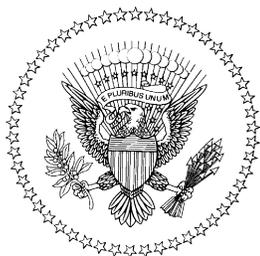


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, April 16, 2001
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Editor's Note: The President was in Crawford, TX, on April 13, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

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Week Ending Friday, April 13, 2001

Remarks on Repairing the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge in Milwaukee, Wisconsin

April 6, 2001

How are you all today? It's good to be here. I'm pleased to be here with Governor McCallum and the mayor of Milwaukee; Secretary Mineta and Secretary Thompson, former Governor of the great State of Wisconsin.

I'm looking forward to tossing out the first ball today. I haven't decided if I'm going to go with a rising fastball, a split-finger, or a breaking pitch. [*Laughter*] But nevertheless, it's going to be a great honor to be there. Miller Park will be a proud part of Milwaukee's landscape.

But there is another key structure that is an important part of the life of this city, the Daniel Webster Hoan Bridge. For the last several months, a lot of effort has gone into helping repair the Hoan Bridge. But the job is not yet complete. So I'm here to tell the good people of Milwaukee that fixing the Hoan Bridge is a priority of my administration.

I've brought along the Secretary of Transportation here to identify the quickest way to rebuild this critical artery for Milwaukee. The Hoan Bridge is eligible for funding from the Department of Transportation. We look forward to partnering with the State of Wisconsin to complete the rebuilding of the Hoan Bridge.

Today Secretary Mineta and I have received an application for Federal funds from the Governor of Wisconsin, and I plan to make this project an important priority. Almost 100,000 people live in areas directly served by the Hoan Bridge, and because of its limited capacity and weight restrictions, many commuters and shippers must find alternate routes.

We are committed to helping Wisconsin take care of this problem. Secretary Mineta

and I recognize that maintaining the infrastructure of our cities is a vital role for government. I'm glad we can be of assistance to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you very much. See you at the ballpark.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:08 p.m. at General Mitchell International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Scott McCallum of Wisconsin and Mayor John O. Norquist of Milwaukee. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

April 7, 2001

Good morning. This weekend Congress begins its Easter recess. Senators and Members of the House of Representatives return home to meet with their constituents and listen to the people. I hope they'll listen carefully; there are large decisions that must be made when Congress returns.

I have sent Congress an education reform plan that offers greater Federal support to schools but requires higher standards and improved accountability, and I have sent Congress a tax plan that will accelerate our economic growth and leave more money with the people who earned it. Passing these two measures will be a long process that will require many votes in Congress. But the choices Congress makes will shape our country for decades. The tax plan I sent to Congress will help ensure that our children will grow up in a country bustling with opportunities. My education plan prepares our children to take advantage of those opportunities.

These are not routine votes. They are not ordinary business. They are decisions that we cannot afford to get wrong. Important reform is never easy, and it will always be tempting to postpone it. On education, there are some interest groups who don't like the idea of

changes. On taxes, there are powerful institutions in Washington that would prefer to keep the people's money for themselves.

But I'm committed to moving forward. The old saying goes, the President proposes, Congress disposes; but in the end, the people rule. If we want higher educational standards, if we're to pass a substantial tax cut, the people must make their voices heard.

Many of you have already telephoned your Members of Congress or sent letters and e-mails expressing your support for my education and tax plans, and I want to thank you for doing that. I hope you'll keep it up.

The crucial votes on education and taxes are still ahead. And many Members of Congress are still making up their minds. Don't just send them what you earn; tell them what you think. So I have a suggestion: During the recess, many Members of Congress will be holding townhall meetings, where constituents are welcome to come and express their views. You can find a list of these townhalls at www.bushtaxrelief.com. If your Congressman has a townhall scheduled, I hope you'll consider attending it. Maybe you might want to bring a relative or a friend.

And I hope that if you do go, you'll stand up and let your representative hear from you on school reform and tax relief. It's good citizenship, and it will make a big difference.

Before I close, let me send my best wishes to all who will be sitting down tonight to their Passover seder.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10 a.m. on April 6 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April 7. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 6 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the Helicopter Crash in Vietnam

April 7, 2001

Laura and I were deeply saddened to learn of the crash this morning in central Vietnam of a helicopter carrying 16 people, including 7 U.S. military personnel, who were on an important mission to find and recover the remains of servicemen missing from the Viet-

nam war. The families of the service personnel lost in today's tragic accident know better than most the contribution their loved ones made in bringing closure to scores of families across America. Today's loss is a terrible one for our Nation. Although not lost in a hostile act, like those for whom they search, they too have lived lives of great consequence, answering a calling of service to their fellow citizens. As we enter a period of religious holidays across America, may we remember their sacrifice and keep them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

April 9, 2001

Federal Budget

The President. Good morning. I'm discussing the budget we're sending to the Hill today with my Cabinet. It's a budget that protects taxpayers, protects children, protects our surplus. It represents compassionate conservatism. It's a budget that sets priorities. It's a budget that recognizes there are some good programs here in Washington that need to be funded.

For example, the budget provides a \$21 million increase for food safety programs, \$1 billion increase for Pell grants for low income students, \$350 million increase for childcare. We help children whose parents are in prison with a \$67 million mentoring program. We increase funding available to prevent child abuse by 66 percent. We fight crime, \$87 million increase for frontline prosecutors. We give \$75 million for Project Child Safe, which is a program that provides gun safety locks for families. It fights corporate subsidies. It eliminates thousands of one-time earmarked projects.

Washington is known for pork. This budget funds our needs without the fat. It also represents a new way of doing business in Washington and a new way of thinking. The budget puts the taxpayers first, and that's exactly where they belong. I'll be glad to answer questions.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, members of your administration expected the crew to be freed over the weekend. At this point, how can you not agree with Chairman Hyde that they are hostages?

The President. First, I just talked to General Sealock, who had a good visit with all 24 crewmembers. His report is that their spirits are very high, that they're doing well, and that's good news. Secondly, all of us around this table understand diplomacy takes time. But there is a point—the longer it goes—there's a point at which our relations with China could become damaged.

Q. Is there any more that you can do or say, sir?

The President. Every day that goes by increases the potential that our relations with China could be damaged. And our hope is that this matter gets resolved quickly.

Q. Is there anything else you can do? You said a week ago that it's time for them to come home. They're still not home. What else can the President of the United States do to bring our people home?

The President. We're working behind the scenes. We've got every diplomatic channel open. We're in discussions with the Chinese. It is now time for our troops to come home so that our relationship does not become damaged.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7423—Jewish Heritage Week, 2001

April 9, 2001

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans have long cherished our identity as a Nation of immigrants. The shared values and aspirations of those who have

come to America's shores have helped to shape our culture, laws, and government.

The Jewish community has played a vital role in our Nation's history, tracing back to colonial times. Many were active in supporting the Revolutionary War and in settling new territories and cities during America's westward expansion. Although initially a small community, in time, millions of Jewish men, women, and children followed. In fleeing persecution, pogroms, and the horrors of the Holocaust, they sought a new life in the United States where they could worship in freedom and pursue their hopes and dreams in peace. The many oppressions historically borne by the Jewish people remind us that we must remain committed to religious liberty and tolerance for all.

As we celebrate Jewish Heritage Week, we also recall the lasting contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the arts, education, industry, and science. Many of their names are inscribed in America's textbooks, and the Jewish community's rich heritage and culture continues to enrich our society's national fabric. In many communities large and small, Jewish families have shared their resources, time, and talent to help others. Their contributions to our national life and character help make America a better place.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 29, 2001, as Jewish Heritage Week. I urge all Americans to join in observing this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 11.

Proclamation 7424—National Crime Victims' Rights Week, 2001

April 9, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every day, Americans are making progress both in the fight against crime and in the effort to ensure fair and compassionate treatment of victims and their families. Dedicated volunteers, health care professionals, counselors, and law enforcement personnel in communities large and small are raising the public's awareness that victims have important rights.

Decreasing crime rates are encouraging, but we are far from winning the war against crime. According to the most recent National Crime Victimization Survey, nearly 29 million people were victimized by crime in 1999, including more than 7 million victims of violent crime. Americans cannot afford to be complacent. All of us must continue efforts to stop crime and to improve services for those harmed by crime.

The voices of our Nation's victims continue to have a powerful effect in changing laws, policies, and attitudes to promote victims' rights and services. They encourage every person in America to take a stand and to lend their support. My Administration is committed to improving public safety and to providing justice for all who have been victimized. We will fight for public policies that prevent crimes. We will steadfastly support those responsible for enforcing the laws and protecting the innocent. And we will attempt to see that offenders, not victims, pay the high cost of crime.

