

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was in Lima, Peru, on November 21, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, November 21, 2008

**Remarks at a State Dinner With
Financial Markets and World
Economy Summit Participants**

November 14, 2008

Your Excellencies, welcome to the United States. Welcome to the White House. And welcome to the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy.

I do want to begin my remarks by extending our heartfelt sympathies and prayers to Prime Minister Balkenende. He landed today and called me on the phone to inform me that his father had passed away. He returned back to his country to be with his family, and we wish them all the very best.

In the State Dining Room tonight are representatives of major industrialized economies, some of the largest developing economies, and key international financial institutions. We are here because we share a concern about the impact of the global financial crisis on the people of our nations. We share a determination to fix the problems that led to this turmoil. We share a conviction that by working together, we can restore the global economy to the path of long-term prosperity.

When we sit down at the summit table tomorrow, we bring clear priorities. Tomorrow's discussion will be the first in a series of meetings. We will focus on key, five objectives: understanding the causes of the global crisis; reviewing the effectiveness of our responses thus far; identifying principles for reforming our financial and regulatory systems; launching a specific action plan to implement those principles; and reaffirming our conviction that free market principles offer the surest path to lasting prosperity.

As we pursue these objectives, we can build on what we have achieved together so far. Since the outbreak of the crisis, the world's leading nations have coordinated our actions more closely than ever before. Thanks in large part to these decisive meas-

ures, global credit markets are beginning to thaw. Businesses around the world are regaining access to essential short-term financing, and stability is beginning to return to the international financial system. This problem did not develop overnight, and it will not be solved overnight. But with continued cooperation and determination, it will be solved.

There is more work to do beyond the immediate crisis, and the stakes are indeed high. Billions of hard-working people are counting on us to strengthen our financial systems for the long term. Families need credit to buy homes and to fund education. Businesses need capital to expand their operations so they can hire new employees. Older workers are counting on pensions and retirement funds to support them in their retirement years. Developing nations need the assistance they have been promised, as well as additional foreign investment, to continue their journey from poverty to promise. All over the world, people understand that their livelihoods depend upon a healthy and growing global economy.

The surest path to that growth is to continue policies of free and open markets. Free market capitalism has been an engine of prosperity, progress, and social mobility in economies all over the globe. Trade and investment have been—have linked our economies together, creating new customers for businesses and workers and greater choices and lower prices for consumers. All our nations must reject calls for protectionism, collectivism, and defeatism in the face of our current challenge.

I thank you all for coming and for your commitment to this urgent work. And with confidence in the success of our efforts, I offer a toast to all of you, to the principles we share, and to the people we serve.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:29 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Jan Peter

Balkenende of the Netherlands. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks on Arrival at the National Building Museum

November 15, 2008

Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Good morning. We had a good dinner last night. I am pleased with the progress we're making on—to, one, address the current crisis. I am pleased that we're discussing a way forward to make sure that such a crisis is unlikely to occur again. And I am pleased that the leaders reaffirmed the principles behind open markets and free trade. One of the dangers during a crisis such as this is that people will start implementing protectionist policies.

Obviously, you know, this crisis has not ended. There's some progress being made, but there's still a lot of more work to be done. And so we had a good, frank discussion last night. I look forward to the discussions today. And we'll see you after the meetings have ended.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:53 a.m.

Remarks at the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

November 15, 2008

Welcome. Good afternoon. We just had a very productive summit meeting. Thinking about 3 weeks ago, when I was talking to President Sarkozy and Barroso at Camp David—some of you were there—I don't think we could have predicted then how productive and how successful this meeting would have been.

The first decision I had to make was who was coming to the meeting. And obviously, I decided that we ought to have G-20 nations, as opposed to the G-8 or the G-13. But once you make the decision to have the G-20, then the fundamental question is, with that many nations, from six different continents, who all represent different stages of

economic development, would it be possible to reach agreements, and not only agreements, would it be possible to reach agreements that were substantive? And I'm pleased to report the answer to that question was, absolutely.

One of the things we did, we spent time talking about the actions that we have taken. The United States has taken some extraordinary measures. Those of you who have followed my career know that I'm a free market person—until you're told that if you don't take decisive measures then it's conceivable that our country could go into depression greater than the Great Depression. So my administration has taken significant measures to deal with a credit crisis. And then we worked with Congress to deal with the credit crisis as well.

And we're beginning to see some positive results. One of the things people around the table were interested in is, are you beginning to see the results of your actions? And our credit markets are beginning to thaw, having been severely frozen; businesses are beginning to get access to short-term credit. It's going to take more time for the measures we have put in place to take hold. No question about that. As a matter of fact, we just started, for example, on the \$700 billion fund, to start getting money out to our banks. So it's going to take more time.

But I was pleased to tell the folks around the table that the significant actions we've taken are beginning to work. All of us committed to continue to work on pro-growth economic policies. It's phrased different ways—fiscal plans—but the whole point was, was that we recognize that, on the one hand, there's been a severe credit crisis, and on the other hand, our economies are being hit very hard. And so there was a common understanding that all of us should promote pro-growth economic policy.

We also talked about broader reforms. So in other words, the discussions were focused on today and what we're doing about it, but what are we going to do to make sure it doesn't happen tomorrow.

One of the key achievements was to establish certain principles and to take certain actions for adapting our financial systems to the

realities of the 21st century. A lot of the regulatory structures that are in place were 20th century regulatory structures. And obviously, you know, the financial industry went way beyond them. And the question is, how do we establish good regulatory structure without destroying the incentive to innovate, without destroying the marketplace?

Our nations agree that we must make the markets—the financial markets more transparent and accountable. Transparency is very important so that investors and regulators are able to know the truth—considered improving accounting rules, so that investors can understand the true value of the assets they purchase. We agree that we need to improve our regulations and to ensure that markets, firms, and financial products are subject to proper regulation and oversight.

