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In conclusion may I propose a toast to you, Mr. President, to Mrs. Bush, and to the people of the United States of America.

[*At this point, the President and Prince Charles offered a toast.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:55 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Reduce Federal Spending

November 3, 2005

Today the Senate took an important step forward in cutting the deficit. I commend Senate leadership and the other Senators who supported this spending reduction legislation, and I congratulate Senator Gregg on its successful passage. Congress needs to send me a spending reduction package this year to keep us on track to cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

Statement on Senate Action on Energy Legislation

November 3, 2005

Increasing our domestic energy supply will help lower gasoline prices and utility bills. We can and should produce more crude oil here at home in environmentally responsible ways. The most promising site for oil in America is a 2,000 acre site in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and thanks to technology, we can reach this energy with little impact on the land or wildlife. I applaud the Senate for passing legislation to improve our energy situation with this commonsense approach.

Proclamation 7958—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2005

November 3, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the strength of family members, doctors, nurses, volunteers, and others who provide care for those living with this devastating disease. During this month, we also reaffirm our commitment to victims of this disease. We hope to enhance the quality of life for Alzheimer's patients and improve prevention and treatment.

Approximately 4.5 million Americans are affected by Alzheimer's disease. The disease gradually destroys parts of the brain that control memory, learning, communication, and reason. As it progresses, individuals may also experience changes in behavior and personality, leading to severely impaired cognitive abilities and the need for full-time care and assistance. Age remains the greatest risk factor—the National Institute on Aging estimates that the percentage of people who develop Alzheimer's disease doubles for each 5-year age group beyond 65. Alzheimer's affects nearly half of those over 85.

While there is no known cure or certain treatment, researchers are learning more about what causes this tragic disease and how to control its symptoms. My Administration remains committed to funding medical research programs to help prevent, treat, and find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. The National Institute on Aging has begun new initiatives to improve development and testing of medicines that may slow progression of the disease. The Department of Veterans Affairs is supporting research through its Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Centers, and the Administration on Aging is working to improve home and community-based services for Alzheimer's patients. By working together, we can learn more about treatment options and bring greater comfort to those afflicted with this disease.

Our Nation is grateful for the scientists, researchers, and health care professionals who are dedicated to treating Alzheimer's patients and finding a cure. We are also grateful for the hard work and compassionate spirit of family members and caregivers. Their efforts reflect the character and spirit of America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2005 as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:20 a.m., November 4, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 7.

Proclamation 7959—Revoking Proclamation 7924

November 3, 2005

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Whereas, the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code, 40 U.S.C. 3141–3148, and the provisions of all other acts, Executive Orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, or other directives providing for the payment of wages, which provisions are dependent upon determinations by the Secretary of Labor under section 3142 of title 40, United States Code, were suspended by Proclamation 7924 of September 8, 2005, within specified geographic areas affected by Hurricane Katrina until otherwise provided;

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 202 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622, do by this Proclamation revoke, effective November 8, 2005, Proclamation 7924 as to all contracts for which bids are opened or negotiations concluded on or after November 8, 2005.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:32 a.m., November 7, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 8.

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

November 4, 2005

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification a Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the French Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Estates, Inheritances, and Gifts, signed at Washington on November 24, 1978 (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 provides a pro rata unified credit to the estate of a French domiciliary for purposes of computing U.S. estate tax. It allows a limited U.S. "marital deduction" for certain estates if the surviving spouse is not a U.S. citizen. In addition, the Protocol expands the United States jurisdiction to tax its citizens and certain former citizens and long-term residents and makes other changes to the treaty to reflect more closely current U.S. tax-treaty policy.