Our Nation's commitment to crime victim assistance grows stronger every year, with thousands of programs in place to provide help and hope. My Administration is committed to expanding opportunities for faith-based and charitable organizations dedicated to serving persons in need. Crime victims often turn to faith-based organizations for assistance and support during times of crisis, and religious leaders and communities are vital links in our national network of victim services.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The campaign to win rights for victims parallels other grassroots movements in our Nation's history. These crusades most frequently began as small local movements led by groups of passionate individuals who spoke out in protest when they saw inequities. During this week, let us join in the effort to establish fair legal rights and services for crime victims.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 22 through 28, 2001, as National Crime Victims' Rights Week. I urge all Americans to share the burden of reducing crime in their communities and to follow the example of those who have helped establish rights and improve services for victims.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., April 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 10, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Remarks Following Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

April 10, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to have an opening statement. His Majesty will have an opening statement. I'll be glad to take a couple of questions from the American press. His Majesty will take a couple of questions from the Jordanian press, and we'll alternate.

It's my honor to welcome the Majesty to the Oval Office, to our country. We had a very good lunch. We discussed a lot of subjects, starting with how best to work together to lay the foundation for peace in the Middle East. We had a very good discussion about

trade, and I explained to His Majesty that ours is a country that believes in free trade.

We look forward to working to get an agreement, one way or the other, out of our Congress that encourages free trade with Jordan. We will be discussing strategies as how best to achieve that objective, but the objective is for there to be a free trade agreement between our countries.

His Majesty is one of the young leaders of the Middle East who has got a good vision for peace. And I look forward to his advice and counsel and working closely together to achieve peace. So welcome, Your Majesty.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, sir. Mr. President, as you said, we had a very warm and constructive discussions today about not only bilateral relations but that of the region. And I believe that we're both committed to finding peace and stability in our part of the world. We're very grateful for all the support that we've had from your country over the years. And I look forward to working with you, sir, and with your administration to try and bring peace and stability to the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Your Majesty, with apologies, because there's another subject on everybody's mind—Mr. President—

President Bush. What might that be?

Q. Well, it's the China problem. What is it going to take to resolve that? Have you considered dealing directly with the President of China?

President Bush. We are working hard to resolve the situation. The first piece of news I have to report is, I talked to the General, Sealock, again. He met with our folks in Hainan Island. He reported that spirits are high, that the troops are patient.

He informed us that there is an exchange of e-mails between the—our troops and their families, which is, I found to be an important piece of news, that the families will be able to talk to each other.

Diplomacy sometimes takes a little longer than people would like. I urge the Chinese to bring resolution to this issue. It's time for our people to come home.

Q. Mr. President, what about the issue with Jesse Jackson? Mr. President, what about the issue with Reverend Jesse Jackson? He says if China lets him in, he will go there to help free the 24 detainees.

President Bush. We are—there's a lot of people that are anxious for this situation to end. I appreciate the good will of a lot of Americans that are concerned about our folks in Hainan Island. This administration is doing everything we can to end the stalemate in an efficient way. We're making the right decisions to bring the solution to an end.

Q. Do you support Reverend Jackson? Do you support—

Q. Mr. President, you said a moment ago—

President Bush. This is a Jordanian reporter.

Q. Mr. President, you said a moment ago that diplomacy takes longer than sometimes people would like. Are you trying to prepare the American people for an extended and prolonged stay of this 24-member crew in Chinese captivity?

President Bush. No. I am making it clear to the Chinese that it's in their nation's interests to end this situation as quickly as possible. As all members of my administration have been saying, that the longer this goes, the more likely it is that it could—could—jeopardize relations, and we certainly don't want that to happen.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. Is there anybody from the Jordanian—

Q. The West Bank—

President Bush. Yes, ma'am?

Middle East

Q. A Jewish spiritual leader yesterday called upon killing all Arabs, and we are seeing Israel launching an unannounced, full-scale war against Palestinians. Is your country going to use or veto another proposal at the United Nations to send an international protection force?

President Bush. Our country is very interested and working with all parties to—for parties to lay down their arms. The only—wait, let me—

Q. Your Majesty, can you state specifically what you think—

President Bush. I'm not quite through yet—

Q. Sorry.

President Bush. And then you're next.

Q. Thank you.

President Bush. In order for there to be discussions that will lead to peace, first and foremost, the violence must stop. And we're working hard to convince the parties to stop the violence. His Majesty and I talked about how best that all countries, peaceful countries in the region can discourage violent activities. And the Secretary of State and—has been on the phone recently with the leaders in the Middle East to make sure that they understand the U.S. position is for the violence to stop.

Q. Your Majesty, can you say specifically, beyond rhetorical tools, what Jordan and the United States can do to stop the violence, bring it down, restore calm?

King Abdullah. Well, I think the situation at present is, try to find a way of de-escalating the violence. There has been meetings between the Israelis and the Palestinians as early as last week which produced some results. And I think we need to be able to build on that.

President Bush. Thank you all. Look what you started. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:06 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. Reporters referred to President Jiang Zemin of China and civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Discussion on Character-Building Programs in Education

April 10, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much. Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for being here. I'm glad to see you. And I'm glad to see the superintendent. I appreciate you all being here. This is not the first time I've been with the Mayor, nor with the superintendent, both of whom are doing a fine job for Washington,

DC. I'm proud to call this place home, and I'm proud to have you all leading the city and the school district.

I want to thank the members of the Young Gentlemen's Club for being here, and I'm looking forward to shaking your hand after the discussion. And thank you all for making the right choices in life. I want to thank our panelists. I look forward to hearing from our panelists.

I want to start the discussion by quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., who said this: "Intelligence is not enough. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education." So we're here today to herald character-building programs. We're here today to recommend that throughout America we teach values to our children, that we not only teach our children how to read and write but that we be bold enough to teach them the difference between right and wrong, as well. And we've picked a pretty darn good school as an example.

By the way, I found this, that one of the keys to success in our public education is to have good, strong principals. So Annie, thank you for being here. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. One of the keys to success is to have role models not only live a quality life but be willing to take time out of their lives to share their experiences. So I'm pleased to have a star basketball player with us here.

One of the keys to success is to find people who are willing to use their intelligence to rally people of compassion to serve as mentors and role models for children—young ladies, in this case. And so I'm so pleased that Elayne Bennett is here. One of the keys to success is being a good mom. And so I'm so thankful you're here, Nicole. One of the keys to success is to be willing to listen to what the adults say. And so, Isaiah, thank you for being here, as well.

And finally, it is an honor that Mr. Bob Howard is with us, a person who has taken time out of his life to make sure that the Young Gentlemen's Club flourishes.

Parents have a tough battle in America today. Their children sometimes receive conflicting messages, and what public education ought to do is stand on the side of parents and be willing to reinforce the values that

parents teach their children. And the Young Gentlemen's Club does just that. And so I'm looking forward to hearing the stories. I'm looking forward to hearing how best I can help.

One way we can help, by the way, is to have our budgets reflect our priorities. And the budget I submitted to the Congress triples the amount of character-education money available for public education. The budget I submitted to the Congress increases the amount of money available for abstinence-education programs. And the money and program I've submitted to the Congress encourages after-school programs to be run by faith-based and community-based programs that exist because they've heard the universal call to love a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We can make a huge difference in the lives of America's children. It starts recognizing that society's changed one child at a time; one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. And this program, the Young Gentlemen's Club, does precisely that.

So thank you, Mr. Secretary, it's an honor. And thank you all for coming.

[*The discussion began.*]

The President. Let me say one thing, Mr. Secretary. To prove the principal's point, they use a Stanford 9 here in the District of Columbia. Many of you know that I'm a strong advocate for accountability. If you don't measure, you don't know. And so under the leadership of the superintendent, there's a lot of measuring that goes on. It's really important to measure, by the way, and I hope the Congress gets the message how important it is that in return for more money, we need to have strong accountability systems developed at the local level.

Cleveland Elementary School, on the Stanford 9, is on par with affluent local suburban districts. In other words, it's not just talking the talk; the results have improved significantly as a result of character programs and focus on each child.

And I want to thank you for your hard work, Madam Principal, and the results bear out what you just said. There is a connection between good character and good education. And we've got to remember that in this coun-

try. That's why it's important to spread character-education programs throughout America.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. I think we've got a perfect gentleman here. Tell us about your program, Isaiah, can you?

Third grader Isaiah Greene. Yes. The program teaches us how to be—how to respect women and how to control our attitude.

The President. And when do you meet? How often do you meet?

Isaiah Greene. When I was there we used to meet in the afternoons.

The President. Oh, good. And so who is—teaches you how to respect women? Is that what you just said? And is it working?

Isaiah Greene. Yes. [*Laughter*]

The President. How about mom?

Isaiah Greene. Yes.

The President. You listen to your mom?

Isaiah Greene. Yes.

The President. I listen to mine. [*Laughter*] How about you, mom?

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Is he studying?

Nicole Keller. He's studying hard. He's very—

The President. That's great.

Ms. Keller. —excited about his schoolwork, and all that he does.

The President. He's going to college, isn't he?

Ms. Keller. That's right. Yes, he is.

The President. Have you got anything to add to that, Isaiah? [*Laughter*]

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I want to thank our panelists. I believe America can conquer any problem we're faced with. I truly believe that, because this is a loving country. There's a lot of people who really care about members of the Young Gentlemen's Club, whether it be at Cleveland Elementary or any other elementary. There are a lot of people who really care about their neighbor in this country.

All of us have got to do our part. The Federal Government can put money up, but we can't make people love one another. And that's something we've just got to understand

in our country. That we can fund programs—and we will—there will be a lot of discussions about what gets funded and what doesn't get funded, and this, that, and the other. But the truth of the matter is, the issue is bigger than budgets. The issue is about whether or not loving people in America want to help somebody in need.

And I think so. And to the extent that you all are helping, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. One of my missions is to encourage mentoring programs all across the country. One of our missions is to make sure that boys and girls whose mother or dad may be in prison finds a mentor, somebody to love them. One of our missions is to teach—is to help teach children right from wrong so that they can enjoy the great fruits of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And to the extent you're helping, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Thank you all for coming. I look forward to getting to shake hands with the members of the Young Gentlemen's Club, if that's okay with you.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:12 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Paul L. Vance, superintendent, District of Columbia Public Schools; Annie R. Mair, principal, Cleveland Elementary School; NBA Washington Wizards player Jahidi White; Nicole Keller, mother of Isaiah Greene; Elayne Bennett, founder, Best Friends Program; and Robert Howard, founder, Young Gentlemen's Club.

Proclamation 7425—National D.A.R.E. Day, 2001

April 10, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, we recognize Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), the largest and most widely known substance abuse prevention and anti-violence curriculum in America. For over 18 years, D.A.R.E. has brought specially trained community police officers into

America's classrooms to teach children how to resist destructive peer pressure and to live productive drug- and violence-free lives. Every day, millions of children across the United States participate in the instruction given in the D.A.R.E. drug prevention curriculum.

Parents, teachers, community leaders, law enforcement officials, and fellow students have an important role to play in keeping our children away from illegal drugs. Research has shown that ongoing reinforcement of drug prevention skills at home and at school play a critical role in decreasing the likelihood of drug use by our youth. This year, D.A.R.E. has pledged to reach out to thousands of parents with a new parent-specific curriculum to help them talk with their kids about drugs.

Today, we recognize D.A.R.E. as a useful partnership between the research community, educators, law enforcement, parents, and students, and we commend D.A.R.E. officers for their dedicated efforts to help educate the children of America about the importance of remaining drug- and violence-free.

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 April 12, 2001, as National D.A.R.E. Day. I call upon our youth, parents, educators, and all people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:59 a.m., April 11, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

**Remarks on Plans for Release of
United States Navy Aircraft
Crewmembers in China**

April 11, 2001

Good morning. I'm pleased to be able to tell the American people that plans are underway to bring home our 24 American service men and women from Hainan Island.

This morning the Chinese Government assured our American Ambassador that the crew would leave promptly. We're working on arrangements to pick them up and to bring them home.

This has been a difficult situation for both our countries. I know the American people join me in expressing sorrow for the loss of life of a Chinese pilot. Our prayers are with his wife and his child.

I appreciate the hard work of our Ambassador to China, Joseph Prueher, and his entire Embassy team, who worked tirelessly to solve this situation. The American people, their families, and I are proud of our crew, and we look forward to welcoming them home.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:25 a.m. in the James S. Brady Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ruan Guoqin, widow of Chinese pilot Wang Wei.

**Remarks at Concord Middle School
in Concord, North Carolina**

April 11, 2001

Thank you all very much. Okay. "Dr. O," thank you for your hospitality. It's an honor to be here. I want to thank you all for coming. Before I talk about a subject dear to my heart, which is education, and before I recognize all the distinguished guests, I do want to say that right after my visit here, I am going to meet with the family of Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher.

As you know, Steven is one of our 24 service men and women in China. I'm really looking forward to letting Steven's family know that we're in the process of bringing their son home. Steven grew up in Charlotte, and I know this entire Charlotte area and I know

this entire community joins in looking forward to welcoming him home.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to tell the Blochers how much America appreciates their son's patriotism and service to his country and how much we appreciate the service of our men and women in uniform throughout the world.

Situations such as this remind us how much our military personnel and their families sacrifice for our freedom. It also reminds me, it's such an honor to be the Commander in Chief of such wonderful people.

It's also an honor to be here in the great State of North Carolina. I've got a lot of friends here, and I'm grateful. It's also good to get out of Washington, DC, on a regular basis. It kind of reminds us that there is—it helps us stay in touch with reality. It's important to listen to people who are on the frontlines of making their communities a much better place. And there's no better place to listen and to say thanks than our schools all across America, where people are working their heart out to make a difference in the lives of our children. So first, I want to thank all the teachers who are here.

I don't know if you know this—and I'm sorry the First Lady is not with us; she's heading down to Texas for the Easter break; I'm following shortly thereafter, I want you to know. [*Laughter*] One of her missions, besides making sure every child can read, is to remind folks about how important it is and what an important profession teaching is, that teaching is a noble profession, and that for the youngsters who are looking for something to do after college: Become a teacher. Or, for those who have just gotten out of the military: Become a teacher.

We need good teachers in America. We need people to understand what an important job it is. So for those of you who are thinking about something to do when you get out of junior high, then high school, then college, give teaching a shot. It will not only change some child's life; it will change your life for the better, as well.

It's good to see Phil Kirk. Phil, thank you very much. I was honored to be escorted around the school by a man I proudly called "Mr. President," Graham Boone. I appreciate Senator Edwards being here. Senator,

it's good to see you, sir. I appreciate Congressman Hayes. I can assure you, on the ride in from the airport, he gave me a full briefing—[*laughter*—about every single aspect of this community. He pointed out every NASCAR garage, and every four-lane highway that needed to be expanded. [*Laughter*]

Congressmen Coble, Ballenger, and Taylor are also here. I want to thank you all for coming, and I appreciate your loyal support. I guess when the President shows up, all kinds of elected officials come, and I appreciate your coming. The mayors, the mayor of Charlotte and the mayor of Concord, I want to thank you both for being here, as well.

It's good to see Mike Ward again. I saw Mike just the other day. Thank you, Mike. And it's good to have members of the statehouse, the speaker and the leader of the Senate, on both sides of the aisle. It reminds me, seeing both Republicans and Democrats from the statehouse here, that when it comes to education, there really isn't—there isn't a need for partisan bickering. When it comes to the education of the children, it is right for people of both parties to come together and figure out how to get the job done. And that's what's happened here.

I know that's what's happened here in North Carolina. It also happened in the State of Texas when I was the Governor—that we said we'll have our time for political bickering, but when it comes to important issues like education, we'll set aside political bickering and focus on the children. And as a result of people from both parties being able to work together in our respective States, North Carolina and Texas have made great progress.

I know that some other States don't like to hear this, but at one point in time, the National Education Goals Panel analyzed which of the States in the United States were making the greatest gains on student achievement. And it turned out our States were, North Carolina and Texas. And I attribute that to the fact that people from both political parties were willing to work together—something Washington, DC, needs more of, by the way. We need less name-calling and finger-pointing and more focus on what's right for America. And a good place to start

is when it comes to the education of our children.

Now, there's another reason why our States did well. It's because we adopted a philosophy that makes sense. It starts with setting high expectations for every child. Ours are States that have said every child can learn. We're not one of these States that said, some of the children can learn; or, maybe a handful of the children can learn. We started with the philosophy that every child can learn, and that's the right attitude to take. And also a philosophy that said we're going to set high standards for every child—not high standards for suburbia, or high standards for inner city—high standards for every child is part of our political philosophy.

Oh, I know there are difficult circumstances. But that is not an excuse to lower standards. You see, if you lower standards, you get lower results. If you set the bar low, you're going to get results that are not satisfactory for having a tomorrow that we want for every child. So the first part of our common philosophy says, we're going to set high standards and high expectations and believe that every child can learn.

Secondly, our States believe in local control of schools. That's something the Federal Government needs to learn. It needs to learn to trust the people of North Carolina when it comes to running the schools of North Carolina. This idea of Washington making decisions on behalf of the people of North Carolina has got to end, in order to make sure that every child gets educated in America.

