AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

Monday, June 12, 2006
Volume 42—Number 23
Pages 1073–1115

Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Interior Department, swearing-in ceremony for Secretary Kempthorne—1098
Line-item veto, meeting with Governors—1104
Marriage, proposed constitutional amendment to protect—1076
National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast—1101
Nebraska, immigration reform in Omaha—1091
New Mexico
Customs and Border Protection, swearing-in ceremony for Commissioner Basham in Artesia—1078
Immigration reform in Artesia—1078
Radio address—1073
Texas, Laredo Border Patrol Sector Headquarters in Laredo—1085
Zarqawi, Abu Musab Al, death of senior Al Qaida associate—1100

Executive Orders

Task Force on New Americans—1096

Interviews With the News Media

Exchange with reporters in Laredo, TX—1085
News conference with Prime Minister Rasmussen of Denmark at Camp David, MD, June 9—1105

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Chile, President Bachelet—1104
Congo, Republic of the, President Sassou-Nguesso—1074
Denmark, Prime Minister Rasmussen—1105
Honduras, President Zelaya—1075

Proclamations

Caribbean-American Heritage Month—1077
Father's Day—1090
Flag Day and National Flag Week—1089
National Oceans Week—1073

(Continued on the inside of the back cover.)

Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on June 9, 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

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for $80.00 per year ($137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for $93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is $3.00 ($3.75 for foreign mailing).

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is also available on the Internet on the *GPO Access* service at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/wcomp/index.html.

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents.*

Contents—Continued

Statements by the President

"Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act," congressional action—1099
Marriage protection legislation, Senate action—1099
Mine safety legislation, congressional action—1100

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1115
Checklist of White House press releases—1114
Digest of other White House announcements—1112
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1113

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS
Washington DC 20402

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for private use, $300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
GPO
PERMIT NO. G-26

Week Ending Friday, June 9, 2006

Proclamation 8027—National Oceans Week, 2006

June 2, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Oceans Week, we recognize the importance of the oceans to our national heritage, economy, and security and reaffirm our commitment to protecting them through wise stewardship and sensible management.

The magnificent beauty of the oceans is a blessing to our country and the world. The oceans also sustain an abundance of natural and historical treasures, enable the transportation of vital goods, and provide food and recreation for millions of people. My Administration is working with State, tribal, and local governments, the private sector, and international partners to foster more effective conservation of our oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes resources and to advance the environmental, economic, and security interests of our Nation.

On December 17, 2004, I established the Committee on Ocean Policy to implement the United States Ocean Action Plan. Through this plan, we are building an integrated ocean observing system, promoting ocean education, embarking on deep oceans research, supporting our maritime transportation system, and enhancing our international leadership role in ocean science and policy. We are also advancing legislation to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, establish a system of sustainable aquaculture, and maintain protections for marine mammals. To fulfill my commitment to end overfishing, we are working with the Congress to build an improved, market-based system to better manage our fisheries and keep our commercial and recreational fishing industries strong.

I appreciate all those who are dedicated to making the oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes cleaner, healthier, and more productive. By working together, all Americans can help sustain the oceans for generations to come.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 4 through June 10, 2006, as National Oceans Week. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the vital role the oceans play in the life of our country and how we can conserve their many natural treasures. I encourage all our citizens to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, 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, 8:45 a.m., June 6, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 7. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

June 3, 2006

Good morning. Next week, the United States Senate will begin debate on a constitutional amendment that defines marriage in the United States as the union of a man and woman. On Monday, I will meet with a coalition of community leaders, constitutional scholars, family and civic organizations, and religious leaders. They're Republicans, Democrats, and independents who've come together to support this amendment. Today I want to explain why I support the marriage protection amendment, and why I'm urging

Congress to pass it and send it to the States for ratification.

Marriage is the most enduring and important human institution, honored and encouraged in all cultures and by every religious faith. Ages of experience have taught us that the commitment of a husband and a wife to love and to serve one another promotes the welfare of children and the stability of society. Marriage cannot be cut off from its cultural, religious, and natural roots without weakening this good influence on society. Government, by recognizing and protecting marriage, serves the interests of all.

In our free society, people have the right to choose how they live their lives. And in a free society, decisions about such a fundamental social institution as marriage should be made by the people, not by the courts. The American people have spoken clearly on this issue, both through their Representatives and at the ballot box. In 1996, Congress approved the Defense of Marriage Act by overwhelming bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate, and President Clinton signed it into law. And since then, voters in 19 States have approved amendments to their State constitutions that protect the traditional definition of marriage. And today, 45 of the 50 States have either a State constitutional amendment or statute defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. These amendments and laws express a broad consensus in our country for protecting the institution of marriage.

Unfortunately, activist judges and some local officials have made an aggressive attempt to redefine marriage in recent years. Since 2004, State courts in Washington, California, Maryland, and New York have overturned laws protecting marriage in those States. And in Nebraska, a Federal judge overturned a State constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

These court decisions could have an impact on our whole Nation. The Defense of Marriage Act declares that no State is required to accept another State's definition of marriage. If that act is overturned by activist courts, then marriages recognized in one city or State might have to be recognized as marriages everywhere else. That would mean that every State would have to recognize marriages redefined by judges in Massachusetts or local officials in San Francisco, no matter what their own laws or State constitutions say. This national question requires a national solution, and on an issue of such profound importance, that solution should come from the people, not the courts.

An amendment to the Constitution is necessary because activist courts have left our Nation with no other choice. The constitutional amendment that the Senate will consider next week would fully protect marriage from being redefined, while leaving State legislatures free to make their own choices in defining legal arrangements other than marriage. A constitutional amendment is the most democratic solution to this issue, because it must be approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate and then ratified by three-fourths of the 50 State legislatures.

As this debate goes forward, we must remember that every American deserves to be treated with tolerance, respect, and dignity. All of us have a duty to conduct this discussion with civility and decency toward one another, and all people deserve to have their voices heard. A constitutional amendment will put a decision that is critical to American families and American society in the hands of the American people, which is exactly where it belongs. Democracy, not court orders, should decide the future of marriage in America.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:30 a.m. on June 2 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 2 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo

June 5, 2006

President Bush. It's been my honor to welcome the President of the Congo here to the Oval Office. Mr. President, welcome. Thank you for coming. I welcome you not

only as the President of your country but as a leader of the African Union.

We had a very constructive discussion about a variety of issues. We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in Darfur. I appreciate the President's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted as quickly as possible.

And one of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in Congo. Thank you for your leadership on that issue.

We've had a very good visit here, and I look forward to seeing you in St. Petersburg, Russia, where we can continue our discussions. So, welcome.

President Sassou-Nguesso. I, first of all, thank you, Mr. President, and I want to say to everyone that I'm very happy and honored to be here, actually for the second time, because in 1990, President Bush—father of President Bush now—welcomed me to this house on a state visit. So I'm very happy to be here, Mr. President.

Indeed, President Bush is absolutely right; we discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism; we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue; we talked about the dialog that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem.

And on behalf of all of Africa, I thank President Bush for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As you know, we had a special meeting on AIDS at the United Nations General Assembly, and as you know also, Africa is the continent that suffers the most from this scourge.

And we also talked about African development issues. We talked about the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the NEPAD, Project for African Development in Africa. And I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa.

And I'm, again, very happy with this very useful meeting that we had with President Bush here. And I'm very happy for the fact that we're going to see each other in St. Petersburg, because President Putin invited me to come to the G–8 Summit as a representative for Africa.

I thank President Bush for his very friendly and warm welcome. And I'm very happy to be here, back in the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:51 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Sassou-Nguesso spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. President Sassou-Nguesso referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Manuel Zelaya Rosales of Honduras

June 5, 2006

President Bush. Mr. President, welcome. It's good to have you here. We've had a very good discussion, as you would expect amongst friends. We discussed our common interests, and one of our common interests is expanded commercial opportunity. And CAFTA gives us a chance to realize those opportunities. We talked about our common desire to make sure the democracies in the region are strong.

We talked about the immigration issue. The President is very concerned about the immigration issue. I assured him that my administration supports a comprehensive immigration bill that treats people with respect and, at the same time, upholds our laws. And over lunch, I will give him our strategy to continue to press for a comprehensive bill that will enforce our borders but allow people to come to our country in a legal way to work on a temporary basis.

So, Mr. President, thank you. The people of America respect your country and appreciate our close ties. And we're sure glad you're here.

President Zelaya. Thank you. I have expressed my appreciation to the President. I'd like to reiterate my thanks to him for the frankness with which he has spoken about the solutions to the common problems we face in the Western Hemisphere.

And we come to this meeting with President Bush with great enthusiasm. And in coming here, we have asked for God's blessing so that this is a meeting that will truly strengthen the fraternal ties that join us in trying to achieve peace in our day.

I thank you very much, Mr. Bush. Your trust makes both of our nations strong.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:51 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Zelaya spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on a Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Protect Marriage

June 5, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. It is a pleasure to be with so many fine community leaders, scholars, family organizations, religious leaders, Republicans, Democrats, independents. Thank you all for coming.

You come from many backgrounds and faith traditions—yet united in this common belief: Marriage is the most fundamental institution of civilization, and it should not be redefined by activist judges. You are here because you strongly support a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as a union of a man and a woman, and I am proud to stand with you.

This week, the Senate begins debate on the marriage protection amendment, and I call on the Congress to pass this amendment, send it to the States for ratification so we can take this issue out of the hands of overreaching judges and put it back where it belongs—in the hands of the American people.

The union of a man and woman in marriage is the most enduring and important human institution. For ages, in every culture, human beings have understood that marriage is critical to the well-being of families. And because families pass along values and shape character, marriage is also critical to the health of society. Our policies should aim to strengthen families, not undermine them. And changing the definition of marriage would undermine the family structure.

America is a free society which limits the role of government in the lives of our citizens. In this country, people are free to choose how they live their lives. In our free society, decisions about a fundamental social institution as marriage should be made by the people.

The American people have spoken clearly on this issue through their elected Representatives and at the ballot box. In 1996, Congress approved the Defense of Marriage Act by large bipartisan majorities in both the House and the Senate, and President Clinton signed it into law. And since then, 19 States have held referendums to amend their State constitutions to protect the traditional definition of marriage. In every case, the amendments were approved by decisive majorities with an average of 71 percent.

Today, 45 of the 50 States have either a State constitutional amendment or statute defining marriage as a union of a man and a woman. These amendments and laws express a broad consensus in our country for protecting the institution of marriage. The people have spoken. Unfortunately, this consensus is being undermined by activist judges and local officials who have struck down State laws protecting marriage and made an aggressive attempt to redefine marriage.

Since 2004, State courts in Washington and California and Maryland and New York have ruled against marriage laws. Last year, a Federal judge in Nebraska overturned a State constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, an amendment that was approved by 70 percent of the population. And at this moment, nine States face lawsuits challenging the marriage laws they have on the books.

Some argue that defining marriage should be left to the States. The fact is, State legislatures are trying to address this issue. But across the country, they are being thwarted by activist judges who are overturning the expressed will of their people. And these court decisions can have an impact on our whole Nation.

The Defense of Marriage Act declares that no State is required to accept another State's

definition of marriage. If that act is overturned by the courts, then marriage recognized in one city or State may have to be recognized as marriages everywhere else. That would mean that every State would have to recognize marriage as redefined by judges in, say, Massachusetts or local officials in San Francisco, no matter what their own State laws or their State constitutions say.

This national question requires a national solution. And on an issue of such profound importance, that solution should come not from the courts but from the people of the United States. An amendment to the Constitution is necessary because activist courts have left our Nation with no other choice. When judges insist on imposing their arbitrary will on the people, the only alternative left to the people is an amendment to the Constitution, the only law a court cannot overturn.

The constitutional amendment that the Senate will consider this week would fully protect marriage from being redefined. It will leave State legislatures free to make their own choices in defining legal arrangements other than marriage. A constitutional amendment is the most democratic process by which our country can resolve this issue. In their wisdom, our founders set a high bar for amending the Constitution. An amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the House and the Senate and then ratified by three-fourths of the 50 State legislatures. This process guarantees that every State legislature and every community in our Nation will have a voice and a say in deciding this issue.

A constitutional amendment would not take this issue away from the States, as some have argued. It would take the issue away from the courts and put it directly before the American people.

As this debate goes forward, every American deserves to be treated with tolerance and respect and dignity. On an issue of this great significance, opinions are strong and emotions run deep. And all of us have a duty to conduct this discussion with civility and decency toward one another. All people deserve to have their voices heard, and a constitutional amendment will ensure that they are heard.

I appreciate you taking an interest in this fundamental issue. It's an important issue for our country to debate and to resolve. And the best way to resolve this issue is through a constitutional amendment, which I strongly support. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:48 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Proclamation 8028—Caribbean-American Heritage Month, 2006

June 5, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During Caribbean-American Heritage Month, we celebrate the great contributions of Caribbean Americans to the fabric of our Nation, and we pay tribute to the common culture and bonds of friendship that unite the United States and the Caribbean countries.

Our Nation has thrived as a country of immigrants, and we are more vibrant and hopeful because of the talent, faith, and values of Caribbean Americans. For centuries, Caribbean Americans have enriched our society and added to the strength of America. They have been leaders in government, sports, entertainment, the arts, and many other fields.

During the month of June, we also honor the friendship between the United States and the Caribbean countries. We are united by our common values and shared history, and I join all Americans in celebrating the rich Caribbean heritage and the many ways in which Caribbean Americans have helped shape this Nation.

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 June 2006 as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. I encourage all Americans to learn more about the history of Caribbean Americans and their contributions to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of June, in the year

of our Lord two thousand six, 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., June 7, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 8.

Remarks on Immigration Reform and a Swearing-In Ceremony for W. Ralph Basham as Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection in Artesia, New Mexico

June 6, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Pete, thanks for your kind words, and thanks for your leadership. New Mexico has got a fine senior Senator in Pete Domenici. All he talks about is New Mexico when I'm with him. Now I'm afraid all he's going to talk about is FLETC. [*Laughter*]

It's good to be in Artesia. Some people probably think I've never heard of Artesia. You forgot I grew up in Midland. Home of the Mighty Bulldogs, Artesia is. The land where the sky is big and the people are friendly. I knew I was in pretty good country when I saw all the cowboy hats, and I think I saw one guy spitting in a can. [*Laughter*] But I'm thrilled to be here, I really am, and I appreciate a chance to be here at the Border Patrol Academy, here at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

I want to—the reason I'm here is because I want the country to pay attention to what you're doing. And I want you to understand, those of you who are training to become Border Patrol agents and those of you who are training the trainees, I want you to understand that I really appreciate your contribution to the United States of America, and so do the American people.

