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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, November 16, 2007

Remarks During a Visit With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Crawford, Texas

November 9, 2007

President Bush. Laura and I are thrilled to welcome the Chancellor and Professor Sauer here to our place. In Texas, when you invite somebody to your home, it's an expression of warmth and respect, and that's how I feel about Chancellor Merkel. And so, Madam Chancellor, welcome. We're looking forward to having constructive talks as well as a chance to relax and visit.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, I would like to say a very warm thanks to you, George, for issuing this invitation to us. Already a first glance of the area shows us that this is, indeed, a wonderful place to be and a wonderful atmosphere. We have a number of issues that I think we will have now time to discuss later on. I'm very grateful that we can do this in such a pleasant, such a wonderful atmosphere and that we can see each other here again. And I must say that I'm, again, very grateful to you, Mr. President, for the fact that we can have this exchange of views—and to you, Laura, as well. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:32 p.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Joachim Sauer, husband of Chancellor Merkel. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 10, 2007

Good morning. This weekend, Americans mark two important dates in our Nation's history. On Saturday, we celebrate the 232d birthday of the United States Marine Corps. And on Sunday, we celebrate Veterans Day and give thanks for all those who have worn the uniform of America's Armed Forces.

The Marine Corps was born in a Philadelphia tavern in 1775. Since then, the Marines have become one of the world's premier fighting forces. Their courage and valor in battle have earned them the respect of friend and foe alike. And today, a new generation of marines is writing another chapter in that proud tradition. Young marines are serving on the frontlines in the war on terror in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. As the Marines celebrate their birthday, we join them in recognizing what their sacrifice and service has meant for our freedom.

America owes a debt of gratitude to all those who have served in our Armed Forces. On Veterans Day, we remember those who have served in previous wars, those who are serving today, and those who did not live to become veterans.

Veterans Day also reminds us of our solemn responsibility to care for those who have fought our Nation's wars. Under my administration, Federal spending for our veterans has increased by more than two-thirds. We have extended medical treatment to a million additional veterans, including hundreds of thousands returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. And we have expanded grants to help homeless veterans across the country.

These are the generous actions of a grateful nation. And to build on them, I nominated a good man to head our Department of Veterans Affairs, Doctor James Peake. Doctor Peake is an Army doctor, a retired lieutenant general, and a combat veteran who was wounded twice in Vietnam and decorated for his valor.

When confirmed by the Senate, Doctor Peake will take on an important task: continuing my administration's work to implement the recommendations of the bipartisan

Dole-Shalala Commission on Wounded Warriors. These recommendations are vital to ensuring better care for our veterans, and Congress needs to confirm Doctor Peake so he can lead the way in this crucial effort.

Some of the Commission's recommendations require legislative action, such as updating the disability system to fully meet the needs of our wounded warriors. So my administration has sent Congress a bill that would enact all the legislative steps recommended by the Commission. This is a good bill. Our wounded warriors and their families are counting on it, and I urge Democrats and Republicans to come together to pass it as quickly as possible.

Congress can also meet its responsibility to our veterans by passing a clean Veterans Affairs appropriations bill. Unfortunately, congressional leaders let the fiscal year end without passing this bill they know our veterans need. So I urged Congress to pass this bill by Veterans Day, and they still have failed to send me this vital legislation. The time to act is running out. There are now just 4 days left on the legislative calendar before Congress leaves town for their Thanksgiving break. The best way Members of Congress can give thanks to our veterans is to send me a clean bill that I can sign into law.

On this Veterans Day, I urge every American to take time to thank one of our Nation's 24 million veterans. They come from different generations and different backgrounds. But they are united by a commitment to honor, duty, and love of country that has kept America free. They continue to strengthen and inspire our Nation. And we will never forget what we owe them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on November 9 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Crawford

November 10, 2007

President Bush. Thank you for coming. The Chancellor and I have had a series of discussions on important subjects, starting with a dinner we had last night. And then we got up this morning and had the wonderful opportunity to walk across some of the ranch. It was a glorious morning. The sun was beginning to rise; the birds were beginning to chirp. And we were able to have a meaningful discussion on a lot of issues. And then we completed our discussions here in what is my office.

Madam Chancellor, I'm really glad you gave me an excuse to come down to Texas. And I'm really glad you and Professor Sauer came. You can imagine how conducive it is to have meaningful, strategic discussions in an environment outside of our respective capitals. And that's what we did.

We discussed Afghanistan. I do want to thank the German people for their strong support of this young democracy. And I appreciate the German troops who are far from home, who are helping people realize the blessings of liberty.

We discussed Iran and our deep desire to solve this important issue diplomatically. And I believe we can solve it diplomatically, and it is more likely we do so when the United States, Germany, and other nations work collaboratively to send a common and firm message to the Iranians that it is—the free world does not think you should have the capacity to be able to make a nuclear weapon. And we will work according—together accordingly.

We talked about Iraq. I want to thank Chancellor Merkel for understanding that success in Iraq is important for Middle Eastern peace. I fully understand that our nations have had difference of opinion on this issue, but now that this Iraqi democracy is emerging, I really appreciate the fact that Germany has been a constructive partner in the Compact—constructive partner with Iraq in the Compact. And I appreciate very much the fact that the German Government is committed to help train police in the UAE.

I want to thank the Chancellor for her clear vision on issues such as Kosovo and Burma and Lebanon. We discussed the Middle Eastern peace. The upcoming Annapolis conference is an important moment as we head toward two states living side by side in peace.

We had a very good discussion on Doha and the need for Germany and Europe and the United States to work closely together with developing nations such as Brazil and India to advance the Doha round. I appreciated very much the Chancellor's briefing on her trip to India. It helps a lot for those of us who are engaged in international politics to get advice from people who have seen firsthand the attitudes and—of important players such as India.

And finally, we had a meaningful and long discussion on climate change. And once again, I assured Angela that I care deeply about the issue; that the United States is willing to be an active participant and trying to come up with solutions that bring comfort to people around the world; that it is possible to have the technologies necessary to deal with this issue without ruining our economies. It's hard to deal with the climate change issue if you're broke. It's easier to deal with the climate change issue if you've got the revenues and finances that enable you to invest in new technologies that will change how we live and, at the same time, enable us to grow our economies and, at the same time, enable us to be good stewards of the environment.

And so, Madam Chancellor, the mike is yours.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, yes, thank you very much, Mr. President, dear George. First of all, allow me to thank you very warmly for the possibility to meet with you here in Texas and to have this exchange of views. I would also like to extend this word of gratitude to you on behalf of my husband, who accompanies me here to this, what we also in Germany would call a very beautiful spot, a very beautiful part of this planet, of this world. It enables us to appreciate a little bit the vastness of the territory here and also the beauty and the sheer variety of species that you have here.

So we again were able to see this for ourselves this morning. Thank you again for making this possible, to have this stroll with you and to appreciate the beauty of this part and to have again an exchange of views on a number of subjects.

President Bush. *Jawohl.* [*Laughter*]

Chancellor Merkel. Let me say, first of all, that we did make the best possible use of our time to exchange our views on a number of issues. We did talk about Afghanistan, as the President already said, where we just recently were, and where we say that together with the Afghan Government, we need to do more in order to help them continue to build up the police and to continue to also build up the army there, improve that, and go on with the training that we have already embarked on.

We addressed the issue of Iran. We were at one in saying that the threat posed through the nuclear program of Iran is indeed a serious one. We both share this view, but that we also were of the opinion that we think that this issue can be solved through diplomatic means; that the next step, then, obviously, would be a resolution. There is already work underway to prepare for this next step.

We have also been very clear in saying that if the talks with the representatives of Iran and Mr. Solana, as the representative on the European Union side, do not yield any results, then further steps will have to be made. Also, if the reports remain unsatisfactory—that the International Atomic Energy Organization puts on the table unsatisfactory—then we need to think about further possible sanctions. And we do not only need to think about them, but we also have to then talk and agree on further possible sanctions, if all of these conditions are [not] * met.

We then also said that Germany needs to look somewhat closer at the existing business ties with Iran. There are certain companies that have business with Iran. We have already done that. And we need to look, as the situation unfolds, whether we have to have a closer look again at that and possibly need to work together with our German business community. I will talk with them again

* White House correction.

on further possible reductions of those commercial ties, as we have already sort of launched that in that tendency already now.

We then addressed the issue of the Middle East. And I said that it is in the interest of the German Government—and we will indeed do everything we can to support all of the efforts that the American administration is making in order to turn the upcoming conference in Annapolis into a success. We want the peace process to make progress, and we think that the conference, the upcoming conference in Annapolis is indeed a possibility to bring this success about.

We then had an exchange of views on the current situation in Lebanon. Germany having a contingent there, serving with the UNIFIL mission, obviously has a very great interest in seeing the situation there stabilizing and progress being made in that country. And also, we assured the Government of Mr. Siniora of our continued support. We would like to—for this Government to be a strong one, and we think it is in our interests, in both of our interests that this situation remains stable.

On Kosovo, we did discuss this issue as well. There are currently talks going on, and indeed those talks are heading into a crucial phase. We call, at this point in time, on both the Kosovo side and the Serbian side to try their utmost to bring about a sensible solution to the problem there. And what we can do to foster that, we will do.

We did discuss also—the President raised this issue also with me of the world trade round. We then discussed also the issue of the United Nations reform of the Security Council, and there we do think that it will be necessary to have further exchanges on that particular issue. And we do hope that—some progress has been made already in this respect, and we hope further progress will be underway. We're going to continue to talk about that.

We then obviously also discussed the issue of the upcoming climate conference in Bali. And I think that this is a very good chance of turning this conference into a success. There are a lot of things where the U.S. and the European Union share views, where we are at one, and where I think that possibilities for cooperation may unfold. There are still, admittedly, also areas where we do not completely agree yet, where there are differences of opinion, but I think that this is a very crucial time to really set the agenda for a post-Kyoto regime. And we do hope—and we will do everything we can in order to turn this conference in Indonesia into a success.

Thank you.

President Bush. Two questions a side. John Yang [ABC News].

War on Terror/Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, this morning Benazir Bhutto said that the Pakistanis people's passion for liberty is threatening to explode. First, have you had any more further discussions with General Musharraf? And are you concerned that the continuing unrest within Pakistan is distracting that country's leadership and military from the struggle against the Taliban and Al Qaida?

President Bush. First on Al Qaida, we do share a common goal, and that is to eradicate Al Qaida. That goal obviously became paramount to the American people when Al Qaida killed 3,000 innocent souls on our soil. And since then, the United States of America along with strong allies and friends has been in pursuit of Al Qaida.

I vowed to the American people we'd keep the pressure on them. I fully understand we need cooperation to do so, and one country that we need cooperation from is Pakistan. That cooperation has been made easier by the fact that Al Qaida has tried to kill leaders in Pakistan several times. And so we share a common goal.

Secondly, we share a goal with the Pakistani people, and that is to live in a free society. I haven't spoken to President Musharraf since I did earlier this week, but he knows my position, and he knows the position of the U.S. Government. I do want to remind you that he has declared that he'll take off his uniform, and he has declared there will be elections, which are positive steps.

We also believe that suspension of the emergency decree will make it easier for the democracy to flourish. And so our message is consistent and clear. Our message is also clear to Al Qaida: We will find you, and we'll bring you to justice before you can hurt innocent people.

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. It's good to see you again.

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. You're looking like a cowboy. [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes, well, I try. The boots are missing.

President Bush. Yes, okay. [*Laughter*]

U.S. Foreign Policy/Iran

Q. But, Mr. President, is it right to say that you have much more a multilateral approach towards the solutions of the problems of the world than you had maybe 2 years ago?

And the question to both of you: How much patience do you have with Iran? When is the time where diplomacy doesn't work anymore? And do you think that the Chinese and Russian Government is doing enough in the Iran crisis?

