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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on November 2, 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

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Week Ending Friday, November 2, 2007

The President's Radio Address

October 27, 2007

Good morning. On Thursday, I traveled to California to visit communities ravaged by wildfires. I walked with a married couple through the charred remains of their home. I met with emergency responders. I talked with displaced families at a disaster assistance center. And I made a pledge to the people of California on behalf of all Americans: We will help you put out the fires, get through the crisis, and rebuild your lives.

State and local authorities in California were well prepared for this crisis, and they responded quickly and effectively. Officials warned those in danger, moved residents out of the path of the flames, and set up dozens of shelters for thousands of people.

State officials also reached out to the Federal Government for help, and we responded. Shortly after the fires broke out, we started mobilizing and providing assistance, including the deployment of Federal firefighters and aircraft to drop fire retardant on the fires. As high winds spread the fires, Governor Schwarzenegger requested more Federal help. Within 1 hour of that request, we approved an emergency declaration that authorized Federal Agencies across the Government to help State and local responders save lives, protect property, and maintain public health and safety.

On Wednesday, I issued a second declaration. This action made additional Federal funding available to the residents of the counties affected by the wildfires so they can recover and rebuild. This Federal assistance includes grants for temporary housing and home repair, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, loans for small-business owners, and funding to help clean up debris.

I was impressed by the performance of the first-responders I met in California. Despite the challenges of high winds and dry weather, firefighters are gaining the upper hand and earning the gratitude of their fellow citizens. Many of these brave men and women have battled the blaze in triple-digit heat. Some have worked around the clock. And more than once, firefighting teams were forced to take emergency shelter in their fire tents when threatened by approaching walls of flame. I was grateful for the opportunity to meet them, and I thank them for their courage.

I was also encouraged by the spirit of the families I met. At one recovery center, I met an amazing young girl named Alyssa Lamborn. Alyssa told me, "I lost my house, but I didn't lose my home because my family and my pets are safe." I saw this same spirit in many others who are grateful for their safety and determined to rebuild.

People like Alyssa and her family are receiving help from their fellow Americans. Some have opened their homes to strangers who were evacuated and could not find a hotel room. Doctors and nurses have answered the call to help seniors who were forced from their nursing homes. And volunteers from every walk of life have come forward to provide food, clothing, and blankets—and a shoulder to lean on.

I went to southern California with a message: We want you to know, the country cares for you. We're concerned about you, your neighborhoods, and your homes. Things may look dismal now, but there is a better day ahead. And we will not forget you in Washington, DC.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on October 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 27. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 26 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 a Meeting With the House Republican Conference

October 30, 2007

Thank you all. I just had a very constructive and important meeting with the leadership and the Republican Members of the United States House of Representatives. And I want to thank you all for coming down, and thank you for your leadership.

Congress is not getting its work done. We're near the end of the year, and there really isn't much to show for it. The House of Representatives has wasted valuable time on a constant stream of investigations, and the Senate has wasted valuable time on an endless series of failed votes to pull our troops out of Iraq. And yet there's important work to be done on behalf of the American people.

They have not been able to send a single annual appropriations bill to my desk, and that's the worst record for a Congress in 20 years. One of the important responsibilities of the Congress is to pass appropriations bills, and yet the leadership that's on the Hill now cannot get that job done.

They've also passed an endless series of tax increases. You know, they proposed tax increases in the farm bill, the energy bill, the small-business bill, and of course, the SCHIP bill. They haven't seen a bill they could not solve without shoving a tax hike into it. In other words, they believe in raising taxes, and we don't.

Spending is skyrocketing under their leadership—at least, proposed spending is skyrocketing under their leadership. After all, they're trying to spend an additional $205 billion over the next 5 years. Some have said, "Well, that doesn't matter much; it's not that much money." Well, 205 billion over the next 5 years in the real world amounts to this: 4.7 million per hour, every hour for every day for the next 5 years. That's a lot of money.

And that doesn't even include spending that would actually pay for 2 million people to move from private health insurance to an inefficient, lower quality, Government-run program. Despite knowing it does not have a chance of becoming law, the Senate will now take up the second SCHIP bill the House passed last week. I believe the Senate is wasting valuable time. This bill, remarkably, manages to spend more money over 5 years than the first bill did.

After going alone and going nowhere, Congress should instead work with the administration on a bill that puts poor children first; a bill that will take care of the poor children that the initial bill said we got to do; a bill that would stop diverting money to adults. You realize some major States in the United States spend more money on adults than they do on children? We want a bill that enrolls the more than 500,000 poor children currently eligible for the program who are not a part of the program.

We want to sit down in good faith and come up with a bill that is responsible, because Congress has been unable or unwilling to get its basic job done of passing spending bills.

There are now reports that congressional leaders may be considering combining the Veterans and Department of Defense appropriations bills and then add a bloated labor, health, and education spending bill to both of them. It's hard to imagine a more cynical political strategy than trying to hold hostage funding for our troops in combat and our wounded warriors in order to extract $11 billion in additional social spending. I hope media reports about such a strategy are wrong; I really do. If they're not, if the reports of this strategy are true, I will veto such a three-bill pileup. Congress should pass each bill, one at a time, in a fiscally responsible manner that reflects agreement between the legislative branch and the executive branch.

I again ask Congress to send me a clean veterans funding bill that we have already agreed to by Veterans Day, so we can keep America's promise to those who have defended our freedom and are recovering from injury. I again urge them to pass a clean defense appropriations bill and a war supplemental bill to fund our troops in combat.

I know some on the Democrat side didn't agree with my decision to send troops in, but it seems like we ought to be able to agree that we're going to support our troops who are in harm's way. I know the Members feel

that way, standing with me. I hope the leadership feels that way, and they ought to give me a bill that funds, among other things, bullets and body armor and protection against IEDs and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. It would be irresponsible to not give our troops the resources they need to get their job done because Congress was unable to get its job done.

Again, I want to thank the Members here. I appreciate us working together for the good of the United States of America. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:27 a.m. on the North Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 3963 and H.R. 976.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda

October 30, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming. Second time we have met here in the Oval Office, and I told the President that I remember distinctly his description of what life was like in Uganda, particularly when it comes to his raising cows; he's a cattleman, and it gave us something to talk about.

But we talked about other issues as well. I am very proud that the United States taxpayer has supported this President in his efforts to deal with HIV/AIDS. And Uganda is the epitome of how one can implement a comprehensive ABC strategy to achieve concrete and specific results for the sake of humanity. And so, Mr. President, I assure you we'll continue to support you on HIV/AIDS, and equally important, we'll support you on fighting malaria.

President Museveni. Thank you.

President Bush. And I thank you for your determined efforts.

We also talked about the benefit of trade between the United States and the continent of Africa, and the President reminded me how important AGOA is to promote better lives in our respective countries. And so, Mr. President, thank you for that vision.

We talked about a lot of other subjects. We talked about the security in the region. The President has got good advice, and he's got good judgment when it comes to issues like Somalia and the Sudan. I assured him that we're committed to peace and stability. A matter of fact, I informed the President today that I spoke to the Secretary-General of the United Nations about Sudan, how I think it is important to continue putting the pressure on respective parties to come up with an agreement that will help end the genocide. And it's important for the United Nations to get moving those troops into this Darfur region as quickly as possible.

And of course we discussed about the peace between—the agreement between south and north of Sudan, and our desire is to make sure we implement that agreement.

And finally, we talked about eligibility for Millennium Challenge. And I told the President this is a very important program. I hope that Congress fully funds Millennium Challenge and that we will work with Uganda on their eligibility.

And so, Mr. President, thanks for coming. It's really good to see you again.

President Museveni. Thank you.

President Bush. I appreciate you taking time to visit with me here in the Oval Office.

President Museveni. I thank President Bush for welcoming me here. As he told you, we are most pleased with AGOA, African Growth and Opportunity Act. This is where the United States opens their market for African value-added products, or products of all other types, for 6,500 products.

Now, this is a very big opportunity. As you know, the United States market is a big market, $11 trillion market. The whole of the African market today is about half a trillion dollars, if it was integrated. Of course it will grow—it will grow. As the purchasing power of Africa grows, our whole market will also grow.

However, in the short run, exporting to the U.S. market is a very good stimulus for our economies to grow fast. So we are very, very pleased with President Bush for sustaining this AGOA arrangement, which has helped our economies. Uganda is already exporting processed fish from Lake Victoria to the U.S. This is good also for the American consumers because this fish is very good for health. There's very little pollution in our part of the world, so it's very good for the

American people also. So I thanked him for that.

I also thanked him for the Millennium Challenge Account. That money will now be used to develop infrastructure in the country of Uganda. So you have access to big markets in Africa, in the United States, in the European Union—even China has opened their market partially to us. They have offered us 440 products, tariff-free, quota-free. But you need a good infrastructure within a country like Uganda, as well as other African countries, so that you can produce goods at low cost. And because you have got low transport costs, you have got low energy costs; therefore, the cost of doing business are low, are reasonable. Therefore, you can be competitive in the expanded markets and also in the regional markets. So I thanked him again for that Millennium Challenge Account.

I thank him for the malaria and HIV fund. That one is very, very useful. We are working to get rid of the mosquito in Uganda. We are doing research to get rid of the mosquito larvae. And again, we have worked with the Center for Disease Control in the United States, whom you sent to us. There's a hope that we can get rid of the mosquito at the larvae stage because we have got some larvicide, which can kill it.

Of course we also talked about security issues, but most important, AGOA, Millennium Challenge Account, malaria, and HIV. That's what we talked about mainly.

President Bush. Sir, thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations.

Remarks on the Nomination of James B. Peake To Be Secretary of Veterans Affairs

October 30, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome. Caring for our military veterans is a solemn responsibility of the Federal Government. It is our enduring pledge to every man and woman who puts on our Nation's uniform. And it is the daily work of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am pleased to announce my nomination of an Army doctor and combat veteran who will be a strong new leader for this Department, Lieutenant General James Peake.

Public service is a family commitment, and I'm especially grateful to Dr. Peake's wife, Janice—a fellow Texan—who is with us today. I appreciate you supporting Jim once again as he does the Nation's work. I'm also proud to welcome Kimberly and Thomas. Thank you all for coming. We just met in the Oval Office, and there's no question in my mind they're certainly proud of their dad.

Dr. Peake grew up in a home where service to country was a way of life. His father started out as an enlisted man in the Army and became an officer who spent most of his 30-year career in the Medical Service Corps. Doctor Peake's mom was an Army nurse. His brother was a naval aviator. And as a young man of 18, he set upon his own lifetime of service when he arrived at the United States Military Academy.

