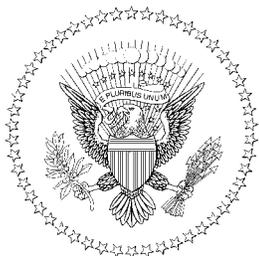


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on January 18, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, January 18, 2002

The President's Radio Address

January 12, 2002

Good morning. We have entered a busy season here in Washington. Soon, Congress will be back in session. I will go to the Capitol to report on the State of our Union, and I will present a budget that sets the priorities of our Government for fiscal year 2003.

Our highest priorities are clear to all. We must give our military every tool and weapon it needs to prevail in the war against terror. We must strengthen our country's defenses against further attack with a comprehensive program of homeland security. And we must get our country's economy growing and creating jobs once again.

The economy is a concern for all Americans, especially for those out of work. These Americans need extra help. My economic plan proposes an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits for workers who have lost their jobs and direct assistance to protect their health insurance.

My plan is based on the simple truth that people out of work need an unemployment check, but what they need even more is a steady paycheck. So I have joined with Republicans and Democrats in proposing concrete steps to create more jobs and help spur more growth in the economy. The House passed this plan; the Senate needs to act on it.

Difficult economic times brings hardship to many other Americans, as well, single moms or disadvantaged young people trying to get into the workforce. My budget seeks to help them, too, by adding resources to vital programs that have proven their value. One of our Government's most effective services is the Women, Infants, and Children program, which counsels mothers on nutrition and health care for their children. In my budget for the coming fiscal year, I will propose an increase of \$364 million for the WIC

program. This will be enough to serve nearly 8 million women and children each month.

Another vital program is the Job Corps, which provides employment training to more than 72,000 disadvantaged young Americans. In my budget, I will ask Congress for an additional \$73 million to expand the good work of the Job Corps. This will help to pay for new residential training centers. We will also secure high school accreditation for Job Corps training so that more young people can have the advantage of a high school diploma.

These are some of the elements of the budget I will be sending to Congress. My budget focuses on the pressing needs of our country and on the basic needs of our citizens. I am committed to building a strong economy that spreads its benefits to everyone. This goal reaches beyond politics or party, and I'm confident that Congress will join me in the work ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:20 p.m. on January 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Departure for East Moline, Illinois, and an Exchange With Reporters

January 14, 2002

President's Health

The President. My mother always said when you're eating pretzels, chew before you swallow. Listen to your mother. I feel great—looking forward to a good trip.

Q. What happened?

The President. I hit the deck and woke up, and there was Barney and Spot showing

a lot of concern. I didn't realize what happened until I looked in the mirror and my glasses cut my side of my face.

I feel great. I had good blood pressure last night, good blood pressure this morning.

Q. *[Inaudible]*.

The President. Yes, yes. Anyway, going to have a great trip. Good to see you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks to Employees of John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline, Illinois

January 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thank you all. I thought for a while, when they told me that I was going to receive a gift here, that old Chuck was going to bring a pretzel—*[laughter]*—those kind that are easy to chew. *[Laughter]* If my mother is listening, Mother, I should have listened to you. Always chew your pretzels before you swallow. *[Laughter]* When I work the ropelines, people bring their children, and I always turn to the child, especially the teenagers, and say, “Listen to your mother. It’s the best advice I can give you.” I obviously needed to do the same thing last night.

But I’m feeling great and so honored to be here. Thank you very much for letting me come to this fantastic plant. I’m impressed by the size of these monsters. *[Laughter]* It kind of makes me think I need a bigger ranch. *[Laughter]*

I’m also impressed by the quality of the work. It’s a great tribute to the men and women who work the floor here, which is a great tribute to the country, that we’ve got such good workers, such an entrepreneurial spirit. And part of my job is to make sure we preserve that spirit.

It’s also an honor to be here on the Mississippi River. The river really links our country together, and so I’m going to start here, and then I’m going to go down to Missouri to talk to some farmers. And then I’m going to go down to New Orleans, to the Port of New Orleans, from whence your product and the products you help harvest leave our country for foreign markets.

It’s my way of doing a couple of things: one, reminding America about how important the food and fiber system is to our economy; reminding America that those who grow food and those who help the farmers harvest that food are an incredibly important part to the future of our country. The food and fiber industry represents \$1.3 trillion of gross domestic product in the year 2000. It employed over 24 million people.

I’m also here not only to remind people about the importance of food and fiber but to remind people that we need to make sure we create jobs in this country. And I’ve got some ideas I want to share with you on how we do just that. There’s no better place to do this than on the mighty Mississippi River.

I appreciate members of my Cabinet traveling with me, Secretary Evans and Secretary Veneman, both of whom are doing a fine job representing all segments of our society. I want to thank Members of the United States Congress who are here: Senator Harkin from Iowa, Senator Fitzgerald from Illinois, thank you both for being here. I appreciate a Member of the United States House, Lane Evans, who represents this district. And they must have changed the immigration laws because they let two Congressmen from Iowa in here. *[Laughter]* Congressman Gansky and Congressman Leach, thank you both for coming.