President Bush. I felt I was pretty multilateral the first 4 years of my administration. After all, I went to the United Nations on the Iraq issue and on the Afghanistan issue and said, we got a problem; let's work together to solve it. I would like to remind you that U.N. Security Council Resolution 1441 was unanimously approved by 15 nations. And the declaration was, disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences. And in the case of—in that case, the tyrant didn't disclose, and so he faced serious consequences.

I happen to be the kind of person that when somebody says something, they better mean what they say. And although some nations didn't agree with that, there was a multilateral effort in Iraq from the get-go, and there's been a multilateral effort since the fall of Saddam Hussein. And it's important for the multilateral effort to continue because democracies are the great alternative to the tyrannies espoused by coldblooded killers such as Al Qaida.

Now, on Iran, what the Iranian regime must understand is that we will continue to work together to solve this problem diplomatically, which means they will continue to be isolated. And what the Iranian people must understand is that we respect their heritage and respect their traditions and respect their potential, but it's their Government that has made the decisions that are denying them a bright future. And so we'll continue to work very closely together.

And finally, I don't feel comfortable answering your hypothetical question as to——

Q. China and Russia?

President Bush. Oh, excuse me; that's not hypothetical. [*Laughter*] I thought you were saying, how long. Yes, well, that falls in the hypothetical category.

China and Russia—we working hard with them. My last visit with the Chinese President was in Sydney, Australia, and I told him the top of my agenda is Iran. And I fully understand that China has got energy needs, but a sure way to disrupt energy supply not only in Iran and the Middle East, if the Iranians were to develop a nuclear weapon and decided to do something with it. And so therefore, now is the time to solve the problem.

And I had a good talk with Vladimir Putin on the very same subject. He understands that a nuclear-armed Iran will be dangerous to his security and the security of the world. And no responsible leader wants the Iranians to be able to threaten world peace.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, the next diplomatic step, after all, has already been devised, has already been envisaged and is there to be taken, as it were. But for this next diplomatic step to work, we, obviously, then again, will need the engagement; we will need the support of both China and Russia.

And let me say that I am deeply convinced that if the Security—if the United Nations Security Council were then to announce sanctions, that this would be the clearest message that you can get, that you can send, and the clearest message that you can convey to Iran, irrespective of the possibilities, obviously, of individual countries also sending that clear message, European countries as well. But I think at least that is true for me, at the center of all of our efforts has to be sanctions that will then be called by the United Nations Security Council.

Let me say also that I'm deeply convinced that the diplomatic possibilities have not yet been exhausted; that diplomatic possibilities are there; that we can solve this by using diplomatic means, and also, we want to solve this by diplomatic means.

President Bush. Steven Lee Myers [New York Times]. Would that be you?

Q. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Step forth, Steven Lee.

Q. I wanted to follow up a bit on Pakistan, if I may.

President Bush. Sure.

Pakistan

Q. Are you at all concerned that General Musharraf may not live up to the promises that you said he's made to you? And are you concerned, as Secretary Gates suggested yesterday, that the distraction, the internal turmoil in Pakistan is actually or could have an effect on the effort in Afghanistan? Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you, Steven Lee. I take a person for his word until otherwise. I think that's what you have to do. I mean, when somebody says this is what they're going to do, then you give them a chance to do it. I can tell you this, that President Musharraf, right after the attacks on September the 11th, made a decision, and the decision was to stand with the United States against the extremists inside Pakistan. In other words, he was given an option: Are you with us, or are you not with us? And he made a clear decision to be with us, and he's acted on that advice.

I want to remind you that if you're the chief operating officer of Al Qaida, you haven't had a good experience. There has been four or five number-threes that have been brought to justice one way or the other. And many of those folks thought they could find safe haven in Pakistan. And that would not have happened without President Musharraf honoring his word.

He fully understands the dangers of Al Qaida. Benazir Bhutto fully understands the dangers of Al Qaida. By far, the vast majority of people in Pakistan want to live in a free and peaceful society, and they understand the dangers of Al Qaida, because Al Qaida is a group of ideologues who murder innocent people to achieve their political objectives.

And so I believe that we will continue to have good collaboration with the leadership in Pakistan. My concern is for the Pakistani democracy, for the sake of the Pakistani people, proceed as—back on track as quickly as possible. President Musharraf said that he would take off his uniform; he said there will be elections after the new year. And our hope is that he would suspend this emergency decree to allow this society, which is on the path to democracy, to get back on the path to democracy.

And I think about this issue a lot. One of the things that I pledged to the American people is that we will continue the hunt for Al Qaida leadership. They're still plotting and planning attacks on the United States of America. And our most important responsibility is to protect the American people from attack. I will also remind people that the great alternative to their vision—their dark, dim vision for humanity—is freedom. Freedom has got the capacity to turn enemies into allies. Freedom has got the capacity to bring peace. And that's why the work to help these young democracies is vital work for the peace for our children and grandchildren.

And that's why I applaud the Chancellor's efforts in Afghanistan and her concerns about the democracy in Lebanon and her desire for there to be a Palestinian democracy and to help—the willingness to begin to help this young democracy in Iraq. It's all part of this global struggle against extremists and radicals who murder people, who will kill people to achieve their objective. And the fundamental question is, will free societies have the will, the courage, and the determination to stand up to them? And one of the things I have found in this leader is, she does have that vision. And I appreciate it a lot.

Germany/United Nations Security Council

Q. It's on reforming the United Nations. Could you tell us please, both, what kind of progress that you made in your talks on this issue? And more specific to you, Mr. President, the German Government, in the past, frequently declared to be ready to take more responsibilities within the United Nations, including a permanent seat in the Security Council. So far, you haven't been very positive on that. Tell us why.

President Bush. You're right; I've been studiously noncommittal. [*Laughter*] I have

taken a position, which is the long-held position of U.S. Governments, and that is, Japan should have a seat. Beyond that, I've made no commitment, except this: that we're for U.N. Security Council reforms, and that I'm willing to listen to good ideas. And Angela brought up some good ideas today. And so——

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Bush. It's up to her to tell you. I don't like to put words in leaders' mouths. I don't particularly like it when people put words in my mouth, either, by the way, unless I say it. But she can tell you what she came up with.

But I will tell you that it intrigued me, and my—as I said—listen, I stood up in front of the U.N. and said precisely what I'm telling you now, that we're openminded. There's a good non-answer for you. [*Laughter*]

Chancellor Merkel. Well, from my side, the people who know me, know me as a person who is sort of success-oriented, in the sense that I don't think one ought to comment each step on the way towards a success. But the message that I received today, and that was a very heartening message, was that the President and the administration of the United States are interested in the reform of the U.N. Security Council. And in this overall complex of issues that relates to that, they will also, obviously, be of interest who will then be the members of that reformed Security Council.

I, for me personally, see this issue of a Security Council reform to be a very important one. But what is also important, obviously, is to try to enlist the support of the other very important countries who are members of the Security Council, and hear particularly those countries that have veto powers in the Security Council, to see to it that they have also a great interest in seeing the Security Council reformed.

So in this overall context, it has certainly been a good message that I heard today, that there is also an interest in that here. I found this with the President today. And now we will have to keep an eye on further steps to be taken along the way in order to achieve that goal. We will try and find allies for this cause. And again, it is in Germany's interest, as I said previously in public, to have a permanent seat on the Security Council. We will not call on each and every country that we talk to, to comment on each and every step along the way. We're going to continue to work towards reform. And I think it is of the essence that we have heard here today. And this is why this was such an important message, that is not only in the interests of Germany, but it is also an interest that was explained to us here and clearly stated by the U.S. administration.

President Bush. Yes. I'm now going to go feed the Chancellor a hamburger. [*Laughter*] Right here in Crawford, Texas. No, well, I mean back over there. Thank you all.

Chancellor Merkel. Obviously, for me, as a person who originally came from Hamburg——

President Bush. Yes.

Chancellor Merkel. ——it's even more important. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Hamburger.

Thank you.

Chancellor Merkel. Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:45 a.m. at the Bush Ranch. In his remarks, he referred to Joachim Sauer, husband of Chancellor Merkel; President Pervez Musharraf and former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan; President Hu Jintao of China; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Chancellor Merkel referred to European Union Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga; and Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of Lebanon. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks at American Legion Post 121 in Waco, Texas

November 11, 2007

Thank you. Clayton, thanks for inviting me. I'm really honored to be here with you. Congressman Edwards, thank you for your eloquence and your very moving remarks. Members of the Texas State Legislature, it's good to see you again. Distinguished mayors, thank you all for being here. Proud veterans and families of the fallen, it is a privilege to spend this Veterans Day with you and to join you in honoring four sons of the great State of Texas who gave their lives in freedom's cause.

The young men we remember today did not live to be called veterans. They died in a distant land fighting terror, spreading freedom, and protecting their fellow citizens from danger. The valor and selfless devotion of these men fills their families with immeasurable pride. Yet this pride cannot fill the hole in their loved ones' aching hearts or relieve the burden of grief that will remain for a lifetime. In their sorrow, these families need to know and families all across our Nation of the fallen need to know that your loved ones served a cause that is good and just and noble. And as their Commander in Chief, I make you this promise: Their sacrifice will not be in vain.

I know all the veterans gathered here and across the Nation feel a special bond with our fallen soldiers and their families. Many experienced the heartbreak and tragic losses of war. Our veterans know that—what it's like to lose a brother on the field of battle. And many of them recall the determination they felt when a beloved comrade fell—the determination to pick up the mantle, to carry on the fight, and to complete the mission.

That's precisely what today's generation of soldiers is doing in the war on terror. Since the attacks of September the 11th, 2001, more than 2 million Americans have stepped forward to put on our Nation's uniform, and during that same period, 1.5 million American troops have made the courageous decision to reenlist and to stay in the fight. These men and women saw the future the terrorists intend for our country, and they said with clear voices, "Not on my watch." America is blessed to have such brave defenders. They are tomorrow's veterans, and they're bringing pride to our country.

Their service is noble, and it is necessary. The enemies who attacked us 6 years ago want to strike our country again, and next time, they hope to kill Americans on a scale that will make 9/11 pale by comparison. By fighting this enemy in foreign lands, the men and women of our Armed Forces are helping to ensure we do not have to face them in our own land. And by spreading the hope of liberty to nations that have not known it, our troops are helping to defeat the ideology of the terrorists and secure a future of peace for generations to come.

As veterans, you have confidence in freedom's cause because you have seen with your own eyes the power of liberty to transform nations and secure the peace. The men and women gathered before me took an oath to defend America, and you upheld that oath with honor and decency and valor. You humbled tyrants, liberated continents, and freed millions from unspeakable oppression. And because of your service and sacrifice, the world has been transformed in once unimaginable ways. Today, across Europe and Asia, former adversaries in war have become allies in the cause of peace. And in towns and villages on both continents, there are still men and women who talk of the day when the Americans arrived to free them from tyranny.

I thank our Nation's veterans for the fine example that you have set for our country. I thank you for your courage and your patriotism and your devotion to duty. I thank you for standing up for the men and women of our Armed Forces. And I thank you for all you do to support the families they leave behind during this time of war.

May God bless and keep all who have made the ultimate sacrifice. May God bless and keep our brave and honored veterans. May God bless those who are in harm's way. And may God continue to bless our Nation. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Clayton Hueske, commander, American Legion Post 121.

Remarks Following a Lunch Meeting With Business and Community Leaders in New Albany, Indiana

November 13, 2007

Listen, I want to thank you all for joining me. Somebody told me Sam serves good food, and they're right. And it's good to be here in southern Indiana.

I was sitting with business leaders, civic leaders, community activists. I was listening to the concerns of the folks down here. I appreciate the spirit of entrepreneurship that exists. I'm glad people are working. I understand we got to deal with some of the issues, like high gasoline prices.