What you're learning to do here is important. It's important for the security of our Nation. And I want to thank you for volunteering. At this academy, new agents undergo 19 weeks of training, and by the looks of it, it isn't all that easy. It's practical experience. It's the kind of experience that's going to put you in pretty good stead when it comes to doing the job that we expect you to do.

You're taking courses in counterterrorism and immigration law. You're taking courses in antidrug trafficking and firearms. You're taking courses in motor vehicle operations. And for those of you who don't know how to speak Spanish, you're learning how to speak Spanish. Those are all very important parts of your training.

Look, I'm not here to give you a lecture, but I am here to thank you. I want to appreciate what you're doing; I appreciate your service. I look forward to seeing you out there on the border doing the job we expect you to do. And in a little while, I'm going to tell you, you expect something from us too. But the first thing you can expect is the full support of the Federal Government, and you have it.

I appreciate—[*applause*]—Pete Domenici is keeping pretty good company today with Senator Jeff Bingaman. It's good to see the Senator. Thanks for coming. I'm proud you're here as well. I flew down with two Members of the United States Congress, Congressman Tom Udall—he's from the northern part of the State—and Congressman Steve Pearce—he's here from the eastern part of New Mexico. It's good to see you all. Pearce has got that umbrella up because he's bald-headed. [*Laughter*] He's also a fine Congressman.

I want to thank the Governor of the great State of New Mexico, Governor Bill Richardson. Governor, I'm proud you're here. Thank you for taking the time. I know what it's like to be the Governor of a border State. And I know Governor Richardson counts on the Federal Government to pass a good piece of legislation that will enable him and the people of this State who are working with you to do their jobs. And I'm proud you're on the lead of comprehensive immigration reform, Bill.

I want to thank Secretary Mike Chertoff for joining us. I want to thank other members of my administration, starting with Ralph Basham, who is the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and his wife, Judy. We're fixing to swear Ralph in. Part of this ceremony is for you to witness the swearing-in of your boss. I think that's

a good way for us to make it clear that those of us who are in Washington, DC—in my case, on a temporary basis, I want to emphasize—[*laughter*]—we know you're out here, see, and we care about the job you're doing. I thought it made sense to swear in the new Commissioner in your presence, as a way of making it clear—[*applause*]—as a way of making it clear for us to say, he may have an office in Washington, but his heart is right here with the Border Patrol agents.

I appreciate very much Connie Patrick, who's the Director of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. I want to thank David Aguilar; he's the Chief of the Border Patrol. For those of you fixing to join the Border Patrol, you need to know, you've got a Chief who knows what he's talking about. See, he did exactly what you've done. Plus, he's a Texan. [*Laughter*] I appreciate Jay Ahern; he's Assistant Commissioner of Field Operations for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

I just had a tour given to me by Charlie Whitmire. Maybe you've heard of Charlie. [*Laughter*] He's a no-nonsense kind of guy. See, he's the kind of guy you want running a facility like this. He's got one thing in mind, and that is to give you the tools necessary to do the job. Whitmire, I appreciate your service, and thanks for your leadership. Thanks for the tour.

I appreciate all the State and local officials who have taken time out of your day to come and say hello, and I particularly want to thank the mayor, Manuel Madrid, for being here as well. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming; proud you're here. Thanks for your time.

Most of all, I want to thank you all, and I want you to thank your families on behalf of a grateful nation. You need to tell your wives and children, mothers and fathers how much we appreciate what you're doing. So you've got my permission to take a little time off this afternoon—[*laughter*]—and let them know. This is a family deal. You're here training for a very important mission, a mission that's sometimes dangerous. And I understand how important it is to have the support of somebody in your house.

See, I got support from a great lady too, like many of you who are married. I'm fortunate to be married to Laura Bush who sends her very—[*applause*]—she sends her best to all the good folks out here in eastern New Mexico. Her mother is living right across the border, so we stay in touch with how people are thinking out here.

And it's—I can't tell you how—a joy it is to be out here where the air is dry and fresh and the people are down-to-earth and decent—people who love our country and people who expect us to handle this immigration debate with dignity and to get something done. That's what they expect. The people of Artesia want something done on the immigration issue, and the people all across our country want something done on this important issue. So I want to talk to you today about the debate we're having in Washington, DC.

The first thing is, illegal immigration is a serious problem. The first thing we got to understand as a country is that illegal immigration undermines the rule of law. It creates an underground economy. It can danger our national security. And therefore, we need to do something about it.

Illegal immigration makes it tough on local communities. It puts a strain on public schools and strains State and local budgets, brings crime to some of our communities. And we need to do something about it.

We've also got to remember this though, during this debate, that illegal immigration is a problem, but we need to remember that immigrants have been one of the great strengths of the United States of America. For generations, immigrants to this country have risked everything because of the dream of freedom. And they've assimilated into our society. And they've contributed to our economy. And they've contributed to the greatness of America. During this debate, this important debate on illegal immigration, we've got to remember we're a land of immigrants, and therefore, conduct this debate with dignity.

The United States is a nation of laws, and we're going to enforce our laws. We're also a nation of immigrants, and we're going to uphold that tradition. And these are not contradictory goals. America can be a lawful society, and America will be a welcoming society at the same time.

So I'm going to work with Congress to fix our immigration problems, and I'm going to work with Congress to pass a comprehensive bill I can pass into law. And we're making progress. I know you're following the debate in Washington, but we're making progress toward a comprehensive bill.

When I visited the border last fall, Congress was still debating whether to take any action at all. See, last fall there was a doubt as to whether or not Congress was going to act on the immigration bill. The last time I visited the border last month, the House had passed a bill focusing on border security and interior enforcement. Now the Senate has passed a bill, and it's a more comprehensive approach that includes a temporary-worker program and a plan to resolve the status of illegal immigrants inside our country. And the next step is for the House and the Senate to reconcile its difference and agree on legislation that both houses can agree on. And I believe that legislation needs to be comprehensive in nature, which I'm going to talk about here in a minute.

I know when you watch your television or listen to the radio, it seems like there's nothing but disagreement on immigration policy in Washington. Yet there's a growing consensus among all parties and all regions of the country that fundamental reforms are needed. In other words, people are coming to the conclusion we got to do something about a system that isn't working. And while the differences grab the headlines, the similarities in approaches are striking.

We all agree we need to control our borders. There's a common agreement that the Federal Government has a responsibility to control the borders, so that every illegal immigrant caught at the border needs to be sent home. We agree with that. Secondly, we agree that the Government needs to crack down on businesses that hire illegal workers. In other words, in order to help you do your job, we all agree that if someone is hiring somebody who is an illegal immigrant, they've broken the law, and we need to crack down on that.

We all agree we must reduce the incentives for foreign workers to cross the border illegally. See, there's agreement on that in Washington. We agree that it's unacceptable to have millions of illegal immigrants living in our country beyond the reach of law and the protection of the law. And we all agree that immigrants to America must assimilate into our society. They must embrace our values and learn to speak the English language. See, there's common agreement; there's a consensus. And we need to act on that broad consensus and deliver comprehensive reform that makes our system orderly, secure, and fair.

We all agree we've got to enforce the borders. Since 2001, I've worked with the United States Congress to increase border security funding by 66 percent. I want to thank the Members of Congress for working on that. Border Patrol has been expanded from about 9,000 agents to 12,000 agents, and we're building new infrastructures on the border.

Federal agents like you have apprehended and sent home about 6 million people entering America illegally since 2001. It's an amazing statistic, isn't it? Most American people have no earthly idea how hard our Border Patrol agents are working. Six million people since 2001 have been caught trying to come into this country illegally and sent home. And that's why I tell you, I'm grateful for your hard work. People are doing an outstanding job.

But we got to make sure that we give you more to secure the border. Congress needs to fund dramatic increases in manpower and additional technology that will help you build on the successes. See, there's more work to be done. We're going to increase the size of the Border Patrol by additional 6,000 agents by the end of 2008. You're going to be busy here at this facility. See, our goal is to have doubled the Border Patrol to about 18,000 Border Patrol agents. That's what they tell me is going to work. I said, "Fine, get it done." And your classes here are part of that doubling of the Border Patrol. And when these agents that are trained here are deploying, we're going to give them what's necessary in terms of technology to be able to do their jobs.

See, we need to add new technologies to the new manpower we're training, so we can tell the American people we're doing our best we possibly can to secure our border.

Americans expect us to secure the border. It's an important job of the Federal Government. And so we're going to double your size, and we're going to get you new technologies.

We're going to build high-tech fences in urban corridors. For the agents here who've been on the frontlines of enforcing our border, you understand how important those high-tech fences are so you can do that job. We're going to make sure you got new patrol roads. We can't ask these new Border Patrol agents that we're training to do their job and not have adequate patrol roads to be able to go up and down the border. We're going to build virtual fence that employs motion detectors and infrared cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles to prevent illegal crossings. See, we're going to leverage technology so you can better do your job.

Proposals to boost manpower and upgrade technologies have the support of Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate. In other words, there's consensus on that. We're going to get this part of the job done. And I understand and you understand, it takes time to get technology and Border Patrol agents in place.

The training you do here takes 19 weeks, as it should. We don't want to rush you through the academy. See, when we put you on the frontline of doing your job, we want you to be as well-trained as you possibly can be. That's what your families expect, that's what your Government expects, and that's what your trainers want. They want to use their skills to give you the skills necessary to do the job.

But it takes the time, and yet we don't have time to get this border enforced. And so therefore, I decided to work with our State Governors, Republicans and Democrats, to move 6,000 National Guard troops on the border to help the current Border Patrol do the job until the new agents are trained. That makes sense to me, doesn't it? If we've got a problem, let's address it square on. And if part of the problem is we're waiting to get new Border Patrol agents trained, and we can't wait, let's move some troops in—National Guard troops that will be able to help those of you on the frontlines of securing our border do your job better.

Guard members are arriving at the border, and they're going to set up a headquarters to support Border Patrol operations. You see, you notice I said "support the Border Patrol." The Border Patrol is in the lead—that's why they're going through significant training. The Border Patrol is the primary law enforcement agency on the border. And so the Guard units are down there to support your job; they're to make it easier for you to do your job. Our Guard units will not be involved in direct law enforcement activities. That's not what they're going to go down there for. The United States of America will not militarize our border. We're going to make sure that the Border Patrol is the—is directly involved in law enforcement activities. That's what you're trained to do. The Guard is going to free up Border Patrol to focus on stopping illegal immigrants coming in. They're going to be building the roads, and they're going to be doing the support.

When I was down in Yuma, I saw the Guard working side by side with Border Patrol, and what they're doing is, they're freeing up the Border Patrol to be on the frontlines. And I want to thank Governor Richardson and Governor Perry and Governor Schwarzenegger, Governor Napolitano for working with the Federal Government to prepare the way for the arrival of the Guard troops. And as soon as you get the Border Patrol agents trained, these Guard troops will be going home. But until that time, I want them down here helping you do the job that the American people expect us to do.

We've got to stop catch-and-release. Perhaps the people of Artesia, New Mexico, know what I'm talking about; a lot of Americans don't. What happens is, these Border Patrol agents work hard, they find somebody coming back—coming into our country; they say, "The rules say you check in with the officer here, in the court; come back in about 20 days when we've got time for you to show up," and they don't show up. So you've got somebody working hard to find somebody, and we let them back out in society, and guess what—they disappear. And we're going to end that practice.

Eighty-five percent of the illegal immigrants caught crossing the border are Mexican citizens, so they get sent back quickly.

Within 24 hours they're sent back across the country, and that's important for people to know—if you get caught, you get sent home. It means it's less likely you're going to try to come in, in the first place.

Unfortunately, it wasn't that easy to send home illegal immigrants from other countries, Central American countries, for example, and so they were released back into our society. It had to be frustrating for you Border Patrol agents who were on the frontlines. You work hard, you find somebody who is trying to sneak in from Central America, you do your job; next thing you know you hear, "Oops, they're somewhere in society." So we're going to end that practice.

And the way you end it is, you build more detention facilities. See, part of the problem was, we didn't have a place to hold these folks. And so now I'm working with Congress to increase the number of detention facilities along our borders, to make sure that when we catch somebody from a place other than Mexico, there's a place to hold them until such time as we send them back to their country.

I'm also talking to leaders of those countries from which these people are coming, and I'm saying, "You have a responsibility to take them back as quickly as possible." And our mission is to end catch-and-release once and for all on the southern border of the United States, and we intend to do just that.

In order to make sure this Border Patrol strategy works, this strategy of securing the border, we all agree in Washington that employers must be held to account for the workers they hire. I spoke to the Chamber of Commerce last week, and I made it clear that the United States is not going to tolerate employers who violate our immigration laws. See, it's against the law to hire someone who is here illegally. That's what the law says. We're a nation of laws, and we expect people to abide by the laws.

Most businesses want to comply with the law; they really do. Most people are good, law-abiding citizens who want to comply, but they have trouble verifying the legal status of their employees because of widespread problem of fake IDs and fraudulent Social Security numbers. See, there's a problem here. We got people sneaking into our country, and there's a whole document forgery ring supplying them with fake documents. And it's hard to expect some small-business person in Artesia, New Mexico, to be in a position to be a document checker.

And the Federal Government can help. So we're working on an effective system for verifying work eligibility so the businesses can better comply with the law, and then we'll be in a position to say, "If you don't comply with the law, you deserve to be punished. If we catch you cheating right now, you'll be punished." But we got to make sure that small businesses and large businesses have got the capacity to verify whether a person is here legally or not.

Congress needs to give Federal agents the authority they need to enforce the law when job applicants submit fraudulent Social Security numbers. Congress needs to make it mandatory for employers to check information provided by job applicants against Federal databases. Right now it's voluntary. In other words, you getting ready to hire somebody, you need to check against the Federal database to make sure the numbers on the cards aren't forged, are real. But what really Congress needs to do is to use a biometric technology to create a new tamper-proof identification card for every legal foreign worker. That's what we need; we need a tamper-proof card. It says, if you're here legally working, here's your card, and you got to show it. And the businessowner has got to call for it. And if they hire somebody without the tamper-proof card, they're in violation of the law and will be fined.

We've got to reduce the incentives for foreign workers to sneak across the border. That's what we agree on in Washington. If I were a Border Patrol agent, I'd be asking, "What are you trying to do about the people trying to sneak in here to work. How come you don't have a temporary way for them to come work on the jobs Americans aren't doing?" See, I believe that we need to understand that there are people coming across this border to put food on the table for their family, and they'll do anything to make it into America to do work. That's what you got to understand. A lot of people in Artesia, New Mexico, know what I'm talking about. There are people coming to do work Americans

aren't doing. They're working in the dairy farms; they're working the crops; they're laying tile; they're putting roof on in August.