I appreciate the mayor of East Moline and the mayor of Moline for greeting me here today. Thank you both for coming. I want to thank the officers of John Deere. I want to thank Bob Lane and John Gault. And I want to thank Chuck Thompson and all the hard-working folks here at this plant. Thank you for greeting me. It’s my honor to be here.

The role of Government is not to create wealth; the role of Government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, in which people can find work. And I want to share with you some of my thoughts about how best to do that.

The first condition to make sure that people can find work is to make sure our Nation is secure, secure against an enemy that wants to attack us. That starts with having a robust, active, strong homeland security for our country.

People say, "What does that mean?" Well, it means any time you get a hint that somebody wants to harm us, you do something about it. It means you share intelligence with people all across the world, so that we know if somebody is coming our way. It means we've changed the nature of our law enforcement, so that preventing an attack is the number one priority of the FBI and local law enforcement. It means we're going to have our ears up and our eyes open. It means we'll be alert. And it means if we catch anybody trying to harm America or thinking about harming America, we're going to bring them to justice.

Bob mentioned the confidence of the American consumer, and there's no question the attacks on America on 9/11 have affected our confidence. But the more the American citizen realizes that our Federal Government in combination with State Government and local authorities are working day-in and day-out to prevent any other kind of attack, confidence will return.

But I want to remind my fellow citizens this, that the best way to secure the homeland of America is to find the enemy where they think they can hide and bring them to justice, no matter where they are. It's amazing to me that we've got an enemy, on the one hand, that's willing to convince young males to commit suicide on behalf of a cause that's empty and, at the same time, try to escape the justice of America in caves. They can run; they think they can hide. But this patient, strong Nation will stay on the job until we find them, rout them out, and get them.

I'm proud of our military. And for those of you who have got sons and daughters or brothers and sisters or moms and dads wearing the uniform, you need to be proud, too. They're accomplishing the mission that we set out, a mission that is dangerous, a mission that is just. After all, we are fighting for the freedoms: the freedom to live the life the way you want to, the freedom to worship the way you want to, and the chance for our children and our grandchildren to grow up in a peaceful and safe society.

The enemy made a mistake: They thought this Nation was soft. They thought because

we're a wealthy nation that we wouldn't rise to the occasion. Oh my, are they wrong.

A second way to make sure we've got sustained economic growth is to make sure our public school system works well. Recently, last week, I had the honor of traveling the country touting the fact that I was able to sign a good education bill. I know I shocked people when I stood up and said, "Ted Kennedy is all right." [Laughter] Probably shocked him more than anybody else. [Laughter]

But we showed what can happen in Washington when you put party politics aside and focus on what's good for the country. And what's good for the country is to make sure our education system produces smart, intelligent, literate children. And this bill I signed goes a long way for helping. It's a great piece of legislation, and I want to thank both Republicans and Democrats for working with me to get an education bill that America can be proud of.

I believe the third condition necessary to make sure people can find work and those who have work can work harder is to make sure that we open up the world for American products. Fearful people want to build walls around America; confident people believe we ought to tear them down. I'm confident in the American worker. I know the American worker can outproduce anybody, anywhere in the world. I'm confident in the American farmer. I know the American farmer is more efficient and can raise more crop than anybody, anywhere in the world. I'm confident we need to open up markets, not close them down. I'm confident we've got to get my friend Putin to be buying John Deere products. I'm confident what this Nation needs is to level the playing field and have trade that will create jobs all across America.

The fourth ingredient is to make sure we've got an energy supply as we head into the future. I oftentimes talk about how important it is to have—to be able to grow your own food. Part of the national security of the country is to know that we're self-sufficient when it comes to food production, that we can grow our own food, we don't have to rely upon another nation to feed our people. It's one of the luxuries this Nation has. We don't have the same luxury when it comes

to energy. We are too reliant upon foreign sources of crude oil. We've got to do a better job of not only conserving energy, but it seems to make sense to me that when we've got energy on our own hemisphere and in our own States, we ought to explore for it, to make us less reliant.

It's in the national security interests of our country to have an energy policy. And we need to get Congress to act on a good one. It's one that will make us less reliant. It's one that encourages more conservation. And it's one that's good for American workers and American jobs.

And finally, in order to make sure we have jobs, in order to make sure the economy expands, we've got to have good economic policy out of Washington, DC. I know there's a difference of opinion on about what's good economic policy, but mine starts with saying this: When the economy slows down, one of the best things we can do is let people keep their own money so they can spend it. If the economy slows down, one of the best answers is tax relief. It trusts local people to spend the money the way they want to see fit. If you have more money in your pocket, you buy more things, which encourages more production. Consumer demand is stimulated by tax relief. And the great thing about our society is when consumers demand, generally somebody's there to produce, and so there's more jobs as more production takes place.

Now, there's going to be a debate when we go back to Washington about tax relief. But I've made up my mind: The tax relief plan we passed, which you're now beginning to feel the effects of, is going to be permanent.