And it's been a real honor for me to visit with you. It's also good to be with an old family friend, Fuzzy Zoeller, who's been a friend of my family's for a long time. And I forgot that Fuzzy was from these parts and was so thrilled to see him when I walked in here.

Thank you all for your time. Appreciate your consideration, and I love visiting with you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:20 p.m. at Sam's Tavern. In his remarks, he referred to Sam Anderson, owner, Sam's Tavern; and professional golfer Frank U. "Fuzzy" Zoeller, Jr.

Remarks on the Federal Budget in New Albany

November 13, 2007

Thanks for coming. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. I needed that uplifting applause because I just finished eating lunch at Sam's. [*Laughter*] Had just a little too much chicken. [*Laughter*] But I'm honored to be with you. It's great to be back in New Albany. This is a fantastic hall. It is really special. I know you all are proud of it. I appreciate the great history of this part of the world. I appreciate the fact you got great people and great basketball. [*Laughter*]

It's also a good place to do business. And I thank One Southern Indiana for your efforts to strengthen the spirit of enterprise. I appreciate what you do. Your members create jobs, attract investment, and add to the vitality of this region and our country. People here know that customers should be treated respectfully, money should be spent carefully, and new taxes should be opposed strenuously.

And that's what I want to talk about today. Kerry, thanks for giving me a chance to come by. I appreciate it. I'm sorry my wife is not with me—so are most people when I travel. [*Laughter*] She's doing great, and she sends all her best.

I'm proud to be traveling today with Congressman Baron Hill. Congressman, thanks for coming. Good to see you, sir. He was reminding me of the days he was a point guard. He said, "Just don't remind them here in New Albany that I used to tear them up." So I won't. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor of the great State of Indiana, Becky Skillman, for joining us today. Governor, appreciate you coming. The mayor, James Garner, has joined us from New Albany. Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you coming. Thanks for being here. Mayor Rob Waiz of Jeffersonville is with us today. Proud you'd be here, Mayor. I thank Mayor-elect Greg Ballard of the city of Indianapolis that has joined us here. Mr. Mayor, thanks for coming. We've got other State and local officials. Former Congressman Mike Sodrel and Keta are with us today. Glad you're here.

And I thank you for letting me come by to share some thoughts about what's happening in Washington. It's an important time for our economy. In October, America created 166,000 new jobs. We now have had 50 straight months of job growth, the longest period of uninterrupted job growth on record. Since August of 2003, American businesses—American small businesses and large businesses, American entrepreneurs and dreamers and doers have created more than 8.3 million new jobs. The national unemployment rate is a low 4.7 percent. Here in Indiana, the unemployment rate is even lower—4.5 percent. Thanks to America's workers and entrepreneurs, our economy grew at a vigorous rate of 3.9 percent in the third quarter. This economic vitality, this economic growth is lifting our Federal tax revenues, and that's driving down the deficit. The deficit today is at 1.2 percent of GDP, and that's low.

At the same time, this economy has got some strains, and you know it as well as I do: high oil prices; the housing market is challenged; the financial markets have got uncertainty. Families are working hard to meet rising mortgage payments and college and health care expenses and the cost at the gas pump.

These are serious challenges. But as we have seen in recent years, this economy of ours is resilient. And that's important for the American people to understand. Sure, there's some challenges facing us. But the underpinnings of our economy are strong, and we're a resilient economy.

Just a few weeks after the terrorist attacks of September the 11th, 2001, our economy was growing. Think about that. After the worst attack on American soil, where nearly 3,000 of our citizens died, this economy recovered. That's a resilient economy. After Katrina—two quarters after the devastation of Katrina, our economy grew at a powerful rate of 4.8 percent. Despite the ongoing costs and uncertainty of war, the budget deficit is low. And the reason is clear: This economy is flexible; it is dynamic; and it is competitive enough to overcome any challenge we face. And the responsibility of Washington—in Washington, of people in Washington is to keep it that way. And that's what I want to talk about with you today.

One of the keys to meeting economic challenges is wise policy from your Federal Government. Wise policy helps keep us resilient; lousy policy will hurt the ability for this economy to grow. The decisions we make in Washington have a direct impact on the people in our country, obviously.

And as we debate the decisions, you got to understand there are two very different philosophies being played out. My philosophy is that the American people know how to spend their money better than the Government can. That's the core of my philosophy, that I'd rather you have more of your own money to spend, save, and invest as you see fit. Every time the Government collects a dollar in taxes, it means you have a dollar less to invest in your business or to spend on your family or to put aside for the future. Government has certain responsibilities, such as protecting our citizens—and we're going to meet those responsibilities. But we must always remember that your paycheck belongs to you and that the economy thrives the more money you have in your pocket.

The philosophy has been the center piece of my economic policy since I've been honored to be your President. Since I took office, we've cut taxes for every American who pays income taxes. We've worked to restrain spending, while ensuring that we have the resources necessary to protect the homeland and to make sure our military has what it needs to do the job. We set a goal to balance the budget by 2012, and we're on pace to meet that goal.

Now, there's a different philosophy in Washington. And I'm not saying these aren't good people; they are, but they just have a different point of view. Instead of trusting in the judgment of the people, they trust in the judgment of the Federal Government. They believe in a Federal solution to every problem, and somehow, that solution always seems to include raising your taxes.

Congress now sitting in Washington holds this philosophy. The majority was elected on a pledge of fiscal responsibility, but so far, it's acting like a teenager with a new credit card. [*Laughter*] This year alone, the leadership in Congress has proposed to spend $22 billion more than my budget provides. Now, some of them claim that's not really much of a difference; the scary part is, they seem to mean it. [*Laughter*] Over 5 years, their proposed spending spree adds up to an extra $205 billion. Put another way, that's about $1,300 in higher spending every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every year for the next 5 years.

Think about what it means for you. If you're driving a half hour to visit your grandparents, Congress would have spent an extra $2.3 million. If you attend church for an hour, Congress will tally another $4.7 million. If you watch a football game, Congress would rack up $14 million—unless, of course, it goes into overtime. [*Laughter*]

It's easy for politicians to claim that this spending won't have much of an impact on you. But you got to understand that when the bill for all that spending comes due, Congress is going to turn to the working people and to the small-business owners and the entrepreneurs.

The conclusion does not require an active imagination. All you have to do is look at the record. For example, leaders in the majority recently proposed raising taxes on millions of working Americans by increasing the tobacco tax. It can be tempting to view this as a one-time action aimed at an unpopular product, but that's not the way things work in Washington. Raising taxes is habit-forming; once you start in one area, it's hard to stop in others. In fact, in addition to the tobacco tax proposal, Congress has proposed

to raise taxes on oil and natural gas, on dividends and capital gains, and stock and bond transactions.

If that's not enough, Congress's budget also allows the tax relief we delivered to be taken away. Here's what that would mean for the average taxpayer. If you have children, your taxes would rise $500 per child. If you have a family of four making $60,000 a year, your taxes would be more than $1,800 higher. If you're a small-business owner, your taxes would increase almost $4,000.

And they're not picky about how to raise taxes. To them, every bill on the floor is an opportunity for a tax hike. Congress has proposed tax increases in the farm bill, the energy bill, the small-business bill, and the children's health bill. If you find a bill that doesn't have a tax increase, just wait a while; they'll put one in there.

The price of these tax increases would not be paid in the Halls of Congress; it would be paid in the living rooms and shop floors and office buildings across America. Higher taxes would mean that you'd have to put in longer hours to bring home the same amount of money, which would lead to more time at work and less time with our families. Higher taxes would mean paying more to meet the priorities of the Washington politicians and less to meet the priorities of your family. And higher taxes would mean fewer opportunities for entrepreneurs, a tougher time for workers trying to get ahead, and a greater likelihood of a slowdown across our economy.

People—the American people understand the cost of tax-and-spend policies. We had some interesting results at the ballot box last week. In the State of Oregon, voters rejected the plan to raise tobacco taxes to further enlarge a government health program. In other words, when the voters were given a chance, they voted such a plan down in the State of Oregon. Right here in Indiana, voters in your capital voted for Greg Ballard and ousted an incumbent mayor, in large part because the incumbent mayor supported raising taxes. A newspaper report explained that the winning candidate, quote, "rode a wave of voter discontent over tax increases" to a stunning upset.

We need to make sure the message is heard in the Nation's Capital, and I've come to New Albany, Indiana, to let you know I'm going to do my part. Under the Constitution, the President has the power to veto bills he thinks are unwise. And with all the other pressures on our economy, raising taxes is one of the most unwise things Congress could possibly do. I hope the leaders in Congress will cooperate and send me reasonable spending bills that I can sign. But if they insist on trying to raise taxes on the American people, I will not hesitate to use my veto pen to stop them.

For all their plans to increase Federal spending, you would think that the leaders in Congress would be in a hurry to get the Government's annual spending bills to my desk. But that's not the case. It took until last week for Congress to send me the first of these spending bills. This was the latest date in 20 years that Congress has sent its first annual appropriations bill to the President's desk. I know they wanted to be remembered by history, but I don't think that's what they had in mind.

As of this morning, Congress has sent me only two annual appropriations bills. One is the spending bill for the Defense Department. This isn't a perfect bill; it includes some unnecessary spending. But this morning in the Oval Office, I signed that bill to make sure our military has the full support of the Federal Government.

The other spending bill is for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. This bill is 44 days late and nearly $10 billion over budget and filled with more than 2,000 earmarks. Some of its wasteful projects include a prison museum, a sailing school taught aboard a catamaran, and a "Portuguese as a second language" program. Congress owes the taxpayers much better than this effort. And so today in the Oval Office, I vetoed this bill. Congress needs to cut out that pork, reduce the spending, and send me a responsible measure that I can sign into law.

While Congress was passing the bloated labor and health spending bill, it delayed action on a good bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The bill includes vital funds for veterans' benefits and care for our wounded warriors. It had almost unanimous support. The House passed the bill 409 to

2 in June, and the Senate passed it 92 to 1 in September. I urged Congress to show its commitment to our veterans by sending me this bill by Veterans Day. Well, they didn't listen. Our veterans have already waited longer than they should have to. At the very least, Congress should send me a clean veterans bill before leaving for its 2-week Thanksgiving vacation.

Another priority that Congress has failed to meet is energy. Leaders of both parties understand that America's dependence on oil creates problems for our economy, our environment, and our national security. When they were elected last November, majority leaders in Congress promised to pass an energy bill to reduce our dependence on oil. I consulted with members of both parties, and in my State of the Union Address, I proposed a plan to reduce America's gasoline consumption by 20 percent over 10 years. I call this plan 20-in-10 and asked Congress to pass it by beginning of the summer driving season.

Now the summer driving season is over; the price of oil has jumped to nearly $100 a barrel; and Congress has not acted. America clearly needs legislation that expands the use of ethanol and biodiesel, promotes energy conservation, invests in advanced technologies like clean coal and nuclear power. Listen, breaking our reliance on oil and gas is not going to happen overnight.

Congress should also authorize environmentally responsible oil exploration offshore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. American consumers and businesses are looking to Washington for action on this issue. And Congress needs to pass a bill that encourages the development of more energy that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of oil, and they need to do it now.

Congress is grappling with another difficult issue. It's called the Alternative Minimum Tax. Decades ago, this section of the Tax Code was designed to ensure that the wealthy pay their fair share of taxes, but its provisions are not adjusted for inflation. As a result, it's become increasingly likely that middle class taxpayers will be subject to the AMT. This would come as an unpleasant surprise to many American families, who would be forced to calculate their income taxes twice and then pay the Government the higher amount.

In recent years, Congress has passed a temporary "patch" that prevents most middle class taxpayers from having to pay the AMT. But this year, Congress has not done so. With no relief in place, 25 million taxpayers would be subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax. On average, they would have to send an extra $2,000 to the IRS, which is a huge tax increase they do not expect and do not deserve.