For example, credit default swaps, financial products that ensure against potential losses, should be processed through centralized clearinghouses. That's a significant reform. Heretofore, the credit default swaps were traded in over-the-counter, unregulated markets.

Yesterday, the Working Group on Financial Markets, which is, obviously, associated with the White House, announced an initiative to create these kinds of clearinghouses. And I know that other nations are working on them as well. This process will help expedite credit default swaps and other types of instruments not being traded in unregulated, over-the-counter markets. By bringing greater stability to this important sector, we will help with liquidity, but also mitigate risk.

Third, we agreed that we must enhance the integrity of the financial markets. For example, authorities in every nation should take a fresh look at the rules governing market manipulation and fraud to make sure that investors in all our countries are properly protected. We agree that we must strengthen cooperation among the world's financial authorities. There was a lot of discussion about the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, for example.

Leading nations should make regulations consistent. As well, we should reform the international financial institutions. Again, these institutions have been very important—the World Bank, IMF—but they were

based on an economic order of 1944. And so, to better—we agreed that to better reflect the realities of today's global economy, both IMF and World Bank should modernize their governance structures. They ought to consider extending greater voter—voting power and representation to developing nations, particularly those who have increased their contributions to the institutions.

All this is an important first step. In other words, this is the beginning of a series of meetings. People say, "Well, why don't you have one meeting and, you know, call it 'Bretton Woods II'?" Well, Bretton Woods I took 2 years to prepare. I don't know what you want to call this one, but whatever name comes from this meeting, it took 3 weeks to prepare. And so it makes sense to come out of here with a firm action plan, which we have.

It also makes sense to say to people that there is more work to be done, and there will be further meetings, sending a clear signal that a meeting is not going to solve the world's problems. A meeting will help begin a process so that we can say over time that we will have a regulatory structure in place that will make this less likely to happen in the future.

And so we've directed our finance ministers to work with other experts and consult with officials in other economies and then report back to the leaders with detailed recommendations. Whatever we do, whatever reforms are recommended, we need to be guided by the—this simple fact: That the best way to solve our problems and solve the people's problems is for there to be economic growth. And the surest path to that growth is free market capitalism.

Leaders at this summit agreed on some other matters of importance. One is to reject protectionism and refrain from erecting new trade barriers. This is a very important part of this summit. The temptations in times of economic stress will be to say, "Oh, trade isn't worth it; let's just throw up protective barriers." And yet that attitude was rejected, thankfully. And matter of fact, not only rejected, there is a determined effort to see if we can't complete the modalities for Doha by the end of December.

One of the things I stressed as well is that the United States, in the midst of this financial crisis, will not abandon our commitments to people in the developing world; that the HIV/AIDS initiative, known as PEPFAR, will remain strong and vibrant; that our deep desire to significantly reduce malaria deaths in countries on the continent of Africa will not be diminished; that our obligation to help feed the hungry will not stop; that in the midst of all this turmoil and financial crisis, we will meet our obligations. These obligations are in our national security interests and our economic security interests, and they in—are in our moral interests.

And so I will tell you that I thought this was a very successful summit. And they're going to meet again. I keep saying "they" because some of you may not have heard yet, but I am retiring. But I told the leaders this: That President-elect Obama's transition team has been fully briefed on what we intended to do here at this meeting. I told them that we will work tirelessly to make sure the transition between my administration and his administration is seamless. And I told them that I hope he succeeds, that it's good for our country that people see a peaceful transfer of power. And I hope it was good for them to hear that even though we're from different political parties, that I believe it's in our country's interest that he succeed.

So I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and visit with you. Thanks for covering this summit. Goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council; and President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Presenting the Presidential Citizens Medals

November 17, 2008

President Bush. Congratulations to our recipients. Welcome, the families and friends here at the White House.

The Presidential Citizens Medal was created nearly four decades ago to recognize Americans who have performed exemplary service to our Nation. It is among one of the highest honors that can be conferred on a citizen. As President, I rarely have the opportunity to surprise anybody. [Laughter] It is tough to be stealthy with a security detail that comprises a 20-car motorcade. [Laughter] That makes me especially pleased to present the President's Citizens Medal to four outstanding and unsuspecting leaders in the arts: Bruce Cole, Dana Gioia, Adair Margo, and Bob Martin. [Applause] No, no; not yet. Please do not rush the stage. [Laughter] Remember the big security detail? [Laughter]

As leaders of our Government's cultural institutions, each of today's recipients have made lasting contributions to American life and civic culture, and each is greatly deserving of this honor.

As Chairman of the National Endowment of Humanities, Bruce Cole has encouraged the study of American history through the "We The People" program and has helped preserve America's rich heritage for future generations.

As Chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts, Dana Gioia has combined his passion as a poet and his skill as a businessman to enrich the lives of Americans, from young readers to soldiers returning from war.

As the Chairman of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities—and a fellow Texan—[laughter]—Adair Margo has rallied support for American cultural institutions and has used the arts to strengthen our relationships with nations from Mexico to China.

As former Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Bob Martin has helped preserve our treasured collections and bring libraries and museums into the 21st century with new technology. He's helped recruit and train a new generation of librarians to replace the many skilled library professionals who are preparing to retire. I know of such person preparing to retire. [Laughter]

Bob Martin's successor, Anne Radice, could not be here. This is a stealthy ceremony. [Laughter] She's doing something else. But nevertheless, in appreciation of her

service, she will be presented the Citizens Medal as well and is probably wondering why she was not notified. [Laughter]

Each of today's honorees understands that encouraging individual creativity and freedom of expression through the arts and scholarship strengthens and enhances our great country. And so I want to thank them for their service. I congratulate them. And now I ask the military aide to read the medal citations.

[At this point, Lt. Cmdr. Clay Beers, USN, Navy Aide to the President, read the citations, and the President presented the medals.]