After graduating from West Point in 1966, Second Lieutenant James Peake was sent to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. There he served as a platoon leader. He led men in combat and earned several medals for his courage, including the Silver Star. One of those who knows him best described his leadership this way: "End of a chow line officer—everyone else first."

In Vietnam, he also earned two Purple Hearts. While in the hospital recovering from his second wound, he learned that he had been accepted to medical school. After completing his medical studies at Cornell University, he devoted his career as an Army doctor to improving care for our wounded service men and women. Long before the global war on terror began, Dr. Peake was changing the way we deliver medical care to our troops. As a result of his reforms, many who once might have died on the battlefield—now they come home to be productive, and they're having fulfilling lives.

As a medical officer and combat vet who was wounded in action, Dr. Peake understands the view from both sides of the hospital bed—the doctor's and the patient's. He brought that understanding to many jobs. These include command surgeon in the Army hospitals, commanding general of the

largest medical training facility in the world, and Army Surgeon General—where he commanded more than 50,000 medical personnel, oversaw 16 hospitals across the world, and managed an operating budget of nearly $5 billion.

Since leaving the Army, he is—served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Project HOPE. There he helped one Navy hospital ship respond to the victims of the Asian tsunami and another that was sent to care for those hit by Hurricane Katrina. Most recently, he has served as chief medical director and chief operating officer with QTC Management, which provides military veterans with timely medical examinations as well as electronic medical record services.

When confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Peake will bring his unique set of skills and experiences to the Department of Veterans Affairs. He will be the first physician and the first general to serve as Secretary. He will apply his decades of expertise in combat medicine and health care management to improve the veterans' health system. He will insist on the highest level of care for every American veteran.

One of Dr. Peake's first tasks as Secretary will be to continue to implement the recommendations of the Dole-Shalala Commission on Wounded Warriors. And Senator, thank you for joining us. Some of their recommendations are the responsibility of the executive branch, and Dr. Peake will be a leader in carrying them out. Others require the approval of the United States Congress, and that's why this month, I sent a bill to Capitol Hill that will make those recommendations the law of the land.

As Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Doctor Peake will be a powerful advocate for the prompt enactment and implementation of this vital legislation. And he will work tirelessly to eliminate backlogs and ensure that our veterans receive the benefits they need to lead lives of dignity and purpose.

In all these ways, Dr. Peake will build on the fine records of Secretary Jim Nicholson and Secretary Tony Principi. Jim is a West Point man who knows the meaning of duty, honor, and country. He's a Vietnam vet and a former Ambassador and a good friend. I thank him for his service, and I thank his wife, Suzanne, as well, and wish them all the very best.

Principi is with us. It's good to see you, friend; thanks for coming. He's a graduate of one of our military academies, although it's not West Point; it was the Naval Academy. Like the other two men here today, he is a combat veteran of Vietnam. And like the other two, he has served our veterans with dignity and integrity. And I appreciate your service.

Jim and Tony can be proud of their record at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under their leadership, Federal spending for veterans increased by more than two-thirds. We extended treatment to a million additional veterans, including hundreds of thousands returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We expanded grants to help homeless veterans across the country. These men have worked well with the VSOs, and I thank the leaders for joining us here today. Dr. Peake is going to work well with you too.

And speaking of working well, it's time for the Congress to do its job for the veterans. Congress needs to send me a clean VA appropriations bill that I can sign into law by Veterans Day.

I want to thank Acting Secretary Gordon Mansfield for leading the Department these last few weeks. He's done a fine job. He's earned the respect of all those who've worked under him. He's earned the gratitude of our Nation's vets.

I appreciate Dr. Peake's willingness to step forward at this important time for the Department. He's a man who's been tested in battle. He has proved himself as a soldier, as a physician, as a leader, and as a good family man. He will be a superb Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the United States Senate should promptly confirm him.

Doctor, I appreciate you stepping up again. On behalf of the United States of America, congratulations.

[*At this point, Secretary-designate Peake made brief remarks.*]

The President. Good job. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:09 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator Bob Dole,

Cochair, President's Commission on Care for America's Returning Wounded Warriors; and former Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Peake.

Remarks at the Grocery Manufacturers Association/Food Products Association Fall Conference

October 31, 2007

Thanks for coming. Thank you all. Please be seated. Billy, thank you. I asked Billy where he works. He said, "Well, I run Sunny Delight Beverage Company." I said, "Well, Billy, I quit drinking." [*Laughter*] He said, "That's not that kind of—alcohol."

I thank you all for having me. Billy, thank you for your kind words. He's from Cincinnati. I was in Cincinnati the other day, stopped off and got some ribs, and he tried to ask me to compare Texas ribs with Cincinnati ribs. That's a little unfair. But they're awfully good, Billy.

I appreciate you having me for this fall conference. I'm thrilled to be a sitting President coming to visit with you. I didn't realize the last one was Eisenhower. I don't know if he came on Halloween, but I did. It's always an interesting day here in the Nation's Capital. This morning I was with the Vice President. I was asking him what costume he was planning. He said, "Well, I'm already wearing it." [*Laughter*] Then he mumbled something about the dark side of the force. [*Laughter*] He's doing well.

I want to talk today about health care. There's an interesting debate raging here in Washington, and it's an appropriate—Halloween is an appropriate day to talk about it, because there's a bill moving through the Congress that's disguised as a bill to help children, but I think it's really a trick on the American people. I'm going to spend some time explaining why I have made some decisions I have made regarding this piece of legislation.

The bill that I'm going to discuss would cause moms and dads to give up private insurance and—private insurance for their children and move them on to the Government rolls. It would move us closer to a health care system dominated by the Federal Government. It would fund massive new spending by raising taxes on the American working people. I believe the legislation I'm going to talk to you today—about which I'm going to talk to you today is a path to Government-run health care, which I believe is the wrong path for the United States.

And I vetoed a bill. As Billy noted, the spotlight can be quite bright when the President either shows up or does something. And I vetoed a piece of legislation. And I appreciate your giving me a chance to come by and explain to you and the American people why I did so. But before I do, I do want to thank you all very much for giving me a chance to come by. The White House is a nice place to live, but sometimes it's good to get outside the White House, to be with people who are actually making a living—[*laughter*]—that are creating jobs; that are taking risk; that are really, I hope, living the American Dream.

Laura sends her best. She's doing great. I am truly a lucky man to have married this great woman, and I think the country is lucky to have her as the First Lady.

I want to thank Mary Fallin from Oklahoma—Congresswoman from Oklahoma—for joining us. Mary, thank you for being here. I particularly want to say something about Cal Dooley. I worked with him when he was a Member of the United States Congress. I found him to be a good, honest guy. When he said he was going to do something, he would do it. And I don't know if this helps him or hurts him, but you made a pretty smart move to hire him. And I'm proud to be with you, Cal. Thanks for being here.

One of the reasons I've come by is to remind you how important you are to our economy. In other words, I'm the kind of person who believes that it's important for those of us in government to encourage people to take risk and to take investment. I like to remind people, one of the key cornerstones of my philosophy is, I don't believe the role of government is to try to create wealth; it's to create the environment in which people are willing to risk capital, to expand their businesses. And I appreciate the fact that every day you're doing that. I appreciate the

fact that you have to worry about what your customers think; that you tailor your goods and services to meet somebody else's demand. I appreciate the fact that by providing a place for people to work, you help American families. And I appreciate the fact that you've been a part of a remarkable economy.

Just this morning, we learned that the economic growth in the third quarter was 3.9 percent. You hear people talking about whether our economy is strong or not; well, here's an indication that it's strong. A lot of that has to do with the ability for people to dream big dreams and to follow through on those dreams. I love the fact that people say, I own a business. Ownership is a central part of making sure this country is a helpful—hopeful country.

I also am pleased to report to you that last September was America's 49th consecutive month of job creation. It's the longest period of uninterrupted job growth on record. A lot of that has to do with the fact that we cut your taxes. There's a huge debate in Washington about cutting taxes. I believe if you've got more money in your treasuries to spend, it's more likely somebody is going to find work. I believe when American families have more money in their pockets to save, invest, or spend, it helps keep the economy strong. I believe you can spend your money better than the Federal Government can spend your money.

That's the philosophy behind the tax cuts we have passed, and I appreciate you supporting progrowth economic policies. You understand that small businesses work best when there's more money at—in circulation amongst small businesses. Today, this afternoon, I'm going to sign into law an extension of the Internet tax moratorium. We're making some progress in convincing people in Washington that low taxes ought to be memorialized in permanent policy.

Progrowth economic policies work. That's one of the things I want to share with you. In order to get out of a recession and recover from an attack on the United States, we cut taxes on everybody who pays taxes, because I'm not the kind of person that says, we're going to cut taxes on you because of your political affiliation and not because of you—on you because of yours. I believe if you cut taxes, the only way to—fair way to do so is to cut taxes on everybody who pays income taxes. And that's precisely what we did. And cutting taxes caused our economy to not only recover but grow, just like I told you, 3.9 percent in the third quarter for example.

And when the economy grows, it yields more tax revenues. And by holding down spending, it means—and by the way, setting priorities such as funding our troops when they're in the harm's way—it means you can keep taxes low, grow the economy, set fiscal priorities, and reduce the deficit. And that's what's happening as I speak. And it's important for Congress not to unwind this process by trying to raise your taxes. And I'm going to use my veto pen to prevent them from doing so.

I appreciate your support for free trade. That's another controversial subject. I believe opening markets for American goods and services will help us remain a prosperous nation. I worry about protectionist sentiments in America that say, well, we don't particularly think we can compete, so let's just wall us off. I believe that would be a mistake for the United States of America. So I look forward to working with Cal and your organization to convince the Congress to pass important free trade agreements that we have negotiated with Peru and Colombia and Panama and South Korea.

The United States of America must understand that there are millions of potential customers around the world. And it makes sense to open up markets for U.S. goods and services, so that—so we can compete on a level playing field. I want our cattlemen to understand that I spend a lot of time working to open up markets for U.S. beef around the world. I think it's good for agriculture to say, let's trade. And so we'll continue to press it. But I'm going to need your help convincing Members of Congress that it's in the national interest to be confident about our capacity to compete, and it's in our national interest to make sure we have free and fair trade.

We're going to work together to secure the food supply. I think it's in the Nation's interest to work to deal with childhood obesity.

And I think it's in the Nation's interest to expand investment in alternative energy sources. The reason why is, dependency on

oil is not good for the United States of America. It's not good for economic security, nor is it good for national security. I really don't like to have our country in the position where if demand for oil goes up in the developing world, it causes your gasoline prices to go up. We shouldn't be in the position where if somebody decides to blow up a—oil infrastructure in another country, it causes your gasoline prices to go up. And I also understand that alternative sources of energy will make us better stewards of the environment.