Some in Congress have looked at this impending tax burden and used it as an opportunity to raise taxes. Last week, the House passed a bill that provides relief for AMT, but raises taxes on others. Preventing a tax increase in one area should not be an excuse for raising taxes in other areas. Congress should eliminate the tax increases in the bill and send the AMT relief to my desk as soon as possible. That's what the American taxpayer expects.

The timing of congressional action on AMT relief is critical. I want to spend a little time explaining why. The longer Congress waits, the more difficult it will be to print and distribute tax forms on time. Last month, Treasury Secretary Paulson wrote a letter that said this: "To avoid confusion and delays for taxpayers, it is critical that an AMT patch be enacted by early November." Well, early November has come and gone, and Congress has not acted. If Congress does not act before Thanksgiving, $75 billion worth of tax refund checks could be delayed.

Yet when the Senate Majority Leader was asked if he could pass an AMT patch before Thanksgiving, he said, "No." Well, that's not a good enough answer for the American taxpayer. Congress needs to protect the middle class from an unfair tax hike. They need to finish their business quickly; they need to make sure those who get their refunds get them on time.

When it comes to taxes and spending, they don't have a very good record, but here's a good way to start, is to make sure that Congress passes the war supplemental funds we need to give our troops the very best equipment possible in the theaters of Afghanistan and Iraq.

I think it's important for Members of Congress to hear the words of Deputy Secretary

of Defense Gordon England when he wrote them why the funds, the supplemental funds to support the war effort—see, these are funds separate from the defense bill; these are funds specifically to support our troops in harm's way and other measures. And here's what he wrote: "If you"—he said, delaying could have this kind of, quote—in other words, what Congress is trying to do—some in Congress are trying to delay spending this money. Some of them in Congress want to say, we're going to spend some of the money, and by the way, tell you how to conduct the war. That's not going to work. We don't need Members of Congress telling our military commanders what to do. We need our military commanders telling us what to do so we can win the war against these extremists and radicals.

See, I think it's important to get the advice from the military. I don't want our kids in uniform to think that the President is playing politics with their lives. I want those in the battle to understand that I'll be making decisions based upon the considered judgment of our military commanders. If you've got somebody in harm's way, you want the President being—making advice, not—be given advice by the military and not making decisions based upon the latest Gallup Poll or focus group.

And so they're delaying the money that needs—our troops need to have. And here's what the Deputy Secretary said. He said, it would have "a profoundly negative impact on the defense civilian workforce, depot maintenance, base operations, and training activities." In other words, there's a consequence for not funding this money.

Congress's responsibility is clear: It should not go home for the Christmas holidays without giving our troops on the frontline the funds they need to succeed. Now, look, I understand some of them in Congress didn't agree with my decision, and that's fine. I can understand that. That's what that democracy is all about. Nobody likes war; I understand that. And I understand some were critical of the decision I made, and that's okay. But whatever their position on the war is, we should be able to agree that our troops deserve the full support of those of us in Washington, DC.

By the way, look at these folks in uniform—I just got to tell you, I'm incredibly proud to be the Commander in Chief of such amazing citizens who volunteer to serve our country in the face of danger. What a remarkable country we have to have citizens such as these. Thank you, guys.

It's important for Congress to get their spending bills done. See, the strategy may be to put them all in one big bill, kind of delay and delay and delay, and then send it all in one big package, and no telling what's going to be in there. The best way to get the business done—the people's business done is to pass these appropriations bills one at a time and get them to my desk in a expeditious way. Unfortunately, the number-two leader in the Senate, Democrat leader said this: "I don't think it's physically possible for us to do all the bills individually." That's, frankly, not good enough for the American people.

So obviously, I had something on my mind. And I thank you for giving me a chance to come and share it with you. It's a critical time. I have great respect for the process, and I've got respect for people in Washington, DC. But they're coming at you with new taxes, and I'm going to do everything in my power to stop them. We don't need to raise the taxes on the working people; we don't need to raise the taxes on our farmers and ranchers; we don't need to raise taxes on the small-business owners. What we need to do is set clear priorities with the people's money, which is defend this homeland, support our troops, and make sure we reduce the deficit and keep this economy growing strong.

As I mentioned earlier in the speech, there's some uncertainty in the economy. But we have dealt with that before, and we can continue to deal with it, particularly if we keep the taxes low.

I'm honored to be back in southern Indiana. It's a thrill to be with you. Thank you for your hospitality. Thank you for being—loving your country. God bless you all. God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. at The Grand. In his remarks, he referred to Kerry M. Stemler, chairman, One Southern Indiana; and Gov. Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., of Indiana.

Statement on Signing the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008

November 13, 2007

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 3222, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2008." The Act appropriates funds needed to support the U.S. Armed Forces as they protect the United States and the American people and advance United States interests around the globe.

The Act contains certain provisions identical to those found in prior bills passed by the Congress that might be construed to be inconsistent with my Constitutional responsibilities (sections 8005, 8009, 8012(b), 8034(b), 8052, 8082, 8085, 8089, 8091, and 8116, and the provision concerning consolidation under the heading "Operation and Maintenance, Defense Wide"). To avoid such potential infirmities, I will interpret and construe such provisions in the same manner as I have previously stated in regard to those provisions.

The Act also continues through December 14, 2007, funding for Government programs for which the Congress has not yet passed regular appropriations acts. However, the Act does not provide funds needed to support members of the U.S. Armed Forces deployed for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I expect and urge the Congress to promptly present separate legislation to meet that urgent funding need.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 13, 2007.

Executive Order 13450—Improving Government Program Performance

November 13, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 305 and 306 of title 5, sections 1115, 1116, and 9703 of title 31, and chapter 28 of title 39, United States Code, and to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Federal Government and promote greater accountability of that Government to the American people, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Policy*. It is the policy of the Federal Government to spend taxpayer dollars effectively, and more effectively each year. Agencies shall apply taxpayer resources efficiently in a manner that maximizes the effectiveness of Government programs in serving the American people.

Sec. 2. *Definitions*. As used in this order:

(a) "agency" means:

(i) an executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, other than the Government Accountability Office; and

(ii) the United States Postal Service and the Postal Regulatory Commission;

(b) "agency Performance Improvement Officer" means an employee of an agency who is a member of the Senior Executive Service or equivalent service, and who is designated by the head of the agency to carry out the duties set forth in section 5 of this order.

Sec. 3. *Duties of Heads of Agencies*. To assist in implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the head of each agency shall, with respect to each program administered in whole or in part by the agency:

(a) approve for implementation:

(i) clear annual and long-term goals defined by objectively measurable outcomes; and

(ii) specific plans for achieving the goals, including:

(A) assignments to specified agency personnel of:

(1) the duties necessary to achieve the goals; and

(2) the authority and resources necessary to fulfill such duties;

(B) means to measure:

(1) progress toward achievement of the goals; and

(2) efficiency in use of resources in making that progress; and

(C) mechanisms for ensuring continuous accountability of the specified agency personnel to the head of the agency for achievement of the goals and efficiency in use of resources in achievement of the goals;

(b) assist the President, through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (Director), in making recommendations to the Congress, including budget and appropriations recommendations, that are justified based on objective performance information and accurate estimates of the full costs of achieving the annual and long-term goals approved under subsection (a)(i) of this section; and

(c) ensure that agency Internet websites available to the public include regularly updated and accurate information on the performance of the agency and its programs, in a readily useable and searchable form, that sets forth the successes, shortfalls, and challenges of each program and describes the agency's efforts to improve the performance of the program.

Sec. 4. *Additional Duties of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget*. (a) To assist in implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Director shall issue instructions to the heads of agencies concerning:

(i) the contents, and schedule for approval, of the goals and plans required by section 3 of this order; and

(ii) the availability to the public in readily accessible and comprehensible form on the agency's Internet website (or in the *Federal Register* for any agency that does not have such a website), of the information approved by the head of each agency under section 3 of this order and other information relating to agency performance.

(b) Instructions issued under subsection (a) of this section shall facilitate compliance with applicable law, presidential guidance, and Office of Management and Budget circulars and shall be designed to minimize duplication of effort and to assist in maximizing the efficiency and effectiveness of agencies and their programs.

Sec. 5. *Duties of Agency Performance Improvement Officers*. Subject to the direction of the head of the agency, each agency Performance Improvement Officer shall:

(a) supervise the performance management activities of the agency, including:

(i) development of the goals, specific plans, and estimates for which section 3 of this order provides; and

(ii) development of the agency's strategic plans, annual performance plans, and annual performance reports as required by law;

(b) advise the head of the agency, with respect to a program administered in whole or in part by the agency, whether:

(i) goals proposed for the approval of the head of the agency under section 3(a)(i) of this order are:

(A) sufficiently aggressive toward full achievement of the purposes of the program; and

(B) realistic in light of authority and resources assigned to the specified agency personnel referred to in section 3(a)(ii)(A) of this order with respect to that program; and

(ii) means for measurement of progress toward achievement of the goals are sufficiently rigorous and accurate;

(c) convene the specified agency personnel referred to in section 3(a)(ii)(A) of this order, or appropriate subgroups thereof, regularly throughout each year to:

(i) assess performance of each program administered in whole or in part by the agency; and

(ii) consider means to improve the performance and efficiency of such program;

(d) assist the head of the agency in the development and use within the agency of performance measures in personnel performance appraisals, and, as appropriate, other agency personnel and planning processes; and

(e) report to the head of the agency on the implementation within the agency of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.

Sec. 6. *Establishment and Operation of Performance Improvement Council*. (a) The Director shall establish, within the Office of Management and Budget for administrative purposes only, a Performance Improvement Council (Council), consistent with this order.

(b) The Council shall consist exclusively of:

(i) the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall serve as Chair;

(ii) such agency Performance Improvement Officers, as determined by the Chair; and

(iii) such other full-time or permanent part-time employees of an agency, as determined by the Chair with the concurrence of the head of the agency concerned.

(c) The Chair or the Chair's designee, in implementing subsection (d) of this section, shall convene and preside at the meetings of the Council, determine its agenda, direct its work, and establish and direct subgroups of the Council, as appropriate to deal with particular subject matters, that shall consist exclusively of members of the Council.

(d) To assist in implementing the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Council shall:

(i) develop and submit to the Director, or when appropriate to the President through the Director, at times and in such formats as the Chair may specify, recommendations concerning:

(A) performance management policies and requirements; and

(B) criteria for evaluation of program performance;

(ii) facilitate the exchange among agencies of information on performance management, including strategic and annual planning and reporting, to accelerate improvements in program performance;

(iii) coordinate and monitor a continuous review by heads of agencies of the performance and management of all Federal programs that assesses the clarity of purpose, quality of strategic and performance planning and goals, management excellence, and results achieved for each agency's programs, with the results of these assessments and the evidence on which they are based made available to the public on or through the Internet website referred to in subsection (d)(iv);

(iv) to facilitate keeping the public informed, and with such assistance of heads of agencies as the Director may require, develop an Internet website that provides the public with information on how well each agency performs and that serves as a comprehensive source of information on:

(A) current program performance; and

(B) the status of program performance plans and agency Performance and Accountability Reports; and

(C) consistent with the direction of the head of the agency concerned after consultation with the Director, any publicly available reports by the agency's Inspector General concerning agency program performance;

(v) monitor implementation by agencies of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order and report thereon from time to time as appropriate to the Director, or when appropriate to the President through the Director, at such times and in such formats as the Chair may specify, together with any recommendations of the Council for more effective implementation of such policy;

(vi) at the request of the head of an agency, unless the Chair declines the request, promptly review and provide advice on a proposed action by that agency to implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order; and

(vii) obtain information and advice, as appropriate, in a manner that seeks individual advice and does not involve collective judgment or consensus advice or deliberation, from:

(A) State, local, territorial, and tribal officials; and

(B) representatives of entities or other individuals.