There are some more things that we can do. We need to take care of the workers whose lives were affected as a result of the evil ones' attacks, by extending unemployment benefits and by helping with their health care. I'm confident we can find common ground in Washington, DC, and a way to help people. But you know something? Americans don't want an unemployment check; Americans want a permanent paycheck, and that's got to be the mission of any good stimulus package.

So we need to work together to figure out ways to create stimulus: deductibility for

more equipment purchased, speeding up tax relief. There are some positive things we can do, if we make up our minds to do it, that will give a little extra oomph to an economic recovery that I hope is beginning to happen.

So those are some of the thoughts I wanted to share with you as I travel down the Mississippi River: Good stimulus policy, good economic policy based on trusting people with their own money, good education policy, good trade policy, and a good policy to bring these terrorists to justice.

You know, I am amazed that anybody would think they could attack the country. They just didn't understand us. But I understand the great strength of our country, and it's the people—it's the people that live all across our land. I don't care whether you're Democrat or Republican or independent, it's the people that make us great. You know why? Because this Nation is a nation of heart and soul and strength.

I am so pleased to hear the stories of moms and dads sitting around their dinner table, asking the fundamental question about life, people assessing their values: What's the most important thing in life? And moms and dads are realizing it's to love your children with all your heart and all your soul. No, the evil ones struck us, and they did serious damage. But in so doing, they really lifted the spirit of the country in a unique way. They brought out the very best in America.

The best in America takes place when somebody walks across the street and says to a neighbor in need, "What can I do to help you?" Somebody knows there's somebody's shut in and says, "I think I'm going to go spread a little love today." The best of America takes place is in our churches and synagogues and mosques, when people walk out and listen to that call to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, and then do something about it.

All this takes place, by the way—these millions of acts of kindness on a daily basis, which helps define the soul and spirit of America—it takes place not because of Government; it takes place because of the people of the greatest land on the face of the Earth.

My call to you is: Work hard like you do; love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself; love your children; tell them you

love them every single day; make sure they turn off the TV so they become good readers. [Laughter] And always remember that we're lucky to live in such a fabulous nation, the nation called America.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:03 a.m. on the factory floor of John Deere Harvester Works. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Jose Moreno of East Moline; Mayor Stanley F. Leach of Moline, IL; Robert W. Lane, chairman and chief executive officer, Deere & Co.; John S. Gault, general manager, John Deere Harvester Works; Chuck Thompson, president, United Auto Workers Local 865; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks in Springfield, Missouri

January 14, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I appreciate it. Thanks for coming. I thought the Senator—I thought the Senator was going to offer me a pretzel. [Laughter] Not one of those ones that are hard to chew. Now, I see a lot of the students who are here. This gives me a chance to give you some good advice: Always listen to your mother. [Laughter] Mine used to say, "Never swallow your pretzel until you've chewed it." [Laughter] I guess I wasn't listening.

But it's great to be back here in the great State of Missouri and Springfield. I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce for hosting this event. It gives me a chance to share some of my thoughts with our fellow citizens as I work my way down the heartland of America. I started earlier in Moline, Illinois, at a factory that makes John Deere tractors. I am here to talk to farmers. I'm on my way down to New Orleans to remind people that much of what we grow and produce in America is shipped overseas, out of that port. I'm really here to remind people of the great values of our country, lived in your everyday lives.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I'm grateful for a fine United States Senator and a good friend of mine, Kit Bond, for being here. Thank you for coming, Kit. I appreciate my Secretary of Commerce as well as the Secretary of Agriculture for joining me on this trip. Thank you both for coming. I want

to thank Kenny Hulshof and Todd Akin, of the United States Congress, for being here today. I want to thank those two fine Members of the House of Representatives for coming. I see my good friend Jim Talent is here. I appreciate you coming, Jim; I'm looking forward to visiting with you on the way out to the next stop. I want to thank so very much Roseann Blunt for being here, the wife of your Congressman. The first lady of your fine State met me at the airport, and I want to thank Lori Holden for coming out to say hello.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for taking time out of your day to be here to greet me. It's been an unbelievable experience to be your President.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Thank you. I'm so proud to come and be able to share some thoughts about how to make sure America remains strong and to make sure people who are trying to find work are able to do so. You know, my view about this is that the role of Government is not to try to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risks, in which the entrepreneur is willing to expand through capital investment. The job of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to create jobs, so people who want work can find work. And that starts with making sure our Nation is safe, in order to make sure—in order to make sure that there's confidence in our economy and that the environment is good for job creation.

My biggest job is to prevent the enemy from hitting us again, and that's exactly what I'm going to do. We take homeland security very seriously in America now. I put a good man in place, Tom Ridge, to make sure that any time we get any hint that anybody would try to harm America again, we'll act, and we'll act strong. If we get any scintilla of evidence that somebody may try to harm America, we will bring them to justice.

I want to thank the law enforcement officers and officials who are on alert. And we've got to remain on alert. You see something unusual happening in your community, contact the local law enforcement. We're on the look. But the truth of the matter is, the best

way to protect America is find the enemy where they hide and get them.