One of the things I look forward to working with the Congress on is to explain to those who don't quite understand that all knowledge doesn't exist in Washington; that in order to have excellence in our schools, we've got to trust local people. And I mean we need to pass power out of Washington, DC, to empower the Governors and local school boards to make the right decisions for the children in their respective States, because one size does not fit all when it comes to the education of the American children.

And finally, the cornerstone of reform for North Carolina and for Texas and for other States is the willingness of our States to

measure—is to say, accountability is an incredibly important part of educational excellence. Now, in your State of North Carolina, you measure three through eight. In my State of Texas, we do the same thing. And that’s exactly the cornerstone of reform necessary. Do you know why? Because if you do not measure, you do not know whether or not children are learning. And if you don’t know, it’s likely certain children will be moved just right through the system.

It’s so easy to quit on certain children. It’s so easy to quit on children whose parents may not speak English as a first language. It’s so easy to quit on a child; you take a look and say, “This child is too hard to educate, so we’ll just move him or her through.” That is unacceptable to me. I know it’s unacceptable to you, and it needs to be unacceptable to all Americans. Every child matters; every child can be educated; and we must quit this business of just simply giving up on children early, before it’s too late.

And the structural reform necessary to make sure that doesn’t happen is to measure, is to say—ask ourselves: Can a child read at grade level, say, by the third grade? And if we find out the answer is no, then do something about it early, before it’s too late. I strongly believe in accountability.

In the budget I submitted to the Congress—one which one body of the House listened to pretty carefully, and one body of the Congress listened to carefully, and the other decided, well, they’re going to listen to some of it, but they decided to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government—we put a lot of money in for public education.

The biggest increase of any Department was for public education. We increased the size of the reading initiative by threefold. Because I understand that reading is the gateway to knowledge—and that’s nothing new; all Members of Congress understand that—I did want there to be a priority in the budget for reading. They said, “If the States wants to access Federal money, you should be able to do so, but make sure you have K-through-2 diagnostic tools available so that we can have meaningful early childhood reading initiatives; make sure you understand that if the curriculum doesn’t work, that you’re bold

enough to change it, and therefore, access some of the money to train teachers on curriculum that do work; make sure that you have intensive reading academies so that no child gets left behind when it comes to reading.”

We’ve tripled the amount of money for States, if they so choose to use that, because—I know this is obvious, unfortunately sometimes—but it reflects reality, and it reflects some of the problems we have that if you can’t read, you can’t learn other subjects. And unfortunately, too many of our children can’t read. I’m a first-things-first person. Let’s get the reading right, and I’m confident the math and science will follow thereafter. I do know if they can’t read, it’s going to be hard to master science. So there’s the focus on reading. And I know your State will take advantage of the Federal monies if I can get it passed out of the Congress—I think we’re going to, by the way—to make sure every child learns to read in your great State.

Secondly, it’s one thing to teach a child to read and write, but in order to make sure education is full and complete, we also must teach our children right from wrong. We triple the amount of money in the budget for character education programs. We should not be afraid to teach children what’s right and what’s wrong. And we should not be afraid in our society to teach children the values which have stood the test of time: Don’t lie, cheat, and steal; honor thy parents; show respect; be responsible for the decisions you make in life. And I also believe that, along those lines, we ought not to be afraid to teach abstinence to our children. So I’ve increased abstinence funding in the budget, as well.

Now, we increase spending. Now, there’s some hollering we didn’t increase it enough and some saying too much, and of course, imagine the President thinks it’s just right. But it’s one thing to spend money, but it’s another thing to make sure the systems work, too.

As you know, particularly in your State, there’s more than just spending money to education. It is important to get it right. And that’s why I urge the Congress to hear the message of accountability and local control.

Part of the reform package that is being debated in the Senate and the House is to pass power out of Washington, is the best way to put it; is to make sure the Federal money that is spent, is not so tied up that local folks can't use it to meet their own specific needs; is to trust the local people. It's an inherent principle of good public policy in Washington: Always remember to trust the local people. Why? Because government closer to the people is that which is most responsive. The government which get far away from the people sometimes doesn't hear the real voice, doesn't respond, may get caught up in special interests or the folks that surround the Nation's Capital.

And so we've got to trust people. And so inherent in the plan is to say to the Congress, "Work with us to pass power out of Washington. And let's not be afraid to do so." And I think we're making good progress on that. I think many of the Members of the Congress and the Senate understand that principle.

And I'm asking Congress to say, "If you receive Federal money, you must develop an accountability system like North Carolina has done." In return for taxpayers' money, to me it makes sense to ask the question, what are the results? If you receive Title I money in the State around the country—in one of our States in our country, you've got to measure. You've got to show us. I don't believe there ought to be a national test. I strongly resist a national test. A national test would undermine the development of local curriculum, for example. A national test could really mean the National Government ends up running—begins to dictate policies for our schools, and that's not right.

But I think it's responsible and wise and appropriate to say that if you receive help from the Federal Government, you develop an accountability system. And you measure. And you disaggregate results; you don't lump people into groups so we don't know. Each child matters. You see, it is incredibly important for this country to change our mentality about education. Instead of asking the question, how old are you, we need to start asking the question, what do you know?

Instead of saying, "Oh, you're 10, and you go here; and you're 12, you go here; or you're 16, we'll just put you here"—it's time for this

country, all across the land, to start asking the question, what do you know? And if you don't know what you're supposed to know, we'll make sure you do early, before it's too late. That's what accountability will do for our country. It begins to change the mentality.

It recognizes you can't correct problems unless you know there is a problem. And so I hope the Members of the House and the Members of the Senate do not blink when it comes to insisting that local jurisdictions develop strong accountability systems. It's so important. It's so important if we want to make sure that no child gets left behind.

And by the way, in order for there to be accountability that works, there must be a consequence for success, and a consequence for failure. There is no such thing as an accountability system unless something happens with success and failure. I believe we ought to reward success, and I believe, after a reasonable period of time, if a school will not teach and it will not change, something else must happen. And we're having a big debate on what the something else is in the Nation's Capital. There's a big debate on that.

But one thing is for certain: I will not accept a plan that accepts failure, because our children are too important. One thing is for certain: People must be given different options if their children are in schools that simply won't adjust. It's time for us to have strong accountability measures and local control in our schools.

People talk about parental involvement. All of us are for parental involvement, of course. It will make the teachers' job so much easier when parents get involved. But there's nothing like parental involvement when we start posting scores on the Internet. There's nothing like parental involvement when we break down accountability on a child-per-child basis. There's nothing like getting a mother fired up when she sees the fact that her school may not be performing quite like she thought it was going to be. Accountability is not only good for the children; it's good for parents, as well.

And it turns out it's good for schools. It's good for schools. It's good to know. It's good to know whether a curriculum is working or

not. It's good to know whether the methodology that's being used within the classrooms makes sense. It's good to know.

And when we start to measure, we're going to start saying for certain, every child matters in America. And when we start to correct—when we start to correct, we're going to make certain that every child is educated, and our country is going to be better off for it.

There's a lot of things I want to do in Washington. As you know, I'm committed to making sure that once we meet our priorities, that our Government always remembers who funds the Government; that it's not the Federal Government's money; it's the people's money.

We're making progress. Oh, some folks are kicking and screaming, but we're making some progress toward remembering whose money it is. But we're making good progress on education, as well, and I'm grateful. I'm grateful when a President Bush can sit down with a Senator Kennedy and have a meaningful, real dialog on what's right for the country. I'm grateful for that.

One of my missions was to try to change the tone of Washington. You see, Washington is zero-sum game up there. There are people up there that say, "We can't support this because it means somebody wins and, therefore, somebody loses." It means that we're not focused on the right reason, the reason we're there as people. And we may have a disagreement, but we've got to get rid of the zero-sum politics that dominates the discourse in our Nation's Capital. We're there to serve.

And the best way to convince people to serve is to change the tone from one of suspicion to respect. And as you can imagine, Senator Kennedy and I don't get along on a lot of issues, but we get along—I respect him as a person. I respect his professionalism. And I respect the fact that he's willing to sit down and see if my office and me, we can't work out differences that may exist when it comes to educating children. It's a good step in the right direction.

I think the tone in Washington is beginning to change for the better. I know we're beginning to have a new culture of accomplishment take hold, that instead of everybody focusing on process and who's saying

what about who, that we're beginning to focus on results.

I want this country to be a results-oriented country, starting at the national level. We ought to be focusing on results—particularly when it comes to education of children. And if they're good, let's praise everybody. And if they're bad, let's praise them, but let's fix it. So we're making progress in the Nation's Capital.

And finally, I think I'm making pretty good progress—I hope I am—on convincing people that it's not only important to educate our children; it's important to welcome faith-based and community-based programs and to stay-after-school programs, so that children understand that somebody loves them and somebody cares. That is so important.