(e)(i) To the extent permitted by law, the Office of Management and Budget shall provide the funding and administrative support the Council needs, as determined by the Director, to implement this section; and

(ii) the heads of agencies shall provide, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, such information and assistance as the Chair may request to implement this section.

Sec. 7. *General Provisions*. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

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

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

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law (including laws and executive orders relating to the protection of information from disclosure) and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) In implementing this order, the Director of National Intelligence shall perform the functions assigned to the Director of National Intelligence by the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 401 *et seq.*), consistent with section 1018 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (Public Law 108–458), and other applicable laws.

(d) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 13, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:44 a.m., November 14, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Message to the House of Representatives Returning Without Approval the "Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008"

November 13, 2007

To the House of Representatives:

I am returning herewith without my approval H.R. 3043, the "Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008."

This bill spends too much. It exceeds the reasonable and responsible levels for discretionary spending that I proposed to balance the budget by 2012. The Congress is on a path to spend $205 billion more over the next 5 years than I requested. This puts a balanced budget in jeopardy and risks future tax increases. This year, the Congress plans to overspend my budget by $22 billion, of which $10 billion is for increases in this bill. Health care, education, job training, and other goals can be achieved without this excessive spending if the Congress sets priorities.

This bill continues to fund programs that are duplicative or ineffective. The Congress continues to fund 56 programs totaling more than $3.2 billion that I proposed to terminate because they are duplicative, narrowly focused, or not producing results.

This bill does not sufficiently fund programs that are delivering positive outcomes. For example, Reading First, a critical initiative that is demonstrating results, receives a 61 percent cut, even though low-income students enrolled in Reading First schools posted a more than 10-point improvement in reading proficiency from 2004 to 2006.

This bill has too many earmarks. I set out clear goals for the Congress to reform the earmarking process. The Congress chose not to put earmarks in bill text, instead including nearly all in report language, and they did not reach the goal of cutting the cost and number of earmarks by at least half. This bill contains more than 2,200 earmarks totaling nearly $1 billion. Congressional earmarks divert Federal taxpayer funds to localities without the benefit of a merit-based process, resulting in fewer resources for national priorities or unnecessary spending above the requested level.

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 tax dollars. Because the legislation violates that commitment, I must veto this bill.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 13, 2007.

Remarks at a Dinner Honoring America's Promise Alliance

November 13, 2007

Good evening. Laura and I welcome you all to the White House; sure glad you're here. Ten years ago, a group of spirited citizens came together in the hope that they could make a difference in the lives of our Nation's children. In the decade that followed, that hope became a dream, the dream became a mission, and that mission helped change the lives of countless children across our country.

Through your mentoring programs and your work with at-risk youth, America's Promise has given opportunity to young Americans who never had it. You have put hope in the eyes of children who have never known it, and you have helped make real the promise of our Creator, that there is value and purpose in every single human life.

The success of America's Promise is a tribute to the giving hearts of every person in this room, particularly those we honor with awards tonight. Yet I think all of us would agree that two people here deserve special mention, and they are Colin and Alma Powell.

Throughout their lives, the Powells have answered our country's call. They've served our Nation in times of peace and war, and they have led, taught, and inspired Americans along the way. Not a bad record for two people who met 46 years ago only because their friends talked them into going into a—going on a blind date. [*Laughter*] Mr. Secretary and Alma, our country is fortunate that you both had such persuasive friends. [*Laughter*]

I'd like to propose a toast to America's Promise, in gratitude for your first decade of public service—and a toast to America's children and a future that brings them love and peace and possibility.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:43 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and his wife, Alma, founding chair and current chair, board of directors, America's Promise Alliance.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for Michael B. Mukasey as Attorney General

November 14, 2007

Thank you all very much. Good morning. I'm pleased to be back here at the Department of Justice and to join you for the swearing-in of Judge Michael Mukasey as the 81st Attorney General of the United States. We welcome Michael's wife, Susan, and their children, Marc and Jessica, their son-in-law, Corey, their grandchildren, William and Benjamin, and other members of the Mukasey family. We share their pride in Michael on this important day. And I appreciate you all coming to witness it.

I particularly want to thank the Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, who is here to swear-in the General. I want to thank members of my Cabinet who have taken time off to come and welcome a new Cabinet member. I appreciate very much that Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee, has joined us, along with Sam Brownback and Senator Lindsey Graham. Thank you all for coming. And thank you for making sure this good man not only made it to the floor of the Senate but was confirmed.

I want to thank former Attorney General John Ashcroft, and welcome John as well as former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh. Thank you all for coming.

The job of the Attorney General is one of the most important in our Nation's Government. The Attorney General must run the world's largest law firm and the central Agency for enforcement of our Federal laws. He must aggressively prosecute gun criminals and drug dealers, hold corporate wrongdoers to account, protect victims of child abuse and domestic violence, and uphold the civil rights of every American.

In this time of war, the job of the Attorney General is also vital to America's national security. The Attorney General is responsible for our law enforcement community's efforts to detect, prevent, and disrupt terrorist attacks here at home. He must make certain that our intelligence and law enforcement communities work hand in hand to protect

the American people from terrorist threats. He must ensure that we do everything within the law to defend the security of all Americans, while at the same time protecting the liberty of all Americans.

Judge Michael Mukasey is the right man to take on these vital challenges. Michael understands the law from both sides of the bench. He served for more than 18 years as a U.S. District Court judge in New York, including 6 years as the chief judge. He was a lawyer in private practice. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Manhattan, where he headed the Official Corruption Unit.

Judge Mukasey also understands the challenges facing our Nation in this time of war. He has written wisely on matters of constitutional law and national security. He knows what it takes to fight the war on terror effectively, and he knows how to do it in a matter that is consistent with our laws and our Constitution. He will bring clear purpose and resolve to the job of Attorney General. I look forward to working with him as a member of my Cabinet and a key player on our national security team.

Our new Attorney General—as our new Attorney General, Michael Mukasey follows in the footsteps of a fine man and a fine American, Al Gonzales. I have known Al since our days working together in the State of Texas. As White House Counsel and as Attorney General in my administration, Al Gonzales worked tirelessly to make this country safer and to ensure that all Americans received equal justice before the law. Over many years, I have witnessed his integrity, his decency, and his deep dedication to the cause of justice. I am grateful for his friendship. I thank him for his service to our Nation. And Laura and I wish him and his wife, Becky, and their children, Jared, Graham, and Gabe, all the very best.

I also thank Peter Keisler, who has served as Acting Attorney General during Judge Mukasey's confirmation process. Peter delayed his plans to leave the Justice Department in order to ensure that the Department had strong leadership during these past months. I appreciate the job you've done.

With his departure, many of the most senior positions at the Department of Justice will now be vacant. In a time of war, it's vital that these positions be filled quickly. So in consultation with the Attorney General, I will announce tomorrow my nominations for several of these senior leadership positions. And I look forward to working with the Senate to fill these important positions at the Justice Department, so that America has the strongest, most capable national security team in place.

As he embarks on his new responsibilities, Michael Mukasey has my complete trust and confidence. And he's going to have the trust and confidence of the men and women of the Department of Justice. The people here are good people, hard-working Americans. From the headquarters to U.S. Attorneys offices to remote posts overseas, these fine Americans, Judge, are working to keep the American people safe. They work everyday to fulfill the most important function of the Federal Government, and that's to protect the American people from harm. Their efforts are essential to the security of America. The people who work for Justice deserve the very best leadership, and you're going to have it with Judge Michael Mukasey.

You'll find out what I found out. Judge Mukasey is a decent man, an outstanding lawyer, and a strong leader, and I am really looking forward to his wise counsel in the months ahead. Judge, I want to thank you for agreeing to serve our country once again, and congratulations.

And now I ask Chief Justice John Roberts to administer the oath of office.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the Great Hall at the Department of Justice. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Attorney General Mukasey.

Remarks on Presenting the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal

November 15, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Good morning. Laura and I welcome you to the East Room for a joyous event, the presentation of two sets of important awards: the National Medals of the Arts and the National

Humanities Medals. These medals recognize great contributions to art, music, theater, writing, history, and general scholarship.

We congratulate the medalists. We welcome your families. We thank your loved ones for supporting you. And on behalf of a grateful nation, we honor your great talent and accomplishments.

Obviously, I'm pleased to be here with my wife. [*Laughter*] I am proud to be here with Mrs. Lynne Cheney as well. I thank the Members of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives for joining us as we honor our fellow citizens. I'm so pleased to welcome Dana Gioia, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, and Dr. Bruce Cole, Chairman of the National Endowment of the Humanities. Thank you all for coming, and thank you for your leadership. I'm proud that a fellow Texan, Adair Margo—is the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities—has joined us.

Our honorees represent the great strength and diversity of the American culture. The winners of the arts include a Native American poet, an orchestra conductor, a composer of choral music, a pioneer of electric musical instruments, and a man whose last name is synonymous with fine American craftsmanship. Our honorees have created some of the emblematic images of our time, supported museums and theaters, and helped nurture young talent.

The winners of the humanities have also made great and lasting contributions to our society. They include scholars and historians and a philanthropist. These men and women have shaped our understanding of the past, chronicled stories of tyranny overcome by liberty, and helped preserve our cultural treasures for future generations.

Your accomplishments will remind us that freedom of thought and freedom of expression are two pillars of our democracy. These freedoms have helped our Nation build some of the finest centers of learning in the world. They've helped inspire new movements in art and literature, and they've helped fill our libraries and museums and theaters with great works for all our citizens to enjoy.

America is committed to supporting the arts and humanities. For more than four decades, the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities has helped enrich our culture and deepened our appreciation for the ideals that bind us together as Americans. Some interesting programs that are run out of these important institutions, like "We the People" and "American Masterpieces," that expose a new generation of Americans to American history and literature and art. And Laura and I strongly support these programs.

It is now my privilege to present the National Medals of Art and the National Humanities Medals. Once again, I congratulate our honorees because in your work, we see the creativity of the American spirit and the values that have made our Nation great.

And so now I ask the military aide to read the citations.

[*At this point, Lt. Cmdr. Dan Walsh, USCG, Coast Guard Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.*]

The President. My wife.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters and Federal Aviation Administration Acting Administrator Robert A. Sturgell

November 15, 2007

Thanksgiving is a week from today, and Christmas will quickly follow. This is really a time of joy for our families. Unfortunately, this is also a season of dread for too many Americans. Holiday travelers faced with the prospect of long-delayed and canceled flights and lost baggage and other problems have become all too often an occurrence. In other words, there's a lot of people that are worried about traveling because they've had unpleasant experiences when they've been flying around the country.

And so this is a topic that I've just discussed with Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters and the Acting Administrator of the FAA, Bobby Sturgell. It's one thing to analyze the problem, but the American people expect us to come up with some solutions. And that's what we've been talking about. And one of the reasons we have a sense of urgency about this issue is that these problems that we've been discussing are clear to anybody who has been traveling. Airports are very crowded; travelers are being stranded; and flights are delayed, sometimes with a full load of passengers sitting on the runway for hours. These failures carry some real costs for the country, not just in the inconvenience they cause, but in the business they obstruct and family gatherings they cause people to miss.

We can do better. We can have an aviation system that is improved. And that's what we're talking about. Secretary Peters and Acting Administrator Sturgell have been working with the airline industry on practical improvements. I want to announce a series of preliminary actions to help address the epidemic of aviation delays.

First, the military will make available some of its airspace over the east coast for use by civilian airliners this Thanksgiving. These new routes will help relieve air congestion from Maine to Florida for nearly 5 full days surrounding the holiday.

Second, the FAA is taking new measures to head off delays. Bobby Sturgell will impose a holiday moratorium on all nonessential projects, so that the FAA can focus its personnel and equipment exclusively on keeping flights on time. The FAA is also partnering with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to reduce bottlenecks in the New York metro area, which is the source of most chronic delays.