And one way to become less dependent on oil is to be able to grow products that empower our automobiles. And that's why I'm such a big believer in ethanol. I fully understand that folks out there are concerned about the price of corn. I hear from my hog-raising buddies that ethanol—driving cars with corn is causing them to have trouble feeding their hogs. And that's why we're spending some of your money on new technologies that will enable us to use wood chips or switch grass to be able to be the source for ethanol. It's called cellulosic ethanol.

You just got to know, you're talking to—you're listening to somebody—you're not talking, you're listening to somebody who has got great faith in the capacity of America to use technologies, to develop technologies and use technologies to deal with significant problems, so long as the Government makes it clear these are priorities. And I want to thank you for helping us on those issues.

Speaking about agriculture, this afternoon I'm going to name a new Secretary of Agriculture. I'm not going to tell you who it is, because I'm trying to—[*laughter*]—but I think you'll like him. He understands agriculture, of course, and he'll be a good follow-on to Mike Johanns, who did a superb job as the Secretary of Agriculture. And I'm going to ask the Senate, of course, to confirm this person as quickly as possible.

I do want to spend some time on health care. I'm fully aware that this is a topic that is of concern to you, as it should be. And it's a concern to all families across the country. It's a topic of heated debate here in Washington. And at the root of the debate is a philosophical disagreement over the direction American health care—good people who have a different opinion on what we ought to be doing.

Here's my philosophy, that Government ought to trust private medicine; that we've got a fabulous health care system. Does it have issues? Sure, it's got issues. But when you compare it to other health care systems in the world, the United States has got a fabulous health care system. We got great docs; we've got wonderful new technologies. Our system is so good that many people from around the world like to come here to get treatment. The goal of a good health care system is not to weaken the health care system, but strengthen it; and a goal is to bring as many Americans as possible into the private system of health care. That ought to be a goal. And the reason why that ought to be a goal is because private coverage offers choice, which is good for consumers; flexibility, which is good for consumers; and quality of care that comes from competition. Private coverage puts the medical decisions in the right hands, and that's between the patient and the doctor. And that's where the decisions in health care should be.

There's a different view in Washington. They believe—those who have a different view believe that expanding Federal control is the key to improving health care. Again, I repeat, these are good folks; they care about our country as much as I care about our country. They just have a different vision about how to deal with the health issues. At the center of their belief is that folks in Washington are in a—the best position to decide which diseases should be treated, which procedures you can have, and which doctors you're allowed to see. That's the essence of federalization of health care. They believe that massive tax increases are the best way to fund their plans. The truth of the matter is, if you federalize health care, you're going to have to have a massive tax increase to pay for it.

For those who believe that, I would hope they would look around the world at other nations who have tried to nationalize their health care systems. I think what they would find is that socialized medicine has led to lower standards, longer waits, rationing of care. We've tried, by the way, here in Washington to have a major effort, put the Federal

Government square in the center of health care in 1994, and the legislation didn't pass. I believe many of the Democrats in Congress who supported that legislation have learned from the experience. So instead of pushing to federalize health care all at once, they're pushing for the same goal through a series of incremental steps. With each step, they want to bring America closer to a nationalized system where the Government dictates the medical coverage for every citizen.

The strategy is to expand programs for senior citizens to include younger citizens, to expand programs for children to include adults, and to expand programs for the poor to include the middle class. I'm not making it up. I would remind you that some in Congress recently proposed to lower the eligibility age for Medicare, which would allow younger citizens onto the Federal program. And we can now see the strategy clearly when you analyze the efforts to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program. That's the issue I was going to talk to you about; SCHIP it's called. SCHIP was created to provide coverage for poor and uninsured children whose parents make too much money to qualify for Medicaid. Let me make sure you understand the facts. When people say we're not providing money for poor children, they're overlooking the $35.5 billion a year of your money we spend on poor children through Medicaid. There is a robust program to make sure poor children in America get health care. And that's good. If you're poor and can't afford health care, that's a good role of the Government is to help you.

SCHIP was to help people who couldn't quite qualify for Medicaid to get help, and I supported the program. I supported the program as the Governor of Texas, and I support the program as President of the United States. And that's why the budget I submitted this year increases SCHIP funding by 20 percent over 5 years. So you're looking at a supporter of the program. As a matter of fact, I sent a signal to Congress that if we need some more money to focus on poor children, we'll help them find the money, without raising your taxes.

And I said, we got to make sure it stays focused on poor children because a half a million children who qualify for the program aren't on the program today. The program said, we're going to help poor children; there's a half a million children who qualify for the program who aren't enrolled. Now, it seems like to me, it makes sense that the Government ought to focus on enrolling those who qualify now and not expanding the program beyond its current reach.

But remember, the primary goal is to increase the Federal reach into health care. So earlier this month, they sent me a bill that would expand SCHIP far beyond its original purpose. Under the proposal that came to my desk, more than half the children in America could be eligible for Government health care. In other words, by expanding eligibility, it means that more than half the children in America would become eligible for this Federal program. And to fund it, they would raise taxes. That's bad health policy, as far as I'm concerned; it's bad tax policy; and it's going to take the country in the wrong direction.

And let me explain why. According to the Congress's own Budget Office, the bill Congress passed would lead one out of every three children who moves on to Government coverage to drop private health insurance. The Government provides incentives to join the Federal program, and people go from private health care to Government health care. That is the wrong direction if you believe that private medicine—private health care is the best medicine possible for the American people.

Some of those children's parents that would be moving make nearly $62,000 a year. As a matter of fact, the bill I vetoed would raise eligibility in some places up to $83,000 a year. That's not poor. That's an indication that there's a strategy afoot to expand the Federal reach into health care. In all, 2 million American children would move from private insurance to the Government program, and at the same time, as I told you, some of the poorest children who are eligible for SCHIP may not be—may still not be enrolled. And adults would still be on the children's program. In about seven States in America, they've used the SCHIP money—they're spending more money on adults than they are on children. So adults would still be enrolled in the children's program. You

might call that an extended trip to the fountain of youth. And the taxes they're going to raise to pay for it would fall on the working people.

So that's why I vetoed the bill. I believe that private medicine is in the best interest of the country. That's the principle on which I'm operating, and when I got a bill that would undermine that principle, I vetoed it. And my veto was sustained. And then I put out the word to Congress, I'd like to work with you on a better bill. And unfortunately, the good will has not yet been returned.

I named three members of my administration to hold discussions with Congress, two Cabinet officials and a senior adviser. I said, "Here's three people that can speak for me; I'd like them to come up and sit down with you in good faith to negotiate a way to make sure poor children get the help they need." Unfortunately, the leaders wouldn't meet with them, nor would their designated representatives. Instead, the House of Representatives made a few adjustments at the margins of the bill and passed it again.

Now, the bill has the same major flaws. It fails to cover poor children first; it shifts children with private insurance onto the Government rolls; and it uses taxpayers' dollars to subsidize middle class families; and finally, it raises taxes. But to be fair, there is one part of the bill that leaders in Congress changed. Somehow they managed to make this version cost even more over the next 5 years than the last version.

If Congress sends this bill back to me, I'm going to veto it again. They know this. I mean, they've made it—I made it perfectly clear that if you keep passing this piece of legislation, I'm going to keep vetoing it, unless, of course, it's a piece of legislation that focuses on poor children and does not expand the reach of the Federal Government into health care.

They also understand that the veto that was sustained in the House will be sustained again. And yet, incredibly enough, the Senate is going to debate this issue. I view this as a pure political exercise, and I urge the Senate not to waste time on a bill that they know I will veto and will be sustained. Whatever our differences, we need to keep the important program going. I understand that. No poor child should lose health care because of Washington, DC, politics.

Philosophical divide isn't going to go away anytime soon, but there are some commonsense steps that Republicans and Democrats can do to help Americans who struggle with health care. There's some positive things that we can do.

For example, Congress should expand innovative products known as health savings accounts, which allow people to pay lower insurance premiums, to save tax-free for routine medical expenses, and to be able to take such an account from job to job.

You know, a startling statistic is that if you're 30 years old, you probably have worked five, six, or seven jobs by the time you reach 30; this is a very mobile workforce. And it seems like to me that we ought to have products that enable somebody to take their own insurance policy with them from job to job, and a health savings account is such a policy. And if you're a small-business owner, I strongly urge you to take a look at health savings accounts for your employees.

Congress should pass association health plans, which enables small businesses to pool risk across jurisdictional boundaries, so you can buy insurance at the same discounts that large companies can. If Congress truly is worried about the rising cost of health care, they ought to enable small employers to pool risk; in other words, to be able to accumulate a large risk pool, so you can better afford insurance for your employees.

Congress should pass medical liability reform. These junk lawsuits are running good doctors out of practice and are running up the cost of your health care bills. And if they want to address the rising cost in health care, they need to join me and pass substantive medical liability reform at the Federal level.

When I first came to Washington, I said, "Well, maybe this isn't the proper Federal role; we'll let the States handle it." And then when I began to analyze the cost to the Federal Government of these junk lawsuits, I determined it was a Federal role to do something about them. I mean, after all, we're a huge health care provider; we have Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, veterans' health care. Yet many of the doctors who we hire to provide services practice defensive

medicine, so that if they get sued they got a case in the courthouse that can defend them. These junk lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine for you, and they're running up the cost of medicine for the Federal Government, which is you. And if the Congress is seriously—wants to do something seriously about solving this problem, they ought to pass medical liability reform now.

The amazing thing about health care, it's—when it comes to information technology, they're light-years behind a lot of America. Perhaps the best way to describe it is, is that we still got doctors handwriting files. They don't write very well to begin with, and files get lost. Health care ought to be using information technology, and the Federal Government, by the way, is insisting that that be the case with the people with whom we interface. And Congress ought to focus on spreading information technology throughout health care. The dream is, is that all of us will have a—our medical records on a little disk, a little chip that we can carry with us, that will be secure from prying eyes, but nevertheless, will be a part of wringing out cost inefficiencies in a industry that needs to have cost inefficiencies wrung out.

And finally, there ought to be more transparence. I mean, the whole purpose of reform is to have more consumerism in health care, not less, as a result of the Federal Government taking over the health care system. And in order to have consumerism, there has to be transparency in pricing and quality of care. And the best way to encourage consumerism is to change the Tax Code.

Right now our Tax Code discriminates against people who are trying to buy an individual policy. If you work for corporate America, you get a tax benefit. If you're on your own, you have to buy health insurance with after-tax money. And as a result of this discrepancy in the Tax Code, it is much harder for an individualized market to take root in America. And therefore, Congress ought to level the playing field for every American family, and to make sure that private medicine is enhanced by fairness in the Tax Code.