President Bush. Once again, Laura and I thank you for coming. I hope you have found this eve—this day as joyous as we have. Congratulations. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:35 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 and the presentation ceremony of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals.

Remarks at the Department of Transportation

November 18, 2008

Thank you. Please be seated. Madam Secretary, thank you for the kind introduction. Thank you for the reception. I am honored to be with the men and women who work here at the U.S. Department of Transportation. I appreciate you giving me a chance to come by and visit with you today. I want to thank you very much for the great job you are doing to make sure that across America our railroads and highways and airways are working to keep our citizens moving. You have done a terrific job, as far as I am concerned. The past 8 years I have not seen a traffic jam—[laughter]—waited for an airplane—[laughter]—or had my bags lost. [Laughter]

I appreciate very much the fabulous job—and I emphasize fabulous job—that the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, has done and is doing for our country. And I want to thank you for your service, Madam Sec-

retary. She has been an outstanding member of the Cabinet; she is a strong leader. I saw her leadership, as did the country, firsthand when Minnesota's I-35 bridge collapsed. The Secretary coordinated a swift and an effective Federal response. Swift was important for the people in Minneapolis. Effective is always important when it comes to reminding our citizens that the Government can respond in a way that will make them proud.

I appreciate the fact that she launched a thorough review of bridge safety across our country and worked with the Congress to get the monies necessary to rebuild that bridge. The bridge reopened months ahead of schedule, thanks in large part to the organization, determination of our Secretary and the people who work for her.

Madam Secretary, you did your job. That's what I expected when I asked you to serve, and I really want to thank you for your service.

I'm proud to be here, as well, with the Deputy Secretary, Tom Barrett; thank you—as well as the former Deputy Secretary, and at one time Acting Secretary, Maria Cino.

I know that a lot of folks in our country think about transportation a lot, particularly this time of year. People are getting ready to move around for Thanksgiving, and with Christmas not very far behind. And a lot of our citizens are nervous about travel. They're not nervous about their safety, but they're nervous about what the experience will be like: the long delays, lost bags, overbooking of flights. One way to look at it is they're saying, "Will traveling home for the holidays be 'It's A Wonderful Life,' or will it be 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'?" [Laughter]

Our job is to make sure it is as comfortable an experience as possible. Now, obviously, the Federal Government can't control all aspects of how the airlines, for example, conducts their business. We're not in the business of managing airlines. We are in the business, however, of making it easier for airlines to do the job we expect them to do.

And so, to this end, you might remember, at Mary's recommendations, that we—the military opened its east coast airspace to civilian flights during the Thanksgiving holiday season. And it worked. This year, we're going

to expand what we call the “Thanksgiving express lanes” to areas of the Midwest, the Southwest, and the west coast, including the skies over Phoenix and Los Angeles. In other words, we innovated last year to ease the travel; it worked, and now we’re expanding that innovation this year. We’re also working with the FAA, the TSA, and the airlines to make more staff available to speed check-in and boarding, and to help passengers affected by cancellations and delays.

We have just completed new regulations that provide increased protection for consumers. These include measures that will require airlines to provide greater compensation for lost bags, as well as tougher penalties when airlines fail to notify travelers of hidden fees. I think that’s a responsible role for government. I think it makes sense for us to, through this Department, put regulation in place that stands side by side with consumers in a reasonable way.

We expect these rules to take effect in December, in time for Christmas and New Year’s. These efforts represent our commitment to making this year’s holiday travel season as smooth as possible. And, frankly, they are part of this administration’s strong record on improving air travel for American consumers.

During my time in office—or our time in office, we have put regulations in place to make airlines more accountable for the way they treat passengers. In other words, we have done this kind of regulatory regime before, notably doubling the fine airlines pay for bumping travelers off of overbooked flights. Our message is: We will hold you to account. The consumers will hold you to account, but we have a responsibility in government as well to help our air travelers.

This administration has signed agreements with the EU and India, Thailand and China to increase flights between the United States and these countries. It makes it easier for Americans to travel around the globe. We have launched an unprecedented effort to reduce air congestion by boosting flight capacity at some of the busiest airports. The Department of Transportation, over the past 7 and a little more than three-quarters years, has completed 13 major airport improvement projects, including 11 new runways. This

week, 3 more runways will open at Seattle-Tacoma, Washington-Dulles, and Chicago-O’Hare, bringing the total to 14, which is going to help ease aviation congestion coast to coast.

And for those of you in this audience who have worked on these projects, I thank you.

The administration has taken steps to address the source of most flight delays and cancellations across the country, and that would be the heavy air traffic around New York City. To help untangle the skies over New York, we have improved air traffic control. We added a new departure route from the metro area and capped the total number of flights, providing nearly \$90 million over the next 8 years to upgrade taxiways at JFK. And in January, the FAA will start auctioning takeoff and landing slots at New York airports. This will increase competition for access to these airports, and we strongly believe increased competition will help lower fares to consumers.

I remember talking about this market-based approach, Madam Secretary, in the Roosevelt Room in the West Wing of the White House, and I thank you for implementing the vision.

Airlines need incentives. They need incentives to boost efficiency. And this incentive that we put out will encourage them to use larger planes out of the New York area. We believe these actions will ease our traffic jams in New York, which will help reduce flight delays all across the country.

In addition to tackling air congestion, this Department has built an impressive record when it comes to travel safety. I hope you take pride in the record: Department policies that helped make the past 7 years the safest ever in commercial aviation. Last year on America’s roadways we saw the lowest highway fatality rate ever recorded.

Another important part of our transportation record is our work to safeguard the environment and promote energy security. The energy bill I signed last year will save fuel and cut greenhouse gas emissions by specifying a national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

A lot of folks here in this Department have worked hard on this initiative, and I congratulate you for your good work. By dramatically boosting our output of clean-burning biodiesel and ethanol, providing tax credits for the purchase of low-emission hybrid vehicles, and investing in technologies like advanced batteries and hydrogen fuel cells, the Department can be proud of the ways in which we have made America's transportation system safer, cleaner, and more effective.