I am so proud—I am so proud of those who wear our uniform. We have given them a big task, and they're performing brilliantly. For those of you who may have a son or a daughter in our military, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. For those of you who have a husband or wife in the military, or a mom or a dad, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart. Our military is doing us proud.

We have sent them on a difficult mission. It is getting more difficult as time progresses. After all, we've got our troops now looking in caves, looking in villages, scouring the countryside. When I first announced our mission, I told the American people it may take a while, that we must show discipline and resolve, and we must be steadfast in our purpose. And that's exactly what the American people—that's how the American people are reacting. And for that I'm grateful and so are our troops.

We had objectives that our troops have accomplished. One, we said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist," and the Taliban is paying a price. I hope you're as proud as I am of the pictures of joy as our troops have liberated the women of Afghanistan, the Taliban. We're not only fighting for freedom; we're liberating people from the clutches of oppression.

And now we're after Al Qaida. They think they can run; they think they can hide from the mighty United States. But we're patient; we're strong; we're resolved. We're going to stay on the hunt until we bring them to justice.

In order to make sure people can find work, we better make sure everybody in America is educated. I had an honor—I had the high honor of traveling our country last week with authors of a good education bill. It's one, by the way, that says every child can learn—every child can learn. We must teach children the basics. And in return for help, you must show us—just like you say here in Missouri—whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract. And if they cannot, let's correct problems early, before it's too late.

It also says, inherent in that bill, the people who care more about the children in this part of the world are the moms and dads and teachers who live in this part of the world. We believe in local control of schools.

I stood up in front of the American people there on this trip, and I said, "You all may not believe this—certainly the people in the Crawford, Texas, coffee shop may not believe it when I say it—but Ted Kennedy did a fine job on this bill." [Laughter] I never thought I would hear myself say that. [Laughter] Of course, he never thought I would say it. [Laughter] But I meant it—I meant it.

It goes to show what can happen when Republicans and Democrats set aside their political differences and focus on what's right for America. Let me tell you what we need in Washington: We need people to put party aside and say, "America is the most important thing in Washington, DC."

In order to make sure people can find work, this Nation better—better knock down trade barriers. See, one of the things we're good at, really good at, is growing food. We're the best in the world. And it makes sense that if we're good at growing food, that we ought to be trying to sell it not only at home but, when we have a little extra, overseas.

If you want to be—if you're good at something and the best at something, it makes sense to allow that product to be overseas. One of the things I'm fighting for and one of the things I think makes great sense is for this nation to be a free trade nation—not to be afraid to compete but let us compete. And when we can compete in a fair way, we can whip anybody when it comes to selling food.

The other thing we need to do is to make sure we have an energy policy. We're a blessed nation because we can grow our own food, and therefore, we're secure. A nation that can feed its people is a nation more secure. Now, if you're secure when you feed the Nation, it seems like one of the things we ought to try to be more secure about, as well, is having an energy policy that makes us less reliant on foreign sources of energy.

We can do a better job of conservation, and we will. We can do a better job of distribution, and we must. We can use some

innovative products to provide energy, like ethanol. But one of the things we've got to do is to explore for energy in our own lands in an environmentally sensitive way.

We had a trade bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. We've got an energy bill bottled up in the Senate. I hope they move it when we get back. It is in the Nation's interests that we move those two bills.

And finally, in order to make sure people can find work—and I'm worried about the fact that the evil ones hit us and it caused people to lose their job—in order to make sure they can find work, we've got to have good, sound economic policy coming out of Washington, DC. And that starts with understanding how jobs are created.

One way you can create jobs is to lower people's taxes. If people have more money to spend, it means somebody has got to produce more for them. And the producers then need to hire people. It's Economics 101. Except sometimes people in Washington haven't taken the course. [Laughter] We passed a meaningful tax cut, and now some of them want to take it away from you by delaying it.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Yes, I agree. The best way—the worst thing to do is, in the face of this recession, is to not let people have their tax break. It doesn't make any economic sense. And that's why we're not going to let them—that's why we're not going to let them repeal this tax cut.

And not only that, we can help workers who got laid off. We need to extend the unemployment benefits, and we need to help them with their health care. And we can do that, if we make our mind up to put people's lives ahead of partisan politics. But I'm going to remind the folks in Washington that what people don't want is an unemployment check; what they want is a permanent paycheck. And therefore we've got to put plans in place that stimulate our economy, that creates jobs, that says to employers, if you buy equipment, you get a little extra in order to help people find work.

No, we can do a better job in Washington, DC, of addressing this economic downturn. And I'm confident when the people's voice

rises up, the good folks up there elected to represent you all and everybody else will hear you loud and clear.

One of the things that the evil ones didn't figure out was how strong we are. Oh, they knew we had a nice military, but they didn't think we'd use it. They made a bad mistake. But what they also don't understand is the character of our Nation. They don't understand what I know, that the great strength of this country really isn't in our airplanes or guns; it's not in our stock market. Those are parts of our country that are strong, but the great strength is in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. This is a nation of a lot of character. It's a strong nation because we're strong people. It is a nation that is determined and patient, but it's also a nation that's compassionate and decent.