I think we're making pretty good progress on the so-called Faith-Based Initiative, that makes it clear that government is limited. I mean, government can't make people love one another. If it could, I'm sure that Senator Edwards would sponsor it, and I would sign it if we could figure out how to do that.

But the role of government is limited. Oh sure, we can fund and we can tax and maybe not tax so much. And of course, we can keep the peace. But what government cannot do is cause people to love one another. What government cannot do is to understand the great power of faith and concern and love. We can rally faith and concern and love; we can encourage programs based upon faith, concern, and love, and we must. But we can't make people love one another. That comes from institutions that rely upon a greater power; that comes from churches and synagogues and mosques. It comes from mentoring programs based upon the idea of some soul, some good, decent American saying, "What can I do to help make my society a better place?"

I love coming outside the Nation's Capital, because it gives me a chance to see Americans line the road, saluting the institution of the Presidency as I drive by. And it reminds me every time, every trip, that the strength of this country lies not in the halls of our Government; the strength of this country lies in the hearts and souls of the citizens of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

I think we're making progress. We understand where the power of this country lays. It lays in the hearts and souls of Americans. It lays in our pocketbooks. It lays in the willingness for people to work hard. But as importantly, it lays in the fact that we've got citizens from all walks of life, all political parties, that are willing to say, "I want to love my neighbor. I want to make somebody's life just a little bit better." And for those of you who are doing that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And thank you for your warm welcome, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to Austin Obasohan, principal, and Graham Boone, student council president, Concord Middle School; Phillip J. Kirk, Jr., chairman North Carolina State Board of Education; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; Mayor George W. Liles of Concord; Michael E. Ward, superintendent, North Carolina Public Schools; and Speaker of the House James B. Black and Senate President Pro Tempore Marc Basnight, North Carolina State Assembly. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Remarks in a Meeting With the Parents of Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher in Concord

April 11, 2001

The President. I'm so honored that the Blocher family came to say hello. Obviously, when we were going to visit, we were just going to visit in a quiet way, a private way. Now that their son, Steven, will be coming home soon, I thought it would be appropriate for us to visit, and then visit some with the press.

These good folks are patriots, as is their son. It's a patriotic family. We had other family members served our country. Steven was one of the 24. I know they're thrilled he's coming home. But I'm so appreciative of how this family and the other families were steadfast in their patriotism and loyalty. They raised a boy who loves his country, and we owe a debt of gratitude to not only the service

men and women but to their parents, as well. So that's why I wanted to see you.

Robert Blocher. This morning worked out even better than we had hoped. It's an honor to meet the President, but to meet the President under such happy circumstances was more than we could ask the Lord for in any way.

The President. It's my honor to have you all. Thanks. We're watching very carefully; progress is being made, and that's very good news for this group of folks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. at Concord Middle School. Petty Officer Third Class Blocher is one of 24 crewmembers of the U.S. Navy EP-3E Aries II electronic surveillance aircraft being held by the Government of China after the aircraft made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island due to a mid-air collision with a Chinese F-8 fighter jet over the South China Sea. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the Community in Greenville, North Carolina

April 11, 2001

The President. Thank you all. Thank you very much. Okay. Richard, thank you very much for your kind hospitality. I'm proud—I am proud to be an honorary member of the East Carolina baseball team. I am proud to be on this campus. I am proud to be in East Carolina, and I'm proud I've got so many friends in this great State.

It is such an honor to be here, and I want to thank you all for coming. I understand that some good folks spent the night last night here to be here. I promise not to speak so long so you will fall asleep. [Laughter] But I'm really thankful that you're here. I'm thankful to be out of Washington, DC, with the good, hard-working people of this part of our country.

Release of U.S. Navy Aircraft Crewmembers in China

I'm pleased to report that a commercial charter airplane is close to landing in Hainan Island.

Audience members. U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!

The President. The plane is expected to leave that island in a couple of hours, bound

for Guam and then for Hawaii. Earlier today I had the privilege and honor to meet fellow North Carolinians Bob and Sandra Blocher, the parents of one of the 24 crewmembers, Petty Officer Third Class Steven Blocher. They are, of course, as you can imagine, thrilled to know that the service men and women are returning home.

These have been difficult days for all the families. And these days are a reminder of the sacrifices all our men and women in uniform and their family make every single day for freedom. And so we're proud and thankful for the service of folks. We're proud and thankful for their parents, and we can't wait for them to get home.

Greenville, North Carolina

I am pleased to be here with the senior Senator from the great State of North Carolina.

Audience members. Jesse! Jesse! Jesse!

The President. He's a strong ally in the United States Senate.

Audience member. Big time!

The President. I am pleased to be here—quit quoting the Vice President. The man yelled, "big time." [Laughter]

I am pleased to be here with your Congressman, Walter Jones, as well as Congressmen from around your State: Howard Coble, Robin Hayes, Charles Taylor.

Let me tell you—now, you all may be aware that I laid out a budget recently. I like to call it the people's budget. Because it says, first and foremost, in Washington, we understand that we're not spending the Government's money; we are spending the people's money. And the five people I just introduced stood strong with the people of North Carolina when they voted for a responsible budget. I can't say that was the case for every member of the North Carolina delegation.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I just want to remind you as these votes keep coming down, when we get to choose between bigger government and the people, you're only one e-mail away of reminding reluctant Members of the Congress that your point of view matters.

And mark my words, having been up there for a period of time, I can assure you that

there is a struggle between whose money it is and where it ends up.

I want to describe to you the budget I laid out, just to put your mind at ease. We increase discretionary spending in the budget—that means programs other than entitlement programs—by 4 percent. Many of you work hard to get along, and you haven't had a 4 percent pay raise lately. Inflation is lower than 4 percent. So I thought it would be reasonable to ask the Federal Government to live on a 4 percent increase in the discretionary spending account. Four percent increase in discretionary spending increases Federal assistance to North Carolina education programs to more than \$947 million a year.

A 4 percent discretionary budget means that North Carolina's Head Start Programs will receive \$127 million a year. The budget provides \$78 million in funding for water resource projects along North Carolina rivers and waterways. It provides a 366 percent increase of Federal monies to help conserve North Carolina natural resources. It expands the number of community health centers all across the country.

A 4 percent increase doubles the Medicare budget, so that we fulfill the promise to the elderly. A 4 percent increase helps keep priorities to the military. We must pay our military folks more money. A 4 percent increase means we're going to spend 100 billion additional dollars next year. That's a lot of money. But for those who want to increase the size and scope of the Federal Government, it's not enough.

Now, I want you all to understand where the tradeoffs come when it comes to budgeting. The money either ends up in Federal programs or it ends up in the people's pocket. And my point of view I make in Washington, and that I want you to help me on is, we can meet priorities. We can fund education and good conservation programs. We can fulfill our commitment to the elderly. We can make Social Security is safe and secure today and around tomorrow for the younger folks. We can do all that by growing the discretionary account at 4 percent and still have meaningful tax reductions.

So when somebody tells you, when you hear the excuse, "Oh, we're not meeting our

needs,” you need to get them to look at the numbers; you need to get them to understand what a 4 percent growth means. You also ought to remind them that if they do what some in the Senate want done—which is to grow the budget 8 percent—we’re going to roar right through any projected surplus.

If we grow that budget 8 percent, we come from the school of thought that it’s going to serve as a huge drag on our economy. You see, there’s tradeoffs that have to be realized. The tradeoff—the fundamental tradeoff, though, is who do we trust? Who do we trust with the money? Do we trust the Government, or do we trust the people?

Audience members. The people!

The President. That’s what this debate is about. That’s what the fundamental debate is about.

Now, I can remember campaigning all across the States, like Carolina, and people kept saying during the course of the campaign, “Oh, he’s just talking, because there’s not going to be any tax relief; people don’t want tax relief.” I kept saying, “Well, you may be talking to different people I am.” Everywhere I went, once I can convince the people that we meet the basic needs of Government, people seem to understand that they’d want some of their money back. That’s what they seem to understand.

But the skeptics, they weren’t listening. The skeptics weren’t listening. But let me tell you where we are. Because of the hard work of the North Carolina congressional delegation, we passed \$1.6 trillion of tax relief. The Senate is at \$1.2 trillion of tax relief. Now, they are trying to reconcile the differences, but either way you cut it, tax relief is on the way.

And I want to remind you all, it has nothing to do about me. It’s everything to do about the people. That’s what this is all about. This is the people’s budget. It’s the people’s budget. The tax relief plan that I hope is finally adopted must incorporate these principles. One, anybody who pays taxes ought to get relief. Some of the good folks in Washington, DC, they support what they call targeted tax relief.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. That means some people are targeted in, and some people are targeted

out. The fairest way—the fairest way—the fairest way is to say that if you pay taxes, you get relief.