Yet there's a lot more work to be done. For example, in an age when teenage drivers use GPS systems in their cars, air traffic controllers still use World War II-era radar to guide modern jumbo jets. That doesn't seem to make any sense to me, and I know it doesn't make sense to the Secretary and a lot of folks in this audience. Modernizing our aviation system is an urgent challenge. So today, I'm signing an Executive order that makes this task a leading priority for agencies across the Federal Government.

Members of Congress have responsibilities. As they take up the next highway and aviation bills in the coming year, they should adhere to a few key principles. They should harness the power of the free market through policies like congestion pricing, which uses the laws of supply and demand to reduce traffic on our roads and in the air. They should ensure that taxpayer funds for transportation are allocated based on the true needs of the American people, not spent on wasteful earmarks or the political demands of influential lobbies. They should provide incentives for the private sector to develop new technologies, invest in our infrastructure, and help make our transportation system worthy of the 21st century. Just a little advice.

Of course, we all wish the American citizen to have a safe and pleasant travel—travels during this holiday season. We wish them all the best. And our citizens must know there's some really fine people in this Department of Transportation working hard to see that goal comes true.

I want to thank you for what you've done. It's been an honor to serve with you. May God bless you, and may God continue to

bless the United States America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Executive Order 13479.

**Executive Order 13478—
Amendments to Executive Order
9397 Relating to Federal Agency Use
of Social Security Numbers**

November 18, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy It is the policy of the United States that Federal agencies should conduct agency activities that involve personal identifiers in a manner consistent with protection of such identifiers against unlawful use.

Sec. 2. Amendments to Executive Order 9397 Executive Order 9397 of November 22, 1943, is amended:

- (a) in paragraph 1 by:
 - (i) striking “shall” and inserting in lieu thereof “may”;
 - (ii) striking “exclusively”;
 - (iii) striking “Title 26, section 402.502” and inserting in lieu thereof “title 20, section 422.103”; and
 - (iv) striking “the 1940 Supplement to”;
- (b) by striking “Bureau of the Budget” in paragraph 5 and inserting in lieu thereof “Office of Management and Budget”;
- (c) by renumbering paragraph 6 as paragraph 8;
- (d) by inserting immediately following paragraph 5 the following new paragraphs:
 - “6. This order shall be implemented in accordance with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
 - “7. 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 departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.”; and

(e) by striking “Board” each place it appears and inserting in lieu thereof in each such place “Administration”.

Sec. 3. 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 departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 18, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 19, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

Executive Order 13479— Transformation of the National Air Transportation System

November 18, 2008

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy It is the policy of the United States to establish and maintain a national air transportation system that meets the present and future civil aviation, homeland security, economic, environmental protection, and national defense needs of the United States, including through effective implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

Sec. 2. Definitions As used in this order the term “Next Generation Air Transportation System” means the system to which section 709 of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176) (Act) refers.

Sec. 3. Functions of the Secretary of Transportation Consistent with sections 709 and 710 of the Act and the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Secretary of Transportation shall:

(a) take such action within the authority of the Secretary, and recommend as appropriate to the President such action as is within the authority of the President, to implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order and in particular to implement the NextGen in a safe, secure, timely, environmentally sound, efficient, and effective manner;

(b) convene quarterly, unless the Secretary determines that meeting less often is consistent with effective implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, the Senior Policy Committee established pursuant to section 710 of the Act (Committee);

(c) not later than 60 days after the date of this order, establish within the Department of Transportation a support staff (Staff), including employees from departments and agencies assigned pursuant to subsection 4(e) of this order, to support, as directed by the Secretary, the Secretary and the Committee in the performance of their duties relating to the policy set forth in section 1 of this order; and

(d) not later than 180 days after the date of this order, establish an advisory committee to provide advice to the Secretary and, through the Secretary, the Committee concerning the implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, including aviation-related subjects and any related performance measures specified by the Secretary, pursuant to section 710 of the Act.

Sec. 4. Functions of Other Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies Consistent with the policy set forth in section 1 of this order:

(a) the Secretary of Defense shall assist the Secretary of Transportation by:

(i) collaborating, as appropriate, and verifying that the NextGen meets the national defense needs of the United States consistent with the policies and plans established under applicable Presidential guidance; and

(ii) furnishing, as appropriate, data streams to integrate national defense capabilities of the United States civil and military systems relating to the national air transportation system, and coordinating the

- development of requirements and capabilities to address tracking and other activities relating to non-cooperative aircraft in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, as appropriate;
- (b) the Secretary of Commerce shall:
- (i) develop and make available, as appropriate, the capabilities of the Department of Commerce, including those relating to aviation weather and spectrum management, to support the NextGen; and
- (ii) take appropriate account of the needs of the NextGen in the trade, commerce, and other activities of the Department of Commerce, including those relating to the development and setting of standards;
- (c) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall assist the Secretary of Transportation by ensuring that:
- (i) the NextGen includes the aviation-related security capabilities necessary to ensure the security of persons, property, and activities within the national air transportation system consistent with the policies and plans established under applicable Presidential guidance; and
- (ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall continue to carry out all statutory and assigned responsibilities relating to aviation security, border security, and critical infrastructure protection in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, as appropriate;
- (d) the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration shall carry out the Administrator's duties under Executive Order 13419 of December 20, 2006, in a manner consistent with that order and the policy set forth in section 1 of this order;
- (e) the heads of executive departments and agencies shall provide to the Secretary of Transportation such information and assistance, including personnel and other resources for the Staff to which subsection 3(c) of this order refers, as may be necessary and appropriate to implement this order as agreed to by the heads of the departments and agencies involved; and
- (f) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may issue such instructions as may be necessary to implement subsection 5(b) of this order.
- Sec. 5. Additional Functions of the Senior Policy Committee** In addition to performing the functions specified in section 710 of the Act, the Committee shall:
- (a) report not less often than every 2 years to the President, through the Secretary of Transportation, on progress made and projected to implement the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, together with such recommendations including performance measures for administrative or other action as the Committee determines appropriate;
- (b) review the proposals by the heads of executive departments and agencies to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget with respect to programs affecting the policy set forth in section 1 of this order, and make recommendations including performance measures thereon, through the Secretary of Transportation, to the Director; and
- (c) advise the Secretary of Transportation and, through the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, and Homeland Security, and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, with respect to the activities of their departments and agencies in the implementation of the policy set forth in section 1 of this order.
- Sec. 6. General Provisions** (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:
- (i) authority granted by law to a department or agency, or the head thereof; or
- (ii) functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.
- (b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.
- (c) 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 departments, agencies, instrumentalities,