Third, the Department of Transportation and the FAA are encouraging airlines to take their own measures to prevent delays. I'm pleased to get the report from Secretary Peters and Acting Administrator Sturgell. Airlines have agreed to make more staff available to expedite check-in and boarding, to set aside extra seats and even extra planes to help accommodate passengers affected by cancellations and delays. They agreed to bring in additional ticket kiosks and baggage handling gear as well as rolling staircases.

Fourth, the Federal Government is using the Internet to provide real-time updates on flight delays. People in America have got to know there's a web site called fly.faa.gov; that's where the FAA transmits information on airport backups directly to passengers and their families. If you're interested in making sure that your plans can—aren't going to be disrupted, you can get on the web site of fly.faa.gov. As well, if you want to, you can sign up to receive delay notices on your mobile phones. In other words, part of making sure people are not inconvenienced is there to be good transmission of sound, real-time information.

Fifth, we're proposing new regulations to help ensure that airline passengers are treated fairly. We're proposing to double the amount of compensation passengers receive when they're forced off overbooked flights. For example, a passenger forced to wait more than 2 hours for another flight would receive a minimum of $800 under our idea, instead of the current $400. We want people who are responsible for moving passengers to understand that there will be consequences for these delays, all aiming to get the system to work better.

We're proposing a requirement that airlines collect better data on flight delays and provide that data to the Department of Transportation. We're evaluating a number of other recommendations for the airlines, including mandatory contingency plans to aid stranded passengers and penalties for chronically delayed flights.

Finally, the Department of Transportation and the FAA are working on innovative ways to reduce congestion in the long run. While short-term improvements in flight operations and passenger treatment can help, they do not cure the underlying problem. In certain parts of our country, the demand for air service exceeds the available supply. As a result, airlines are scheduling more arrivals and departures than airports can possibly handle, and passengers are paying the price in backups and delays.

The key to solving this problem is managing the demand for flights at overloaded airports, and there are a variety of tools to

do this in a fair and efficient way. For example, fees could be higher at peak hours and at crowded airports, or takeoff and landing rights could be auctioned to the highest value flights. Market-based incentives like these would encourage airlines to spread out their flights more evenly during the day, to make better use of neighboring airports, and to move the maximum number of passengers as quickly and efficiently as possible.

This concept is called congestion pricing. It has shown results in other areas of our economy—in other words, other parts of our economy use congestion pricing. Some States offer discounts to drivers who use E-ZPass, which reduces long waits at the toll plaza. Phone and electricity companies balance supply and demand by adjusting their rates during peak usage hours. Applying congestion pricing to the aviation industry has the potential to make today's system more predictable, more reliable, and more convenient for the travelers. Over the past 7 weeks, Federal officials have raised this idea with airlines and airport representatives in the New York area. And I've asked Secretary Peters and Acting Administrator Sturgell to report back to me about those discussions next month.

My administration will work swiftly to carry out the measures I've announced today. But to reform our aviation system in a way American consumers deserve, we need action from the United States Congress. In February, my administration sent Congress an FAA modernization bill that would improve the aviation system for all involved. The bill would upgrade aviation technology by adopting a safer and more automated air travel control system based on GPS technology, instead of the radar and radio-based systems designed during World War II.

If we really want to solve this problem, it's time for Congress to modernize the FAA, and we've given them a blueprint to do so. The bill would employ market pricing to reduce congestion and ensure that airports manage their schedules efficiently. The bill would establish a new financing mechanism and governing structure to ensure that these reforms are carried out in wise and cost-effective ways.

There are people in Congress who understand the need to act, starting with Senators Trent Lott and Senator Jay Rockefeller. They're leaders in this area of modernization of our—of the FAA. They understand that business as usual is not good enough for American travelers. And so do I, and so does my administration.

I look forward to working with them to get a good bill passed as soon as possible. By working together, we can restore the confidence of America's consumers, improve the efficiency of America's airports, and bring order to America's skies.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:26 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Proclamation 8203—America Recycles Day, 2007

November 15, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As citizens of this great Nation, we have a responsibility to practice good environmental stewardship. On America Recycles Day, we underscore our commitment to conserving our resources by recycling.

Through curbside collections and drop-off facilities, we are turning waste materials—including plastic, glass, aluminum cans, paper, tires, batteries, and building materials—into valuable resources. Recycling is one of our Nation's most successful environmental initiatives, and my Administration is working to increase opportunities for our citizens, communities, and businesses to recycle. The Resource Conservation Challenge, created by the Environmental Protection Agency, encourages public and private partnerships to promote recycling. Through Plug-In To eCycling, we are helping reduce waste by providing consumers with information on how and where they can donate or safely recycle old electronics. Working together, we can conserve valuable resources and energy by managing materials more efficiently.

On America Recycles Day and throughout the year, I encourage all Americans to recycle appropriate materials and products. By recycling, reducing greenhouse gas emissions,

and conserving energy, we can help build a healthier environment for everyone.

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 15, 2007, as America Recycles Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, 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, 9:54 a.m., November 16, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Proclamation 8204—Thanksgiving Day, 2007

November 15, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Americans are a grateful people, ever mindful of the many ways we have been blessed. On Thanksgiving Day, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy, the people we love, and the gifts of our prosperous land.

Our country was founded by men and women who realized their dependence on God and were humbled by His providence and grace. The early explorers and settlers who arrived in this land gave thanks for God's protection and for the extraordinary natural abundance they found. Since the first National Day of Thanksgiving was proclaimed by President George Washington, Americans have come together to offer thanks for our many blessings. We recall the great privilege it is to live in a land where freedom is the right of every person and where all can pursue their dreams. We express our deep appreciation for the sacrifices of the honorable men and women in uniform who defend liberty. As they work to advance the cause of freedom, our Nation keeps these brave individuals and their families in our thoughts, and we pray for their safe return.

While Thanksgiving is a time to gather in a spirit of gratitude with family, friends, and neighbors, it is also an opportunity to serve others and to share our blessings with those in need. By answering the universal call to love a neighbor as we want to be loved ourselves, we make our Nation a more hopeful and caring place.

This Thanksgiving, may we reflect upon the past year with gratefulness and look toward the future with hope. Let us give thanks for all we have been given and ask God to continue to bless our families and our 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 Thursday, November 22, 2007, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all Americans to gather together in their homes and places of worship with family, friends, and loved ones to reinforce the ties that bind us and give thanks for the freedoms and many blessings we enjoy.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of November, 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, 9:54 a.m., November 16, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Remarks at the Federalist Society's 25th Annual Gala Dinner

November 15, 2007

Thank you all very much. So much for the dress code. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to be with you. Thanks. I appreciate being with an organization that understands the value of

free speech—so much so that Gene asked if I'd give one. [*Laughter*] I told him I'd be happy, but I warned him that if you invite me back for the 30th anniversary, it's going to cost some billable hours. [*Laughter*]

In just a quarter century, the Federalist Society has transformed itself from a student organization into a vital national institution. You've earned a reputation across the ideological spectrum for open debate and intellectual rigor. Members of the Federalist Society believe in a simple proposition: Our written Constitution means what it says. One would not call that a radical statement. I certainly don't see how holding such a commonsense view could be considered controversial. I share your devotion to the Constitution, and I'm proud to be standing with you tonight.

I was also proud to stand yesterday at the Department of Justice with America's new Attorney General, Michael Mukasey. Attorney General Mukasey is a decent man, an outstanding lawyer, and a strong leader, and he needs a strong team to support him at the Department of Justice. And so in consultation with the Attorney General, earlier today I announced the individuals I will nominate to serve in five senior positions. And I look forward to working with the United States Senate to fill these positions as quickly as possible.

I'm proud to be in such distinguished company as Justice Antonin Scalia and, of course, Maureen. I'm proud to be here with Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife, Ginni; Justice Sam Alito and Martha. I'm fortunate to have been able to pick two members of the U.S. Supreme Court, and I'm very proud of the service rendered by Justice John Roberts and Justice Sam Alito.

I appreciate the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao, joining us. And she kindly brought her husband, Senator Mitch McConnell—from the great State of Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions.

I appreciate the attendance of former Attorney General Ed Meese, former Attorney General Bill Barr. How about your master of ceremonies, my good friend Ted Olson. I thank Gene Meyer and Leonard Leo.

When the Founders drafted the Constitution, they had a clear understanding of tyranny. They also had a clear idea about how to prevent it from ever taking root in America. Their solution was to separate the Government's powers into three coequal branches: the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. Each of these branches plays a vital role in our free society; each serves as a check on the others. And to preserve our liberty, each must meet its responsibilities and resist the temptation to encroach on the powers the Constitution accords to the others.

For the judiciary, resisting this temptation is particularly important because it's the only branch that is unelected and whose officers serve for life. Unfortunately, some judges give in to the temptation and make law instead of interpreting it. Such judicial lawlessness is a threat to our democracy, and it needs to stop.

Tonight I will discuss a judicial philosophy that is based on what our Founders intended. I'm going to talk about the importance of having good judges who adhere to this philosophy. And I will explain the need to reform a confirmation process that is making it more difficult to persuade decent and intelligence people to accept the call to public service.

The President's oath of office commits him to do his best to "preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." I take these words seriously. I believe these words mean what they say. And I ask my nominees to the Federal bench to take seriously their own oath to uphold the Constitution, and that is because I strongly believe our freedom depends on the willingness of judges to be bound by the Constitution and the law.

Others take a different view. Advocates of a more active role for judges sometimes talk of a "living Constitution." In practice, a living Constitution means whatever these activists want it to mean. They forgot that our Constitution lives because we respect it enough to adhere to its words. It is—[*applause*]. Ours is the oldest written Constitution in the world. It is the foundation of America's experiment in self-government, and it will continue to live only so long as we continue to recognize its wisdom and division of authority.

In his confirmation hearings before the Senate, one judge I nominated to the bench used the analogy of a baseball umpire. He said, "Umpires don't make the rules; they apply them. The role of an umpire and a judge is critical. They make sure everybody plays by the rules." But when people see the umpire rooting for one team, public confidence in our courts is eroded, the sense of unfairness is heightened, and our political debates are poisoned. So we will insist on legislatures that legislate, on courts that adjudicate, and on judges who call the game fairly.

To be a good judge takes a special kind of person. A judge needs to be someone who is learned, someone who has common sense, and someone who has a healthy respect for precedent and the law. In addition, a judge must be independent enough to resist the temptations of politics or favorable treatment in the media, and a judge must be modest enough to appreciate the limited role he plays under the Constitution. This combination of learnedness and independence and modesty is not always easy to find, especially here in Washington, DC. [*Laughter*] But it is absolutely essential for a judge.

These are the qualities you'll find in my nominees to our 13 Federal appeals courts. These appellate courts play a vital role in our legal system. While the Supreme Court may decide fewer than 100 cases in a year, the Federal appellate courts decide more than 30,000. That means that for most criminal appeals, for most civil appeals, and on most constitutional issues, the decisions of the appellate courts will be the law of the land.

As President, I've nominated many fine Americans to these courts. They understand that their role is to be the servant of the law, not its sovereign. I'm proud of the kind of men and women we now have sitting on these courts—judges such as Priscilla Owen, Janice Rogers Brown, Bill Pryor, judges like Brett Kavanaugh and Leslie Southwick.

Today I announced seven more outstanding judicial nominees for the district and circuit courts. And I look forward to working with the United States Senate to confirm these good men and women as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, the Senate has failed to act on many of my other nominees. At times, it has imposed a new and extra-constitutional standard, where nominees who have the support of the majority of the Senate can be blocked by a minority of obstructionists. As a result, some judgeships go unfulfilled for years. This leads to what are called "judicial emergencies," vacancies that cause justice to be degraded or delayed. When Americans go to court, they deserve swift and fair answers, and the United States Senate should not stand in their way.