There are different opinions in Congress about which type of tax benefit would work the best, a tax deduction or a tax credit. Both of the proposals have their advantages, and either would be a lot better than federalizing health care in America.

Taken together, the comprehensive set of reforms I just outlined would do far more to reduce the ranks of the uninsured than SCHIP expansion would. They'd make private insurance more affordable for millions of Americans. And Congress, rather than passing legislation that's not going to pass, not going to become law, ought to focus on practical, commonsense reforms.

Especially a bad time for Congress to stage political theater on health care because it's got a lot of other work to do in other areas. We're now 10 full months into 2007, and the United States Congress has yet to pass a single one of the annual spending bills of the Federal Government. Considering how eager they are to spend your money, it's shocking it's taken so long to do so. In fact, the leaders on Capitol Hill now hold a dubious record as the first United States Congress in 20 years that has failed to send a single annual appropriations bill to the President this late in the year. And time is running short. Members of Congress needs to pass these annual spending bills soon, one at a time.

They should start by sending me a clean bill to fund our veterans by Veterans Day. I feel a special obligation to make sure that our veterans get the full support of the Federal Government. And Congress needs to stop wasting time and get that VA bill to my desk. We have got troops in harm's way. And regardless of your opinion or Members of Congress's opinion on this war, they ought to put aside those opinions and focus on those troops and their families. Instead of playing politics on the floor of the House and the Senate, they need to pass the defense appropriations bill now to support the troops.

This SCHIP debate is an important debate because it's going to send an important signal as these other appropriations bills move through Congress. If we overspend and raise taxes on this bill, it's going to create a bad habit for the Members of Congress. I think it's very important for people to understand that we can balance this budget and grow this economy if we're wise about how we spend your money, if we set priorities.

It's also important for Members of Congress to understand, with Federal revenues

at an all time high and the deficit declining, now is not the time to raise taxes. Running up the taxes on the American people would be bad for our economy; more importantly, it would be bad for American families. I want you to have more money, so you can make the decisions for your families and yourself that you think are necessary. I like it when the after-tax revenues—income are up. I think it's good for America that American families are able to save for their children's education or small businesses have more money to invest. And the surest way to dilute that spirit of entrepreneurship is to run your taxes up. And that's why I'm going to use my veto pen to prevent people from doing it.

You know, we're living during challenging times. I view—but I view these as exciting times as well. I genuinely do. I think we're laying the foundation of peace for your children and grandchildren. I know it's necessary to do the hard work now so the first chapters of the 21st century will be positive chapters.

I firmly believe that the spread of liberty is going to make it such that when people look back at this period of time, they say, thank God America had faith in certain values, certain fundamental truths. And one of those truths is that there is an Almighty, and a gift of that Almighty to every man, woman, and child is freedom. And another historical truth is, freedom yields the peace we want.

And at home, freedom for people to invest and to make choices is important for a hopeful America. Government must trust the American people. We must trust the American people with your money; we must trust the American people as you make important decisions in health care; and we must trust the American people to continue to be the compassionate people that we are.

It's an honor to represent you. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. at the Renaissance Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to William B. Gyr, president and chief executive officer, Sunny Delight Beverages Company; and Cal Dooley, president and chief executive officer, Grocery Manufacturers Association/Food Products Association. He also referred to H.R. 976; H.R. 3678; and H.R. 3963.

Remarks on the Nomination of Edward T. Schafer To Be Secretary of Agriculture

October 31, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Be seated. Good afternoon. I'm proud to announce my nomination of Ed Schafer to be the next Secretary of the Agriculture.

The Secretary of Agriculture heads a Cabinet Department of more than 100,000 employees. I rely on the Secretary to provide sound advice on issues ranging from our Nation's farm economy and food supply to international trade and conservation programs. To carry out these responsibilities, the Secretary of Agriculture needs to be someone who understands the challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

Ed Schafer is the right choice to fill this post. He was a leader on agricultural issues during his 8 years as the Governor of North Dakota. He worked to open new markets for North Dakota farmers and ranchers by expanding trade with China. He oversaw the development of the State's agricultural biofuels industry. He helped families recover from natural disasters, including drought, fires, and floods. And he pioneered innovative programs to increase economic opportunity in rural communities.

Ed also has extensive management experience in the private sector. Before running for public office, he was the president of the family-owned business that his dad started. He's also launched a number of entrepreneurial ventures on his own. At every stage of his career, Ed has shown wisdom, foresight, and creativity. Those same qualities will make him a valuable member of my Cabinet, and they will make him a trusted friend to America's farmers and ranchers.

Ed's passion for agriculture has deep roots. His maternal grandparents were Danish immigrants who worked as farmers on the plains of North Dakota. Ed has always kept their story close to his heart. And they'd be proud to see their grandson rise to become our Nation's top agriculture official.

In his new job, Ed will carry on the work of another fine public servant, Mike Johanns. Mike became Secretary of Agriculture at the beginning of my second term. During his

time in office, he helped open new markets for trade, promoted renewable fuels and conservation, and provided timely assistance to our farmers and ranchers devastated by natural disasters. Mike leaves a legacy of integrity and dedication. And Laura and I wish Mike and his wife, Stephanie, all the best on their return to Nebraska.

I also thank my friend Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Chuck Conner for serving as Acting Secretary during this time of transition. Chuck grew up on a family farm in Indiana. He has a deep knowledge of agricultural issues. He's done an outstanding job. Appreciate the fact that you will remain as Acting Secretary until the Senate confirms Ed as Mike Johanns's permanent replacement. And thank you for joining us today.

Following Mike is not going to be easy, but Ed Schafer is up to the challenge. With Ed's leadership, we will work with Congress to pass a farm bill that provides farmers with a safety net, protects our lands and the environment, and spends Federal tax dollars wisely. Ed will also join other members of my administration to continue leveling the playing field for America's farm products by concluding the Doha round of trade negotiations. And he and I will continue to work hard to open up new markets for American beef.

As Ed takes on these new challenges, he will rely on the support of his caring family. Ed is blessed with a wonderful wife, Nancy, who came from North Dakota today. He is also blessed with four children and eight grandchildren. Their love will give Ed the strength to serve our country in his new capacity.

I urge the Senate to swiftly confirm Ed Schafer as the 29th Secretary of Agriculture. I look forward to having this good and decent man as a member of my Cabinet. Congratulations.

[*At this point, Secretary-designate Schafer made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, sir. Good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Schafer.

Proclamation 8195—National Adoption Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Adoption Month, we recognize the adoptive and foster families who have shared their homes and hearts with children in need, and we encourage more Americans to consider adopting young people of all ages.

Families who adopt show the generous spirit of our Nation. Every child desires a permanent home, and when parents adopt a child to love as their own, lives are forever changed. For parents, the decision to adopt a child is among life's greatest and happiest turning points. On November 17, families across the country will celebrate National Adoption Day by finalizing their adoptions, and each one of these homes will be richer for the addition of new family members.

My Administration is committed to promoting adoption of children of all ages. We are working to bring together more children with loving, adoptive parents through the Collaboration to AdoptUsKids at adoptuskids.org and by providing States with financial assistance through the Adoption Incentives Program. The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program helps improve care and services to children and families and ensure more young people in America have a caring, secure, and permanent home. Together, these efforts are building a brighter future for our youth.

During National Adoption Month, we honor adoptive and foster parents as they raise children of conviction and character. By accepting the gift of these children, parents are helping shape lives and contributing to the strength of our great 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 November 2007 as National Adoption Month. I call upon all

Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:38 a.m., November 1, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Proclamation 8196—National American Indian Heritage Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National American Indian Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor the many contributions of American Indians and Alaska Natives and to recognize the strong and living traditions of the first people to call our land home.

American Indians and Alaska Natives continue to shape our Nation by preserving the heritage of their ancestors and by contributing to the rich diversity that is our country's strength. Their dedicated efforts to honor their proud heritage have helped others gain a deeper understanding of the vibrant and ancient customs of the Native American community. We also express our gratitude to the American Indians and Alaska Natives who serve in our Nation's military and work to extend the blessings of liberty around the world.

My Administration is committed to supporting the American Indian and Alaska Native cultures. In June, I signed the "Native American Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007," which reauthorizes the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, guaranteeing loans for home improvements and expanding home ownership for Native American families. Working with tribal governments, we will strive for greater security, healthier lifestyles, better schools, and new economic opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

During National American Indian Heritage Month, we underscore our commitment to working with tribes on a government-to-government basis and to supporting tribal sovereignty and self-determination. During this month, I also encourage Federal agencies to continue their work with tribal governments to ensure sound cooperation. Efforts such as on-line training programs will improve interagency collaboration in the Federal Indian Affairs community and help to strengthen relationships with tribes, building a brighter future for all our citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Proclamation 8197—National Family Caregivers Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year during National Family Caregivers Month, we celebrate all those who dedicate themselves to caring for others and

recognize their efforts to comfort and improve the lives of their loved ones in need.

One of our Nation's defining values is compassion, and we must do our best to see that every citizen is treated with dignity and respect. Family caregivers demonstrate this compassion, often at great sacrifice, to assist with everyday activities for family members who are elderly, chronically ill, or disabled. This dedication contributes to a culture of caring and responsibility across our country.

My Administration remains committed to supporting family caregivers by enhancing their access to services, agencies, and other providers. Late last year, I signed "The Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006," which establishes a program to assist family caregivers in accessing affordable and high-quality respite care. The National Family Caregiver Support Program encourages cooperation among agencies and other organizations that support and work with the family caregivers. This program offers information, training, and counseling to help family caregivers assist their loved ones.

National Family Caregivers Month is a time to recognize family caregivers for their good hearts and tireless support. Their love and devotion exemplify the true spirit of America.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as National Family Caregivers Month. I encourage all Americans to honor the selfless service of caregivers who support their loved ones in need.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:38 a.m., November 1, 2007]

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Proclamation 8198—National Hospice Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

One of America's greatest values is compassion, and our country is blessed by all those who dedicate themselves to caring for others. During National Hospice Month, we recognize the dedicated professionals and volunteers who provide love and comfort to those who are terminally ill.

Across our Nation, hospice physicians, nurses, counselors, and volunteers provide invaluable support that enables many of our citizens to spend their final days in comfort and dignity. By providing physical, psychological, and social assistance, hospice care workers help ensure their patients can spend valuable time with loved ones. Hospice caregivers also help by providing guidance and counseling to the families of those who are ill.