or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 18, 2008.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 19, 2008]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 20.

Remarks on the Reopening of the National Museum of American History

November 19, 2008

Thank you. Laura and I are thrilled to be here. We are honored you would invite us to reopen one of the country's great civic institutions, the Smithsonian's Museum of American History. This building is home to many of our national treasures. It is a reminder of our country's proud heritage. And today we're witnessing the beginning of an exciting new era in its history. And I would urge all our citizens who come to Washington, DC: Come to this fantastic place of learning.

Wayne, thank you for serving; proud to be with you. Roger Sant, the Chair of the Smithsonian Institute's Board of Regents, and Vicki. I appreciate Brent Glass, the Director. I want to thank Dirk Kempthorne; Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. Jonathan Scharfem, Acting Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, as well as Congressman [Congresswoman]* Doris Matsui from California. I want to thank Governor Martin O'Malley of the great State of Maryland for coming here today. I am honored to be with Judy Woodruff, the esteemed master of ceremony—mistress of ceremony, MC. I thank David McCullough for joining us, a great historian and a fine American.

Ever since President James K. Polk laid the Smithsonian's cornerstone in 1847, it has been one of our Nation's greatest centers of knowledge. And since it opened nearly 45 years ago, the Museum of American History

has been one of the Smithsonian's most popular institutions.

The items on display here are as diverse as our Nation. Visitors can see George Washington's military uniform, one of Thomas Edison's early lightbulbs, the desk on which Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, even Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves, which he modestly predicted would become the most famous thing in this building. [Laughter]

Another item on display here is one of our Nation's proudest symbols of patriotism. The icon's fame dates to the War of 1812. In that conflict, the British Navy bombarded Baltimore's Fort McHenry with rockets and mortar fire. And as the battle raged, a young American was detained on a ship in Baltimore Harbor, unable to join the fight. The next morning, he was anxious to see whether his country had resisted the invasion. He discovered the answer when he saw the stars and stripes of the United States waving defiantly above Fort McHenry.

That young American, of course, was Francis Scott Key. He referred to the moment he saw the flag as an "hour of deliverance and joyful triumph." He recorded those emotions in a poem called "The Star-Spangled Banner." Today, nearly two centuries after they were composed, his words are written on the heart of every American and written into our law as our country's national anthem. And the flag that inspired them is preserved here, thanks to the generosity of some fine citizens, to remind us of the sacrifices that have been made to ensure our freedom.

There have been hours in our Nation's history when that promise of freedom looked uncertain. One of them took place 145 years ago today, when President Abraham Lincoln arrived in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to dedicate a cemetery at one of the Civil War's bloodiest battlefields. By that day, the war had raged for more than 2½ years and claimed hundreds of thousands of casualties. Many were convinced that a peace that preserved slavery would be better than a war that was pitting brother against brother. President Lincoln understood that liberty is a gift given by the Almighty, and that peace must not be purchased with injustice.

* White House correction.

That day, President Lincoln called the Nation together in the pursuit of a new birth of freedom. He urged Americans to honor the dead by carrying out the cause for which they gave their lives. With only 10 sentences, he strengthened the bonds of our Union, and rededicated our Nation to the proposition that all men are created equal.

At the time, President Lincoln said that the world would “little note nor long remember” his words. The verdict of history has been quite different. Over the years, the Gettysburg Address has been memorized by generations of schoolchildren—including me and Laura—stands as the greatest Presidential speech of all time.

For nearly 50 years, one of the only handwritten copies of this speech has been kept at the White House. For the next several weeks, it will be on display here at the Museum of American History. And Laura and I are delighted that this important piece of our country’s heritage will be available for all to see.

Among those inspired by the principles in the Gettysburg Address were four African American college students in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 1960, they sat at a lunch counter inside a Woolworth’s department store and asked to be served. Their request was denied, because the counter was designated as “whites only.” When they were asked to leave, those brave students refused to give up their seats. The single act of courage helped power a national movement that culminated with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And today, that lunch counter is preserved here at the Smithsonian, in an honored location just down the hall from the Gettysburg Address.

In the lives of Francis Scott Key, Abraham Lincoln, and those brave students in Greensboro, we see the best of America. We see men and women of character who refused to surrender to adversity. We see hope, courage, and a devotion to universal values. And we see a nation constantly moving toward greater freedom and greater opportunity.

Throughout our history, these ideals have called out to those beyond our shores. They have beckoned those who love liberty from every nation. They have made countless generations of men and women across the world

long for the pride that comes with calling yourself an American citizen. Today I’m delighted to congratulate five of you who will be taking your oath of citizenship in just a few moments. Though you are originally from France, Germany, Guyana, Lebanon, and Peru, today you’re becoming members of the American family. We welcome you with open arms. I will be proud to call you fellow citizen.