Three of my nominees to the courts of appeals have been waiting for a vote for more than a year. They include one of the organization's founders—one of this organization's founders, a man who served our Nation nobly as the Acting Attorney General, Peter Keisler. These delays are wrong. It is an abdication of the Senate's responsibilities under our Constitution. And I call on Senate leaders to give these nominees, and all my nominees, the up-and-down vote they deserve on the floor of the United States Senate.

Senate confirmation is a part of the Constitution's system of checks and balances. But it was never intended to be a license to ruin the good name that a nominee has worked a lifetime to build. Today, good men and women nominated to the Federal bench are finding that inside the Beltway, too many interpret "advise and consent" to mean "search and destroy."

As a result, the Senate is no longer asking the right question: whether a nominee is someone who will uphold our Constitution and laws. Instead, nominees are asked to guarantee specific outcomes of cases that might come before the court. If they refuse—as they should—they often find their nomination ends up in limbo instead of on the Senate floor. This is a terrible way to treat people who have agreed to serve their nation. It's a sad commentary on the United States Senate, and every time it happens, we lose something as a constitutional democracy.

Our Constitution prohibits a religious test for any Federal office, yet when people imply that a nominee is unfit for the bench because of the church where he worships, we lose something.

When a bar association issues what it claims are objective ratings about a nominee's professional qualifications, yet suddenly and without explanation lowers the rating of a nominee on the eve of his confirmation hearing, we lose something.

When government officials do their jobs and make difficult legal decisions, only to find their decisions later become the source of outrageous partisan allegations, we lose something.

And when the wife of a distinguished jurist proudly attends his hearing and is brought to tears by ugly and unfounded insinuations that her husband is secretly a bigot, we lose something.

Everyone in this room has watched a good person who has had his or her name unfairly tarnished by the confirmation process. What you do not see are the good men and women who never make it to the confirmation process.

Lawyers approached about being nominated will politely decline because of the ugliness, uncertainty, and delay that now characterizes the confirmation process. Some cannot risk putting their law practices—their livelihoods—on hold for long months or years while the Senate delays action on their nominations. Some worry about the impact a nomination might have on their children, who would hear dad or mom's name unfairly dragged through the mud, so they decide to remove themselves from consideration.

When people like this decline to be nominated, they miss out on a great calling. But America is deprived of something far more important: the service of fair and impartial judges.

This is bad news. There's also good news, and it's here in this room. Thanks in part to your efforts, a new generation of lawyers is rising. A new culture is taking root in our legal community. And principled men and women who understand the Constitution and are able to defend it are finding their way to our Nation's law schools and law faculties and law firms and even to the corridors of power here in Washington, DC.

One of these good men is someone you know well. He was nominated by my father, and his confirmation process is a tale of all that is nasty and unkind in Washington. It is also a tale of perseverance and triumph.

On the day this good man was to be sworn in as a Justice on our Supreme Court, he was driving to the White House with his wife. As they waited at an intersection to make a turn, an 18-wheeler came barreling up beside their car and came to an abrupt stop. After a few seconds of trepidation, husband and wife watched as the truck driver rolled down his window, broke into a smile, and gave them a big thumbs up. In the fine memoir he recently published, Justice Clarence Thomas describes the moment this way: "Virginia and I looked at each other in astonishment and then thanked God for the good people of this country."

My appeal to you is this: Have faith in the good people of this country. Be true to the principles that brought you here tonight. And never lose that sense of wonder you felt when you first beheld the truths and wisdom of our founding documents.

Thanks for having me, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Union Station. In his remarks, he referred to Eugene B. Meyer, president, Theodore B. Olson, member, board of visitors, and Leonard A. Leo, executive vice president, Federalist Society.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan

November 16, 2007

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the White House. I really appreciate the opportunity to get to know you better. I'm looking forward to our lunch.

This is an important visit. It's the first visit the Prime Minister has taken since he has assumed his important office. It's a recognition that our alliance is vital for peace and security. The alliance between our two countries is rooted deeply in our strong commitments to freedom and democracy. The Prime Minister and I are going to keep it that way. One of the things we've decided to do is to continue to make sure the U.S.-Japanese relationship is the cornerstone of security and peace. And I appreciate you being here.

We'll continue to work together to advance freedom, security, and prosperity in our respective regions and beyond. We discussed a lot of ways that we can make the world a better place by working together. We discussed North Korea and the six-party talks. I appreciate Japan's participation in the six-party talks. Together with China, Russia, and South Korea, our two nations are pressing North Korea to fulfill its obligation to abandon all its nuclear weapons programs as well as its proliferation efforts. The six-party talks have delivered measurable results. The plutonium production facilities at Yongbyon are now being disabled, under six-party supervision.

Hard work still remains to be done. North Korea has agreed to provide a full declaration of all its nuclear programs and proliferation activities by the end of this year. Full declaration is one of the next steps North Korea must take to keep the six-party talks moving towards the goal of a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons.

We also discussed the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea. I reminded the Prime Minister of one of the most moving moments of my Presidency, when the mother of a young girl who had been abducted by the North Koreans came to visit me. I told her, and I'm going to tell the Japanese people once again, we will not forget this issue.

I understand, Mr. Prime Minister, how important the issue is to the Japanese people, and we will not forget the Japanese abductees, nor their families.

We discussed Afghanistan and Iraq. Japanese naval forces have made valued contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom, which supports Afghanistan's young democracy. Over 6 years, Japanese vessels refueled ships from 11 coalition nations nearly 800 times.

Mr. Prime Minister, I appreciate the great leadership that you are showing as you work to reauthorize the Japanese refueling mission. Japanese air defense—Self-Defense Forces continue to serve bravely to support coalition efforts in Iraq. Japanese planes have flown more than 600 sorties, carrying more than half a million tons of cargo from many nations. And, Mr. Prime Minister, like I told you in the Oval Office, I appreciate the contribution that the Japanese people are making to help this young democracy.

We discussed the realignment of our military forces, and we'll continue to do so with Secretary Gates over lunch. Our two nations continue to implement changes in our force posture that will help our alliance meet the challenges of the 21st century.

We discussed Iran. The Prime Minister and I agree that a nuclear-armed Iran would threaten the security of the Middle East and beyond. Our two nations are united in our efforts to change the regime's behavior through diplomacy. We agreed that unless Iran commits to suspend enrichment, international pressure must, and will, grow.

We discussed Burma. The Prime Minister and I condemned the regime's crackdown on democratic activists. We call for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners. We're for a genuine dialog between the regime and those who seek a democratic future for Burma. U.S. sanctions on the regime are in place. Japan has canceled an aid grant. The Prime Minister told me his Government is reviewing other aid projects to ensure that they directly benefit the people of Burma.

We discussed our strong economic relationship. Prime Minister Fukuda and I discussed his plans for economic reform in Japan. We discussed Doha and will continue our discussions over lunch.

I think we're going to serve the Prime Minister—I hope we serve him some good U.S. beef, which is a good way to bring up the subject of beef. We hope we're able to have the Japanese market fully open to all U.S. beef and beef products, consistent with international guidelines.

We discussed climate change and energy security. Our two nations share a similar approach to addressing the issues of climate change and energy security. We see real promise in our ongoing efforts to bring major developed and developing economies together around key elements of a future global agreement on climate change and energy security. And the truth of the matter is, we need to be in the lead, Mr. Prime Minister, because it's going to be our economies and our nations that develop most of the new

technologies that will enable us to be better stewards of the environment.

And finally, we discussed the G–8, and I want to thank you for taking the lead in the G–8. I'm looking forward to attending.

All in all, we had a great discussion that will be continued during lunch. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the United States, and I thank you for your friendship.

Prime Minister Fukuda. Well, on this first overseas trip after taking office, I have come to this one and only ally for Japan, the United States of America. And I had a very substantive meeting with President Bush just now. And I look forward to a further exchange of views with the President after this. But since this is a very good opportunity, I would like to express some of my views on the basis of the discussions we had earlier.

First of all, we agreed that Japan-U.S. alliance is playing an indispensable role in enabling Japan and the United States to address global issues together and also provides the basis for our active diplomacy vis-a-vis Asia.

For over half a century, Japan and the United States at times have overcome difficulties together and have built a solid and resilient alliance. And we today enjoy this relationship thanks to the efforts made by countless people in our two countries and exchanges among them.

To further cement the foundation for our bilateral relations in the future, without taking for granted our current solid relations, I explained to the President my initiative to strengthen Japan-U.S. exchanges, including intellectual exchanges. And I received heartfelt support for this idea from President Bush.

Secondly, we discussed synergies between our respective Asia policies and Japan-U.S. alliance. I explained to the President that the solid Japan-U.S. alliance will provide the foundation for Asia's peace and prosperity. And realizing a stable and open Asia that advances in prosperity by further deepening our relations with Asian countries on the basis of Japan-U.S. alliance will be in our mutual interests. And I told the President I'm convinced that such active diplomacy vis-a-vis Asia in turn will further strengthen our alliance.

Following this meeting here, I shall be attending a series of ASEAN-related summit meetings in Singapore, and I desired to visit Washington, DC, and have discussions with President Bush because of my belief regarding our alliance. And I'm extremely encouraged by the President's support.

We also discussed issues that Japan and U.S. need to address jointly, and particularly—in particular, North Korea and the fight against terrorism. With regard to North Korean nuclear programs, we agreed that Japan and U.S. need to maintain close coordination with each other, in order to achieve complete abandonment of all nuclear weapons and programs by North Korea, through the six-party talks. President Bush stated that he will never forget the abduction issue, and on that basis he once again expressed his commitment for unchanged support to the Japanese Government.

We should never allow Afghanistan to once again become a hotbed for terrorism. And we agreed that Japan and the United States should continue to work together with the international community in the fight against terrorism. And I communicated to President Bush that I shall do my level best to achieve an early passage of a bill for the early resumption of the refuel activities in the Indian Ocean by the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force. President Bush expressed his appreciation for Japan's support for the international community's fight against terrorism and the hope that refueling operations will be resumed soon.

With regard to Myanmar, I stated that I have been working on the Government of Myanmar for democratization and improvement of the human rights situation. And with regard to Iranian nuclear development, we cannot—never tolerate—and we agreed that we shall together work to raise pressure with the international community so that Iran will comply with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

And in this age of rapid changes, we—on the basis of Japan-U.S. alliance, Japan intends to exercise more active leadership in addressing the problems of Asia and international community.

And further, we shall have discussion with President Bush over lunch on new, important

issues. Japan shall be holding—hosting two important national conferences next year. One is the G–8 summit at Lake Toya in Hokkaido, in July. And the important theme for that meeting will be climate change. On this issue, Japan and the United States, through close coordination over the past half year or so, have led international discussions. And through a new forum for negotiations at the U.N., we very much hope that we will have discussions with President on closer cooperation on global warming measures so that concrete results will be achieved for an effective framework for the future.

And through further coordination, we would like to achieve a successful G–8 summit on the global climate change issue and other matters as well, because I believe that we can have useful discussions that will allow science and technology to achieve continued economic growth and also achieve global warming measures and energy security.

The other important conference Japan will be hosting is the International Conference in African Development, because that is a matter that the international community together should address. And this is the—[*inaudible*]—fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development that will be held in Japan in May. And we would like to tie the findings and results of that meeting to the G–8 summit. And again, we'd like to engage in cooperation with the United States. And there also is a question of health care in Africa, and again we would like to work in cooperation with the United States on that health care issue.

As the world economy faces numerous challenges, Japan and the United States, I believe, should work together on a global scale in the economic area, including intellectual property protection and for the sustainable development of developing countries.

There was a reference to beef. I hope that—well, we are addressing the beef issue on the basis of scientific findings. We are still in the process of our bilateral meetings.