Our Nation is committed to helping ensure that citizens with terminal illness and their families receive the assistance they need. We believe in the dignity and worth of every person at every stage of life, and hospice care brings support and comfort to those in need.

Hospice care professionals and volunteers are answering a timeless call to love their neighbors as themselves. During National Hospice Month, we recognize these individuals for their strength and compassion. Their efforts make our country a more loving and caring place.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as National Hospice Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities. I also ask Americans to recognize our health care professionals and volunteers for their contributions to helping provide comfort and care to those facing terminal illness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:38 a.m., November 1, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Proclamation 8199—Veterans Day, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, America has been protected by patriots who cherished liberty and made great sacrifices to advance the cause of freedom. The brave members of the United States Armed Forces have answered the call to serve our Nation, ready to give all for their country. On Veterans Day, we honor these extraordinary Americans for their service and sacrifice, and we pay tribute to the legacy of freedom and peace that they have given our great Nation.

In times of war and of peace, our men and women in uniform stepped forward to defend their fellow citizens and the country they love. They shouldered great responsibility and lived up to the highest standards of duty and honor. Our veterans held fast against determined and ruthless enemies and helped save the world from tyranny and terror. They ensured that America remained what our founders meant her to be: a light to the nations, spreading the good news of human freedom to the darkest corners of the earth.

Like the heroes before them, today a new generation of men and women are fighting for freedom around the globe. Their determination, courage, and sacrifice are laying the foundation for a more secure and peaceful world.

Veterans Day is dedicated to the extraordinary Americans who protected our freedom in years past, and to those who protect it today. They represent the very best of our Nation. Every Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Coast Guardsman has earned the lasting gratitude of the American people, and their service and sacrifice will be remembered forever. In the words of Abraham Lincoln: " . . . let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle . . . ." On this Veterans Day, I ask all Americans to express their appreciation to our Nation's veterans.

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor our Nation's veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2007, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 11 through November 17, 2007, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through ceremonies and prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to support and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:38 a.m., November 1, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Proclamation 8200—National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month is an opportunity to honor and support those living with Alzheimer's disease. During this month, we also seek to express our gratitude to the family members and caretakers who love and comfort those afflicted, and we renew our commitment to finding a cure to this devastating disease.

The greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is age. Scientists are studying how other factors such as family history, nutrition, environment, and education, also affect an individual's risk for Alzheimer's disease. The National Institutes of Health and the Department of Veterans Affairs continue to conduct research to better prevent, detect, and treat Alzheimer's disease and provide information and support to caretakers and families.

During National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, we recognize the millions of Americans affected by this tragic disease and honor those who have lost their lives to Alzheimer's. Americans are grateful for the resolve and dedication of medical professionals, scientific researchers, family members, and caregivers who give their time and talents and help provide hope to many.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., November 2, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Proclamation 8201—National Diabetes Month, 2007

October 31, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Diabetes is a debilitating disease that affects millions of Americans of all ages and all walks of life. National Diabetes Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about risk factors, prevention, and treatment of this serious disease.

Diabetes is a chronic illness that leaves the body unable to produce or properly use insulin to maintain healthy blood glucose levels. The two most common forms of the disease that affect our citizens are Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes, once known as juvenile diabetes, is usually diagnosed in children and young adults who are unable to produce insulin and require daily medication. Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease, is often attributed to lifestyle risk factors and can be controlled by a modified diet, regular physical activity, and medication. Americans can take steps to control the disease and lower the risk of complications such as heart disease, stroke, and kidney disease by maintaining healthy eating and exercise habits, and consulting with a doctor about diabetes testing.

My Administration is committed to providing better care for people living with diabetes and furthering efforts to find a cure. We have supported research initiatives and education programs that encourage healthy living, and we have also modified Medicare coverage to include diabetes screenings. This year, the National Institutes of Health estimates that more than $1 billion will be spent on diabetes research. By working together, we can help identify problems early, manage them before they grow worse, and help ensure more Americans live longer, healthier lives.

Throughout National Diabetes Month, we recognize the medical professionals, scientists, researchers, and all those whose efforts have made a positive difference in the fight against diabetes. By raising public awareness, we can help combat the effects of diabetes in our society and bring hope to children and families living with this disease.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2007 as National Diabetes Month. I call upon all Americans to learn more about the risk factors and symptoms associated with diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:53 a.m., November 2, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 5.

Remarks to the White House Press Pool and an Exchange With Reporters

November 1, 2007

The President. Thanks. I wanted to highlight the speech I'm giving today to Heritage. I'm concerned that there are some who have lost sight of the fact that we're at war with extremists and radicals who want to attack us again. Part of the speech is to remind people that even though we haven't been attacked since September the 11th, there's still an enemy out there that would like to attack us.

And therefore, it's important for Congress to pass law and/or confirm nominees that will enable this Government to more effectively defend the country and pursue terrorists and radicals that would like to do us harm.

So in the speech, I'm going to call upon Congress to pass funding measures for our troops in harm's way—DOD appropriations bill as well as the supplemental. I'll remind the audience that Congress has had the details of the—75 percent of the details since last February. They've had ample time to study the request. And I strongly believe they need to get these funding measures passed quickly for the sake of our troops and for the sake of the operations that are ongoing and protecting the country.

Secondly, the Protect America Act is set to expire. If it were to expire, it would create an intelligence gap that, in my judgment, would jeopardize the security of the country. I call upon—and I give credit that the Senate Intel Committee has moved a bill that is a very good start—and that in my speech, I call upon Congress to get a good bill to my desk quickly, so that an intelligence gap does not arise.

I then remind the audience that a key member of the national security team—a key member of the team that works to protect the American people is the Attorney General. I've submitted a highly competent, smart, independent nominee in Judge Mukasey to the Senate. I am disappointed that the process is taking so long to get his name to the floor.

I believe that the questions he's been asked are unfair; he's not been read into a program—he has been asked to give opinions of a program or techniques of a program on which he has not been briefed. I will make the case—and I strongly believe this is true—that Judge Mukasey is not being treated fairly. He's made the rounds on Capitol Hill; he's answered questions; he's been to hearings. I do thank the Senate for setting up what I hope will be a opportunity to move him out of Judiciary Committee to the floor on Tuesday. It is time to get his nomination to the floor so the Senate can vote him up or down.

And then finally, I'll conclude the speech by reminding people that this concept of stability has—in other words, that foreign policy ought to promote stability as opposed to freedom has led to dangers; and that the only way to solve America's long-term security needs is to remember that the enemy that

we face can only recruit when there's hopelessness and despair; and that liberty has got the capacity to transform societies from hopeless societies to hopeful societies; and that this administration will continue to press the freedom agenda. And obviously, that freedom agenda is being tested in places like Lebanon, Iraq, and the Palestinian Territories and Afghanistan.

All those examples I've just cited are illustrative of this struggle between extremists and radicals and people who want to live in freedom.

And so that's what the speech is. I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and share some of my thoughts about why I'm giving it to you. I'll answer a couple of questions, if you got them.

Attorney General-designate Michael B. Mukasey

Q. Judge Mukasey is experienced in terrorism trials; he's been around. Why is it wrong for him—or why will you not let him say whether he thinks that waterboarding is illegal torture?

The President. He has not been read in—first of all, let me put this in perspective. The Congress did pass a law, the Detainee Detention Act, that I signed into law. The techniques we use informed that law and Members of the Senate and House—select Members of the Senate and House, both parties, have been briefed on the law.

Secondly, he doesn't know whether we use that technique or not. And thirdly, it doesn't make any sense to tell an enemy what we're doing. One of the fundamental questions that the American people have got to know is that in order to protect America, if we capture somebody who may have data about whether or not he's going to—he is ordering an attack or there's an impending attack or there's a threat, we need to know that. And the techniques we use by highly trained professionals are within the law. That's what's important for America to know.

Q. Mr. President, is legal liability in U.S. or foreign courts a concern when it comes to this issue of waterboarding and——

The President. The main concern is, is that the American people must know that whatever techniques we use are within the law. And secondly, it doesn't make any sense—unless, of course, you don't think there's an enemy that's dangerous—it doesn't make any sense to broadcast to the enemy what they ought to prepare for and not prepare for.

Q. Are these concerns legitimate that are being raised, or is it playing politics?

The President. I think it's—I think this is—I'm just extremely disappointed that a good man with a good reputation, who has met with a lot of Senators, his nomination is being held up. You can listen to the voices that are out there talking as to whether or not this is politics or not. My point is, is that it's creating a—to have the Attorney General seat vacant for this long—there's an Acting Attorney General, of course, but not to have a confirmed Attorney General is not good for the country.

Okay, what else?

Turkey

Q. On Turkey, you're going to be meeting next Monday.

The President. Yes, sir.

Q. Turkey wants the U.S. to take a lead in fighting the PKK. How are you going to——

The President. I look forward to visiting with Prime Minister Erdogan on this important subject as to how we can work together to prevent people from coming out of mountain ranges to do harm to Turkish troops. And we will have a good, substantive discussion, as you would expect allies to do. And I'm looking forward to seeing him here in the Oval Office.

Attorney General-designate Mukasey

Q. What do you think of the compromise proposed by McCain, Warner, and Graham on Mukasey, saying that——

The President. Mukasey just needs to get—get on the floor and get him an up-or-down vote. They've had plenty of hearings, plenty of ideas, get him out there and get him up and down.

U.S. Treatment of Detainees

Q. What is your own view about waterboarding?

The President. I'm not going to talk about techniques. There is an enemy out there. I don't want them to understand—to be able to adjust one way or the other. My view is this: The American people have got to understand the program is important and the techniques used are within the law. And Members of the House and Senate know what I'm talking about; they have been fully briefed.

War on Terror/Congress

Q. Do you think the Congress has forgotten we're at war, Mr. President?

The President. Well, I think there is a tendency for people to say, well, maybe—let me just say, there are some who say, "Don't call this a war on terror." And there are some who have accused me of using the words "war on terror" as a way to frighten people into voting booths. And I emphasize the word "some." As I'll say in this speech, those who say we're not in a war on terror are either disingenuous or naive. Either way, the attitude is dangerous because I will have quoted the words of the enemy in the speech, an enemy that said, "We're going to come and kill you."

And I think—I'm not going to—this speech doesn't intend—this is a comprehensive speech about what Congress needs to do to make sure that we have the tools necessary and the people necessary to protect America. I will not in any way personalize this speech. I'm not going to say that an individual Member that may disagree with me is not a patriotic person. I am going to remind people, though, of the dangers that we face.