The evil ones hit us, and they caused a lot of loss of life and a lot of anguish, a lot of fright and a lot of fear. But they also caused folks all across our country to search their soul about life. They caused moms and dads to ask the fundamental question of what was the most important thing for them. The good news is about America, moms and dads all across America are now saying, "My most important job is to love my children with all my heart."

What the evil ones did is they reminded us that there are things important in life, such as loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. People ask me all the time, what can they do to help fight terror. And one thing you can do is walk across the street and tell a neighbor in need you love them. If you find somebody who's shut in, just spend a little time. If you want to fight evil, mentor a child who needs to learn how to read, support your teachers, get involved with public education. If you want to fight evil, make a contribution to a local charity, go to your church or synagogue and mosque, and figure out how you can help a community become a better place.

That's what's happening all across America. You know, folks, we're going to win the war, but we're also going to win because the goodness of America will overshadow the evil of those who take innocent life.

It is such honor to be moving around the country, to be with the good folks who make

the country strong. I want to thank you so very much for your hospitality; I want to thank you for your prayer. May God bless America. Thank you all. Thank you all very much, and God bless. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 1:15 p.m. in the BMP Hangar at the Springfield-Branson Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Jim Talent, candidate for U.S. Senate in Missouri; and Lori Hauser Holden, wife of Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri.

Remarks in Aurora, Missouri

January 14, 2002

Thank you all very much. So there I was, sitting in the residency at the White House—[laughter]—watching a football game, eating a pretzel. [Laughter] And the next thing I know is Barney, the Scottish terrier, is wondering what the heck happened. [Laughter]

I want you all to know that I learned a good lesson, and that is: I should have listened to my mother. [Laughter] She said, “Never try to swallow your pretzel until you chewed it.” [Laughter]

Thank you all for coming, and thank you for letting me come. If you see some of the folks who lined the road coming in, tell them thanks. Really, I wish we had a bigger hall so I could thank everybody in person, but there’s a lot of people from your communities that are out there to wave, and I’m really grateful. Thank the high school kids and the teachers for being out there, as well.

I’m working my way through the Midwest, through the heartland, because I want to send a couple of messages to the American people. One message is, food is really important for the economy of this country, that in the year 2000, \$1.3 trillion of the GDP came from food and fiber, 24 million Americans were employed as a result of work and food and fiber, that if we’re talking about the economic health of the country, we’ve got to always understand it begins with a healthy farm economy. And if we’re worried about creating jobs—which I am—then we’ve got to think—we use some common sense principles in order to expand the job base so people can find work.

I’m also glad to be in the heartland because it’s a place that understands values, the values of family and faith, of personal responsibility and hard work.

I started my day in Moline, Illinois, at the John Deere plant, where they’re making Harvesters, and then here, of course, in Aurora and Springfield, Missouri. And then I’m on my way to New Orleans, where they sell the product. It’s a good message for America, to understand how the farmer works in relationship to the equipment manufacturer, in relationship to the exporter.

I’m so happy that people in my administration understand the importance of the farmer to our country, starting with our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, and the Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans. Thank you both for being here.

I want to thank Senator Kit Bond for traveling with me today. He was giving me a good lesson on Missouri politics, as was Jim Talent, when we drove over. Thank you for coming, Jim. And I’m traveling with two members from the Missouri congressional delegation, Kenny Hulshof and Todd Akin. Thank you all for coming.

Now, my friend Roy Blunt isn’t here. He’s evidently on a mission somewhere else, but he sent his better half. And I want to thank very much—I want to thank sweet Roseann Blunt for coming, as well. Thank you for coming. I want to thank the Missouri Farmers Association. I want to thank the people who run this outfit. And I want to thank my fellow citizens for coming today.

One of the things I strongly believe is that the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risk, an environment in which people are willing to risk capital, an environment that heralds the entrepreneur and the small-business person. That’s the role of Government.

If the role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to take risk, one of the things Government must do is to work hard to create confidence in the people. And at this moment in history, the best thing I can do, along with my administration, in order to build the confidence of

the American people, is to prevent the evil ones from hitting us again.

The best way to make sure this economy recovers and people can find work is to have a homeland security system that runs down every hint that somebody might harm us, runs down every lead that we find. I want to assure you all that I spend a lot of time, as did my administration, on this top priority, that we're working with intelligence-gathering services from around the world to sniff out, to listen to, to find out who might be trying to harm us again, that we've got our law enforcement officers around our country—at the Federal, State, and local level—now understand that they must remain on alert, that there's still an enemy, and we've got to stop them. The FBI's primary mission is homeland security, and we're working closely with folks in your communities to make sure that if there's any hint that somebody may try to harm America, that we're going to act and act now and bring them to justice.

I'm proud of the efforts of many all around our country who are working endless hours to make America safe. But the best way to make America safe is to hunt the enemy down where he tries to hide and bring them to justice, and that's exactly what we're going to do.

I gave our military a mighty task, and they have responded. I want to thank those of you who have got relatives in the military, a brother or a sister, or a son or a daughter, or a mom or a dad. They have made me proud, and I hope they made you proud, as well.

We sent the military on a clear mission, and that is to bring the evil ones to justice. It's a mission, however, that I expanded to include this: that if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you provide aid and comfort for a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. That's why the Taliban is no longer ruling Afghanistan.

I think that one of the most joyous things for me is to see the faces of the Afghan women as they have been liberated from the oppression of the Taliban rule. Not only is our military destroying those who would harbor evil, destroying whatever military they had, destroying their defenses, but we're lib-

erators. We're freeing women and children from incredible oppression.

The humanitarian aid workers are home, as part of the conditions I laid down for the Taliban. The Taliban is in total rout. But we haven't completed our mission yet. And we're now at a very dangerous phase of the war in the first theater, and that is sending our boys and troops into the caves. You see, we're fighting an enemy that's willing to send others to death, suicide missions in the name of religion, and they, themselves, want to hide in caves.

But you know something? We're not going to tire. We're not going to be impatient. We're going to do whatever it takes to find them and bring them to justice. They think they can hide, but they're not going to hide from the mighty reach of the United States and the coalition we have put together.

I see members of the FFA here. I want you to know that the cause that our military now wages is a just cause, it's an important cause, that I long for peace. But I also understand that this Nation must lead the war against terror if you and your children and your grandchildren are going to grow up and understand the freedoms that we so enjoy in America, that if you and your children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and hopeful world, now is the time for this country to lead, and lead we will.

I'm worried that the attacks on 9/11 have affected the ability for people to find work, and we're going to do something about it. Not only are we going to make the homeland secure, but we've done some things in Washington that actually make sense. *[Laughter]* And one of them is to pass a good education bill that makes public education a priority, that sets high standards, that calls people into account if there's failure, and that trusts the local people to run their own schools.

I had the privilege of traveling the country last week with two Republicans and two Democrats, the sponsors of the bills. One of the Democrats happened to be Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. Never did I dream—*[laughter]*—that I would say good things about him. *[Laughter]* Never did he dream that I would say good things about him. *[Laughter]* But I can, because he joined

together with an administration to come out with a bill that's a good bill.

It goes to show—this bill shows what can happen in Washington when we're willing to put our political parties behind and focus on what's best for the United States of America.

I'm going down to New Orleans tomorrow. I like to go there. It's a nice place to eat, and I'm going to be—[*laughter*]. I've got a lot of friends in Louisiana; it's right next to the State where I used to be Governor. But I'm also going to remind people of the importance of trade, trade not only for the agricultural sector of our country but trade in general. And let me tell you my view.

If you're good at something, you ought to try to encourage it to become a bigger part of your world. And if you're good at growing crop, we ought not to diminish the ability to grow crops in America; we ought to encourage. And the way to do that is to find other places to sell crops. If you're the best in the world at what you do—which we are in farming—then it seems like, to me, we ought to encourage that product to be sold not only here in America but level the playing field so it can be sold all across the world.

I know there's a lot of farmers around who say, "You know, we've heard that before. Every trade agreement trades out the farmer. Here comes old Bush from Texas, and he says he's for the farmer. Yet, you watch. They'll worry more about other products, and when it comes time to argue for the agricultural sector, they'll just leave us out."

But that's not the way it's going to be, folks, because I understand how important agriculture is, not only for America, but how important it is for international trade for our country. Not only domestically but internationally, agriculture is important.

And I'd just ask you to look at the record. In China, I argued that China ought to be in the WTO because it's good for the American agriculture. Look at the agreement. We've opened up the Chinese markets to U.S. farmers. It's good for China, and more importantly, it's good for the U.S. farmers to have that market available. We've got to trade. It's in our Nation's interest to trade, and it's a sure way to help create jobs.

We've also got to have an energy policy if we're going to grow for the long term. One

of the great things about America is, is that we're self-sufficient in food. It's a national security interest to be self-sufficient in food. It's a luxury that you've always taken for granted here in this country, but imagine if we have to rely upon somebody else to provide us food. It would be a problem. The good news is, we can not only grow food for ourselves; we can grow food for others.

That's not the way it is in energy. We're too reliant upon foreign sources of energy. We're too reliant upon parts of the world that may like us, may not like us, for our sources of energy. It seems like, to me, that we ought to work hard to become more self-sufficient, less reliant, by having an energy plan that encourages conservation—encourages the use of ethanol, for example—value-added processing, and also explores for energy in our own hemisphere and in our own States, in an environmentally friendly way.

Finally an administration has come along and said, "Let's have a national energy plan." And that's exactly what passed out of the House, and hopefully, we can get it out of the Senate, just like the trade bill that came out of the House. Hopefully, we can get it out of the Senate. Hopefully, when they come back, they listen to the American people and put plans in place that will help our economy grow so that people can find work.

Finally, I want to talk to you about economic policy out of Washington. It seems like, to me, that the question we ought to be asking in Washington is, what does it take to help people create jobs? What's it take? I started with this part: I said that if you give people their own money back, if you let them keep more of their hard-earned dollars, that's good for the economy. If a consumer has got more money, he or she spends it on a product, causing the person who manufactures the product to keep jobs in place and/or increase jobs.