I wanted to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the very warm welcome by President Bush and the people of the United States. And I look forward to addressing our common challenges together, hand in hand with President Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Sakie Yokota, mother of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean authorities; and Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma. Prime Minister Fukuda spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks on National Adoption Day

November 16, 2007

Nice line of work when you get introduced by your wife. [*Laughter*] Laura and I are sure glad you're here. I want to welcome Members of the Congress—Senators and Members of the House. Thank you all for coming. You're kind to take time to join our honored guests. We're really glad you're here in the White House. And we're pleased to join you on National Adoption Day. We offer a special welcome to the youngsters who have joined us. We're glad you all are here. You've just got to know this is the people's house. And I know you took time off from school to be here today. [*Laughter*] And I thank you for making such a difficult sacrifice. [*Laughter*]

I thank the members of the National Adoption Day coalition who have joined us. Few missions in life are more rewarding than uniting loving children with moms and dads for the very first time. Each of you has known this blessing. That's got to make you feel good in your soul. You've shared it with others, and in so doing, you've strengthened what is the very foundation of our country, and that is the American family. I want to thank you for being part of something that is so remarkable and so special.

It is fitting that we celebrate this day in a room honoring George Washington, or as some like to say, the original "George W." [*Laughter*] There he is. He raised four children who were not his by birth. He cared for them, provided for them, and he offered them advice—even when they didn't want it. [*Laughter*] When one of his boys went off to college, Washington did what many parents do—he checked up on him. And in 1798, he sent the young man a letter. It said:

"I have, with much surprise, been informed of your devoting much time to a certain young lady." And he went on to advise that "your application to books is not [what] it ought to be." Well, some parents here today may be able to relate to this. It's probably hard to believe, but there was even a time when my dad—[*laughter*]—felt compelled to write such a letter. [*Laughter*]

Since Washington's time, this house has known many leaders who understood that not every family is defined by biology. A true family is defined by love. Around the corner, for example, is a portrait of a proud adopted son named Gerald R. Ford. A few steps away is the portrait of a proud adoptive father named Ronald Reagan. Close by is a proud grandfather of two adopted grandchildren, George H.W. Bush. And here in this room are children who have strengthened families and enriched communities and warmed hearts. You are the living reminders that adoptions are stories of celebration, stories of hope, and stories of love.

National Adoption Day also reminds us that not every child finds this happy ending. Each year, more than 100,000 foster children await adoption, and too many children will not find a permanent home. And so on this National Adoption Day, we remind our fellow citizens there's still plenty of acts of love to be done. Many people have worked with courts and foster homes and social workers to change that—and our Government has tried to help. And that's why I'm so proud Members of Congress are here.

We have joined with community- and faith-based organizations to raise public awareness of foster children awaiting adoption. And we worked with the Congress to assist families to overcome financial barriers to adopting children. Nothing is more vital to this country's future than helping young people find the love, stability, and support from families.

There's a man here, I told him—I warned him I was going to talk about him, and that's a fellow named Tom Wollack. I want my fellow citizens who may be listening to hear this story. Tom has much to be proud of. He served our country in Vietnam; he's a New York City firefighter. By the way, nothing finer than being a New York City firefighter. He rushed to the scene of the World Trade Center on September the 11th, 2001. While others were leaving, he's a bunch of them that went in.

Yet at the top of his list of achievements are his seven children. Three were foster children that Tom later adopted. They're here—two college and one soon-to-be college attendee. They were born to parents struggling with drug addiction. Today they are deeply loved members of the Wollack family. He calls his family his foundation, and that foundation is here today, right here in the White House. We want to thank you for coming. I thank you for being a loving soul and truing—showing our Nation the true meaning of family. Thank you, Tom.

Each of the families here has shown the world the depth and wonder of the human heart. And because of people like you, this Thanksgiving holiday will be particularly special for thousands of families in thousands of homes. Many children will be giving thanks for being part of a family they never thought they would have. Many parents will look across the table at children who once were strangers and who are now priceless treasures in their lives.

To the parents here today, please know how grateful we are that you have taken children in need of a hopeful start in life and made them your own. And to the young people here today, always remember that you are special not only because of what your parents have given you, but because of the love and joy you have given them. So thankful that the parents and children here today have found the gift of one another. And I encourage our citizens across the land to explore adoption, look into the joys of adoption, and provide love for somebody who needs it.

I want to thank you all for coming. May God bless you and your families. May God bless our country. And now I'd ask the talented Rodney Atkins to come up here and perform some songs for us to celebrate this special day. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 8205—National Farm-City Week, 2007

November 16, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's agricultural industry contributes greatly to the strength of our economy. During National Farm-City Week, we honor the hard work and dedication of America's farmers and ranchers and we highlight the important urban and rural partnerships that help keep our country strong and prosperous.

America's farmers and ranchers embody an important part of our national heritage. As stewards of our land, our farmers and ranchers protect our soil, water, and wildlife habitat. With hard work, discipline, and ingenuity, they produce a safe and healthy food supply. Farmers and ranchers work closely with processors, transporters, and retailers, moving agricultural products from the farm to the homes of Americans and people around the world. My Administration is working to open new markets for American farm products and to encourage free and fair trade. By expanding opportunities for American farmers and ranchers, we can help keep our economy strong and growing.

As we celebrate Farm-City Week, we recognize the many contributions of America's farmers and ranchers and all those who work to strengthen the ties between our rural and urban communities. Our Nation is blessed by those who grow, harvest, and deliver these products, and we honor their dedication to feeding our country and the world.

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 the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 16 through November 22, 2007, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize the many accomplishments of our farmers and ranchers, and all those who contribute to the strength of America's agricultural industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of November, 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, 8:47 a.m., November 19, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

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.

November 10

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and her husband, Joachim Sauer.

November 11

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Waco, TX. Later, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in an interview with Bret Baier of FOX News.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan to the White House on November 16.

November 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President-elect Alvaro Colom Caballeros of Guatemala. He then

traveled to Louisville, KY, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Paul Carmony.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to New Albany, IN.

In the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with David Asman of FOX Business Network. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome First Vice President of the Government of National Unity of Sudan and President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit to the White House on November 15.

November 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Grand Foyer, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with crew members of the space shuttles *Discovery*, *Atlantis*, and *Endeavour* and the crew members of International Space Station Expeditions 14 and 15. Later, in the State Dining Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with the National Troopers' Coalition.

The White House announced that the President will welcome First Minister Ian R.K. Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness of Northern Ireland to the White House on December 7.

November 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with First Vice President of the Government of National Unity of Sudan and President of Southern Sudan Salva Kiir Mayardit.

The President announced his intention to nominate Grace C. Becker to be Assistant Attorney General (Civil Rights) at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark R. Filip to be Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Nathan J. Hochman to be Assistant Attorney General (Tax Division) at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gregory G. Katsas to be Assistant Attorney General (Civil Division) at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin J. O'Connor to be Associate Attorney General at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Goli Ameri to be Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Craig W. Duehring to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Ana M. Guevara to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tracy Ralph Justesen to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eric M. Thorson to be Inspector General at the Department of the Treasury.

The President announced his intention to nominate Neel T. Kashkari to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (International Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas C. Carper, Nancy A. Naples, and Denver Stutler, Jr., to be members of the Reform Board (AMTRAK).

November 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the recipients of the 2006 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador to the White House on November 29.

The President announced that he has nominated Larry Woodrow Walther to be

Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

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 15

Goli Ameri,
of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs), vice Dina Habib Powell.

Grace C. Becker,
of New York, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Wan J. Kim.

Thomas C. Carper,
of Illinois, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Sylvia de Leon, term expired.

Craig W. Duehring,
of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, vice Michael L. Dominguez.

Ana M. Guevara,
of Florida, to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 2 years, vice Jennifer L. Dorn, term expired.

Nathan J. Hochman,
of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Eileen J. O'Connor.

Tracy Ralph Justesen,
of Utah, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, vice John H. Hager, resigned.

Neel T. Kashkari,
of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (new position).

Nancy A. Naples,
of New York, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Enrique J. Sosa, resigned.

James B. Peake,
of the District of Columbia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, vice Jim Nicholson, resigned.

Denver Stutler, Jr.,
of Florida, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice David McQueen Laney, term expiring.

Eric M. Thorson,
of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of the Treasury, vice Harold Damelin, resigned.

Lincoln D. Almond,
of Rhode Island, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Rhode Island, vice Ernest C. Torres, retired.

Edmund A. Booth, Jr.,
of Georgia, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of 4 years, vice Lisa Godbey Wood, resigned.

Gregory A. Brower,
of Nevada, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of 4 years, vice Daniel G. Bogden, resigned.

Mark S. Davis,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, vice T.S. Ellis III, retired.

Rebecca A. Gregory,
of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Matthew D. Orwig, resigned.

William Joseph Hawe,
of Washington, to be U.S. Marshal for the Western District of Washington for the term of 4 years, vice Eric Eugene Robertson, resigned.

Reed Verne Hillman,
of Massachusetts, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Massachusetts for the term of 4 years, vice Anthony Dichio.

Diane J. Humetewa,
of Arizona, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona for the term of 4 years, vice Paul K. Charlton, resigned.

David Gregory Kays,
of Missouri, to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Missouri, vice Dean Whipple, retired.

Michael G. McGinn,
of Minnesota, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Minnesota for the term of 4 years, vice Allen Garber, retired.

Richard T. Morrison,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice Carolyn Miller Parr, term expired.

David J. Novak,
of Virginia, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, vice Robert E. Payne, retired.

Gene E.K. Pratter,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, vice Franklin S. Van Antwerpen, retired.

Rod J. Rosenstein,
of Maryland, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, vice Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., deceased.

Joseph P. Russoniello,
of California, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California for the term of 4 years, vice Kevin Vincent Ryan.

Carolyn P. Short,
of Pennsylvania, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, vice Gene E.K. Pratter, upon elevation.

Submitted November 16

Larry Woodrow Walther,
of Arkansas, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, vice Thelma J. Askey, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 10

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on meetings between President Bush and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

Statement by the Press Secretary on congressional action on supplemental appropriations

Released November 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan

Released November 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush to Meet with Salva Kiir, First Vice President of the Government of National Unity and President of the Government of Southern Sudan

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2779 and H.R. 3222

Excerpts of the President's remarks on the Federal budget in New Albany, Indiana

Released November 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Bush to Welcome First Minister of Northern Ireland Dr. Ian Paisley and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness to the White House

Statement by the Press Secretary: Liberia Debt Relief

Statement by the Press Secretary on House of Representatives action on supplemental appropriations

Fact sheet: Chairman Leahy's FISA Modernization Substitute: A Step Back for Our Nation's Security

Announcement of the National Medal of Arts and National Humanities Medal recipients

Released November 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters and FAA Acting Vice President of Systems Operations Nancy Kalinowski on aviation congestion

Statement by the Press Secretary on House of Representatives action on FISA modernization

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2546

Fact sheet: Taking Administrative Action to Address Air Traffic Delays

Excerpts of the President's remarks at the Federalist Society's 25th annual gala dinner

Released November 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Elias Antonio "Tony" Saca of El Salvador

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2602 and S.J. Res. 7

Fact sheet: U.S.-Japan Cooperation on Energy Security, Clean Development, and Climate Change

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 13

H.R. 2779 / Public Law 110–115
To recognize the Navy UDT–SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, Florida, as the official national museum of Navy SEALS and their predecessors

H.R. 3222 / Public Law 110–116
Making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes

Approved November 15

H.R. 2546 / Public Law 110–117
To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Asheville, North Carolina, as the "Charles George Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"

Approved November 16

H.R. 2602 / Public Law 110–118
To name the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility in Iron Mountain, Michigan, as the "Oscar G. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility"

S.J. Res. 7 / Public Law 110–119
Providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Sant as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution