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those dreams. And so I'm here to say thank you for your prayers, thank you for your example, thank you for helping your fellow citizens, and thank you for being great citizens of the United States of America.

Que Dios les bendiga.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:08 a.m. at the J.W. Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Esperanza USA, who introduced the President; and Salavador Pina, owner, Pina's Auto Repair in Omaha, NE.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Governors on the Line-Item Veto

June 8, 2006

Appreciate some of our Nation's finest Governors joining us today. We talked about a couple of things. The first thing I did was bring the Governors up to date on recent successes we've had in Iraq. I talked about my discussion with Prime Minister Maliki, about the fact that he's completed his cabinet. I also told them that I had talked to our commanders and congratulated them on bringing Mr. Zarqawi to justice.

I thanked our Governors for being such strong commanders in chief. I hope they take a message back to their respective Guard units, how much our country appreciates their service, and I hope they also take the message back that we appreciate the service of their families.

We also talked about fiscal discipline, how the executive branch can have certain tools to work with the legislative branch to make sure that they're—responsible spending. Every one of these Governors have got a line-item veto, and they've used it wisely, and they shared their experiences with me. And the reason they did so is because we're urging Congress to give this President and future Presidents the opportunity to be able to have what is very much similar to a line-item veto. And the American people expect their money to be spent wisely. The President needs to have a tool to be able to work with the Congress so that that money is spent wisely.

I appreciate the support of both Republicans and Democrats on the Hill in supporting the bill that we've submitted. I urge the Congress to pass this type of legislation so that we can work together to get our deficit cut in half by 2009, but, more importantly, assure the American people that we're being wise about how we use their money.

I thank you all very much. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq; and senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Michelle Bachelet of Chile

June 8, 2006

President Bush. It is such an honor for me to welcome to the Oval Office the President of Chile. Madam President, welcome.

President Bachelet. Thank you.

President Bush. I was told ahead of time that I was to meet a very charming person, and my briefers were right. I appreciate very much your dedication to values that are important—human rights and human decency, the right for people to be able to speak freely and to vote. I admire your personal story. I also thought it was very interesting that the President, before she came to see me, went by a middle school where she had been educated. It shows that she's dedicated to education and the welfare of the people.

I assured her that the United States of America shares her same sense of social justice and that our desire is to help, when we can, people to become educated so they can realize their dreams.

We talked about the neighborhood. She shared with me her strategy to encourage there to be peaceful development and prosperous development. I assured the President that I'm very interested in her points of view. I look forward to working with you. The neighborhood is very important to the United States of America; it's very important for our country to be engaged and working with friends and allies to help others. And so I've been looking forward to this meeting for quite a while. We've got very good relations