And therefore, it seems like to me, if we want to protect this border, we ought to recognize they're coming and give them a temporary-worker card. They can come if they pass a criminal background check, for a limited period of time, and after they do their time, they go back home.

If you want to secure this border, you got to make it so people don't feel like they got to sneak across the border. The people these people catch are coming into this country to do jobs. We ought to recognize that and say, "Here is a legal way for you to come on a temporary basis for jobs that Americans aren't doing. And when you finish your time, when your time is up with the temporary-worker card, you go back home." And one way to secure that border is to have people not trying to sneak across the border, is to give them a chance to come here legally on a temporary basis.

You know, I was out in Yuma, and they were describing one of the techniques for people coming here to work. You got a couple of Border Patrol agents out on a part of the world—a part of the road there, and a hundred people rush them. A hundred people coming to do work rush right across the border, and you got three agents trying to stop them. And it's impossible. So the way to stop them is to do what we're doing out there: add Border Patrol agents, add new double-fencing in that part of the border. But it seems like to me, it's logical to say, "You can come over; you don't need to rush the Border Patrol. Just come over here in a legal way, if you pass a background check, for a temporary period of time, and do work Americans aren't doing." That's called a temporary-worker plan. And, in my judgment, any comprehensive bill that will work requires a temporary-worker plan.

We all agree we've got to resolve the status of millions of illegal immigrants who are here already. And this is the toughest part of the bill for the Congress. Now, I believe there's widespread agreement that we should not have an automatic path to citizenship, which is called amnesty. I'm against amnesty. I'm against amnesty because it's unfair to those people who are standing in line to become a citizen and who have been here lawfully. And I'm against amnesty because I think if you grant amnesty, it invites a further wave of illegal immigrants to try to come in this country. So whatever plan we do should not be viewed as amnesty.

In other words, some say, "Well, the way to solve this problem is to say, you're here; you're automatically a citizen." I disagree strongly with that. Now, there is a debate and honest disagreement who believe that immigration policy should force every illegal immigrant to return home for good. That's what some people in Washington think. And obviously, there are those at the other end who believe that every illegal immigrant should be granted automatic citizenship. Neither of those plans are going to work. I just described why one wouldn't work. And trying to find 10 million people who have been here for a long period of time and rout them out of our society and send them home is just impractical. It may sound good; it's not going to work.

Our job is to put something on paper that will work, so these Border Patrol agents can get their job done. Our job is to be practical and to use common sense. And so here's a commonsense middle ground between those two polarized positions. First of all, we've got to recognize that people who—the difference between people who have been here for awhile and people here newly arrived. Those who have been here newly arrived ought to be given a temporary-worker card, and they work their time and go home.

But we've got to recognize that there are people who have been here for years, and they've got a home and a clean record, and they've been paying taxes. And so I believe if they want to stay here, that they ought to pay a fine, first and foremost. They've broken our law, and they ought to pay a fine for breaking the law. Secondly, I believe they've got to pay taxes and make sure that they pay their taxes. Thirdly, I believe they ought to speak English. And fourthly, I believe they have to prove they've been working for a job for a number of years. In other words, there's a consequence. And then—and then—they can apply for citizenship, but they don't get at the head of the line, they get in the back

of the line. You get behind the people who have been here legally.

In other words, you've got somebody who has been here for awhile; they've been a good citizen; they've been working hard; and they pay a penalty for being here illegally. But if they want to choose to be a citizen, they get behind those people who have been here legally and who haven't broken the law. And if Congress is worried about the number of people getting in, they can decrease the number of green cards. You can control the size of the line by the number of green cards you issue. If you want a longer line for people, issue fewer green cards. If you want to shorten the line, issue more green cards. But here is a rational way to make sure that we treat people with dignity without granting automatic citizenship, which is called amnesty.

And finally, whatever our views on the issue, we've got to agree that we've got to uphold the great American tradition of the melting pot. You know, we are one Nation under God for a reason, and that is because we appreciate our history, and we share ideals, we respect the flag we fly, and we're bound together by a common language.

I believe English is the key to unlocking opportunity in America. It's been what it takes to help somebody go from picking crops to owning a grocery store or from cleaning the floors of an office building to running that office. It's what we call assimilation, as part of assimilating to be Americans. When immigrants assimilate into this society, they realize their dreams. A lot of people have come here to this country over the decades with a dream, some of them just as simple as, "I'd like to own my own house," or, "I want to work hard so my child can go to college."

I'll never forget being the Governor of Texas and going to schools like UTEP, University of Texas at El Paso. One of the most amazing parts of that ceremony is when the president of the university stood up, and she said, "How many of you are first-generation graduates from college," and you see the students—a lot of them stood up. And you see their proud parents who've worked all their life to help a child go to college. There's something about America where people can work hard and realize dreams. That has, I think, made us a unique nation. And as we go through this debate, we've got to understand that people who have dreams and work hard to achieve those dreams renews the spirit of the country, gives us a uniqueness and the capacity to say, we're all Americans.

So here are the elements for a comprehensive immigration bill—and I believe strongly this: That if we don't address all the elements together, none of it is going to be solved at all. The reason I called for a comprehensive bill is because I understand that in order for these good folks to do their job, we've got to link all five aspects together. We've got to be realistic about what it takes to enforce the border. So I look forward to working with Congress on this important issue.

I'll make you this pledge: My tone in this debate is going to be respectful. The language I use in this debate is going to remember the values and ideals of America. The language I use in this debate is to remember we're from different backgrounds, different religions, different cultures, but ultimately we're united under the great ideals of the United States of America. And I expect everybody else in this debate to carry that same tone as well.

And so I want to thank you for giving me a chance to share my thoughts with you. I feel passionately about this issue. I feel like one reason the people send us to Washington, DC, is to solve difficult problems. That's what you send us to do. You didn't send us up there to kind of shove them aside and hope that they go away. This one is not going away. This one needs to be solved right now.

And I also came to thank those who are getting ready to serve the Border Patrol for serving this great country of ours. You're an important part of securing America, and I want to thank you for your dedication to our country.

I want to congratulate the new Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Ralph Basham. Ralph has a long and distinguished record of service in Federal law enforcement. He joined the Secret Service during the Presidency of Richard Nixon. Some of you all weren't even born during that period of time. [*Laughter*] He served

as Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service Offices in Cleveland and in Washington. He rose all the way to the position of Secret Service Director in 2003. I know he made it to that position because I put him there, and I put him there for a reason. He knows what he's doing. He can get the job done.

Ralph served as Chief of Staff for the Transportation Security Administration and Director of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. That's where he came to know the Border Patrol Agency—Academy. He's a decent man. I trust him deeply, and he's going to be a superb leader for Customs and Border Protection.

And now it's my honor to witness his swearing-in.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. In his remarks, he referred to Charlie Whitmire, acting chief, Border Patrol Academy; Mayor Manuel Madrid of Artesia, NM; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California; and Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona.

Remarks at the Laredo Border Patrol Sector Headquarters and an Exchange With Reporters in Laredo, Texas

June 6, 2006

The President. Well, it's good to be in my home State with my home Governor. Governor Perry understands, like I understand, the need to enforce this border. He also understands what I understand—that in order to do so, we've got to have a comprehensive plan.

I started my day earlier in New Mexico, where I saw the training facility that is going to put out enough Border Patrol to be able to tell the American people, we will have doubled the Border Patrol since 2001. And that's a really important part of our strategy, is to train more Border Patrol agents to help those that are working hard already, to do their job. But we need to make the border technologically advanced as well.

We just saw some of the remote cameras that are in place that will help the Border Patrol be able to do its job better. But more than that, we've got to have a comprehensive approach. And that includes a temporary-worker plan that says, "You can come and do a job Americans aren't doing if you pass a criminal background check, for a period of time. And then once you finish that time, you go home."

We also have got to make sure that we deal with the problem of people who have been here for a long period of time. Some people say, "Throw them out of the country." That doesn't make any sense. You just can't throw them out of the country. Others say, "Give them amnesty." And that doesn't make any sense. And the reason why giving them automatic citizenship doesn't make any sense, it will encourage others to come. So what we ought to do is say to somebody who's been here for awhile, if you pass a background check, criminal background check, you've shown that you've worked here for awhile, you paid a penalty—that you can apply for citizenship, but you get at the back of the line, the citizenship line, not at the front.

A comprehensive plan is necessary to help these good folks do their job. And I'm going to keep calling on Congress to think about a comprehensive plan. We agree on a lot of stuff. A lot of the elements of this plan have got common agreement. And now it's time for folks to set aside politics and get the job done on behalf of the American people.

Nedra [Nedra Pickler, Associated Press], you got a question?

Iran

Q. Yes, sir. Can you respond to Iran's initial reaction to the incentives package today?

The President. Why don't you tell me what it was?

Q. Well, the top negotiator said——

The President. As you know, I've been in Artesia.

Q. Right. I was. But the top negotiator said that the package contained positive steps, but there were some ambiguities, but the talks were constructive.

The President. I think that's positive. I want to solve this issue with Iran diplomatically. And I think that—I appreciate Javier Solana carrying a message to the Iranians that America, Russia, China, Britain, France, and

Germany—the main group of negotiators—wants this problem to be solved. And so we will see if the Iranians take our offer seriously.

The choice is theirs to make. I have said, the United States will come and sit down at the table with them, so long as they're willing to suspend their enrichment in a verifiable way. Sounds like a positive response to me.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

Somalia

Q. Sir. In Somalia, sir, it appears to have fallen to Islamic militants. Is there a need for international peacekeepers there, or what do you think has happened there?

The President. Well, I talked to Secretary of State Rice about this subject yesterday. And obviously, when there's instability anywhere in the world, we're concerned. There is instability in Somalia. The first concern, of course, would be to make sure that Somalia does not become an Al Qaida safe haven; that it doesn't become a place from which terrorists can plot and plan. And so we're watching very carefully the developments there, and we will strategize more when I get back to Washington as how to best respond to the latest incident there in Somalia.

Yes.

Immigration Reform

Q. President Bush——

The President. Where are you from, here?

Q. Laredo Morning Times.

The President. It's nice to be back here. Thank you.

Q. Very nice to meet you too.

The President. Rick and I were talking about the first time I came here after I had won Governor—he had already been in office for a while—was the Washington day parade, and I remember it fondly. It's good to be back in Laredo.

Q. It's good to have you here, sir. Are you all—are you hoping to—a lot of people say that the answer for immigration is to—well, one group is saying that the quotas need to be raised for the amount of legal documented workers that can come in. Is that part of your proposal?

The President. Well, I think the framework I've outlined recognizes that Congress has got the right to regulate what they call green cards. And if Congress thinks that the line for citizens from Mexico is too long, they can increase the number of green cards. If they think it's—or they can shorten—increase the number of green cards. If they think it's too short, they can eliminate the number of green cards. In other words, they can control the flow of people from a particular part of the country.

What I want is people who have been here for awhile to be able to have the choice—if they pay a fine, if they learn the English language, if they've proven they worked—to be able to get in the citizenship—in the potential citizenship line—but at the back of it. See, they don't get to be in the front. The people who have been here legally are in the front of the line. They get to wait in line. And if Congress wants to shorten the line, they increase the number of green cards.

Q. And I guess for those that haven't been here that long, do you favor deportation of those?

The President. Well, I believe that—as I've said in my remarks—that there ought to be a difference between those folks who have been here for a period of time and—like for those who own a home or have got a family established, or have had a job for a long period of time and—and those who have arrived recently. Those people ought to be given a temporary-worker card for a limited period of time. And when the time is up, they need to go home. That's what a temporary worker is—it's not a permanent-worker card; it's a temporary-worker card.

And Congress needs to determine the length—the proper length of time. Right now, one consideration is 3 years with a 3 year renewal. And what that will do is that will help people who are looking for somebody to do a job Americans aren't doing, find workers. It'll also mean that somebody doesn't have to sneak across the border. See, we've got Border Patrol agents chasing down people who are trying to sneak across and do work Americans aren't doing. So it seems like it makes sense to me that—"Here, you can come to our country on a temporary basis to do a job, and when the time is up, you

get to go home." That's how you enforce the border. You enforce the border with more Border Patrol agents, better technology, and a rational way to treat people who are coming here to do work Americans aren't doing.

That's one of the reasons I've come down here to Laredo, as well as Artesia, is, I want to talk to these Border Patrol agents. And I want to assure them that we're listening to what they need to get their job done. Our job in government is to say to people who are risking their lives and working hard is, "What do you need to get the job done?" And that's why I've been coming down here, and we'll keep coming down here. And Congress needs to get a bill done.

Yes, sir.

Congressional Action on Immigration Legislation

Q. Mr. President, you spoke about progress earlier today in Artesia. You said that you feel it's progress that both the Senate and the House have both taken up the issue of immigration. What concrete progress can you point to, in terms of winning over the conservatives in your party who still stand pretty firmly against the idea of any path to citizenship for immigrants?

The President. Well, one thing is, it's conceivable you could have been asking me, "How come you can't get any Chamber in Congress to pass a bill?" And so progress—what I'm telling the American people is, is that from last fall to now, we've got two bills out there. That's progress.

What else is progress is a common understanding: One, we've got to enforce the border; two, that people need to be treated with respect; three, that there needs to be assimilation; four, that we need to hold employers who break the law to account; five, there needs to be some way to deal with people who are here to work on a temporary basis; and six, ultimately, we're going to have to do something about people who've been here for a long period of time. In other words, people understand those are the principles that we've got to work on.

There's no question this is a difficult issue for some in Washington, DC. But my job is to continue calling people to account and say, "We've got to work together to get a bill done." And one way to do it is to come right down here on the frontlines of border enforcement and say to the United States Congress, "There are people working hard on behalf of this country, and we owe them a comprehensive piece of legislation so they can do their job." And I'm going to keep doing it.

Yes, ma'am. Where are you from?

Q. ABC News.

The President. ABC News? I'd suggest getting a little sunblock——

Q. Sunblock. Yes. [*Laughter*]

The President. Yes. Always looking out for my fellow citizens. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you. Last summer, you set a deadline for Congress before their August recess to pass things like the energy bill. Are you going to put such a deadline on an immigration bill——

The President. My attitude is, is that in order for these people to be doing their job, they need a bill as soon as possible. I'm looking forward to getting that conference, seeing the conference get together. You know, people—there are people making statements, and that's important for people to set out there, say things, and kind of set their markers. The conferences have a way of working things out. And I'm going to be continuing to urge people to work things out in conference.

They haven't yet sat down as a conference yet, but they will pretty soon. And that will give us a pretty good feel for whether or not attitudes are hardened to the point nothing can get done. I don't think so. I think the people want something done in America. If you look at the—you know what people are saying. They're saying, "Let's get something done in a comprehensive way." And I believe we can get something done. No question it's hard work, but that's all the more reason to work hard to get it done. I recognize some people in Washington would rather duck the hard issue, but that's not the way I am, and that's not the way most people in Congress are. They want to get the job done, so we should keep working on it.

Okay, thank you all—unless you want to stand out here a little longer. [*Laughter*] You're back again.

Trade With Mexico

Q. Mr. President, I'm sorry, one last question.

The President. That's fine. I'm glad to be working with the local press.

Q. Thank you so much. Some people say that Mexico needs to do a whole lot more to just create more jobs that pay a more decent wage for its people, and that America should help Mexico by investing more or providing more development funds. Is that—what do you think about that, and do you have any kind of proposals for that?

The President. I think the people that say that the long-term solution to immigration is for people to be able to find work in Mexico—they're right. And that's why I've been a strong supporter of NAFTA.

One of the interesting things about the border here that I don't think a lot of Americans are aware, but I know those of us who grew up in Texas are aware of, is that this part of the world used to be really poor. Up and down the Rio Grande Valley, there was a lot of impoverished people. Laredo is a booming town—I mean, it's thriving. It has really changed a lot, and one of the main reasons why is because of trade with Mexico. On the other side of the border, the border States are prosperous States.

And so to answer your question, the first thing is to promote free and fair trade between Mexico and the United States. Trade enhances wealth; it provides opportunities for people. The problem is in Mexico is that the opportunities you can find here on the border don't extend to the south of the country. And so therefore, a lot of the Mexicans that we're finding at the border are people coming up from the south trying to find work so they can put food on the table. And I've talked to President Fox about this very issue, and I know Rick has talked to President Fox about this issue. And that is, what more can we do with Mexico to encourage economic development south of the northern tier States?

President Fox, the last time I saw him, said that there are 100,000 vacant jobs in northern Mexican States. I think that's really interesting. And I said, "What are we going to do about it?" And the issue is education. The issue is to make sure that people in the interior and the south of the country have got enough education, enough skills so they can fill those 100,000 jobs.

And so to answer your question, economic development works through free and fair trade, as well as helping put an education system in place that makes sense. And that's Mexico's responsibility; that's their job. But we can help, and we work with Mexico all the time. I know Texas has got all kinds of collaborative programs with Mexico to help their education system.

Yes, Steve. You enjoying the heat? [*Laughter*]

Immigration Reform

Q. It's not so bad.

The President. It's because you've got a fine looking hat on there. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thanks, sir. The word "amnesty"—the critics seem to be able to just label this an amnesty and get away with it. I mean, are you having trouble fighting back that impression? Is it sinking in to people that this isn't amnesty and it's going——

The President. Look, if you're one of these types of people that basically say, we got to, you know, throw them out, then you just use the word "amnesty," just toss it around. You know, amnesty is something nobody is for in America. I'm not for it. But in order to frighten people, you just say the word "amnesty."

On the other hand, you can't kick people out of this country. You can stop people from coming in, but there have been people here in this part of the world, for example, been here for a decade—honest, hard-working citizens doing jobs Americans aren't doing, providing for their families. They own their home. And the fundamental question is, how do you treat them with respect and, at the same time, have a system that's fair and orderly and respects our laws?

And so my attitude is on that, if a person wants to apply for a citizenship, they've got to pay a fine first. They have broken the laws of the United States, and they need to pay a fine. Then they've got to prove they've got a clean criminal record, paid their taxes, and worked. And then they can apply for citizenship, but they're at the back of the line. See, there's a line of people waiting to become

a citizen, and they need to get at the back of the line, not at the front of the line. And that's how I think we can have an orderly system. That's not amnesty.

Amnesty is, "Okay, everybody who is here, you're a citizen." That's amnesty, and I'm not for that. I think it would be a mistake. And the reason I'm not for—and I recognize some people are for that. The reason I think it's a mistake is that, one, there are people who played by the rules here in America, law abiding citizens who've applied for citizenship, who are in line to become a citizen. They've adhered to all our laws. They're here legally, and they're in line, and they ought to be at the head of the line. And if you say to somebody who has been here illegally, "You're an automatic citizen," then that means they're not the head of the line—it means somebody jumped in front of them who had broken our laws.

Secondly, if people are granted amnesty—in other words, the Government would say, "You're automatically a citizen"—there's going to be another 8 million people trying to get in this country, because a lot of people want to be citizens of the United States. It's a great honor to be a citizen of this country. It's a great tribute to our country, by the way, that people are willing to come here to work and to live. We're the land of the free; we're the land of the opportunity. And yet we've got to control our border. And so therefore, to say to some group of people, "You're an automatic citizen," would increase the likelihood of a lot of other people trying to come back in here so they can become a citizen automatically. And therefore, I'm against amnesty.

And I understand words in politics and words trying to frighten people. But the comprehensive approach I've outlined, when people think about it, makes a lot of sense and you can't—all five need to go together in order to be able to do the job of enforcing the border.

I've enjoyed this, and I hope you have. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Secretary General Javier Solana of the Council of the European Union; and President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

Proclamation 8029—Flag Day and National Flag Week, 2006

June 6, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From our Nation's earliest days, Old Glory has stood for America's strength, unity, and liberty. During Flag Day and National Flag Week, we honor this enduring American symbol and celebrate the hope and ideals that it embodies.

In 1777, the Second Continental Congress established the flag of a young Nation, whose 13 original states were represented in the flag's 13 stars and 13 alternating red and white stripes. Today, the Stars and Stripes commemorate the revolutionary truths of our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. As Americans, we revere freedom and equality, the rights and dignity of every individual, and the supremacy of the rule of law. These fundamental beliefs have guided our country and lifted the fortunes of all Americans, and we have seen their power to transform other nations and deliver hope to people around the world.

During Flag Day and National Flag Week, we also honor the men and women who carry our flag into battle. Through their bravery and sacrifice, they help keep America safe and advance peace and freedom around the globe. By flying the flag, we express our gratitude to these heroes and all those who help ensure that the many blessings of our great country continue for generations to come.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as "Flag Day" and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as "National Flag Week" and calling upon all citizens of

the United States to display the flag during that week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2006, as Flag Day and the week beginning June 11, 2006, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all Federal Government buildings during that week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by flying the Stars and Stripes from their homes and other suitable places. I also call upon the people of the United States to observe with pride and all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, also set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, 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, 8:47 a.m., June 8, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Proclamation 8030—Father's Day, 2006

June 6, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

By offering guidance, support, and unconditional love, a father is one of the most important influences in a child's life. On Father's Day, we honor our fathers and celebrate the special bond between a father and a child.

Fathers play a significant role in shaping the character of their children and the future of our country. By spending time with their sons and daughters and listening to their experiences, fathers can have a profound impact on their children's lives. As advisors, role models, and friends, fathers help their children to understand the difference between right and wrong and to recognize how the decisions they make today can affect the rest of their lives. Fathers instill important values and prepare young people for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Through their daily sacrifices, fathers provide a loving and secure home in which their children can grow to become successful adults and good citizens. Their love and dedication inspire the next generation of Americans to achieve their dreams and demonstrate the true spirit of our Nation.

Father's Day also gives us an opportunity to remember the fathers who are currently serving in our Armed Forces. Our Nation is grateful for the courage and sacrifice of the many proud fathers wearing our country's uniform. By advancing freedom and protecting our way of life, these brave individuals are helping to lay the foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972, as amended (36 U.S.C. 109), do hereby proclaim June 18, 2006, as Father's Day. I encourage all Americans to express admiration and appreciation to fathers for their many contributions to our Nation's children. I direct the appropriate officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on this day. I also call upon State and local governments and citizens to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, 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, 8:47 a.m., June 8, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on June 9.

Remarks on Immigration Reform in Omaha, Nebraska

June 7, 2006

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's great to be back in Omaha. I'm a little—I just wish the timing were a little better—[*laughter*]—Senator. If I'd only delayed my trip, we'd have been able to watch the College World Series again. [*Laughter*]

But I couldn't delay it, for this reason: This country is debating an important issue. It's an issue about our soul and our character. It's an issue that relates to people that are in our country. It's the immigration issue. And I don't think this issue can wait for a baseball game or a baseball tournament; it needs to be addressed now. And I'm honored to be here in Omaha, Nebraska, right here in the middle of our country, to talk about a vital issue that affects us all.

Before I came here to give the speech, I went to the Juan Diego Center. It's right down the road, if you haven't been there. It's run by Catholic Charities. By the way, Catholic Charities is one of the most important battalions in the army of compassion. It's full of—[*applause*]—it's a center of love and compassion. It's a place where volunteers come to reach out to somebody who could use a little extra help, and those volunteers ask nothing in return.

I saw a place where people are learning to speak English and learning the civic lessons of what it means to be an American citizen. I sat around a table with entrepreneurs, people from different countries, all of whom are bound by a common dream of owning their own business; people who are willing to work hard to put food on the table for their families and to realize a dream. It was such an inspiring conversation for me.

One such person I met was Salvador Pina. He's a new American citizen who had a dream; he wanted to own his own business. And Salvador went to the Juan Diego Center and said, "Can anybody here help me?" For some of us, we take it for granted that it's easy to understand what forms to fill out or what worker compensation means or how do you pay your sales tax. But for some, they need a little extra help. They don't need to be inspired to dream big dreams, but they need help to realize those dreams.

He—Salvador received a $10,000 loan from Catholic Charities. That's not exactly a microloan, but it's help. In other words, he said, "Can you help me? I'll work hard for whatever you do to help me, but can you give me—lend me a hand, brother?" And Catholic Charities did, and today he owns his own business. He's the proud owner of Pina Auto Repair. By the way, if you're looking for a good man to fix your car—[*laughter*]—give old Salvador a chance.

So what's it like? He said, "I've been working hard." I said, "Do you employ anybody?" He said, "Yes, I've started with just me, and now I've got three employees." That's what America is all about, isn't it, one person with a dream helping others to provide an employment opportunity. Salvador owns his own building. That's what we want in America. We want to encourage an ownership society, where a person like Salvador who started with nothing can say, "Welcome to my business, and I own my building; come on into the building I own, and here are the three people I'm employing."

When you hear people like me talk about assimilation, that's what we're talking about, helping people assimilate into America, helping us remain one Nation under God. So I want to thank Catholic Charities for their good work, and I want to thank a dreamer like Salvador for coming here, obeying the law, and working hard to achieve the American Dream.

When I get back to Washington, I'm going to sign an Executive order creating a task force on the new Americas. This task force is going to be led by our Secretary of Homeland Security, Chertoff. It's going to work to help people at the grassroots level expand the teaching of English and civics and history instruction programs, to help others assimilate into America.

We want to—I'm going to create—I've also signed legislation creating an Office of Citizenship at the Department of Homeland Security to promote knowledge of citizens' rights and responsibilities. In other words, one aspect of making sure we have an immigration system that works, that's orderly and fair, is to actively reach out and help people

assimilate into our country. That means, learn the values and history and language of America. And for those of you who are wondering how you can help our country, volunteer to be a part of such an assimilation process, just like the volunteers at Catholic Charities are doing.

I appreciate the Governor being here. Mr. Governor, thank you and Sally for coming. You're kind to take time out of your schedule to say hello to the old President. [*Laughter*] Getting older by the minute, by the way. [*Laughter*] I'm not supposed to talk about myself, but in a month, I'm turning 60. For you youngsters, I want to tell you something. When I was your age, I thought 60 was really old. [*Laughter*] It's all in your mind. It's not that old; it really isn't. Right, Senator Hagel? [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Chuck Hagel for his leadership on this issue, this immigration issue. You see, you can make the choice in Washington, DC, whether you want to be a leader or whether you want to kind of lay back and see how things work out and then take a position. You can go to Washington to solve problems, or you can go to Washington to hope those problems go away. Senator Hagel is one of the type of people that said, "I'm going to go to Washington to take a lead on this issue." This problem isn't going away; it needs to be fixed now, and I want to thank Chuck Hagel for his leadership on this important issue.

I'm proud to be here with one of the most decent men in the United States Congress, a man who's got a huge heart, a compassionate fellow, a person who didn't have to go into public service, but said, service to a nation you love and a State you care about is an important lesson for others to realize—and Tom Osborne is one of the fine, fine Americans.

I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor, Rick Sheehy, and the secretary of state, John Gale. Thank you all for coming today.

I'm glad we're at a community college. And I thank Jody McDowell and the board and the teachers who are here, welcoming me here. This is a—[*applause*]. I don't know if the people of Omaha realize what an important asset you have in your community college system. I certainly understand it. Community colleges are a really important part of making sure America remains a competitive nation.

I remind our fellow citizens, particularly those who look to the future and get nervous and say, "Well, we can't compete," or, "There's no way for America to be the economic leader of the world. There's just too much competition"—I simply just don't believe that. I tell people, "Let's don't fear the future; let's shape it." And one way we can shape the future is to make sure people have the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century, and one of the best places for people to learn the skills of the 21st century is at a community college.

Community colleges are practical. They design curriculum that meets the needs of today's world. So when people come here, they come here to learn a set of skills so they can go out and get a job and be a contributor to our society. Maybe the best way for me to describe how important a community college is, is to tell you a quick story about Heather Fowler. Where is Heather? There you are. You got a lousy seat, but that's okay. [*Laughter*] She should have had a better seat because she's the president of the community college. Heather has got, I think, the toughest job in America, and that is being a single mother raising two children. It's particularly tough since one of her daughters is nearly 16. [*Laughter*] I know what it's like.

She's the president. She had been out of school for 16 years. She had been working to raise her family, but she realized that she needed to come back to enhance her skills. So guess where she came—right here. And she's graduating with a nursing degree. See, she had the initiative to say, "I may have been dealt a tough hand, but I'm going to play it with all my strength and all my might, and I'm going to take advantage of that which is available." The community colleges makes advantages available to people.

Heather, I want to thank you for your dedication; I want to thank you for your example. If anybody is listening out there and you're wondering whether or not you can find a place to enhance your skills so you can get a higher paying job, so you can become a more productive worker, which means more pay for you, take the heart of

the president of this school—take the lesson to heart. Heather Fowler shows what's possible here at the community college system. And I'm honored, Heather, you let me use you as an example to encourage others to come to this fine place of learning.

I want to thank Scot Adams. He tolerated me. He's the fellow who is the executive director of Catholic Charities who took me on the tour—great tour guide.

