

Remarks to Reporters Following a Meeting With Associate Justice-Designate Samuel A. Alito, Jr.

January 9, 2006

Good morning. I just had breakfast with Judge Alito. I told him I think he conducted himself with such dignity and class in the weeks leading up to the confirmation process, which begins today.

Sam Alito is imminently qualified to be a member of the bench. I'm not the only person who feels that way. The American Bar Association looked at his record, looked at his opinions, looked at his temperament, and came to the same conclusion, that he is well qualified to be a Supreme Court judge.

Sam's got the intellect necessary to bring a lot of class to that Court. He's got a judicial temperament necessary to make sure that the Court is a body that interprets the law and doesn't try to write the law. And so I'm looking forward to your hearings. I know the American people will be impressed, just like I have been impressed and a lot of other Members of the Senate have been impressed.

And my hope, of course, is that the American people will be impressed by the process. It's very important that Members of the Senate conduct a dignified hearing. The Supreme Court is a dignified body; Sam is a dignified person. And my hope, of course, is that the Senate bring dignity to the process, give this man a fair hearing, and an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor.

Sam, good luck to you. Thanks for your agreement to serve. I appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:52 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on the No Child Left Behind Act in Glen Burnie, Maryland

January 9, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm introduction. It's great to be here with Laura. She is a fantastic mom. She understands something that's very interesting—all education begins at home. I can

remember her reading to our little girls all the time. Occasionally, I did, too, but stumbled over a few of the words and might have confused them. [*Laughter*] Laura cares deeply about education, as do I.

Thank you all for coming. We're here at North Glen Elementary School because it is a center of educational excellence. That's why we're here. We're here to herald success. We're here to say—[*applause*].

It so happens this is the fourth anniversary of when I signed the No Child Left Behind Act. I think the No Child Left Behind Act is one of the most significant accomplishments in education in a long, long time. I want to thank both the Republicans and Democrats who worked together back then to get this piece of legislation passed. It is a really important piece of legislation that is working. And I'm here today to talk about the spirit of the No Child Left Behind Act, the evidence that says it's working, and my deep desire to work with Congress to make sure it continues to have the desired effect on children all across the country.

First, I want to welcome our Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings. I've known her for a long time. She is a dear friend of mine who also happens to be a significant warrior when it comes to leaving no children behind in our society. She believes that I believe—like I believe, that every single child can learn, and we've got to make sure that every child does learn. I want to thank you for your leadership, Margaret. You're doing a heck of a job as the Secretary of Education.

I want to thank the first lady, as well, for being here—Kendel, thanks for coming. Tell that old husband of yours it's okay to sleep in occasionally. [*Laughter*]

Dutch, I want to thank you for being here—Congressman Ruppertsberger's district—real proud you took time out of your life to be here. Thanks for coming. I also want to thank Congressman Wayne Gilchrest for being here as well. Wayne, appreciate you taking time.

I want to thank all the local and State officials who've joined us. I want to thank Nancy Mann, the superintendent of schools for this school district. Julie, thank you—the principal, Julie Little-McVeary, who is the—listen, let me say something—and by the way,