herewith for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification a Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Bangladesh for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income signed at Dhaka on September 26, 2004 (the "Convention"). An exchange of notes is enclosed, and the report of the Department of State with respect to the Convention is transmitted for the information of the Senate.

This Convention, which is similar to tax treaties between the United States and other developing nations, provides maximum rates of tax to be applied to various types of income and protection from double taxation of income. The Convention also provides for the resolution of disputes and sets forth rules making its benefits unavailable to those who are engaged in treaty forum shopping.

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

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
October 27, 2005.

### **Message to the Senate Transmitting the United Nations Convention Against Corruption**

*October 27, 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 the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (the "Corruption Convention"), which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on October 31, 2003. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to the Corruption Convention, with an enclosure.

The international fight against corruption is an important foreign policy priority for the United States. Corruption hinders sustainable development, erodes confidence in democratic institutions, and facilitates transnational crime and terrorism. The Convention will be an effective tool to assist in the growing global effort to combat corruption.

The U.N. Corruption Convention is the first global multilateral treaty to comprehensively address the problems relating to corruption. It provides for a broad range of cooperation, including extradition and mutual legal assistance, and commits governments to take measures that will prevent corruption from happening in the first place. The Corruption Convention includes provisions to criminalize and prevent corruption and provides procedures for governments to recover assets that have been illicitly acquired by corrupt officials.

The provisions of the Corruption Convention are explained in the accompanying report of the Department of State. The report also sets forth proposed reservations that would be deposited by the United States with