And I knew full well that if we were successful protecting the country, that the lessons of September the 11th would become dimmer and dimmer in some people's minds. Well, I just don't have that luxury and nor do the people that work with me to protect America, because we have not forgotten the lessons of September the 11th. And I expect and the American people expect Congress to give us the tools necessary to protect them.

Okay?

Q. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey; and Senators John McCain of Arizona, John W. Warner of Virginia, and Lindsey O. Graham of South Carolina. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Heritage Foundation

November 1, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Ed, thanks. Thanks for the kind introduction. I'm looking forward to working with you for the next 14 months—but you better put on your running shoes because my spirits are high, my energy level is good, and I'm sprinting to the finish line.

I congratulate you on your 30th anniversary as the president—[*laughter*]. No such thing as term limits here. [*Laughter*] And rightly so, because Ed is a person who has taken the conservative movement from one that used to meet in a phone booth here in Washington—[*laughter*]—to a robust group of folks who are shaping policy in Washington, DC. As a matter of fact, you've got a little bigger phone booth these days than you did 30 years ago. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate all you've done, and I really want to thank Heritage. One of the interesting things about the Heritage legacy is that the folks here have been tireless advocates, tireless champions of liberty and free enterprise and democracy and religious freedom. These are values that came under attack on September the 11th, 2001. Our Nation was attacked by a brutal enemy that despises freedom, that rejects tolerance, that kills the innocent in the pursuit of a dark vision. These folks believe that it's okay to subjugate women and indoctrinate children and murder those who oppose their harsh rule. They have stated clearly they want to impose this ideology on millions. They're at war with America because they hate what they stand for, and they understand we stand in their way.

And so today I've come to talk to you about the war on terror, my firm commitment that we'll do everything in our power to protect the American people, and my call on the United States Congress to give us the tools necessary so we can do the job the American people expect.

I too want to thank the members of the Heritage Foundation board of trustees who've joined us. Thank you for supporting this important organization. I can't tell you how important it is to have good centers of thought in Washington, DC—people who are willing to look at today's problems and come up with innovative solution based upon sound principle to solve those problems. And that's how I view Heritage.

I thank all the members and guests who've joined us today as well. It's a pleasure to be with you.

It's been now more than 6 years since the enemy attacked us on September the 11th, and we are blessed that there has not been another attack on our soil. With the passage of time, the memories of the 9/11 attacks have grown more distant. And for some, there's a temptation to think that the threats to our country have grown distant as well. They have not.

The terrorists who struck America that September morning intend to strike us again. We know this because the enemy has told us so. Just last year, Usama bin Laden warned the American people, quote, "Operations are under preparation, and you will see them on your own ground once they are finished." Seven months later, British authorities broke up the most ambitious known Al Qaida plot since the 9/11 attacks, a plot to blow up passenger airplanes flying over the Atlantic toward the United States. Our intelligence community believes that this plot was just 2 or 3 weeks away from execution. If it had been carried out, it could have rivaled 9/11 in death and destruction.

The lesson of this experience is clear. We must take the words of the enemy seriously. The terrorists have stated their objectives. They intend to build a totalitarian Islamic empire encompassing all current and former Muslim lands, stretching from Europe to north Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. In pursuit of their imperial aims, these extremists say there can be no compromise or dialog with those they call infidels—a category that includes America, the world's free nation, Jews, and all Muslims who reject their extreme vision of Islam. They reject the possibility of peaceful coexistence with the free world. Again, hear the words of Usama bin Laden last year: "Death is better than living on this Earth with the unbelievers among us."

History teaches us that underestimating the words of evil, ambitious men is a terrible mistake. In the early 1900s, the world ignored the words of Lenin as he laid out his plans to launch a Communist revolution in Russia, and the world paid a terrible price. The Soviet empire he established killed tens of millions and brought the world to the brink of thermonuclear war.

In the 1920s, the world ignored the words of Hitler as he explained his intention to build an Aryan super-state in Germany, take revenge on Europe, and eradicate the Jews, and the world paid a terrible price. His Nazi regime killed millions in the gas chambers and set the world aflame in war before it was finally defeated at a terrible cost in lives and treasure.

Bin Laden and his terrorist allies have made their intentions as clear as Lenin and Hitler before them. And the question is, will we listen? America and our coalition partners are listening. We have made our choice. We take the words of the enemy seriously. Over the past 6 years, we have captured or killed hundreds of terrorists. We have disrupted their finances. We have prevented new attacks before they could be carried out. We removed regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq that had supported terrorists and threatened our citizens, and in so doing, liberated 50 million people from the clutches of tyranny.

With our allies, we're keeping the pressure on the enemy. We're keeping them on the move. We're fighting them everywhere they make their stand—from the mountains of Afghanistan to the deserts of Iraq to the islands of Southeast Asia and the Horn of Africa. On every battlefront, we're on the offense. We're keeping constant pressure. And in this war on terror, we will not rest or retreat or withdraw from the fight until this threat to civilization has been removed.

I fully understand that after 6 years, the sense of imminent danger has passed for some, and it can be natural for people to forget the lessons of 9/11 as they go about their daily lives. I just want to assure you that I'll never forget the lessons of September the 11th and nor will the people with

whom I work. I know that when I discuss the war on terror, some here in Washington, DC, dismiss it as political rhetoric, an attempt to scare people into votes. Given the nature of the enemy and the words of its leaders, politicians who deny that we are at war are either being disingenuous or naive. Either way, it is dangerous for our country. We are at war, and we cannot win this war by wishing it away or pretending it does not exist.

Unfortunately, on too many issues, some in Congress are behaving as if America is not at war. For example, in a time of war, it is vital for the President to have a full national security team in place, and a key member of that team is the Attorney General. The job of the Attorney General is essential to the security of America. The Attorney General is the highest ranking official responsible for our law enforcement community's efforts to detect and prevent terrorist attacks here at home.

I've selected an outstanding nominee to fill this vital role, Judge Michael Mukasey. Judge Mukasey has a long record of accomplishments in matter of law and national security. He has been praised by Republicans and Democrats alike as a man of honesty, intellect, fairness, and independence.

Judge Mukasey provided nearly 6 hours of testimony. He patiently answered more than 200 questions at the hearing. He has responded to nearly 500 written questions less than a week after his hearing. Yet the Senate Judiciary Committee has been holding up his nomination.

As a price for his confirmation, some on that committee want Judge Mukasey to take a legal position on specific techniques allegedly used to interrogate captured terrorists. As Judge Mukasey explained in a letter to committee members, he cannot do so for several reasons. First, he does not know whether certain methods of questioning are in fact used because the program is classified, and therefore, he is in no position to provide an informed opinion. He has not been read into the program and won't until he is confirmed and sworn in—won't be until he is confirmed and sworn in as the Attorney General. Second, he does not want an uninformed opinion to be taken by our professional interrogators in the field as placing them in legal jeopardy.

Finally, he does not want any statement of his to give the terrorists a window into which techniques we may use and which ones we may not use. That could help them train their operatives to resist questioning and withhold vital information we need to stop attacks and save lives.

In the war on terror, intelligence is one of the most crucial tools for our defense. If a captured terrorist has information about a plot against our homeland, we need to know what he knows. And so that's why I put in place, under the CIA, a program to question key terrorist operatives and its leaders. Last year, Congress passed a law that allows the CIA to continue this vital program. The procedures used in this program are safe; they are lawful; and they are necessary.

Senior leaders in the House and the Senate, from both political parties, have been briefed on the details of this program. It's wrong for congressional leaders to make Judge Mukasey's confirmation dependent on his willingness to go on the record about the details of a classified program he has not been briefed on. If the Senate Judiciary Committee were to block Judge Mukasey on these grounds, they would set a new standard for confirmation that could not be met by any responsible nominee for Attorney General. And that would guarantee that America would have no Attorney General during this time of war.

By any measure, Judge Mukasey is eminently qualified to be the next Attorney General. And now, after allowing his nomination to languish for 41 days, the Senate Judiciary Committee has scheduled a vote for next Tuesday. Senate leaders must move this nomination out of committee, bring it to the Senate floor, and confirm this good man.

Congress has also failed to act on intelligence legislation that is vital to protect the American people in this war on terror. Stopping new attacks on our country requires us to make sure we understand the intentions of the enemy. We've got to know what they're thinking and what they're planning. And that means we got to have effective measures to monitor their communications.

This summer, Congress passed the Protect America Act, which strengthened our ability to collect foreign intelligence on terrorists overseas. And this good law closed a dangerous gap in our intelligence. Unfortunately, they made this law effective for only 6 months. The problem is that Al Qaida doesn't operate on a 6-month timetable. [*Laughter*] And if Congress doesn't act soon, the law will expire, and the gap in our intelligence will reopen, and the United States of America will be at risk.

We must keep the intelligence gap firmly closed. If the terrorists are communicating with each other and are plotting new attacks, we need to know what they're planning. We must ensure that the protections intended for the American people are not extended to terrorists overseas who are plotting to harm us. And we must grant liability protection to companies who are facing multibillion-dollar lawsuits only because they are believed to have assisted in the efforts to defend our Nation following the 9/11 attacks.

The Senate Intel Committee has approved a bipartisan bill that contains provisions to preserve our ability to collect intelligence on terrorists overseas, while protecting the civil liberties of Americans here at home. This bill still needs some improving, but it's an important step in the right direction. Time is of the essence, and the full Senate and the House of Representatives need to pass a good bill and get it to my desk promptly so our intelligence professionals can continue to use the vital tools of the Protect America Act to keep us safe.

Congress is also stalling on the emergency war supplemental to fund our troops on the frontlines in Afghanistan and Iraq. This crucial bill includes funds for bullets and body armor, protection against IEDs and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. Congress should be able to move the supplemental quickly. There's no reason why they're not moving the supplemental; after all, it had more than 8 months to study most of its provisions. In fact, nearly 75 percent of the funding request in the supplemental was submitted along with my annual budget in February of this year. The supplemental is critical for our troops, and Congress should not go home for the holidays while our men and women in uniform are waiting for the funds they need.

Congress also needs to pass the Department of Defense spending bill as well as the funding bill for our Nation's veterans. There are reports that congressional leaders may be considering combining the funding bills for our military and our veterans together with a bloated labor, health, and education spending bill. It's hard to imagine a more cynical ploy than holding funding for our troops and our wounded warriors hostage in order to extract $11 billion in wasteful Washington spending. If the reports of this strategy are true, I will veto such a three-bill pileup.

I ask Congress to send me a clean veterans funding bill by Veterans Day and to pass a clean defense spending bill. Congress needs to put the needs of those who put on the uniform ahead of their desire to spend more money. When it comes to funding our troops, some in Washington should spend more time responding to the warnings of terrorists like Usama bin Laden and the requests of our commanders on the ground and less time responding to the demands of MoveOn.org bloggers and CODEPINK protesters.