The Museum of American History is a wonderful place to begin your journey as an American. These halls reflect both the duties and privileges of citizenship. They remind us that America’s highest ideals have always required brave defenders. They remind us that our liberty is a precious gift from God.

Thank you for having Laura and me here. May God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution G. Wayne Clough; Victoria P. Sant, president, National Gallery of Art; and Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent, Public Broadcasting Service.

Proclamation 8320—National Farm-City Week, 2008

November 19, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Farmers and ranchers display the values of hard work and good stewardship, and National Farm-City Week is an opportunity to recognize these individuals and their urban partners for contributing to our Nation’s well-being.

Farming, America’s first industry, helps feed and clothe our citizens and increasingly provides more of our energy. The agricultural sector also employs more than a million people across our Nation. Farming has been a cornerstone of our country since its founding and continues to be a vital part of our economy.

Our farmers and ranchers provide a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply, yet they

could not succeed in doing so without essential partnerships with urban communities to supply, sell, and deliver finished products across our country and around the world. These cooperative efforts help to create a prosperous future for our citizens and people everywhere.

Since 2001, my Administration has been committed to strengthening our agricultural sector, and we have worked to create an environment that will stimulate growth by opening new markets, encouraging free and fair trade, and keeping taxes low. As we celebrate this week, we recognize the vital work of farmers and ranchers, and we pay tribute to all those who strengthen the relationships between our rural and urban communities.

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 21 through November 27, 2008, as National Farm-City Week. I encourage all Americans to join in recognizing farmers, ranchers, and all those who contribute to the strength of America's agricultural industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 21, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 24.

Proclamation 8321—National Family Week, 2008

November 20, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During National Family Week, we reflect on the important values and character that families instill in their children and in our society.

Families offer a stable and nurturing environment for children by providing support and comfort. A child's parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and other family members show them love and teach them right from wrong. Strong families set a positive example and help young people grow into compassionate and responsible citizens.

My Administration believes families strengthen our communities and help shape the character and future of our Nation. Over the years, we have demonstrated our deeply held commitment to supporting America's families by signing laws that respect the sanctity of life, lower taxes, double the child tax credit, reduce the marriage penalty, and empower parents to make choices about their children's education. In addition, the Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of positive youth development by keeping children connected to family, school, and community.

National Family Week is also a time to show our appreciation to our Nation's military families. We recognize their sacrifices, and we pray for their loved ones in the Armed Forces who are laying a foundation of peace for future generations. We owe a debt of gratitude to the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our country and their families who support them.

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 23 through November 29, 2008, as National Family Week. I invite the States, communities, and all the people of the United States to join together in observing this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities to honor our Nation's families.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 21, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 24.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Rwanda-United States Treaty Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment November 20, 2008

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

This is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded between the United States and a sub-Saharan African country since 1998. The Treaty will help to promote cross-border investment by providing legal protections for investors of each country for their investments in the other country. The Treaty underscores the shared commitment of both countries to open investment and trade policies.

Rwanda has opened its economy, improved its business climate, and embraced trade and investment as a means to boost economic development and help alleviate poverty. The U.S.-Rwanda BIT will reinforce these efforts.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy to secure protections for U.S. investment abroad and to welcome foreign investment in the United States. Under this Treaty, the Parties agree to accord national treatment and most-favored-nation treatment to investments. They also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation in the event of expropriation; free transfer of funds related

to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; prohibitions on nationality based restrictions for the hiring of senior managers; and the opportunity for investors to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also includes extensive transparency obligations with respect to national laws and regulations and commitments to transparency in dispute settlement. The Parties also recognize that it is inappropriate to encourage investment by weakening or reducing the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Treaty and give its advice and consent to ratification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 20, 2008.

Memorandum on the Proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

November 14, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2009-7

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy

Subject: Proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy

I have considered the proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Arab Emirates Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, along with the views, recommendations, and statements of the interested agencies.

I have determined that the performance of the Agreement will promote, and will not

constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Pursuant to section 123b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b)), I hereby approve the proposed Agreement and authorize the Secretary of State to arrange for its execution.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 20, 2008]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 21.

Interview With Raul Tola of America TV

November 20, 2008

President's Upcoming Visit to Peru/APEC Summit

Mr. Tola. Okay. Mr. President, a pleasure to be with you.

The President. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Tola. You're about to travel to Lima, Peru, again. You're going to the APEC. This is your last trip as President—

The President. Yes.

Mr. Tola. —of the United States of America. How would you like to remember both trip and APEC?

The President. Well, first of all, I remember Peru fondly from my last visit in 2002, and I'm looking forward to going back. I think it will be said, when people analyze the relationship between the United States and Peru, that during my time in office and the time of President Toledo and Garcia, we worked hard to put a good relationship in place.

And so, on the one hand, I'll be able to go and confirm the importance of the bilateral relationship, and then I'll go to a very important meeting. And APEC is an important meeting this time, particularly given the financial situation in the world. APEC comes right after the economic summit we had here in America. So it means that it has the chance

to embrace the principles, but it also has a chance for countries that did not participate in the summit here in Washington to express their views.

So I'm looking forward to it. It's a very important meeting.

Peru-U.S. Relations

Mr. Tola. Mr. President, you built a relationship with Peru because you have a close friendship with President Toledo—

The President. Si.

Mr. Tola. —with former President Toledo, which held the negotiations in favor of FTA—

The President. Si.

Mr. Tola. —which was finally approved. Now we have President Garcia in Peru, and elected President Obama in your country. Do you think this new situation is going to change the relationships between the two countries?

The President. No, I don't think so. I really don't. First of all, President Garcia is *muy amable*. And President-elect Obama will find him to be a straightforward man.

Secondly, the foundation is very strong. And so I anticipate and believe that bilateral relations with Peru and the United States will continue to be vibrant and strong and respectful. It's important for the American President—and I know President Obama will be this way—is to respect the leaders, the culture, and the people of different countries.