I want to thank—I've got two messages for you from Washington, one from the Secretary of Agriculture—[*laughter*]—Johanns; he's doing fine. [*Laughter*] He's doing really good. As a matter of fact, he remembers where he came from. That's an important part of Washington; it's important that you go up there and serve but never forget where you came from. And Mike Johanns knows where he came from, and he's doing an excellent job as the Secretary of Agriculture.

And Laura sends her best, by the way. She's a—I checked in with her this morning. I'm an early riser, maybe a little too early for her in this case. But she's doing good, really good. And I'm proud to call her wife, and I hope you all are proud to call her First Lady. She's a fine person.

We talked about the importance to help people assimilate into our society. This is what's happened throughout the ages here in America. People have learned to assimilate. You know, I like to remind people, when we think about this immigration debate, the first thing people have got to remember is, we are a nation of immigrants, that we've had this debate before in American history. This isn't the first time the United States of America has had to take a look at our nature and our soul and our history.

I'm here to talk about a comprehensive immigration reform package, one part of which is to help people assimilate. The reason I want a comprehensive reform package is because I want whatever we do to work. And in my judgment, the definition of "work" is: We want a border that's safe and secure; we want rule of law to prevail; and we want the American Dream to flourish. We're a nation of laws, and we want to uphold those laws. We're also a compassionate nation that treats people decently, and the two are not in conflict. That's what's important for our fellow citizens to understand. The two are not in conflict.

I know you probably look at Washington and think it's impossible to develop a consensus in Washington, DC. It probably seems that way, doesn't it, when you pay attention to all the sharp elbows being thrown and the people opinionating and screaming and hollering and calling each other names. But there is a consensus emerging on this issue. I remind the folks, I was down—one reason I'm red-faced is, I was down on the border yesterday in Laredo. It was about 106. But I reminded people that last fall, when I moved around the country on this issue, there wasn't any legislation at all. As a matter of fact, it was in doubt as to whether or not people even wanted to talk about the issue. You could hear them saying in Washington, "Two thousand-six is an election year; maybe we don't want to take on this issue."

But some of us in Washington said, "Well, you got to take on the issue." There's a problem. It's not working. The system is not working; the borders aren't secure; we got people living in the shadows of our society, and that's not right. People don't have trust in the border. The Federal Government is doing its job on the border, and at the same time, we got a whole industry sprung up of smugglers and document forgers and people who are using people like chattel, and that's not fair, and that's not right, either.

And so since then, since when I was—went down there to the border for the first time to bring up the issue, the House passed a bill. And then I mentioned the Senate passed a bill with Chuck's leadership there. So there's progress. You can't get a piece of legislation out that I can sign unless you get both bodies to move.

And so now we're in what's called a conference committee, and there's a consensus developing. Listen, all of us in America agree we've got to secure our border. That's the job of a Federal Government. You want to know who's coming into your country and why; that's what you want to know. We have a responsibility to enforce the border.

And we're making good steps toward that. First thing is, you've got to have Border Patrol agents to enforce the border. And by 2008, we will have doubled the number of

Border Patrol agents to 18,000 Border Patrol agents. And these are people who are highly-trained people, whose job it is to respect the law, to be able to ascertain if somebody's coming into this country illegally or not. See, their job is to make sure the border is open for tourism and legal traffic and shut down for drugs and narcotics and smugglers.

And I was out there to the training plant in Artesia, New Mexico, by the way, yesterday, and there's some fine people serving our country. They really are hard-working, decent folks who volunteered and said, "I want to serve the United States of America in the Border Patrol." And since 2001, we've apprehended and sent back 6 million people trying to get in the country.

People are working hard to defend our border, and so therefore, we're going to double the number of Border Patrol agents. And until we get them stood up, in my judgment, it made sense to send some National Guard folks down there—not to be the law enforcement arm of the Border Patrol but to man the phones and radars and help build the roads, to complement the Border Patrol so that the Border Patrol stays on the frontline of enforcing the border. And once we get the Border Patrol up and running, the Guard can go back to doing what they're doing. But it makes sense to tell the American people that we understand our obligation, and we're going to do our job of enforcing the border.

This is a long border. I mean, it's hard to enforce. And therefore, we need to have good technology down there—cameras and infrared devices and unmanned aerial vehicles and high-tech—high-density corridors, some fencing—just so the Border Patrol can do its job. That's what the American people expect, and we're going to modernize our border, and Congress agrees on that.

The other problem we got along the border is that when people get stopped who are illegally trying to come in the border, a lot of them just get sent back into society. That's not a good system. There's something wrong with this system. In other words, you got people down there enforcing the law, and somebody gets apprehended, and they send them to an immigration holding deal, and they say, "Look, check back after 45 days, with us, please." Well, they're not checking back after 45 days. That's called catch-and-release.

Most of the people we catch are Mexican citizens, and they're sent back to their country immediately. But a lot of folks from Central America, for example, are caught, and since we didn't have enough detention beds, places to hold them until they're able to be sent back to their country, people were let out in society. And that demoralized our Border Patrol. It basically said to the American people, "We're not serious about enforcing our border."

And so we're ending the practice of catch-and-release by increasing the number of facilities for people to be compassionately held until they're able to be sent back to their countries. And I'm working with the countries to encourage their leaders to accept back those who have been caught trying to sneak into our country.

Look, the strategy is this: The strategy is to say, once people understand that they can't come into our country illegally and they'll be sent home when they try to, then they're not going to try in the first place. That's part of the strategy.

However, I want you to know that I don't believe we can enforce our border without having a rational way for people to come here to do work that Americans are not doing. It's called a temporary-worker plan. A temporary-worker plan recognizes that—two things: One, there are jobs Americans aren't doing—they're just not—and yet there's a need. We got employers who are looking for employees to do a certain kind of work. And the second aspect is, you've got to understand family values don't stop at the Rio Grande River. There are a lot of hard-working, decent people who want to put food on the table for their families. And therefore, they're willing to get in the back of an 18-wheeler or walk across a hot desert to work.

And that's part of the phenomenon you're seeing, you see, and you can't enforce the border like the American people expect us with just Border Patrol and technology alone. So long as there's that strong desire for people to improve their lives, to do whatever it takes to come to America to work, it's going to make it really hard to enforce that border. And so the best way to do it is to have a

plan so people don't feel like they got to sneak in. We ought to have a plan that says, "You can come in legally for a limited period of time—you can come in and do work Americans are not doing, and then you go home. But you can take that money you made and help your family." That's what we ought to have.

See, when people are trying to sneak across the border, it makes it hard to enforce the border. When people can come here in a rational way that saves their lives as well as takes pressure off the border, it will enable us to be able to tell the American people we got a better way of doing the job they expect us to do, which is enforce the border.

I strongly support a temporary-worker program. I think most people in Congress understand the rationality of a temporary-worker program. I guarantee you, many employers here in the State of Nebraska, people in the agricultural sector, people in the hospitality sector, understand the need to have a rational plan that will enable them to have somebody here on a temporary basis to do the jobs Americans aren't doing.

We all agree that we need to uphold the law when it—oh, by the way, in order to get one of these cards, something I'm about to describe to you, you got to pass a criminal background check. In other words, we want to know who's coming into the country and why they're coming in the country, and we want to help meet an economic need as well as a humanitarian need.

I repeat to you, America should not tolerate a system that has encouraged *coyotes* to flourish. *Coyotes* are the unscrupulous that take a human being who desires to improve his or her life and stuffs them in the back of an 18-wheeler. And in my judgment, a temporary-worker program would put *coyotes* out of business, and society would be better off without them.

We agree in Washington that we need to enforce laws when it comes to hiring illegal workers. See, it's against the law in America to hire an illegal worker. That's what the law says. You can't hire—you can't uphold the law, however, when people are showing up with forged documents. How can you expect your employers to say, you're here legally or not legally, when employers are not document verifiers? And so therefore, a temporary-worker program has got to have a tamper-proof identification card that shows somebody is here legally and so the employer knows that they're not breaking the law.

It makes sense to me to say to our employers, "Sure, you ought to be able to hire somebody, but just make sure they're legally here. And here's a system that encourages you to be able to know that you're hiring somebody who is legally here."

The big issue facing Washington is what to do with people that have been here for quite awhile. That's really, I think, the ultimate stumbling block, when you think about it. There's serious disagreement on the issue around the country. First of all, we've got to recognize that there are people who have been here that are newly arrived, and then there are people who have been here for, say, a decade, who have paid their taxes and built a home and raised a family. So the question is, what do you do, what do you do as a society?

The debate really—much of the debate I'm sure you're hearing from is either amnesty or deportation, both of which I'm against. Amnesty means you're automatically a citizen. I don't think that makes sense. It's not fair to those who have waited legally. We got a lot of people waiting to be citizens here, and they've done—they've adhered to our laws, and they're in line—they're in the citizenship line. And I think it would be unfair to those who have been here legally to say to those who have been here illegally that these folks get ahead of you in line. That doesn't make any sense to me, if we're a country that's going to uphold laws.

On the other hand, it makes no sense at all to say we can find people and run them out of the country. For some, I guess that sounds appealing. It's impractical. It's not going to work, and it's not necessary, in my judgment. It's not the right thing to do.

The right thing to do is to recognize that if you've been here illegally, that there ought to be a cost for doing so, but also recognize there are decent, hard-working people that have contributed to our society at the same time. And so I believe here's a way to work out—work through this problem. One is to

say, you got to pay a fine for being here illegally. You've got to learn the English language. In other words, you got to pay—repay a debt to society and learn the skills necessary to assimilate into our society. Show us you've been working hard. In other words, there's a way to verify your contributions to our society. And then, if you want to be a citizen, you can get in line to be a citizen, but not at the head of the line—you get to get at the back of the line.

And to me, that is a humane, decent way of addressing a very difficult problem that Congress is going to have to wrestle with. I believe we ought to differentiate between those who've been here for a long period of time and those who are newly arrived. I know we need to treat people with respect and dignity. I think the best way to assure the American people that we're a nation of laws and a compassionate nation at the same time is to say, "Pay your debt to society, and if you choose to be a citizen, you can; just you wait in line at the back, not in the beginning."

See, there are lines for people who want to become a citizen, and they're based upon nationality. And Congress can determine the length of the line if they want. If the line is too long for Irish people or people from different countries or Mexicans, then increase the number of green cards. If the people are worried about the number of citizens all of a sudden becoming eligible for citizenship, you can decrease the number of green cards. But in the meantime, we need to treat people with respect.

This is a tough debate for America; it really is. It's a tough debate because it's one in which the language can sometimes send the wrong signals about what we're about. People are very emotional about this issue. And my admonition to people who are concerned about the immigration debate is to remember that language can send signals about who we are as a nation, that harsh, ugly rhetoric on the debate tends to divide our country. It tends to forget the values that have made us great.

The values that made us great is that we're a nation that have been united by common ideals, proud of our history, proud of our flag, understanding of the need to have a common language, and at the same time, a society whose soul has been uplifted constantly by the fact that people have come to our country to realize a dream—the dream of working hard and improving their lot in life, the dream of putting food on the table, and at the same time, hoping the child goes to college, the dream of owning their own businesses. That's uniquely American. It enables me to say to the American people that "one Nation under God" means something. And we must never lose that spirit.

For people in Washington, DC, now's the time to get something done. It's important for our elected leaders to understand, if you're going to address the issue of immigration, you've got to address all aspects of the immigration. It's got to be a comprehensive bill if we want there to be an effective bill.

People say, "Well, you know, Mr. President, it looks impossible that something's going to happen." I disagree. American people want something to happen. They expect us as people elected to office to work together to get something done in a positive way. That's what they expect of us. And I'm going to continue traveling this country reminding the people that we have got an opportunity to put together a comprehensive package to reform the system to make it work, a system that will enforce our border and a system that will reinforce our values.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and talk to you about this important issue. I'm really glad to be back in Omaha, Nebraska. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:32 a.m. in the Metropolitan Community College—South Omaha Campus. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Dave Heineman of Nebraska and his wife, Sally; and Jo Ann C. "Jody" McDowell, president, and Heather Fowler, student ex officio, Metropolitan Community College.

Executive Order 13404—Task Force on New Americans

June 7, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to strengthen the efforts of the Department of

Homeland Security and Federal, State, and local agencies to help legal immigrants embrace the common core of American civic culture, learn our common language, and fully become Americans, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Establishment.* The Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) shall immediately establish within the Department of Homeland Security (Department) a Task Force on New Americans (Task Force).

Sec. 2. *Membership and Operation.* (a) The Task Force shall be limited to the following members or employees designated by them at no lower than the Assistant Secretary level or its equivalent:

(i) the Secretary of Homeland Security, who shall serve as Chair;

(ii) the Secretary of State;

(iii) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(iv) the Secretary of Defense;

(v) the Attorney General;

(vi) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(vii) the Secretary of Commerce;

(viii) the Secretary of Labor;

(ix) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(x) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(xi) the Secretary of Education;

(xii) such other officers or employees of the Department of Homeland Security as the Secretary may from time to time designate; and

(xiii) such other officers of the United States as the Secretary may designate from time to time, with the concurrence of the respective heads of departments and agencies concerned.

(b) The Secretary shall convene and preside at meetings of the Task Force, direct its work, and as appropriate, establish and direct subgroups of the Task Force that shall consist exclusively of Task Force members. The Secretary shall designate an official of the Department to serve as the Executive Secretary of the Task Force, and the Executive Secretary shall head the staff assigned to the Task Force.

Sec. 3. *Functions.* Consistent with applicable law, the Task Force shall:

(a) provide direction to executive departments and agencies (agencies) concerning the integration into American society of America's legal immigrants, particularly through instruction in English, civics, and history;

(b) promote public-private partnerships that will encourage businesses to offer English and civics education to workers;

(c) identify ways to expand English and civics instruction for legal immigrants, including through faith-based, community, and other groups, and ways to promote volunteer community service; and

(d) make recommendations to the President, through the Secretary, from time to time regarding:

(i) actions to enhance cooperation among agencies on the integration of legal immigrants into American society;

(ii) actions to enhance cooperation among Federal, State, and local authorities responsible for the integration of legal immigrants;

(iii) changes in rules, regulations, or policy to improve the effective integration of legal immigrants into American society; and

(iv) proposed legislation relating to the integration of legal immigrants into American society.

Sec. 4. *Administration.* (a) To the extent permitted by law, the Department shall provide the funding and administrative support the Task Force needs to implement this order, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) authority granted by law to an agency or the head thereof; or

(ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(c) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(d) This order is intended to improve the internal management of the Federal Government. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity against the United States, its departments,

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

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 7, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 9, 2006]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 12.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for Dirk Kempthorne as Secretary of the Interior

June 7, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome to the White House. Laura and I are thrilled you are here to witness the swearing-in of Dirk Kempthorne as our Nation's 49th Secretary of the Interior.