So I hope the plan that says everybody that pays taxes gets relief is what ends up on my desk. I think it will, with your help. I think it will. We need to drop—I want to tell you something about the current Tax Code to make sure you understand the facts.

First of all, if you’re struggling to get ahead in America, this Tax Code is unfair. It’s unfair to people at the bottom end of the economic ladder, because our code is structured this way. For example, if you’re a single mother in the State of North Carolina, trying to raise two children—first of all, you’ve got the toughest job in your State; it’s the hardest work in the State of North Carolina, and, by the way, for all you folks who go to East Carolina University, if you’re fortunate enough to become a dad, you love your children with all your heart and all your soul; the most important job you’ll ever have is to be a dad—if that lady is making \$22,000 a year, she’s living on the outskirts of poverty. Under the code we have today, for every additional dollar she makes or earns, she pays a higher marginal rate than someone who is Wall Street successful. And that’s not right, folks. That’s not what America is about, as far as we’re concerned.

Our code ought to say, the harder you work, the more money you have in your pocket. This is a Tax Code that ought to make it easier for people to realize their dreams, not harder. And so, therefore, we drop the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent and increase the child credit from \$500 to \$1,000 per child.

We need to make the code more fair. We also need to make the code more fair to small businesses. There are 488,000 small businesses in your State of North Carolina who will benefit from tax relief when you cut marginal rates. Because the truth is, by far, the vast majority of small businesses—who, by the way, create 75 percent of the new jobs in America—they don’t pay corporate income taxes; they pay personal income taxes, because they’re either sole proprietorships or Subchapter S corporations. That’s reality.

Reality is, small-business people pay personal income tax rates. And so, when we drop

the top rate from 39.6 percent to 33 percent, really what we're saying is, we want to encourage the growth of the small-business sector in America.

Oh, I've heard all the rhetoric about how only certain people benefit. But the Congress must understand the importance of small business in America, and the Congress must understand that by dropping that top rate, we stimulate growth in the private sector. The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish in America.

Ours is the Tax Code that penalizes marriage. And that's not fair, and that's not right. That's bad public policy. We ought to reward marriage and family in America. And the current Tax Code taxes people's assets twice. You see, we've got a system where folks work all their life, and they dream about passing their farm or their ranch or their small business on to a son or daughter. And yet, the Tax Code makes it difficult to do so. There are thousands of farmers and ranchers who worry about having to sell their farm or their ranch early because of the death tax. Folks, we need to get rid of the death tax in America.

You'll hear every excuse in the book about why we can't drop all rates or why the death tax, you know, can't be eliminated. But you know how I view those excuses? I view those as excuses to keep your money in Washington. That's what I view. I view those as excuses to expand the size of the Federal Government.

I'm here to tell you I've looked at the numbers. We've got enough money to meet priorities. But as important, we've got enough money to let you keep your own money, and we need to do so for two reasons. The first reason has to do with our economy. It's slowing down a little bit, and one way for us to give our economy a second wind is to give people their own money back so they can spend it in the private sector, is to cut the rate so small businesses have more cash flow to invest, is to understand that more money circulating in the private sector will create economic growth. And so tax relief is important for economic purposes.

Audience member. Retroactively?

The President. But there is—retroactively, too. It sounds like we've got an economist in the crowd—a right-thinking kind of economist. What the man is saying is, we need to get money in your pockets as quickly as possible, and we agree.

But there is a second reason why we need tax relief—a second reason why, and this comes to the heart of the debate. It has to do with people and who do we trust, and families. Today I'm proud to be joined by Larry and Kristi Bryan, right up there, and Jennifer and Jeffrey and Katie June. [Applause] Calm down. [Laughter] You didn't tell me you were going to bring your whole neighborhood.

Let me tell you why I asked them to come. Because, you know, oftentimes in the political arena, we're always talking about numbers and budgets and growth and all that business. But behind tax relief are real-life families. That's what this is all about. I hope that's the reason why everybody who decides to run for office does so to help families, to understand the importance of people in our society.

These good folks now pay \$3,570 in Federal income taxes. Under the plan that passed the House and the plan that I submitted, they would save \$1,830 when this tax relief is fully implemented.

Oh, I know for some of the sophisticates, they say that's nothing. But for this family, it's a lot. And the fundamental question that I want the Members of the Congress to address when we start dealing with the people's money is, who do we want to spend that extra \$1,830? That's what this debate is about, folks. Who should our Government trust? And I'm going to tell you as plainly as I can, I'd rather the Bryans be spending that money than the Federal Government.

Oh, I know some of the projects—remember, this is money after we've met basic needs. This is money after we've grown the 4 percent discretionary spending. There will be some high-falutin' words and great programs. But the fundamental question is, who should our Government trust? And we need to trust the people, because the people are the great strength of America—the people of this country.

It is the people of this country that make America great. I love getting outside of Washington and traveling to places like Greenville, South—North Carolina, because I'm able—

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. I caught you. [*Laughter*] I love coming to see the people—the people that line the roads, the people that are waving. That's what I love. Because it reminds me of how strong this country is. It reminds me that in Greenville, North Carolina, good people live.

And why is that important? I'll tell you why it's important. Because the great hope for the country comes when people turn to a neighbor and say, "What can I do to help," turns to a neighbor in need. That's the strength of America. Our great strength is not necessarily found in our halls of government; it's found in hallways and schools, where teachers dedicate themselves to teaching a child.

It is found in hallways of churches and synagogues, where folks hear the universal call to love a neighbor just like they would be loved themselves. No, the strength of this country—the strength of this country in the hearts and souls of our people. It's when a Boy Scout leader says to a young child—says to a young child, "You know, there's right decisions to make and wrong decisions, and I want to help you understand a right decision."

It happens when somebody—somebody takes time out of their life to mentor a child. I hope—I hope when you hear of a mentoring program right here in eastern North Carolina that you say, "I'd like to help." There are some children in our society who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And that's going to require a loving soul, putting their arm around that child and saying, "Somebody cares about you. Somebody wants you to know that there is love in our society."

The problem is, everybody expects the Federal Government to do it. But the Governments can't make people love one another. No, Government can hand out money, but we cannot put love in people's hearts, or hope in people's lives. That's done when loving citizens take time out of their lives to

help make their communities and their neighborhoods as strong as it possibly can be.

This debate in Washington, DC, on taxes is fundamental to the country. It not only talks about economic vitality, but it really speaks to—we ought to trust the people. We ought to trust the people with their own money, and we ought to trust the people of America to provide the compassion necessary to make sure this great land fulfills its promise for every citizen who is lucky enough to be an American citizen.

I'm honored that you let me come and share my hopes for our country with you. I call upon you that when Senators start to vote, for example, on budgets, you might remind them of whose money they're spending.

And I want to conclude by telling you what a huge honor it is to be the President of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:49 p.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium at East Carolina University. In his remarks, he referred to Richard Eakin, chancellor, East Carolina University.

Remarks on Parental Empowerment in Education

April 12, 2001

Thank you very much. Please, be seated.

Well, Reverend Flake, thank you very much. It's an honor to be with you again. This city really misses Floyd Flake. But Jamaica, Queens, is better off for him being there. [*Laughter*] He's a visionary. He understands a different kind of power than politics. And the community in which he is associated is better off, and I'm honored he's here, and I want to thank all the leaders who are here, as well. And I want to thank you all for coming.

I really appreciate the contributions toward educational excellence that the folks on this stage are making and that you all are making all across the country. It's an honor to have you at the White House.

I believe this—and I know we share the same principle—that no child, whatever their

parents' income or whatever their background, should be condemned to a failing school. Our public schools have put generations of the disadvantaged and generations of immigrants on the path to a better life. They are essential institutions. But too many are in trouble.

Just a week ago we learned that less than a third of the Nation's fourth grade students are proficient at reading. And there is a growing gap between the highest achieving readers and those who scored the lowest on the test. Students who score in the top 10 percent of the NAEP, the National Assessment of Educational Progress exams, scored slightly higher than in 1992, while those in the bottom 10 percent scored lower.

This is a serious problem that requires serious focus and a serious effort of change. We have spent \$125 billion of Title I money over 25 years, money spent on low income students. And if the truth be told, we have little to show for it. This is not just wasted money; more importantly, it is wasted potential and wasted hope.

America's schools are increasingly separate and unequal, and that is unacceptable in our great land. We must do more than tinker around the edges. We must all come together and fight for real reform and real change. Effective education reform requires both pressure from above and competition from below. We must challenge schools with higher standards and arm parents with better options. I'm asking that every State have a real accountability system, meaning that they test every child, every year, in grades three through eight, on the basics of reading and math. Without yearly testing, we don't know—we don't know who's falling behind and who needs help. Without yearly testing, too often we don't find failure until it is too late to fix.