And so we worked together and passed meaningful, real tax relief. It came at exactly the right time. The economy started to show signs of slowing down in March of 2001. A way to stimulate growth during recession is to give people—let them keep their own money. That's Economics 101; except, it sounds like some of them hadn't taken the course in Washington. [*Laughter*]

There's now some talk that maybe we should raise taxes in a recession. That would be a disaster for the American economy, and we're not going to let it happen. And one of the best parts of that bill, that tax bill, was phasing out the death tax so the American farmer can pass his assets from one generation to the next.

And there are some things we ought to do in Washington to help. We ought to help people who lost their job on 9/11, whose industries were affected as the result of that attack. That means extending unemployment benefits. That means helping people with health care. But here's the way I think about it: People really don't want an unemployment check; they want a permanent paycheck. And therefore, we ought to figure out ways to expand the job base of America.

Every question ought to be, how do we grow our economy in a smart way? Therefore, I'm more than willing to work with the Democrats and Republicans to help the unemployed, but I ask them to think long term for America. Accelerating depreciation makes sense for people who buy equipment. It makes sense to speed up the tax relief. It makes sense to help low-income taxpayers with money in their pocket to enhance demand.

Oh, there's some smart things we can do to stimulate this economy, and there's some smart things we will do to make sure that we've got a good farm bill. I look forward to working with both political parties to come up with a farm bill that meets the following principles: One, it will be generous and affordable. There will be ample money in there to meet the needs, and it's money that will fit into our budget. Secondly, a farm bill must provide a safety net for the American farmer without encouraging overproduction and thereby depressing prices. Thirdly, the farm bill must support our strong commitment to trade. Fifthly, it must offer incentives for good conservation practices on working lands. And finally, establish farm savings accounts to help farmers manage risks.

These are sound principles which will enable the American farmer to plan, to think ahead, to be able to survive in a down time, and thrive when the markets get good. I look forward to working to get a good farm bill,

and I look forward to working with you to get a good farm bill.

Here are some practical steps to make sure that our economy recovers: good education—that will help in the long run, for certain—good tax policy; a good stimulus package; a good farm bill; good trade policy; and most importantly, homeland security that keeps Americans safe.

You know, when the enemy hit us, I was amazed to read that they really thought we were soft. They kind of didn't understand America very well. They might have been watching too much TV or something. [Laughter] I don't know what it was, but they thought, "Well, we'll hit them, and then America will fold their tent." We may launch a cruise missile or two, but that will be it. Man, did they make a big mistake.

They don't understand how much we love freedom and that we're willing to fight for it. They didn't understand people—they must not have understood people being on a commercial airline, figuring—realizing what was happening, then saying a prayer and bringing the plane down to save others' lives. They didn't understand sacrifice. But what they really don't understand is the character of the American people. They don't realize that this Nation is a nation full of people who are determined and strong but compassionate and loving.

A lot of times people ask me, "What can I do in the war against terror?" Well, obviously, if you see something unusual, report it. Treat people with respect. Value all religions—religions. But there are some other things you can do. Fight evil with good. We can fight terror using our military, and we're going to, of course. But we can fight terror and evil with acts of kindness, with millions of acts of kindness, all across the country. The best thing about America is the fact that that happens on a daily basis. There are people who walk across the street to a neighbor in need and say, "Can I help you? What can I do to help?" They find somebody who is shut in and say, "I'd like to just love you for a second." It happens when Sunday schools or synagogues or mosques empty out, and they look for somebody to help. It happens when people raise money for a local charity. It happens when somebody says, "I want to

be a Boy Scout leader, to teach a child good values." It happens when somebody mentors a child and teaches them how to read.

The war on terror is a war we will fight on many fronts. It is a war we're going to win on many fronts. It's a war we'll win at home because this is a compassionate nation, full of decent and loving and caring people. And it is such an honor to be the President of the greatest Nation on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for having me. God bless. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the warehouse at the MFA Feed Mill. In his remarks, he referred to Roseann Blunt, wife of Representative Roy Blunt of Missouri.

Remarks in New Orleans, Louisiana January 15, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. It's great to be back in what they call the Big Easy. As you might remember, I grew up in Texas and spent some quality time here in New Orleans. I forgot how good the food is. I'm going to have to spend about a week working off that baked Alaska that I had at Antoine's. [*Laughter*]

I didn't have any pretzels last night for dinner. [*Laughter*] I learned my lesson: Always listen to your mother, who told me, "Chew your pretzels before you swallow." [*Laughter*]

But thank you all for coming. It is a beautiful day in a great city and an important part of our economy, and that is the Port of New Orleans. I want to thank Gary LaGrange, who is the executive director of this facility. I want to thank the Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, who is traveling with me. I want to thank the chairman of the Port of New Orleans Board of Commissioners. I want to thank Dave Wagner. I want to thank Jim Campbell, who is the president of the International Longshoremen's Association Number 3000. I want to thank all the hardworking longshoremen who are here to help make America grow.

