

**The President.** I don't know why. You need to ask those who used the words they used. As I say, it's not the first time it's ever happened, as I think I answered that to Jim there. It's happened throughout our history. And I would hope that, frankly, for the sake of the system itself, that if people disagree with the President-elect Obama, they treat him with respect. I worry about people looking at our system and saying, "Why would I want to go up there and work in that kind of environment?"

And so I wish him all the best. And no question, he'll be—there will be critics. And there should be. We all should welcome criticism on different policy; it's the great thing about our democracy; people have a chance to express themselves. I just hope the tone is respectful. He deserves it, and so does the country.

It has been a honor to work with you. I meant what I said when I first got up here. I wish you all the very best. I wish you and your families all the best. God bless you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 9:17 a.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Presidents Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, and William J. Clinton; Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; and Michelle Obama, wife, and Malia and Natasha "Sasha" Obama, daughters, of President-elect Barack Obama.

**Message to the Congress  
Transmitting a Report on Treasury  
Department Plans Concerning  
Emergency Economic Stabilization**  
*January 12, 2009*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with section 115(a)(3) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-343) (the "Act"), I hereby transmit a report detailing the plan of the Secretary of the Treasury to exercise the authority under the Act.

**George W. Bush**

The White House,  
January 12, 2009.

**Remarks Following a Cabinet  
Meeting**

*January 13, 2009*

I want to thank an extraordinary group of American citizens who have served our country as members of my Cabinet. Everybody around this table here could have taken the easy road and stayed home and worried about their own comforts, but instead they answered the call to service. And the country is lucky to have folks like this step up and serve.

I have thanked them here at my last Cabinet meeting not only for their service but for helping President-elect Obama transition. And we wish the President-elect and his team all the very best. It is our genuine wish that they do well.

We also reviewed our record, and this administration has had a good, solid record. And I'm very proud of it. I tell people I leave town with a great sense of accomplishment and my head held high. We reformed education, and test scores for minority students are up. We reformed Medicare, and seniors have now got prescription drug coverage. We lowered taxes for everybody who pays taxes. We transformed our military to make it be able to deal more effectively with the threats of the 21st century. And the Secretary transformed the State Department so it can deal with the threats of the 21st century as well.

We changed how we deliver aid around the world to—through the Millennium Challenge Account. I put good judges on the bench. Drug use for teenagers is down in America by about 25 percent. The air is cleaner. The water is purer. The armies of compassion are more invigorated than ever before. Free trade agreements have been signed.

We dealt with an economic meltdown with strong action so that our successor has a better chance of dealing with the economic fallout from the credit crisis.

Most of all, we protected this country from harm. And we did so by providing tools and—for our professionals as well as asking our military to do hard work, which they have done time and time again. Concurrent with that, we've promoted the freedom agenda.