Here's the bottom line. This is no time for Congress to weaken the Department of Justice by denying it a strong and effective leader. It's no time for Congress to weaken our ability to gather vital intelligence from captured terrorists. It's no time for Congress to weaken our ability to intercept information from terrorists about potential attacks on the United States of America. And this is no time for Congress to hold back vital funding for our troops as they fight Al Qaida terrorists and radicals in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the struggle against the terrorists and extremists, I hope I made my strategy clear today: that we will keep constant pressure on the enemy in order to defend the American people; we will fight them overseas so we do not have to fight them here at home. At the same time, we'll use every available tool of law and intelligence to protect the people here. That's our most solemn duty. It's a duty I think about every day.

In the long run, the only way to defeat the terrorists is to advance freedom as the great alternative to radicalism and repression.

We can have confidence in this cause because we have seen the power of liberty to transform nations and secure peace before. Here at the Heritage Foundation, you understand this better than most. During the cold war, there were loud voices in Washington who argued for accommodation of the Soviet Union because they believed the watchword of our policy should be "stability." At Heritage, you knew that when it came to the Soviet Union, the watchword of our policy should be "freedom."

Together with a great President named Ronald Reagan, you championed a policy of rolling back communism oppression and bringing freedom to nations enslaved by Communist tyranny. And by taking the side of dissidents, who helped millions across the world throw off the shackles of communism, you helped build the free and peaceful societies that are the true sources of stability and peace in the world.

And now we're at the start of a new century, and the same debate is once again unfolding—this time regarding my policy in the Middle East. Once again, voices in Washington are arguing that the watchword of the policy should be "stability." And once again, they're wrong. In Kabul, in Baghdad, in Beirut, and other cities across the broader Middle East, brave men and women are risking their lives every day for the same freedoms we enjoy. And like the citizens of Prague and Warsaw and Budapest in the century gone by, they are looking to the United States to stand up for them, speak out for them, and champion their cause. And we are doing just that.

We are standing with those who yearn for the liberty—who yearn for liberty in the Middle East because we understand that the desire for freedom is universal, written by the Almighty into the hearts of every man, woman, and child on this Earth.

We are standing with those who yearn for liberty in the Middle East because we know that the terrorists fear freedom even more than they fear our firepower. They know that given a choice, no one will choose to live under their dark ideology of violence and death.

We're standing with those who yearn for liberty in the Middle East because we know that when free societies take root in that part of the world, they will yield the peace we all desire. See, the only way the terrorists can recruit operatives and suicide bombers is by feeding on the hopelessness of societies mired in despair. And by bringing freedom to these societies, we replace hatred with hope, and this will help us to marginalize the extremists and eliminate the conditions that feed radicalism and make the American people more secure.

The lessons of the past have taught us that liberty is transformative. And I believe 50 years from now, an American President will be speaking to Heritage and say, thank God that generation that wrote the first chapter in the 21st century understood the power of freedom to bring the peace we want.

Thank you for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Edwin J. Feulner, president, the Heritage Foundation; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. He also referred to S. 2248.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

November 1, 2007

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sudan, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan. On April 26, 2006, in Executive Order 13400, I determined that the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region posed an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, expanded the scope of the national emergency to deal with that threat, and ordered the blocking of property of certain persons connected to the conflict. On October 13, 2006, I issued Executive Order 13412 to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency and to implement the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on November 3, 1997, as expanded on April 26, 2006, must continue in effect beyond November 3, 2007. Therefore, consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:41 p.m., November 1, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan

November 1, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2007.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 1, 2007.

Remarks on Arrival in Columbia, South Carolina

November 2, 2007

The President. I want to thank the Governor and the Senators and Members of Congress for joining me.

I first do want to say how concerned Laura and I are for the families who lost loved ones at the fire in Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. I know people are hurting when they think about the seven youngsters who had so much hope in their lives and had their life taken during that fire. I hope the families and loved ones can take comfort that in this great State and around the Nation, there's a lot of people praying for them.

I'm proud to stand with Senator Lindsey Graham. I've gotten to know him well. He deserves to be reelected to the United States Senate from South Carolina. He's tough; he is smart; he bases his votes on conservative principles. And Senator Graham, I'm proud to call you friend, and I believe the people of South Carolina benefit from your leadership as the Senator from this important State.

Lindsey Graham understands that low taxes work when it comes to growing this economy. Earlier this week, we had the reports that progrowth economic policies that Senator Graham supports are making a difference for America. After all, the third quarter numbers were strong. Today we had further good news, that keeping taxes low works. This economy added 166,000 new jobs during the month of October, which is now our 50th consecutive month of uninterrupted job growth—the longest in the Nation's history. I appreciate your strong support for keeping taxes low on the working people in South Carolina, Senator.

Lindsey Graham is no better friend to the United States military and to our veterans. I'm looking forward to going to Fort Jackson today. It is fitting that I'm going with Senator Lindsey Graham. He cares deeply about those who volunteered to serve our Nation, and he's a strong supporter of the Nation's veterans.

And finally, I appreciate his work on the Judiciary Committee in the United States Senate. I told the people of South Carolina if I became the President of the United States that I would put people on the bench who would strictly interpret the Constitution and not legislate from the bench. I've kept that pledge. And I've had no stronger supporter in the United States Senate than Lindsey Graham for putting good judges on the bench. The people of this State have got to understand that when I nominated John Roberts and Sam Alito, there was no better ally than Lindsey Graham to see to it that these two good men were confirmed.

There's going to be another fight on the Senate floor coming next week. The Senate Judiciary Committee has agreed to vote on the nomination of Michael Mukasey to be the Attorney General. And Senator Graham, I appreciate your strong support for Mike Mukasey. He's a good man; he's a fair man; he's an independent man; and he's plenty qualified to be the Attorney General. And I strongly urge the United States Senate to confirm this man, so that I can have an Attorney General to work with to protect the United States of America from further attack.

Proud to be with you, Senator. I strongly believe the people of South Carolina should send you back to the United States Senate.

Senator Lindsey O. Graham. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:39 a.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport.

Remarks at a Basic Training Graduation Ceremony at Fort Jackson, South Carolina

November 2, 2007

The President. Colonel, thank you very much. I'm pleased to be here with you to have a chance to say, "Hooah!"

Audience members. Hooah!

The President. I'm here to congratulate those of you who have completed your basic training. I thank—thanks to your families for supporting these fine Americans. I want to thank those who have worked hard to train you. You have stepped forward to volunteer to defend our country at a time of danger, and you need to know, you're making all Americans proud.

Over the past 3 weeks, you've endured obstacle courses, grenade throwing, fireguard duty. You even made it through Victory Forge. Now you have another tough assignment: You got to make it through my speech. [*Laughter*]

You are part of a storied military tradition. Over the last century, Fort Jackson has prepared countless young Americans to defend our country. Soldiers marched from these fields to battle fascists and dictators and terrorists. Those soldiers brought freedom to millions of people they never knew. And because of their efforts, America is stronger, America is safer, and America is free.

Once again, our Nation calls on brave Americans to confront our enemies and bring peace and security to millions, and you're answering that call. I thank you for your courage. I thank you for making the noble decision to put on the uniform and to defend the United States of America in a time of war.

Many of you will deploy to Iraq. You will help carry out a new strategy that, over the past few months, has taken the initiative from the enemy and driven them from key strongholds. Today I want to share with you and the American people some of the progress we are making in Iraq, what we can expect in the months ahead. The fight for Iraq is critical to the security of the American people. And with the skill and valor of the soldiers standing before me, standing beside me, and standing behind me, it is a fight that we will win.

I thank Lieutenant Colonel Cotton for his introduction and thank him for his service. I'm proud to be with the Governor of the great State of South Carolina, Governor Mark Sanford.

With us today are Members of the Congress—a United States Senator and two

Members of the House of Representatives—who strongly support those who wear the uniform and their families: Senator Lindsey Graham, Congressman Joe Wilson, and Congressman Bob Inglis.

I thank General Schwitters for his hospitality and his leadership. I thank Command Sergeant Major Brian Carlson for his leadership. I thank all those who wear the uniform. It's incredible to be the Commander in Chief of a nation that has produced such bravery and such decency and such compassion. We have the great—the greatest military on the face of the Earth, and we intend to keep it that way.

It is a great day of celebration, and I thank you for letting me come to celebrate with you. I know the moms and dads and family members are so proud of those who will be parading in front of us here in a minute. But it's also a time of war for our country. I wish I did not have to report that, but it's the truth; it's the way it is in this world in which we live. It's a moment when these soldiers prepare to assume responsibility for the security of our country and the safety of the free world.

Today, we face an enemy that is willing to kill the innocent to achieve their political objectives; an enemy that showed us the horrors they intend for us on September the 11th, 2001, when the terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 innocent souls on our own country. You know, it's a day I'll never forget, and it's a day our country should never forget.

Some lessons that we must understand: First, conditions overseas matters to the security of the United States. When people live in hopeless societies, it's the only way that these evil perpetrators of violence can recruit. What matters overseas matters to the homeland. One of the lessons of September the 11th is, we can't hope for the best. We must stay on the offense. We must keep the pressure on the enemy. We must use all power of the United States to protect the American people from further home—further harm, and that's what we're doing here today.

And as we keep pressure on the enemy, we must always remember that the ultimate path to peace will come from the spread of freedom and liberty; that freedom is the great alternative to the ideology of the murderers and the radicals; that by working help—to work to help others become free, that our noble military is laying the foundation for peace for generations to come.

And it is Iraq that is the central front in this struggle. In that country, a democratic ally is fighting for its survival. Our enemies have sought to build safe havens there from which to plot further attacks against our people. And those who will be parading in front of us soon will be called upon to stop them. By taking the fight to the enemy in Iraq, we will defeat the terrorists there so we do not have to face them in the United States.

America's new strategy to win that fight, including a surging U.N. forces—U.S. forces, has been fully operational for 4 months. I want to assure the loved ones here of something, and I want to assure those who wear the uniform of something: I will make decisions about our troop presence in Iraq and Afghanistan based upon the considered judgment of those who wear the uniform, not based upon the Gallup Poll or political party considerations.

So I accepted the recommendations of General David Petraeus, and I want to report to you on some of the results. Our new strategy emphasized securing the Iraqi population as the foundation for all other progress in that country. And here's what I can report. First, the challenges: Parts of Iraq continue to be violent and difficult. The terrorists are still capable of murdering the innocent—that will get on our TV screens. The enemy remains determined, but what they have learned about the United States of America is, we are more determined. We're more determined to protect ourselves and to help people realize the blessings of freedom. With our help, the Iraqi people are going on the offense against the enemy. They're confronting the terrorists, and they're taking their country back.