We welcome Dirk's family, particularly his wife, Patricia, and his children, Heather and Jeff. Thank you all for being here. I'm really happy Dirk's dad, Jim, is with us. I sure appreciate you being here, Mr. Kempthorne. I want to thank all the other friends of the Kempthorne family and members of the family who have joined us here today.

I found it interesting that when Dirk and Patricia were married, they chose a wedding ceremony at sunrise high atop Idaho's Moscow Mountain. It's an interesting commitment to make, isn't it? [*Laughter*] And an interesting place to make the commitment. It shows a love of—Dirk's love for his wife and their mutual love for nature. And one of the reasons I picked Dirk Kempthorne is because of his love of the beautiful country that we are fortunate to call America. That's why I picked him.

I want to appreciate the Vice President joining us today. Mr. Vice President, welcome. Thank you for being here, sir. I want to thank Justice Scalia for joining us, to administer the oath of office.

Dirk, you must be given a lot of these, kind of, swearing-in ceremonies, and we generally don't have a man of such esteem join us in a situation like this. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Lynn Scarlett, the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, joining us, as well as all those who work for the Secretary of the Interior. I want to thank members of my Cabinet for being here. Thank you all for coming. Appreciate you taking time out of your day to be here, and I know Dirk does as well. I appreciate Members of the United States Senate who join us, starting with the Senate President pro tem, Ted Stevens. Thank you, Senator, proud you're here; as well as the two Senators from Idaho, Larry Craig and Mike Crapo. Thank you both for joining us. We have the House majority whip with us, Roy Blunt. I see former colleagues of Dirk Kempthorne have joined us as well. Thank you all for coming.

We have the privilege of living in a land of unparalleled beauty. We've got vast mountain ranges and mighty rivers and open plains and spectacular coastlines. These open spaces are shared—are the shared heritage of everybody. They just don't belong to a few people; they belong to all of us. It's the job of the Secretary of the Interior to manage these natural resources in such a way that we can pass them on to future generations, in good shape. That's Dirk's job. There's no doubt in my mind he'll be able to do it well.

Dirk Kempthorne is uniquely qualified for this important position. He is the first Secretary of the Interior to serve as a Governor, a Senator, and a mayor. And each of these positions prepared Dirk well for his new responsibilities.

As Governor of Idaho, Dirk was responsible for managing Idaho's 30 State parks and recreational trails. He proved himself to be an outstanding steward of his State's open spaces. He launched a statewide initiative to fund improvements in the State's parks and public spaces. He created the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. He established the Governor's Office of Species Conservation. He's a true conservationist, with a track record to prove it.

As a United States Senator, Dirk chaired the Subcommittee on Drinking Water, Fisheries, and Wildlife, and built bipartisan support to enact comprehensive reforms to the Safe Drinking Water Act.

As a former mayor of Boise, Dirk understands that those who live closest to the land

know how to manage it best. He understands that while people here in Washington may care deeply about the land, it's the people that's closest to the land that we're going to rely upon to manage those resources. We're going to work closely with local and State leaders to ensure our natural resources are managed wisely.

Dirk takes up his new responsibilities at an important time in our Nation's history, and he follows an outstanding Secretary of the Interior in Gale Norton. Gale was instrumental in establishing the Healthy Forests Initiative to safeguard our forests and woodlands against fire damage. And thanks to her leadership, our administration has reduced the danger of fires by treating or removing hazardous fields from 11 million acres of Federal land so far. Gale also led the effort in Washington to improve our national parks and reduce the park maintenance backlog that we found when we came into office. Dirk is going to continue focusing on our national parks.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated our Nation's gulf coast, Gale helped lead the effort to restore offshore energy production. She worked tirelessly to prevent a massive energy disruption that could have crippled our economy. America is a better place because of Gale Norton's leadership.

Dirk Kempthorne is going to build upon the strong foundation left by Gale Norton. He's going to continue my administration's effort to conserve our land and water and air resources. He's going to work to improve our national parks. He's going to preserve our Nation's historic and cultural sites. He'll carry forward our approach of cooperative conservation by encouraging conservation on both public and private lands in close collaboration with local communities. As we work to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy, he will make sure that any exploration on Federal lands and in Federal waters is done in an environmentally sensitive way. As the Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne will make certain that our Nation's natural spaces are cleaner and safer and more productive.

I want to thank Dirk for agreeing to serve our country again. I want to thank his family for supporting him. And now it's my honor to witness the swearing-in of Dirk Kempthorne.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Justice Antonin Scalia and Secretary Kempthorne.

Statement on Senate Action on Marriage Protection Legislation

June 7, 2006

Today's Senate vote on the marriage protection amendment marks the start of a new chapter in this important national debate. I thank the Senators who supported this amendment, but I am disappointed the Senate did not achieve the necessary number of votes to move the amendment process forward. Our Nation's founders set a high bar for amending our Constitution, and history has shown us that it can take several tries before an amendment builds the two-thirds support it needs in both houses of Congress. My position on this issue is clear: Marriage is the most fundamental institution of our society, and it should not be redefined by activist judges. The people must be heard on this issue. And as this debate continues, each American deserves to be treated with tolerance, respect, and dignity.

NOTE: The statement referred to S.J. Res. 1.

Statement on Congressional Action on the "Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act"

June 7, 2006

I applaud the Congress for passing S. 193, the Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act. I believe that Government has a responsibility to help strengthen families. This legislation will make television and radio more family friendly by allowing the FCC to impose stiffer fines on broadcasters who air obscene or indecent programming. I look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Statement on Congressional Action on Mine Safety Legislation

June 7, 2006

I am pleased that the Congress has acted in a bipartisan way to pass important mine safety legislation. This legislation will complement the Mine Safety and Health Administration's efforts to enhance mine safety training, improve safety and communications technology, and provide emergency caches of breathable air for miners. The bill also increases penalties for those who violate mine safety laws. America's miners and their families can be confident that their Government is committed to taking measures that will help prevent accidents and save lives. I look forward to signing this bill into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 2803.

Remarks on the Death of Senior Al Qaida Associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi

June 8, 2006

Good morning. Last night in Iraq, United States military forces killed the terrorist Al Zarqawi. At 6:15 Baghdad time, special operation forces, acting on tips and intelligence from Iraqis, confirmed Zarqawi's location and delivered justice to the most wanted terrorist in Iraq.

Zarqawi was the operational commander of the terrorist movement in Iraq. He led a campaign of car bombings, assassinations, and suicide attacks that has taken the lives of many American forces and thousands of innocent Iraqis. Usama bin Laden called this Jordanian terrorist "the prince of Al Qaida in Iraq." He called on the terrorists around the world to listen to him and obey him. Zarqawi personally beheaded American hostages and other civilians in Iraq. He masterminded the destruction of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad. He was responsible for the assassination of an American diplomat in Jordan and the bombing of a hotel in Amman.

Through his every action, he sought to defeat America and our coalition partners and turn Iraq into a safe haven from which Al Qaida could wage its war on free nations. To achieve these ends, he worked to divide Iraqis and incite civil war. And only last week, he released an audio tape attacking Iraq's elected leaders and denouncing those advocating the end of sectarianism.

Now Zarqawi has met his end, and this violent man will never murder again. Iraqis can be justly proud of their new Government and its early steps to improve their security. And Americans can be enormously proud of the men and women of our Armed Forces, who worked tirelessly with their Iraqi counterparts to track down this brutal terrorist and to put him out of business.

The operation against Zarqawi was conducted with courage and professionalism by the finest military in the world. Coalition and Iraqi forces persevered through years of near misses and false leads, and they never gave up. Last night their persistence and determination were rewarded. On behalf of all Americans, I congratulate our troops on this remarkable achievement.

Zarqawi is dead, but the difficult and necessary mission in Iraq continues. We can expect the terrorists and insurgents to carry on without him. We can expect the sectarian violence to continue. Yet the ideology of terror has lost one of its most visible and aggressive leaders.

Zarqawi's death is a severe blow to Al Qaida. It's a victory in the global war on terror, and it is an opportunity for Iraq's new Government to turn the tide of this struggle. Two minutes ago, I spoke to Prime Minister Maliki. I congratulated him on close collaboration between coalition and Iraqi forces that helped make this day possible. Iraq's freely elected Prime Minister is determined to defeat our common enemies and bring security and the rule of law to all his people.

Earlier this morning, he announced the completion of his Cabinet appointments with the naming of a new Minister of Defense, a new Minister of the Interior, and a new Minister of State for National Security. These new ministers are part of a democratic government that represents all Iraqis. They will play a vital role as the Iraqi Government addresses its top priorities—reconciliation and reconstruction and putting an end to the kidnappings and beheadings and suicide

bombings that plague the Iraqi people. I assured Prime Minister Maliki that he will have the full support of the United States of America.

On Monday, I will meet with my national security team and other key members of my Cabinet at Camp David to discuss the way forward in Iraq. Our top diplomats and military commanders in Iraq will give me an assessment of recent changes in the political and economic and security situation on the ground. On Tuesday, Iraq's new Ambassador to the United States will join us, and we will have a teleconference discussion with the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet. Together we will discuss how to best deploy America's resources in Iraq and achieve our shared goal of an Iraq that can govern itself, defend itself, and sustain itself.

We have tough days ahead of us in Iraq that will require the continued patience of the American people. Yet the developments of the last 24 hours give us renewed confidence in the final outcome of this struggle, the defeat of terrorism threats, and a more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren.

May God bless the Iraqi people, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:31 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Minister of Defense Abdel Qadir Muhammed Jassim, Minister of the Interior Jawad al-Bolani, and Minister of State for National Security Sherwan al-Waili of Iraq; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; and Iraq's Ambassador to the U.S. Samir Shakir al-Sumaydi.

Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

June 8, 2006

Thank you very much, Luis. Thanks for your introduction. Right before we came in, I said, "Luis, how's your school doing?" See, I got to first know Luis when I went into inner-city Philadelphia, and he said, "I'm starting a school." I said, "How's your school doing?" He said, "Oh, pretty good." He said, "Last year, we had 69 of the 70 graduates from our school go to college."

Luis' school is doing better than pretty good; it's doing great. And we hold out hope to some kid, you know, that it's amazing what results we can achieve in a society when you raise the bar and you say, "I have hope for you; I love you." It's amazing what our country can achieve. And so, Luis, thank you very much for your leadership, and thanks for having me here at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast.

I think it is fitting we come together to recognize the importance of prayer and the importance of faith. You see, Americans are a people of faith. And for millions of our citizens, prayer is a daily part of life. In prayer we give thanks for the many blessings bestowed upon us by our Creator. We're blessed with courageous young men and women willing to defend us in time of war. We're blessed with a growing economy and material prosperity. And we're blessed by the diversity and creativity of millions of Hispanic Americans who enrich our great country.

We've got plenty of blessings to give thanks for, and I'm blessed by the fact that millions of Americans, many of whom I've never seen face to face, pray for me and my family. It's one of the great blessings of America, to be President of a land of prayer. So this morning we come together to give our thanks for all our blessings, and recognize our Nation's continuing dependence on Divine Providence.

I appreciate the sponsors of this breakfast. It's an important breakfast. This is a time for us to come together in common purpose to say, we're humble enough to be on bended knee. I appreciate my friend Attorney General Al Gonzales for joining us today. It's good to see you, *mi general.* The Director of the Peace Corps, Gaddi Vasquez—thank you for coming, Gaddi. Appreciate you being here. I see Senator Brownback—I think—yes, there he is. [*Laughter*] I know there are other Members of the Senate and the Congress who are here. Thank you all for coming today. It's really important that you're here. And I know the participants of this breakfast are glad you're here as well. I appreciate all the pastors and community leaders who are with us here today too. Thanks for coming.

In America, we are a people who profess many different faiths—with some of our citizens embracing no faith at all. In America, all are welcome. No citizen stands above another. In America, what unites us all is our dedication to freedom, and what brings us together today as men and women of faith is our belief that we're all equal and precious in the eyes of the Almighty.

I like to tell people that my job as the President is to promote the fact that people are free to worship however you choose. See, that's what distinguishes us from the Taliban or Al Qaida—that we're free to worship and that we're all equally American. If you're a Christian, Jew, or Muslim, you're equally American. If you choose not to worship, you're equally American.

But I've also said, from my personal perspective, I rely upon the Almighty for strength and comfort. The daily example of our Hispanic communities reminds us that strong faith and strong families can build a better future for all. We are more—we're a more hopeful society because men and women of Hispanic descent have put their faith and values into action.

More than 200,000 Hispanic Americans serve with courage and honor in our military, some of whom are with us today. And we thank you for your service. Our Government is enriched and strengthened by the Latinos who serve here in Washington, DC. Across America, Hispanic leaders are serving on the frontlines of our armies of compassion, reaching out to change the lives of brothers and sisters in need, changing this great country one heart, one soul at a time.

I like to remind people that government can hand out money, but government cannot put faith in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's life. The best way to strengthen this country is for people such as yourself to continue to reach out to a neighbor in need, to listen to the universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself, to mentor to a child who needs to learn to read, to feed the hungry, to provide shelter for the homeless.

And that's precisely what the leaders in this room do. You're inspired by prayer; you move to action. And America is better off when you go into our neighborhoods to reach out to those who hurt, to provide comfort for those who are sick, to say loud and clear to a brother and sister in need, "We love you, and what can we do to help you?" On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you for being soldiers in the armies of compassion and for making America a hopeful place for more of our citizens.

Speaking about a hopeful place, it is important for us in this important debate on immigration to remember that we've always been a hopeful nation. We are a land of immigrants. We're a country when people—we're a compassionate people. We're also a nation of laws, and being a nation of laws is not contradictory with being a compassionate country. We can enforce our laws. And we can treat people with respect and treat people with dignity and remember our heritage as a nation.

The immigration system isn't working today, and it needs to be fixed. Our borders need to be secure. The American people from all walks of life expect the Government to secure our border, and we will do that.

The system isn't fixed—the system is broken because we've got too many citizens, too many people here, too many people living in our country, living in the shadows of our society, beyond the reach of the law. That's not the America I know. The America I know is one in which people are treated with respect; the America I know is one in which when we see something broken, we fix it.

So we'll secure our borders. We'll make sure people who hire people illegally pay a fine. But I want our fellow citizens to understand, you cannot secure our borders and you cannot be a compassionate society unless we provide a legal channel for people to work in America. We've got people coming across our borders who want to come and work and put food on the table for their families.