Latin America-U.S. Relations

Mr. Tola. Let's talk about Latin America, Mr. President. Sometimes it's said that at the beginning of your administration you were very interested in building up a strong relationship with Latin America, but 9/11 changed the priorities for the United States.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Tola. Is it true?

The President. No, it really isn't. I understand that. I mean, a lot of my—you know, when I was on TV, for example, after 9/11, I was talking about securing the United States and the war on terror. And so I'm certain a lot of people in the neighborhood, Central and South America, said, "Well, he's only focused on the Middle East; he doesn't

really seem to care about us.” But I’ve traveled. And in order to defeat that attitude, I came to Central and South America a lot as President. I’ve been to your country twice. And secondly, more important than trips, though, is policy. Free trade agreements with nations in the region are important for development. Social justice programs focusing on health and education for citizens in the region are—indicate our desire to help improve the human condition; the Millennium Challenge Account for countries in the region. So in other words, the record speaks about our deep desire to be good neighbors and to have friends.

U.S. Foreign Policy

Mr. Tola. But sometimes it’s said that the lack of policies in foreign affairs gears through Latin America empowered some political tyrants, like President Chavez.

The President. Yes. No, I strongly disagree with that. I can understand pundits. There’s a lot of pundits everywhere, but I believe that our policies have, obviously, set a different example of what’s available for people. And ours is a country that believes strongly in social justice. We believe good societies must have educated people. It’s hard to be hopeful if there’s not good health. And finally, ours is a country that promoted free and fair trade, which is the best way to help nations develop their economies. I mean, in other words, you’re a Peruvian farmer, you’d like to be selling into U.S. markets, and—because it’s a big market. Nothing wrong with selling in the Peruvian market or in countries bordering Peru or throughout South America. But also, it gives you an option to sell into U.S. markets. And that’s the best way to help people make a living.

And we have—obviously, there’s a philosophical difference of opinion. And the only thing the United States tries to do is to show the human side of the philosophy that most leaders embrace, which is freedom, free markets, free trade, and social justice.

U.S. Influence Abroad/Next Administration

Mr. Tola. Mr. President, elected President Obama said that at the very first day of his administration, he will withdraw troops

from Iraq in a period of 18 months. It also is obvious that we are all in a middle of a huge global financial crisis. Do you think that this marks the end of an era which started with President Reagan and highlighted the United States hegemony with both military and economically?

The President. No, I don’t think so. I think the United States is still going to be a leader. It’s going to be important for whoever the President is, whether it be—obviously, President-elect Obama, but Presidents following—that the United States build close alliances and friendships. That’s exactly what this administration does. I mean, a classic case is with Peru. We’ve worked hard to have a good, strong, bilateral relations.

And the President-elect is going to be facing difficult decisions. My job, as the sitting President, is to help him as he transitions into the job. I want him to succeed. And I want him to be able to have a economic platform that is good for the country. Now, obviously, we’re in difficult times economically. We’ve taken some very strong measures here during my Presidency. And I’m very hopeful that these measures will make it easier for President-elect Obama, not harder.

I’ve worked hard on a lot of fronts. I think America is more secure now than it was. Democracy is more vibrant in parts of the world that didn’t see democracy. Trade is—agreements are more abundant now. I have given it my all. And now I am very hopeful that the man who succeeds me as President of the United States succeeds in his job.

Presidential Transition

Mr. Tola. One last question, President—Mr. President. Elected President Obama said in his slogan, his campaign slogan, that change is the main thing for America.

The President. *El cambio.*

Mr. Tola. *El cambio*—yes.

The President. You know, when I campaigned for office, I said I was for change. Everybody who campaigns is for change. And that’s a very effective slogan, and he ran a very effective campaign. And the American people spoke loud and clear.

And now it’s—it will be his turn in 2 months to assume the great honor of being President. And I want to help him and help

his team transition into office. And I really do wish him all the best. It's going to be very important that he be given a good start. And that's what we're going to do.

Mr. Tola. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. *Si. Gracias.*

NOTE: The interview was taped at 11:11 a.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. Mr. Tola referred to President Hugo Chavez Frias of Venezuela. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this interview. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this interview.

Proclamation 8322—Thanksgiving Day, 2008

November 21, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Thanksgiving is a time for families and friends to gather together and express gratitude for all that we have been given, the freedoms we enjoy, and the loved ones who enrich our lives. We recognize that all of these blessings, and life itself, come not from the hand of man but from Almighty God.

Every Thanksgiving, we remember the story of the Pilgrims who came to America in search of religious freedom and a better life. Having arrived in the New World, these early settlers gave thanks to the Author of Life for granting them safe passage to this abundant land and protecting them through a bitter winter. Our Nation's first President, George Washington, stated in the first Thanksgiving proclamation that "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." While in the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln revived the tradition of proclaiming a day of thanksgiving, asking God to heal our wounds and restore our country.

Today, as we look back on the beginnings of our democracy, Americans recall that we live in a land of many blessings where every person has the right to live, work, and worship in freedom. Our Nation is especially thankful for the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who protect these rights while setting aside their own comfort and safety. Their courage keeps us free, their sacrifice makes us grateful, and their character makes us proud. Especially during the holidays, our whole country keeps them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Americans are also mindful of the need to share our gifts with others, and our Nation is moved to compassionate action. We pay tribute to all caring citizens who reach out a helping hand and serve a cause larger than themselves.

On this day, let us all give thanks to God who blessed our Nation's first days and who blesses us today. May He continue to guide and watch over our families and our country always.