One of the greatest benefits of testing is the information it gives to parents. Given that information, more parents will be involved, becoming participants, not spectators in the education of their children. Armed with that information, parents will have leverage to force reform.

Yes, we also need to empower parents by giving them more options and more influence. And my administration, with the help

of a lot of folks—some of them Republicans, a lot of them Democrats—[laughter]—are pushing toward that goal. I don't view this as a partisan issue. I view this as incredibly important public policy that rises above politics.

People on the Hill who will decide the shape of the Federal legislation must understand that supporting parents and giving them options is not a partisan issue; it's a people issue. And here's some ideas that I hope the Congress listens to. First, I'm an enthusiastic supporter of charter schools. Charter schools are beginning to change our understanding of public education, no question about it. These schools are public, because they're publicly funded and publicly accountable for results. The vision of parents and teachers and principals determines the rest. And the competition charter schools oftentimes provide can serve as an agent to strengthen other schools. You see, you hear a lot of talk about, well, we can't have charter schools or choice because some school is going to be left behind. That's got it backwards. [Laughter] Excellence in neighborhoods means excellence in another neighborhood. It means raising the bar.

Ours is an administration that wants the Congress to provide funding to assist charter schools with startup costs, facility costs, and other needs associated with high quality schools. My budget offers 150 million in additional funding next year for the priority of encouraging the growth of charter schools all around the country.

Secondly, the education proposal I submitted to Congress gives alternatives for students trapped in persistently dangerous schools. States must report to parents whether or not the schools are safe. And if safety does not improve, students must get the option of attending another public school.

Third, Congress is considering legislation that would allow Title I funding to follow children after a failing school has failed to improve after a reasonable period of time. If a child—if a school receives Title I funding and progress is not being made—in other words, the school refuses to change; the schoolchild is trapped in failure—then the money, the Federal money attributable to that child should follow the child. And the

parent should be able to make a choice of any kind of school that he or she wants to send her child to.

I vigorously campaigned on this idea because I think it is right. And it's an idea that I remain strongly committed to. I don't believe the Federal Government should fund persistent failure. I think there's a role for Federal Government in funding education, but we need to do better than we've done in the past. We need to encourage accountability. And when we find success, we need to thank the teachers and principals. When we find failure, we must give parents different options—different options.

We've also submitted a plan to increase education savings accounts, to expand them from \$500 to \$5,000 a year. And parents will be able to use these funds for any educated-related expense, from kindergarten to college and beyond.

The goal of these reforms is to ensure that every child in every school receives a quality education. That's the goal. And it's time we moved beyond the old arguments and old divides to make sure that we fulfill our duty that no child in America is left behind. It is time to set aside the old partisan bickering and finger-pointing and name-calling that comes from freeing parents to make different choices for their children. We can do better in America—we can do better.

I realize that all the differences between parties and people on different sides of the choice issue will not dissolve overnight. I understand that, and so do you. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't continue to fight for good ideas and herald a philosophy that is eminently fair and hopeful and optimistic for every single child, regardless of their neighborhood or their income status.

That's what this is all about. It's really about the promise of America, what America should be about. And that's providing hope and opportunity for every single citizen, regardless of where you're from. There are some encouraging signs; there are. Slowly but surely, people are beginning to understand the logic behind accountability, the understanding that we can't accept failure, the need to trust individuals to make right decisions for their children. Slowly but surely,

people are hearing that message. And I want to thank you for your help.

I have come to realize that ordinary folks can have a big influence on the process in Washington, DC, that ours is a responsive democracy, and that you're only one e-mail away—[laughter]—from telling somebody how you think. And it's helpful—it's helpful. We're doing the right thing. We're doing the right thing for our country.

I believe we can get positive results out of the Congress. I believe we can make progress toward reforming a system that is working in some places and not working in others. I know we can have quality education for every child. And when we do, this great land of ours—by the way, the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth—will be even greater. We'll be even greater.

Thank you for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to former Representative Rev. Floyd H. Flake, senior pastor, Cathedral of the Allen A.M.E. Church in Jamaica, New York. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10).

Remarks on Signing a Proclamation Commemorating the Birth of Thomas Jefferson

April 12, 2001

Good afternoon. Welcome. Welcome back, Thomas. [Laughter] Senator Warner and Senator Allen, it's good to see both. Congressman Goode, welcome. The first lady of the Commonwealth of Virginia, it's good to see you again. And I want to thank all the descendants of Thomas Jefferson who are here. I want to thank the Jefferson scholars who are here. I want to thank my fellow Americans who are here. Welcome to the White House.

As the White House's latest tenant, it is my pleasure to say, welcome back, Thomas Jefferson. Most people don't realize this, but Thomas Jefferson and I share a hobby: we

both like to make up words. [*Laughter*] According to the Oxford English Dictionary, Mr. Jefferson contributed more new words to the language than any other U.S. President. I especially like his term for barbaric pirates: *barbaresques*. [*Laughter*] I'm also impressed by his words: *debarrass* and *graffage*.

The other day I tried a new word for our press corps: *misunderestimate*. [*Laughter*] It's not quite in Jefferson's league, but I am giving it my best shot. [*Laughter*]

As you know, I've been trying to reduce taxes. Thomas Jefferson and I agree here, as well. He warned that government must expend the public money with the same care and economy we would practice with our own and impose on our own citizens no unnecessary burdens. That's something for all of us to think about, especially Members of the House and the Senate. [*Laughter*]

Jefferson can be quoted by the hour. He lived a long time ago, yet he still speaks directly to the present. Few former Presidents survive more vividly in our memories. And we feel his presence especially strongly in this place.

This is the room where Jefferson's Secretary, as Mr. Jefferson accurately pointed out, Meriwether Lewis, had his office in his bedroom, right here in this room. And it was here he embarked on his great expedition to the Pacific.

In this house, Jefferson famously wore his carpet slippers to receive the British King's Ambassador. In the Green Room, he delighted his guests with his insights into science and philosophy and law—any subject, except what Jefferson called the hated occupation of politics.

Jefferson holds the American imagination because he articulated the American creed. We declared our independence with his words that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights. Jefferson is the poet laureate of American freedom.

Our world echoes with Jefferson's ideals, even though Jefferson did not always act as if they were true. The same Thomas Jefferson who wrote the original ordinance banning slavery in the Northwest Territories lived on the labor of slaves. The same

Jefferson who denied racial equality spoke ringing words of equal rights. He doubted the existence of the Christian God, but he trembled for his country when he remembered that the God he doubted was just.

No wonder America sees itself in Thomas Jefferson. He was what we are: marked with faults, inspired by strong ideals. Thomas Jefferson still inspires us. He believed that education was the key to human potential. We must be committed to educating every single child in America.

His Louisiana Purchase threw open the opportunities of this vast country, and we must dedicate ourselves to extending opportunity wider and wider. Above all, Jefferson believed in liberty, in the ability of citizens to govern their own country and govern their own lives. We must always affirm this democratic faith.

Like many great men, Thomas Jefferson leaves behind a complex legacy. Tomorrow would have been his 258th birthday. On his 358th birthday, Americans will still be debating his achievements and his faults, his words and his deeds.

Perhaps the best verdict came from one of Jefferson's keenest admirers and sharpest critics, the first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln was invited in 1859 to come to Boston to speak at a Jefferson birthday event in that city. He was unable to attend and so he put his thoughts in a letter. At that time, Jefferson was a contentious name in American politics. His memory had been hijacked by slaveholders who distorted many of his deeds and most of his words. But Lincoln saw further and deeper.

When the view beyond the south window was swamp and the stump of the Washington Monument, when there were no cherry blossoms, no Jefferson Memorial, no Monticello on the nickel, and no Jefferson Building for the Library of Congress, Lincoln could still see the enduring meaning of Thomas Jefferson in American and world history. Here is what he wrote:

All honor to Jefferson, to the man who in the concrete pressure of a struggle for

national independence by a single people had the coolness, forecast, and capacity to introduce into a merely revolutionary document an abstract truth, applicable to all men and at all times. And so, to embalm it there, that today and in all coming days it shall be a rebuke and a stumbling block to the very harbingers of a reappearing tyranny and oppression.

Happy birthday, Mr. Jefferson.

And now I am honored to sign a proclamation celebrating Thomas Jefferson's birth and his continuing influence on our great land.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Roxane Gilmore, wife of Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia.