When I was Governor of Texas, I reminded people, family values do not stop at the Rio Grande River. There are people who are coming to our country who are doing jobs Americans are not doing. And we need a legal and orderly system. If we want to enforce the border, we must have a system that says, "You don't have to sneak across our border in order to find work. You don't need to risk your life."

So therefore, I strongly support and call upon the Congress to support the temporary-worker program that says, "You can come into our country legally"—so that we can match willing worker with willing employer, doing jobs Americans are not doing—"and you can come for a period of time, and you can work, and then you can go home in an orderly way as well."

The other part of this debate that's really important is, what do we do with the folks that are here. See, there's a difference between those who have newly arrived that are doing work and those who have been here for quite a period of time. We've got people in this country who have paid their taxes, own a home, whose children are becoming valedictorians in high schools and colleges—people have been working hard.

This debate is—there's a heated debate on this subject here in Washington. There are some who say, "Well, best thing to do is just call them citizens right off the bat." I disagree with that. It's called amnesty. I don't think that would be fair to those who are legally here and are waiting in line to become a citizen. You probably know many such citizens. They're here legally, and they say, "We want to be a citizen of your country," and we said, "Fine, get in line and wait." Granting amnesty to those folks who have been here illegally would be unfair to those who have been here legally. We're a nation of laws, and we must uphold the laws.

And then there are those here in Washington who say, "Why don't we just find the folks and send them home." That isn't going to work. That's not a good idea. It sounds simple; it's impractical. There's a reasonable middle ground. There's a reasonable way to uphold our laws and treat people with respect, and that is this: If you've paid your taxes; you've been here for awhile; you can prove that you've been working; you've got a clean background—if you want to become a citizen, you pay a fine; you learn English; you learn the values and ideals of America that have made us one Nation under God. And then if you want to be a citizen, you can get in line—but in the back of the line, not the front of the line. You can wait in line like those who have been legally here in America. We don't have to choose between the extremes. There's a rational middle ground.

I call upon Congress to enact common-sense immigration reform that enforces our border, that upholds our laws, that treats people with respect, and remembers the greatness of America is the fact that we've been able to come from different backgrounds, united under the common ideals of our country, and we live, one Nation under God.

For centuries, people have come to this Nation because it is the land of promise. It's a place where people can realize their dreams. Yesterday I was in Omaha, Nebraska, at a Catholic Charities institute that was helping people learn English and learn the ideals of our country. I remember walking into a civics class, and the people were slightly startled to see the President walk in. I guess it's kind of the ultimate civics lesson. [*Laughter*] But I was proud to be there. I really was.

And we sat down with a group of folks at a table to discuss entrepreneurship. And I went around the room asking, how long have you been here, and what are you doing? And I remember coming to the fellow, Pina—I think his name was Federico Pina. He said he started a couple years ago a automobile maintenance business. He said it was a dream of his to have his own business. I said, "How's it going?" He said, "Well, I've employed three people, and I own my own building." Here's a man who came to our country with a dream, and he's realizing that dream.

And what our citizens have got to understand is that if you're able to maintain a sense of hope in the United States, and people work hard to realize that hope, it inspires our Nation as a whole. It lifts our spirit. It reinvigorates what America is all about.

We have a great opportunity here in Washington to remember the traditions and history of the United States of America and to uplift that sense that America is a welcoming society, a country of law, but a country that also says, "If you work hard and dream big dreams, you can realize your dreams." And many of those who are in our country who are working hard to realize their dreams also rely upon a higher power to help them realize

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

with Chile, and I intend to keep them that way.

And Madam President, you're welcome. I'm really glad you're here.

President Bachelet. Thank you, Mr. President.

[*At this point, President Bachelet spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bachelet. I am very glad to be here, and as President Bush has said, Chile and the United States have very good relationships, and we'll continue that way. And we have political, commercial relationships, and we have been—we really are happy of how our relations have developed. And we have talked and shared opinions about how we can build peace, how can we fight together against poverty, for social justice, how we can help strengthen democracy in the region. And how we also can look at the issues as energy innovation, education, health, and so on.

It's for me an honor to be here. And as I live here as a child and then as an adult, it's always for me a wonderful possibility to be in a country where I have learned to love the American people, where I learned to—some experiences as how you can live in a country with difference; with different cultures, tradition, the different ethnic groups, and that's possible, and how you can integrate. And we want to integrate more in the region; we want to continue developing the best relationships with the United States, with the Government; and we hope we succeed in this covenant.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark in Camp David, Maryland

June 9, 2006

President Bush. Good day. Welcome to Camp David. More importantly, welcome to Camp David to the Prime Minister and his wife. Mr. Prime Minister, we're glad you're here. Welcome.

The invitation to come to Camp David is an expression of my high regard for Prime Minister Rasmussen and our friendship between our two countries. You know, I think—I was checking back; I think it's been over 2 years since we've had a foreign leader come and visit us here. And thanks for bringing such good weather. It's important to have good weather today, because the Prime Minister is going to give me a mountain biking lesson after this news conference.

A couple of thoughts, and then he's going to speak, and then we'd be glad to answer some questions.

First, I appreciate the Prime Minister's belief that freedom can help change the world and that freedom is universal. We had a really important discussion about our desire to help others realize the great blessings of liberty, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prime Minister Rasmussen has been a strong believer in supporting the Iraqi Government's desire to live in democracy. I thank you for your courage; I thank you for your country's commitment of troops that are helping make a difference.

We talked about the new Government in Iraq. The Prime Minister has met Prime Minister Maliki—I have not, and so it was very useful for me to hear from him firsthand about the Prime Minister's determination to succeed. I appreciate his understanding of the Prime Minister's desire to set priorities, starting with electricity in Baghdad, security in Baghdad, and dismantling militia groups that are creating havoc.

We discussed our common strategies in Iraq. One of the most important strategies is to make sure that the police force in Iraq is capable of inspiring the population who they're supposed to be protecting. And I believe we took a long—we took a big step toward that when the Prime Minister selected a new Minister of the Interior and—as well as a new Defense Minister.

And so we spent time on that, and we spent time on Afghanistan as well. Prime Minister Rasmussen shared his thoughts with me about President Karzai. We both agree

that he's a patriot, that he's the kind of person that we can back and that we will back as this new democracy begins to develop.

We spent time on Iran. We shared thoughts about how to diplomatically solve the problem. And the problem is, the Iranians want to have a nuclear weapon, and they shouldn't have one.

We spent time talking about Darfur, our desire to help the AU forces achieve stability in Darfur. I've spoken out on this subject a lot. I believe there's genocide taking place, and I believe we have a responsibility to work together to bring some security to the poor folks that are being harassed and raped and murdered in the far reaches of Darfur.

The Prime Minister and I share values, and he spent time making sure that I understood his strong belief that when we fight the war on terror and we help new democracies, that we've got to uphold the values that we believe in. And he brought up the Guantanamo issue. And I appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister is concerned about the decisions that I made on—toward Guantanamo. I assured him that we would like to end the Guantanamo. We'd like it to be empty. And we're now in the process of working with countries to repatriate people.

But there are some that, if put out on the streets, could create grave harm to American citizens and other citizens of the world. And, therefore, I believe they ought to be tried in courts here in the United States. We will file such court claims once the Supreme Court makes its decision as to whether or not—as to the proper venue for these trials. And we're waiting on our Supreme Court to act.

We talked about bilateral relations. I am impressed by the fact that the Prime Minister is off to the west coast with a message of new technologies and the desire for Denmark to work with some of our venture capitalists and businesses to promote energy independence, for example, and to come up with technologies that will enable a country like ours to become less reliant upon foreign sources of energy.

All in all, we had a very constructive visit, which will be continued over lunch after the bike ride and—presuming he doesn't ride me into the ground. [*Laughter*]

So, Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. Glad you're here.

Prime Minister Rasmussen. Thank you very much, Mr. President. Let me first of all express my gratitude for inviting me to Camp David. I'm very honored to be here. And one could hardly imagine a better venue to spend time for work and pleasure with close friends. So thank you very much.

We have had a very productive meeting this morning at this wonderful setting. First we talked about Iraq. A few weeks ago, I met with the new Iraqi Government, as the President pointed out. It was with a particular sense of respect, I heard the views of the first permanent democratically elected Government in Iraq. I would say that our efforts have not been in vain.

Democracy is what it is all about. We agree on the very reason for being engaged in Iraq—to put an end to oppression and to promote freedom, democracy, and human rights. These are the very values we want to defend. That also gives us strong obligation to live up to those values in every step we take. When unacceptable events happen in Abu Ghraib and when allegations are made about horrific events in Haditha, it is not only a tragedy for the victims; it is damaging to our own efforts and an offense to our very own values. The President has assured me that all allegations will be investigated, and if there has been wrongdoing, then the responsible will be prosecuted.

We are committed to remain in Iraq as long as the Iraqi Government and the U.N. request our assistance, and as long as we can make a positive difference.

As the President mentioned, we had also a discussion on Iran. I am pleased that the United States, under the President's leadership, has joined his European allies in presenting a package to the Iranians. It's now up to the Iranians to take advantage of this window of opportunity.

Secondly, we touched upon energy. I strongly share the President's view that energy is a major strategic challenge. I think that transatlantic cooperation can contribute to ensuring energy security and sustainable development. It could, for instance, be instrumental in developing new energy technologies.

In Denmark, this issue has been a high priority for 30 years. We have focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency, and we are among the leading countries when it comes to developing technologies in that field. It is part of the reason for our strong economy and competitiveness. And in Denmark, we have managed to combine economic growth with energy efficiency. Over the last 25 years, the Danish economy has grown by 50 percent without increasing the use of energy.

I think it's fair to say that Danish companies are at the edge in developing new technologies, and they are already engaged in the United States. Some of them are traveling with me to the west coast on Monday.

Which brings me to my final point on our bilateral economic relations. Trade and investment between the United States and Denmark is flourishing at impressive growth rates. The United States is now the biggest foreign investor in Denmark. Likewise, Danish companies have turned their attention towards the United States. Our top five companies have created more than 20,000 jobs in the United States, and they have engaged in a vast number of subcontractors. I think that the broad range of subjects demonstrates the vitality and closeness of our relations.

Mr. President, the health experts tell us that we need daily exercise. So before we even start thinking about lunch, I'm looking forward to exploring Camp David in even greater detail on bike. It's going to be hard work; I know that. But I will do my very best to keep up with you, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

So once again, thank you very much for your hospitality. Meeting with you at Camp David has indeed been a great symbol of the close and very warm relations between our two countries. Thank you.

President Bush. I'll take a couple of questions. Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

Iraq/Abu Musab Al Zarqawi

Q. Mr. President, after meeting with the Danish Prime Minister last month, Maliki said he thought he could stand up the Iraqi security forces in about a year-and-a-half. And with Zarqawi's death, do you think this is realistic?

President Bush. I think it is—we'll get a realistic appraisal about the capacity for standing up Iraqi troops as this new Government begins to function as a government. It wasn't until just a couple of days ago that they didn't had a Defense Minister. Now they've got a Defense Minister, which will give us time to assess their command and control, their capacity to be able to send an order from the top to the bottom of their organization—a Defense Ministry that will be independent from politics, hopefully.

Once we make those assessments, then I think I'll be able to give the American people a better feel for what "stand up/stand down" means. And one of the reasons we're coming here—I'm coming here Monday, by the way, Mr. Prime Minister, with a lot of my Cabinet members to discuss the way forward in Iraq, to analyze the new Government, to look carefully at what their blueprint for the future looks like, and to figure out how we can help. And of course, I will share our thoughts with the Prime Minister, because he's a very important part of our coalition.

Zarqawi's death helps a lot. Zarqawi was bin Laden's main advocate, outside of some remote parts of the world. He was the operator. He was the person that had made the declaration that it's just a matter of time for America and other democracies to leave, so that we could then—so that they could then develop safe haven from which to launch further attacks. He beheaded people; he was a coldblooded killer; he masterminded the bombing of the hotel in Jordan; he masterminded the bombing of the U.N. headquarters early on in the liberation of Iraq.

Removing Zarqawi is a major blow to Al Qaida. It's not going to end the war, and it's certainly not going to end the violence. But it's going to help a lot.

One of the goals of Al Qaida was to encourage sectarian violence inside that country; it was to pit Sunni against Shi'a, and Shi'a against Sunni in order to be able to stop democracy. His whole ambition was to stop the advance of democracy in Iraq. And our troops—who performed brilliantly, by the way, in bringing this man to justice—did the Iraqis and the Americans and anybody else

who loves freedom a great service by bringing him to justice.

Iraqi Government

Q. Can I ask you a followup?

President Bush. Probably not.

Q. How long will——

President Bush. Yes.

Q. You said you'd have to reassess with the new Government these various things. How long do you think that that assessment is going to take?

President Bush. See, part of the issue I deal with is people want to know with certainty when certain things are going to happen, and I understand that; it's a legitimate question. It's like, when are you going to withdraw troops? And the answer is, when conditions on the ground——

Q. I didn't ask that.

President Bush. No, I know, but I'm—you asked the question; I answer them. The answer is, as to when we'll be able to stand up Iraqis and stand down, when we'll be able to analyze the situation, depends upon how these people react; how they react to pressure; how they react to forming their Government. This is a brand new democracy. And the problem with the war we have is it requires a certain degree of patience in order to succeed. And we have to be patient here, as this new democracy begins to flourish and has to deal with people like Zarqawi who is trying to stop their advance.

And so, as soon as possible. I've told the American people I'd like to get our troops out as soon as possible. But the definition of "as soon as possible" is depending upon victory in Iraq. And victory in Iraq is a country that can sustain itself, govern itself, and defend itself. That's the definition of victory, and we're making progress toward that goal.

Here you go.

Iran

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, last week, we saw a major change in the policy towards Iran. And although you don't want to talk about timetables, the Prime Minister talked about a window of opportunity for the Iranians. How do you see that window of opportunity? What is the timetable, and what will be the next step in the procedure when we talk about Iran?

President Bush. Thank you. Actually, you saw a shift in tactics but not a shift in strategy. I've always felt like we needed to solve this problem diplomatically. And I always felt it was essential that when the Iranians looked out at the world, they see a common, united group of nations saying, "No nuclear weapon."

Part of the change in tactics was to do two things: One, say to the Iranians, "The choice is yours to make," see. "You have said you're going to verifiably suspend your program. Now we're going to see whether or not you really mean it. And if you do, by the way, the United States will come to the table." And I said to our friends and partners, "If they choose not to come back—to suspend verifiably, there must be a consequence." There must be a sense of urgency on our part to send a common message to them. And I applaud my Secretary of State for effectively delivering that message.