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 27, 2008, 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 strengthen 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 twenty-first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:15 a.m., November 25, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 26. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

Letter to the President of the Senate Reporting a Certification Regarding NATO Invitee Albania

November 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President:

Consistent with the condition set forth in the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Albania of September 25, 2008, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Senate that:

- (i) the inclusion of the Republic of Albania in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO; and
- (ii) the inclusion of the Republic of Albania in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Letter to the President of the Senate Reporting a Certification Regarding NATO Invitee Croatia

November 21, 2008

Dear Mr. President:

Consistent with the condition set forth in the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Croatia of September 25, 2008, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Senate that:

- (i) the inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO; and
- (ii) the inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in NATO does not detract from

the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

The President's Radio Address

November 21, 2008

Good morning. This weekend I am in Lima, Peru, meeting with leaders from nations in the Asia Pacific region at our annual summit.

This summit comes at a time of serious turmoil in the global economy. It also comes at a time of unprecedented cooperation. A week ago in Washington, I hosted the first in what will be a series of international meetings to address the financial crisis. We reviewed the actions we have taken to manage the crisis, and we agreed on principles and specific actions to modernize our financial structures for the 21st century and help prevent another crisis.

As we work to rebuild confidence in our financial systems in the short term, we must also work to promote long-term economic growth. Together, our nations must focus our efforts on three great forces that drive this growth: free markets, free trade, and free people.

No region of the world demonstrates the power of these forces more vividly than the Asia Pacific. Free markets have helped millions lift themselves out of poverty. Free trade has helped small nations turn themselves into global economic powers. And as more people in the Asia Pacific are free to develop their talents and pursue their ambitions, the whole region has grown in prosperity. We're facing a difficult challenge, and there will be tough days ahead. But by relying on these principles, we can be confident in the future of our Nation and the world.

Back at home, one of the most serious economic challenges we face is the situation in our auto industry. America's auto manufacturers are facing severe and urgent financial shortfalls. Earlier this fall, I signed a bill that authorized up to \$25 billion in loans to help these automakers make more fuel-efficient

vehicles. Under the law, this money is not available to help auto companies with their immediate funding challenges. So this past week, Senators Bond, Levin, and Voinovich came forward with a new proposal that would allow auto companies to access the loans they need, as long as they're willing to restructure to become financially viable.

This proposal earned support from both sides of the aisle on Capitol Hill. Unfortunately, the leadership in Congress adjourned without even allowing this measure to come up for a vote.

My position is clear: If the automakers are willing to make the hard decisions needed to become viable, they should be able to receive the funds Congress already allotted to them for other purposes. This is a critical issue for our economy and our country. The American people expect their elected leaders to do what it takes to solve it.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:05 p.m. on November 20 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 21. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

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 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the National Building Museum, he participated in a photo opportunity with leaders participating in the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy. He then participated in plenary sessions of the summit.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a lunch for summit leaders. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

November 16

In the afternoon, the President met with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

November 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, in the Blue Room, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Citizens Medal. Then, also in the Blue Room, they participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the National Humanities Medal. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2008 U.S. Ryder Cup team.

November 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Department of Transportation, he met with Transportation Department employees and toured the Crisis Management Center.

The President declared a major disaster in California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by wildfires beginning on November 13 and continuing.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation: Rodney G. Bent; Gary C. Bryner; Thomas Joseph Dodd; and Roger W. Wallace.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alesia Ranney-Marinelli and Mark S. Shelton to be Directors of the Board of Directors of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation.

November 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the National American History Museum, he and Mrs. Bush viewed a naturalization ceremony.

November 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in an interview with a Japanese television station. He then participated in an interview with a Peruvian print journalist.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel at the White House on November 24.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the International Forum Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Holodomor in Kiev, Ukraine, on November 22: William B. Taylor, Jr. (head of delegation); Marilyn Ware; and Lorne Craner.

November 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey to check on him after his recent hospital stay. Later, he traveled to Lima, Peru, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to the JW Marriott Hotel Lima, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. He then met with President Hu Jintao of China.

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 17

Neil M. Barofsky, of New York, to be Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (new position).

Robert A. DeHaan, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Tyler D. Duvall.

Michael Jonathan Green, of Maryland, to be Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma, with the rank of Ambassador (new position).

Steven C. Hollon, of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2010, vice Robert Nelson Baldwin, term expired.

Joseph E. Lambert, of Kentucky, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2009, vice Robert A. Miller, term expired.

Gayle A. Nachtigal, of Oregon, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2009, vice Sophia H. Hall, term expired.

Arthur G. Scotland, of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2010, vice Florence K. Murray, term expired.

Gerald W. VandeWalle, of North Dakota, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2009, vice Arthur A. McGiverin, term expired.

Submitted November 19

Rodney G. Bent, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring September 20, 2014, vice Adolfo A. Franco, term expired.

Gary C. Bryner, of Utah, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2014 (reappointment).

Thomas Joseph Dodd, of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring June 26, 2014 (reappointment).

Steve A. Linick, of Virginia, to be Inspector General of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (new position).

Alesia Ranney-Marinelli, of New York, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2011, vice Armando J. Bucelo, Jr., term expiring.

Mark S. Shelton, of Kansas, to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2011 (reappointment).

Roger W. Wallace, of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Foundation for a term expiring October 6, 2014 (reappointment).

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 15

Transcript of a background briefing by senior administration officials on the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Fact sheet: Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Text of G-20 Declaration: Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Released November 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Administration of George W. Bush, 2008

Statement by the Press Secretary: Burma: Continued Arbitrary Sentencing

Transcript of the presentation of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals *

Released November 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to California

Fact sheet: Improving Travel During the Holidays and Beyond

Released November 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price and Deputy Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe on the President's trip to APEC summit

Released November 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of Israeli Prime Minister Olmert

Released November 21

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Daniel M. Price, National Security Council Senior Director for Asian Affairs Dennis C. Wilder, and National Security Council Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs Daniel W. Fisk

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 6867

* This transcript was released as part of the President's remarks on presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal.

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 21

H.R. 6867 / Public Law 110-449
Unemployment Compensation Extension
Act of 2008