As part of our strategy, we sent forces into neighborhoods where Iraqis lived to rat out the extremists, to gain the confidence of the people. Together with Iraqi forces, we have captured or killed an average of more than 1,500 enemy fighters per month since January of this year. Since the surge of operations began in June, the number of IED attacks

per week has declined by half. U.S. military deaths have fallen to their lowest level in 19 months. Iraqi forces have now assumed responsibility for security in 8 of Iraq's 18 Provinces. Across this country, brave Iraqis are increasingly taking more responsibility for their own security and safety.

We're seeing some of the most dramatic changes in Anbar Province. One year ago, many of the experts said Anbar had been lost to the enemy. As a matter of fact, at that time, Al Qaida staged a parade in the city streets to flaunt its power and its control. Last week, there was another parade in Anbar. This time it was a parade of Iraqi citizens and Iraqi forces who had reclaimed their homes and driven the terrorists out of their cities. And these changes were made possible by the bravery and determination of our Iraqi partners and the incredible bravery of the men and women of the United States military.

Our enemies see the changes underway, and they increasingly fear they're on the wrong side of events. Usama bin Laden—who has to hide in caves because the United States is on his tail—understands—has said publicly that Al Qaida's recent setbacks are mistakes—the result of mistakes that Al Qaida has made. In other words, he recognizes the inevitable, that the United States of America and those who long for peace in Iraq, the Iraqi citizens, will not tolerate thugs and killers in their midst.

The Iraqis are becoming more capable, and our military commander tells me that these gains are making possible what I call "return on success." That means we're slowly bringing some of our troops home, and now we're doing it from a position of strength.

Our new strategy recognizes that once Iraqis feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods, they can begin to create jobs and opportunities. And that is starting to happen. There's some challenges: corruption remains a problem; unemployment remains high; and the improvements we are seeing in the Iraqi economy are not uniform across the country. But overall, the Iraqi economy is growing at a strong rate.

We're seeing improvements in important economic indicators. Inflation has been cut in half. Electricity production in September reached its highest levels since the war began—and higher than it was under Saddam Hussein.

Behind these numbers are stories of real people, some of whom our troops may meet, in some real cities where you may patrol. In Baqubah, the historic market has been reopened in a city that had been in a virtual lockdown a few months ago. In Fallujah, workers have turned an artillery factory into a civilian machine shop employing 600 people. In the Baghdad neighborhood of Ameriya—an Al Qaida stronghold until a few months ago—locals have returned and are reopening their shops.

Here's what progress means to one shopkeeper in the former Al Qaida stronghold of Arab Jabour. He's a local butcher. He says that as recently as June, he was selling only one or two sheep per week. Now, the terrorists cleaned out and residents returning home, he's selling one or two sheep per day. Slowly but surely, the people of Iraq are reclaiming a normal society. You see, when Iraqis don't have to fear the terrorists, they have a chance to build better lives for themselves. You must understand, an Iraqi mom wants her child to grow up in peace just like an American mom does.

Our new strategy is based on the idea that improvements in security will help the Iraqis achieve national reconciliation. There's some challenges: Reconciliation at the national level hasn't been what we'd hoped it'd been by now. While the central Government has passed a budget and has reached out to its neighbors and begun to share oil revenues with the Provinces, the Iraqi Parliament still lags in passing key legislation. Political factions are still failing to make necessary compromises. And that's disappointing—and I, of course, made my disappointments clear to Iraqi leadership.

At the same time, reconciliation is taking place at the local level. Many Iraqis are seeing growing cooperation between Shi'a and Sunnis. These folks are tired of Al Qaida, and they're tired of Iranian-backed extremists; they're weary of fighting; and they are determined to give their families a better life.

In Baghdad, Sunni and Shi'a leaders in one of the city's most divided neighborhoods recently signed an agreement to halt sectarian violence and end attack on coalition forces.

In Anbar, Sunni sheikhs hosted Shi'a sheikhs from Karbala Province to discuss security and express their unity. And I can assure you—as can the soldiers who have been in Iraq—that 1 year ago such an event was unthinkable.

In Diyala Province, tribal groups come together for the first time to foster reconciliation. I'm going to tell you a story of interest to me. Extremists had kidnaped a group of Sunni and Shi'a leaders from Diyala; one of them was shot dead. According to a tribal spokesman, the extremists offered to release the Shi'a sheikhs, but not the Sunnis. And the Shi'as refused, unless their Sunni brothers were released as well. The next day, most of the hostages were rescued, and their captors are now in custody.

And the point I make is that given time and space, the normal Iraqi will take the necessary steps to put—fight for a free society. After all, 12 million people voted for freedom, 12 million people endorsed a democratic Constitution. And it's in our interest we help them succeed. It's in our interest we help freedom prevail. It's in our interest we deny safe haven to killers who at one time killed us in America. It's in our interest to show the world that we've got the courage and the determination necessary to spread the foundation for peace, and that is what we're here to honor today.

We're making progress, and many have contributed to the successes. And foremost among them are the men and women of the United States Army. Once again, American soldiers have shown the world why our military is the finest fighting force on Earth. And now that legacy falls to the proud graduates today. Earlier generations of soldiers from Fort Jackson made their way to Europe and liberated a continent from tyranny. Today, a new generation is following in their noble tradition. And one day, people will speak of your achievements in Baqubah and Baghdad the way we now speak of Normandy and the Bulge.

This post was named for a great American President. He served his country in two major conflicts, including the American Revolution at the age of 13. Andrew Jackson was renowned for his courage, and that courage lives on at the base that bears his name. Troops from Fort Jackson have served with honor and distinction in today's war on terror, and some have not lived to make the journey home. And today we honor their sacrifices. We pray for their families. We remember what they fought for, and we pledge to finish the job.

And you are the ones who will carry on their work. Americans are counting on you, and their confidence is well placed. You've trained hard. You've prepared for battle. And when you take up your missions, you will give a new meaning to the slogan chanted by thousands of soldiers on this base in many wars and in many era: "Victory starts here."

May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:25 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Col. Reginald W. Cotton, commander, 3d Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, SC, who introduced the President; Brig. Gen. James H. Schwitters, commanding general, and Command Sgt. Maj. Brian L. Carlson, post command sergeant major, U.S. Army Training Center & Fort Jackson, SC; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; and Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the "Water Resources Development Act of 2007"

November 2, 2007

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 1495, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2007."

This bill lacks fiscal discipline. I fully support funding for water resources projects that will yield high economic and environmental returns to the Nation and each year my budget has proposed reasonable and responsible funding, including $4.9 billion for 2008, to support the Army Corps of Engineers'

(Corps) main missions. However, this authorization bill makes promises to local communities that the Congress does not have a track record of keeping. The House of Representatives took a $15 billion bill into negotiations with a $14 billion bill from the Senate and instead of splitting the difference, emerged with a Washington compromise that costs over $23 billion. This is not fiscally responsible, particularly when local communities have been waiting for funding for projects already in the pipeline. The bill's excessive authorization for over 900 projects and programs exacerbates the massive backlog of ongoing Corps construction projects, which will require an additional $38 billion in future appropriations to complete.

This bill does not set priorities. The authorization and funding of Federal water resources projects should be focused on those projects with the greatest merit that are also a Federal responsibility. My Administration has repeatedly urged the Congress to authorize only those projects and programs that provide a high return on investment and are within the three main missions of the Corps' civil works program: facilitating commercial navigation, reducing the risk of damage from floods and storms, and restoring aquatic ecosystems. This bill does not achieve that goal. This bill promises hundreds of earmarks and hinders the Corps' ability to fulfill the Nation's critical water resources needs—including hurricane protection for greater New Orleans, flood damage reduction for Sacramento, and restoration of the Everglades—while diverting resources from the significant investments needed to maintain existing Federal water infrastructure. American taxpayers should not be asked to support a pork-barrel system of Federal authorization and funding where a project's merit is an afterthought.

I urge the Congress to send me a fiscally responsible bill that sets priorities. Americans sent us to Washington to achieve results and be good stewards of their hard-earned taxpayer dollars. This bill violates that fundamental commitment. For the reasons outlined above, I must veto H.R. 1495.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 2, 2007.

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.

October 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Philadelphia, PA, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with Lew Bennett III.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Bryn Mawr, PA, where, at a private residence, he attended a Pennsylvania Victory 2008 reception. Later, he traveled to Cincinnati, OH, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Sharon and L.C. Nolan. Then, at a private residence, he attended a Chabot-Ohio Victory Committee reception.

In the evening, at the Montgomery Inn Boathouse, the President dropped by a birthday party for Baseball Hall of Famer Johnny Bench. He then returned to Washington, DC.

October 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President-elect Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner of Argentina.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to the White House on November 5.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carl T. Johnson to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration at the Department of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, USA (Ret.), to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jody L. Williams as a member of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

October 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in a meeting on the National Strategy for Information Sharing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a bill signing ceremony for H.R. 3678, the Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007, which was assigned Public Law No. 110–108.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ed Schafer to be Secretary of Agriculture.

November 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 Little League World Series champion Warner Robins, Georgia, Little League team. Later, on the North Portico, he participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the 2006 Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Republican National Committee regents dinner.

November 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Columbia, SC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Graham Van Schaik. He then met with Lt. Andrew Kinard, USMC, who was wounded in Iraq on October 29, 2006.

Later in the morning, at a private residence, the President attended a Graham Victory 2008 reception.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fort Jackson, SC, where, upon arrival, he greeted U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School students. He then visited the Fit To Win course. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD, arriving in the evening.

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 November 1

Carl T. Johnson,
of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, vice Thomas J. Barrett.

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 October 29

Announcement of the Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients

Released October 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey to Washington

Fact sheet: Lt. Gen. James B. Peake (Ret.), M.D.: The Best Choice for Our Nation's Veterans

Released October 31

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez and Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Edward P. Lazear on the GDP

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3678 and S. 2258

Fact sheet: Ed Schafer: A Record of Leadership in Agriculture and Business

Fact sheet: National Strategy for Information Sharing

Released November 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate passage of State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) reauthorization legislation

Released November 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Fact sheet: October 2007 Marks Record 50th Consecutive Month of Job Growth

Fact sheet: The Way Forward in Iraq: Successes and Challenges

Acts Approved by the President

Approved October 31

H.R. 3678 / Public Law 110–108
Internet Tax Freedom Act Amendments Act of 2007

S. 2258 / Public Law 110–109
Third Higher Education Extension Act of 2007