Proclamation 7426—Thomas Jefferson Day, 2001

April 12, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation's Founding Fathers overcame enormous obstacles to establish a system of government unequalled in history. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice, courage, and honor. But among these legendary patriots, Thomas Jefferson remains unique as the one who articulated the essential values and principles of American liberty and freedom. Today, we gather here to celebrate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson and to reflect on his enduring contributions to the United States and the world.

Few Americans have shaped our collective destiny as thoroughly and as originally as Thomas Jefferson. His achievements are breathtaking in their scope and diversity. Beyond his achievements in public life as Governor of Virginia, author of the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, Secretary of State, third President of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia, Jefferson was a scholar, author, naturalist, inventor, bibliophile, and architect.

As President, Jefferson supported the Lewis and Clark expedition and concluded

the \$15 million purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France. He sold his personal library to the Library of Congress to replace its collection destroyed by the British in the War of 1812.

Thomas Jefferson's crowning achievement, however, was the Declaration of Independence. As its primary author, Jefferson drafted an immortal document that altered the way the world viewed the relationship between government and the governed. Jefferson's assertion of "inalienable rights" including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" established the democratic standard by which our Nation would measure itself. Many other nations and peoples likewise strive to measure up to the standard set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson's words are as thrilling and inspiring in 2001 as they must have been to his revolutionary allies in 1776. Our Nation has changed, our technology has progressed, but our basic love for liberty and freedom remains the same. As proud Americans, we must work together to maintain the vigor and strength of Jefferson's vision and to fulfill its promise of a better life for all our citizens. Doing this is our responsibility, and our gift, to the man who laid the foundation for what became the freest nation in 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 laws of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim April 13, 2001, as Thomas Jefferson Day. I encourage all Americans to join in this celebration of Thomas Jefferson's achievements, and to learn more about his unique influence on our history, traditions, and values.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 16, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 17.

Remarks on the Return of United States Navy Aircraft Crewmembers From China

April 12, 2001

Good afternoon. A short time ago I had the opportunity to speak to the 24 members of our United States flightcrew and welcome them home to America.

I told them they represent the best of American patriotism and service to their country. They did their duty with honor and with great professionalism. They are a reminder of the debt of gratitude all Americans owe to the men and women who wear our country's uniform and who voluntarily risk their lives in the service of freedom.

We are proud of our crew. And I am glad that they will be with their families this Easter weekend.

I know I speak for all Americans in saluting their courage and the extraordinary skill of the pilot, Navy Lieutenant Osborn, who guided the severely damaged aircraft to an emergency landing that saved 24 lives.

We're looking forward to talking with the flightcrew about exactly how the accident happened. From all the evidence we have seen, the United States aircraft was operating in international airspace in full accordance with all laws, procedures, and regulations and did nothing to cause the accident.

The United States and China have agreed that representatives of our Governments will meet on April 18th to discuss the accident. I will ask our United States representative to ask the tough questions about China's recent practice of challenging United States aircraft operating legally in international airspace.

Reconnaissance flights are a part of a comprehensive national security strategy that helps maintain peace and stability in our world. During the last 11 days, the United States and China have confronted strong emotions, deeply held and often conflicting convictions, and profoundly different points of view. China's decision to prevent the return of our crew for 11 days is inconsistent with the kind of relationship we have both said we wish to have.

As we move forward, the United States and China will no doubt again face difficult

issues and fundamental disagreements. We disagree on important basic issues such as human rights and religious freedom. At times, we have different views about the path to a more stable and secure Asian-Pacific region.

We have different values, yet common interests in the world. We agree on the importance of trade, and we want to increase prosperity for our citizens. We want the citizens of both our countries to enjoy the benefits of peace in the world, so we need to work together on global security problems, such as preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

I will always stand squarely for American interests and American values. And those will no doubt sometimes cause disagreements with China. Yet, I will approach our differences in a spirit of respect.

The kind of incident we have just been through does not advance a constructive relationship between our two countries. Both the United States and China must make a determined choice to have a productive relationship that will contribute to a more secure, more prosperous, and more peaceful world.

I know I speak for all Americans when I say, welcome home to our flightcrew. I want to thank the families for your patience and for your sacrifice, and I wish all my fellow Americans a rich and meaningful Easter and Passover.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:15 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Shane Osborn, USN.

Statement on Federal Regulations on Privacy of Medical Records

April 12, 2001

Today I directed Secretary Thompson to allow a Federal rule that will protect the privacy of medical information for millions of Americans to become effective. For the first time, patients will have full access to their medical records and more control over how their personal information will be used and disclosed. The rule also provides a clear avenue of recourse for those Americans whose medical privacy has been compromised.

This rule will help address patients' growing concerns regarding medical privacy. Although impressive advances in medicine and information technology have helped make America's health care system the best in the world, our new technologies have at times made it more difficult to protect personal medical information. I believe that we must protect both vital health care services and the right of every American to have confidence that his or her personal medical records will remain private.

I recognize that legitimate concerns have been raised about the current rule, which I share, such as parents' concern that the rule limits their right to have access to their children's medical records. I have asked Secretary Thompson to recommend appropriate modifications to the rule to address these concerns and to ensure that patients receive the highest quality of health care. Improving our health care system while protecting the confidentiality of patient records will continue to be an important goal of my administration.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on Iraq's Compliance With United Nations Security Council Resolutions

April 12, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1), and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am reporting on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with various resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. The last report, consistent with Public Law 102-1, was transmitted on January 19, 2001.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Message on the Observance of Easter

April 13, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to all those observing Easter. On this day, Christians around the world join in celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and Son of Man.

For Christians everywhere, Easter is a day when, in the words of the ancient Exultet hymn, the earth "rejoices in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of its King." It is a time to be humbled by and grateful for God's sacrifice and boundless love and to rejoice in the sheer wonder of life and the promise of victory over death.

Easter comes at the end of the Lenten season, a period of penitence and solemnity in many Christian traditions. The Lenten season prepares Christ's followers for the joyous affirmation that "Christ is Risen!" Holy Week activities, including Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday, remind the faithful of the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Many traditions associated with Easter have become a part of our American way of life. Although these customs may differ, the universal message of Easter draws all Christian communities together. As families and friends gather to celebrate, we renew our commitment to follow the example of Jesus Christ in loving our neighbors and giving of ourselves for others. On this joyous day, let us also remember all those in need and those Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a wonderful Easter.

George W. Bush

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.

April 8

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President had a telephone conversation with Tiger Woods congratulating him on winning the Masters golf tournament.

April 9

In the afternoon, the President met separately with President Robert Kocharian of Armenia and President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan in the Oval Office.

The President announced the naming of Scott H. Evertz as Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Armendariz to be a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sarah V. Hart to be Director of the National Institute of Justice at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to nominate Shirin Raziuddin Tahir-Kheli to be the Representative of the United States of America on the Human Rights Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon H. Mansfield to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Amir Hamad bin Issa Al Khalifa of Bahrain for a working visit on May 7.

April 11

In the morning, the President traveled to Concord, NC, where he toured Concord Middle School. In the afternoon, the President traveled to Greenville, NC, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jon A. Hansen to be Administrator of the U.S. Fire Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard R. Nedelkoff to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

April 12

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Russell F. Freeman to be Ambassador to Belize.

The President announced his intention to nominate John N. Palmer to be Ambassador to Portugal.

The President announced his intention to nominate Daniel R. Coats to be Ambassador to Germany.

The White House announced that the President contacted Attorney General John Ashcroft concerning recent events in Cincinnati, OH.

April 13

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles A. Heimbold, Jr., to be Ambassador to Sweden.

The White House announced that the President invited President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia to the White House on May 2.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon at the White House on April 24.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**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 April 9

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Bahraini Amir To Visit Washington

Transcript of a press briefing by Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels on the Federal budget

Released April 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released April 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Chinese agreement to release U.S. Navy aircraft crewmembers

Text of a letter from U.S. Ambassador to China Joseph W. Prueher to Minister of Foreign Affairs Tang Jiaxuan of China

Released April 12

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's signing legislation designating Post Offices in Hawaii and Florida

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's contact with Attorney General Ashcroft concerning Cincinnati, OH, events

Transcript of remarks as prepared for delivery by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry

Released April 13

Statement by the Press Secretary: Lebanese Prime Minister To Visit Washington

Announcement: President and Mrs. Bush Release 2000 Tax Return

Announcement: Vice President and Mrs. Cheney Release 2000 Income Tax Return

Announcement by the Press Secretary on the visit of President Trajkovski of Macedonia

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved April 12

H.R. 132 / Public Law 107-6
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 620 Jacaranda Street in Lanai City, Hawaii, as the "Goro Hokama Post Office Building"

H.R. 395 / Public Law 107-7
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2305 Minton Road in West Melbourne, Florida, as the "Ronald W. Reagan Post Office of West Melbourne, Florida"