And so to answer your question, we've given the Iranians a limited period of time—weeks, not months—to digest a proposal to move forward. And if they choose not to verifiably suspend their program, then there will be action taken in the U.N. Security Council.

Caren [Caren Bohan, Reuters].

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Your initial public comments on the death of Zarqawi have been described as more cautious than other developments, such as the capture of Saddam Hussein. Are you more cautious now? And, if so, why?

President Bush. Well, let me make sure everybody understands, I'm thrilled that Zarqawi was brought to justice. And I am so proud of our troops and intelligence officers who brought him to justice. This man had a lot of blood on his hands. He killed a lot of people. And it's a big deal to have brought him to justice. Having said that, I don't want the American people to think that a war is won with the death of one person that—we have still more work to do.

I am confident that Al Qaida will try to regroup and kill other people in order to say,

"Well, we haven't lost our way." I believe that. I also know that there are criminal elements and irritated people inside of Iraq who will try to stop the progress of the Government; they will continue to bomb.

The problem we have in this war is that all they've got to do is kill some innocent people by a car bomb, and it looks like they're winning, see. It takes a major event like an election or the death of Zarqawi to understand that we're making progress. And so one of the things I'm trying to be is realistic with the American people and say, there's still going to be tough days ahead because the enemy has got the capacity to get on our TV screens with death and destruction. That's what they've got the capacity to do.

In the meantime, however, the political process—remember, a government that can sustain itself and govern itself and defend itself. Well, the governance aspect, as the Prime Minister will attest, is making progress under Prime Minister Maliki. It's a new type of government. It's a unity Government that represents the Iraqi people under a Constitution which they ratified, which is a remarkable feat, by the way, in the Middle East. A government that can defend itself—and that is, a government with an army that's well-trained, with a chain of command that's responsive to civilian leadership.

And finally, a government that can sustain itself is one that not only has an economic—a bright economic future for its people, but one in which the internal security is such that people have confidence in their Government. And frankly, that's the area where we need a lot of work, which is in the police forces. The Interior Minister was dominated by politicians that wanted to seek revenge, as opposed to provide blanket security. And as General Casey has said, "The—training our troops—training the police is the mission of our troops for 2006." And I want to thank the Prime Minister for his great contribution through NATO and the police training academies that we're helping to run.

But we're making progress. But I don't want—I want the people to understand that our progress will be viewed as incremental progress. If I didn't think we would succeed, I wouldn't stay. And if I didn't think it was necessary for peace, I wouldn't have put our troops there in the first place. And I told that to the Prime Minister. I said you can count on America for standing by this new Government, because we're doing the right thing. And people are going to look back at this moment in history and say a democracy in Iraq helped change the world for the better and helped provide security. It certainly helped address the simmering resentment that exists in a part of a region that for too long has been ignored, see.

And some say, I understand, that liberty isn't universal; therefore, we shouldn't worry about freeing people of Iraq. I strongly disagree with that. Liberty is universal. And not only in our attempts to defend ourselves—we also have got to understand that to help win hearts and minds, freedom is an avenue that will help do that. We've got to be confident in our belief in freedom and confident in our knowledge that freedom has the capacity to yield the peace we want.

Abu Ghraib Prison/Situation in Iraq

Q. Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister, in previous meetings you have discussed Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and now Haditha, and possibly other crimes have been added to that list.

Mr. President, how did you try to convince the Prime Minister today that that kind of violations of human rights will stop and guilty will be prosecuted? And for Mr. Prime Minister, are you today convinced that violations of human rights will stop so that these violations are not undermining the war for democracy in Iraq? Thank you.

President Bush. You know, the last time—I think it was in Denmark, we talked about Abu Ghraib, if I'm not mistaken. Yes. I told the people in Denmark—on your soil—that it was a disgusting event. It soiled our soul. It's not what America stands for. I also—I'm not sure I put it this way, but I understand humans make mistakes, but there needs to be accountability. And since then, those involved with the Abu Ghraib have been brought to justice. And that's what happens in transparent societies—which, by the way, stood in stark contrast to the society that Saddam Hussein ran, where there was no justice; where there was no transparency;

where people weren't given a chance to take their case in front of an impartial court. But that's what's happened here in America.

I'm like the Prime Minister, I understand that these incidents run contrary to what we believe; I know that. But I also want to assure—I assured the Prime Minister that they'll be dealt with. That's what societies like ours do. I can't guarantee success all across the front, but I can guarantee there will be justice.

Prime Minister Rasmussen. I'm very much in line with that. What we have seen in Abu Ghraib is not, was not what we are standing for. If the allegations concerning Haditha show up to be true, it is definitely not what the coalition, what America, what Denmark stands for. On the contrary, we are in Iraq to promote freedom, democracy, respect for human rights. And, of course, we should comply with these basic principles in all our behavior.

I can give no guarantee, but just like the President, I can give the guarantee that in free and open societies, the whole process will be transparent. And if there are wrongdoings, the responsible will be prosecuted. That's a guarantee you can give in a free and open society based on the rule of law.

The President. Bret [Bret Baier, FOX News].

Abu Musab Al Zarqawi/War on Terror

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. Fine looking shoes you've got on there. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, what are your top commanders telling you, in the last 48 hours, about the possible impact of Zarqawi's death, and how does that affect what you are trying to accomplish in these strategy meetings here in Camp David, Monday and Tuesday?

President Bush. First, we had the strategy meetings scheduled before Zarqawi's death, interestingly enough. I haven't spoken to our commanders yet, except to call General Casey and McChrystal and congratulate them, but more importantly, for them to congratulate the troops and the intel groups that were working on finding Zarqawi.

I suspect they will tell you what I just said, answered to Caren, and that is that it's a big deal, but it's certainly not the end of conflict. We had some—we believed that Al Qaida was stirring up violence inside of Baghdad. And one of the things the Prime Minister told the Prime Minister and me by phone, that the security of Baghdad is a central part of having a strategy that shows the Iraqi people that the Government is capable of governing and achieving objectives. And, therefore, if Al Qaida was a part of—not the sole source, but a part of the violence inside of Baghdad, it helps to get rid of their commander.

It's also a—General Abizaid, whose job it is to think beyond just Iraq—he's the CENTCOM; he's the theater commander—will tell you that the upper management of Al Qaida was counting on Zarqawi to help implement their vision beyond Iraq.

See, it's really important for the American people to understand that Al Qaida has got an ideology and a strategy to impose that ideology. And part of the strategy is to create turmoil in moderate Muslim nations. And they want to overthrow moderate Muslim nations. They want to have their view of the world. I call it totalitarian, Islamo-fascism. Whatever you want to call it, it is extreme, and it's real. And Zarqawi was the implementer of that strategy, and he can no longer implement. And that is helpful in winning the war on terror.

Iraq is a theater in the war on terror; it's not the war on terror. It's a part of the war on terror. And Zarqawi was a general inside of Iraq, and he was a part of their strategy outside of Iraq. And I suspect General Abizaid—I don't mean to be putting words into one of our top commanders, but I would suspect he would say this was a major blow to Al Qaida.

The death of Zarqawi was very important for the people of Iraq. He was sowing incredible violence inside of Iraq. He promoted spectacular death. And by the way, he talked about human rights abuses, and we definitely need to be held to account. But the world needs to hold to account terrorists for civil rights abuses too. The killing of innocent people to achieve a military objective is the cornerstone of Al Qaida's military strategy.

And this world of ours—it's no question we ought to be concerned about what the United States does. But I expect the free world, as well, to unite in condemnation of terrorist activities around the world. See, there ought to be a universal condemnation. We ought not to excuse that kind of behavior.

And yesterday's action—or a couple of days ago action, expressed our disdain for that kind of killing of innocent life. And bringing him to justice is a positive thing.

It's important for the Iraqi people to see progress in the death of Zarqawi. There's no question progress toward more stable—it's not going to solve all problems. And I'm sure, as I mentioned to you, there's going to be some who step up and say, "We will teach you a lesson, and we will continue to send suiciders into neighborhoods just to show that we've still got power." But they've lost their general. They've lost the person that the top management of Al Qaida was counting on. And it's a positive development.

Upcoming Meeting on Iraq

Q. Is there specific goals for Monday and Tuesday?

President Bush. Specific goals for Monday and Tuesday is to review the Iraqi strategy, the Iraqi way forward. In other words, the Prime Minister has put forward a strategy as to how to achieve his objectives, which coincide with our objectives—a nation that can sustain itself, govern itself, and defend itself. And we want to review all aspects of that strategy. I felt that Camp David is a good place to do it because it can be distracting down in Washington, with phone calls and all those kinds of stuff—we can make sure the people involved in senior levels of Government stay focused on the task at hand.

I will be talking to Zal and our commanders just to get assessment. One question I'll ask is precisely the question you asked. I want to get a feel for their view of the Iraqi Government's plans and how we can help Iraq achieve the objectives they want. And then the next day, we're going to have the Ambassador from Iraq to the United States up to talk with him, as well as have a Cabinet meeting between my government and the Maliki Government via secure video. And I think that will be a very interesting moment for the Iraqi Government, to see that we're concerned and interested about their plans for success. And I think it will be interesting for us to be able to get a sense for the type of people that the Prime Minister has attracted.

Ask Anders a question, will you? He's feeling a little defensive. [*Laughter*]

Central Intelligence Agency

Q. I'm sorry, I have one for you, Mr. President. This week, a report from the European Council talked about some CIA flights, illegal CIA flights with the prisoners in Europe, and illegal CIA presence also in some European countries. Have these flights taken place, and did you discuss this in your meeting today?

President Bush. We haven't discussed it yet. I suspect we will now that you brought it up. I would just—I can tell you what I'll tell the Prime Minister, is that in cases where we're not able to extradite somebody who is dangerous, sometimes renditions take place. It's been a part of our Government for quite a period of time—not just my Government, but previous administrations have done so in order to protect people. And as we do so, we protect the sovereign rights of nations that we're involved with.

Okay, thanks for the press conference. Enjoy yourselves. Get out of here. [*Laughter*] Welcome, glad you all are here.

Q. Are you guys going to race?

President Bush. No, we're old—one of us is old. [*Laughter*] I'm taking a lesson.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 10:43 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Anne-Mette Rasmussen, wife of Prime Minister Rasmussen; Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Minister of the Interior Jawad al-Bolani, Defense Minister Abdel Qadir Muhammed Jassim, and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi, who was killed in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Lt. Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, USA, commander, Joint Special Operations Command, U.S. Central Command Forward, U.S. Special Operations Command; Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command; U.S. Ambassador to Iraq

Zalmay Khalilzad; and Iraq's Ambassador to the U.S. Samir Shakir al-Sumaydi.

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.

June 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 5

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. Then, at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he met with Chinese Leadership Program Fellows.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides from March 29 to April 16.

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by flooding from March 30 to May 3.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and ground saturation from March 30 to April 30.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm from April 18–20.

June 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Artesia, NM, where he participated in a tour of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Laredo, TX, where he participated in a tour of the Laredo Border Patrol Sector Headquarters. Later, he visited briefly with staff and students of Mary Help of Christians School. He then visited the Cotulla Style Pit Bar-B-Que restaurant.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Omaha, NE, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer John "Buzz" Garlock.

The White House announced that the President will travel to St. Petersburg, Russia, to attend the G–8 Summit on July 15–17.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wayne Cartwright Beyer to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cesar Benito Cabrera to be Ambassador to Mauritius and the Seychelles.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert L. Sumwalt III to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Vice Chair.

The President announced his intention to nominate Colleen Conway-Welch and C. Thomas Yarington, Jr., to be members of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University for Health Sciences.

The President announced his intention to designate Lt. Gen. Ronald L. Burgess, Jr., as Acting Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

June 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he visited Catholic Charities—Juan Diego Center, where he participated in a microbusiness networking breakfast and a U.S. citizenship class.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador and President-elect Alan Garcia of Peru.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he met with Republican congressional leaders. He then met with Members of Congress who had recently traveled to Iraq.

In the evening, National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley briefed the President on the death of senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi in Baquba, Iraq, following U.S. airstrikes.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia to the White House on June 14.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Janez Jansa of Solvenia at the White House on July 10.

June 8

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq to discuss the death of Abu Musab Al Zarqawi in Baquba, Iraq, on June 7. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia. He and Mrs. Bush then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Budapest, Hungary, on June 22, following his participation in the U.S.-European Union Summit in Vienna, Austria.

June 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark and his wife, Anne-Mette.

The President announced his intention to nominate Randall M. Fort to be Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margo M. McKay to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Civil Rights.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stephen S. McMillin to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Drue Pearce to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marc Spitzer to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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 June 5

David H. Laufman,
of Texas, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense, vice Joseph E. Schmitz, resigned.

Charles D. Nottingham,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2010, vice Roger P. Nober, term expired.

Charles Darwin Snelling,
of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2012 (reappointment).

Submitted June 6

Cesar Benito Cabrera,
of Puerto Rico, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Wayne Cartwright Beyer,
of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years expiring July 1, 2010, vice Othoniel Armendariz.

Colleen Conway-Welch,
of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring May 1, 2011, vice L.D. Britt, term expired.

Marcia Morales Howard,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, vice Harvey E. Schlesinger, retired.

Leslie Southwick,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi, vice William H. Barbour, Jr., retired.

Robert L. Sumwalt III,
of South Carolina, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2006, vice Richard F. Healing, resigned.

Robert L. Sumwalt III,
of South Carolina, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2011 (reappointment).

C. Thomas Yarington, Jr.,
of Washington, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring May 1, 2011, vice Ikram U. Khan, term expired.

Submitted June 7

Gregory Kent Frizzell,
of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, vice Sven E. Holmes, resigned.

Submitted June 9

R. Alexander Acosta,
of Florida, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of 4 years, vice Marcos D. Jimenez.

Troy A. Eid,
of Colorado, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of 4 years, vice John W. Suthers, resigned.

Phillip J. Green,
of Illinois, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois for the term of 4 years, vice Ronald J. Tenpas, resigned.

George E.B. Holding,
of North Carolina, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of 4 years, vice Frank DeArmon Whitney.

Sharon Lynn Potter,
of West Virginia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia for the term of 4 years, vice Thomas E. Johnston, resigned.

Brett L. Tolman,
of Utah, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Michael Warner, resigned.

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 June 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to California

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Dakota

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

Released June 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush to Attend 2006 Group of Eight (G–8) Summit

Released June 7

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Uribe of Colombia

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Welcome Prime Minister of Slovenia to the White House

Released June 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers Edward P. Lazear on the administration's updated economic forecast

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush To Visit Budapest, Hungary

Released June 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: The President's Malaria Initiative

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.