I want to thank my friend the Governor of the great State of Louisiana. What a piece of work that guy is. That's why they love you,

Mike. [*Laughter*] He knows how to tell the truth; he speaks plainly, and he's doing a heck of a good job for the people of Louisiana.

I want to thank Congressman David Vitter, who's here today. I want to thank Congressman John Cooksey, who is with us, as well. Thank you both for coming.

And I want to thank you all for coming out to say hello. It's a great way to end my trip throughout America's heartland. I started yesterday in Moline, Illinois, at a factory that makes harvesting equipment for John Deere. I told them I was coming down to New Orleans, and I said, "I'm going to come to the place where much of the equipment you manufacture is shipped out when you sell overseas."

And then I went to see some farmers in Missouri. And I told them that I was coming down to New Orleans in Louisiana, which ships out a lot of the product that they grow. The reason I'm here is because I want America to understand how our economy works. We're worried about jobs in our country. We want everybody who wants to find work to be able to have work; everybody who wants a job should be able to provide for their family. I'm worried about the loss of jobs.

Our economy is interconnected. What happens in Moline, Illinois, and in Missouri affects the people who work here in New Orleans, in the port. And therefore, good public policy recognizes that. And good public policy asks the questions, how do we make sure that what affects one affects the other in a positive way? How do we make sure people can find jobs as we head into the year 2000?

The best way to make sure that our economy recovers from the attack—I think one of the most important things I can do is to make sure that they don't hit us again. We suffered a lot on September the 11th, and one of the things that we suffered was the lack of confidence in the future. But as every day goes by, the American people are getting more and more confident in our ability to protect ourselves and the ability for our Government to respond in a positive way to make sure that families are safe in America.

I fully understand the enemy still lurks out there, and the enemy still would like to hit

us. But America has changed since September the 11th. We're now more alert. We've got a Coast Guard that's now actively patrolling our coasts, trying to make sure nobody comes in to hurt us. We've got an FBI—major function now is to prevent further attack. We've got better intelligence-sharing around the world to make sure that we find people before they come to our country. We're on full alert. I'm so proud of the law enforcement officials all across America who are working endlessly—who are working endlessly to make sure that we're safe.

This is a strong country. It's an alert country, and it's a patient country when it comes to achieving the ultimate objective, which is keeping America safe by finding terrorists where they live and bringing them to justice. And that's exactly what's happening in the first theater in the war against terror. I have unleashed a mighty military, and the mighty military of America is making us proud.

For those of you who wear our uniform, I want to thank you. For those of you who have got families—family members of those who wear the uniform, I hope you're as proud of them as I am.

We set a clear objective—several clear objectives. One of them was is that if you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're guilty. That's the doctrine. The objective was to make sure that the Taliban no longer harbored Al Qaida. The Taliban no longer rules in Afghanistan. We met that objective, and in so doing, we liberated a group of people that had been terrorized—we liberated women and children. I'm so proud of the United States military.

It brings me such joy—such joy—to know that not only are we pursuing the objective—and that is to bring the murderers to justice—but this great Nation is liberating people and feeding people. We're not only a tough nation, but we're a compassionate nation. And the world has seen the greatness of America as we pursue our objective.

And we're making some progress against Al Qaida. We're hunting them down, one man at a time. I just want to tell you that I'm patient, and our military is patient; that I don't care how long it takes. I don't care where they hide; we're after them. And we're

after them and will remain after them until they're brought to justice.

Oh, I know there are some who are saying, "Gosh, I wish this ended yesterday." But that's not how this is going to work. You see, we've got people who send youngsters to suicide missions, and they, themselves, hide in caves. Those are the kind of people we're dealing with, but there's not going to be enough caves in the world to hide them.

Some may tire—some in our coalition may get tired of this effort, or some in our country may tire. But I can assure you, I'm not, because I view this as a moment—a defining moment in history, a moment when we must defend freedom, a moment when we must defend civilization, itself, a moment when this great Nation—in which this great Nation must lead the world—must lead the world—to make sure our children and grandchildren can grow up in a peaceful and secure society.

In order to make sure people can find work, we better make sure we educate the people of our country. I had the real privilege last week of traveling the country, touting a good education bill, a bill that is going to make sure every child gets educated and no children get left behind.

One of the things that I really, really appreciate about Governor Foster is that he understands that we better hold people accountable in education. Otherwise, some are going to get left behind. I'm real proud of the education reforms that Mike Foster has put in place.

I believe strongly, every child in America can learn. I believe that, and I believe our public school systems can teach every child in America how to read and write and add and subtract. And I took that message up to Washington and worked with both Republicans and Democrats to get a good bill out that sets high standards, that says, "If you take money, you need to show us whether or not children can read and write and add and subtract," a good bill that focuses on making sure every child is literate, a bill that helps teachers teach reading using a curriculum that works, and a bill that says the good folks of Louisiana can run their schools better than bureaucrats in Washington, DC.

And one of my traveling mates was Ted Kennedy, the Senator from Massachusetts.

I've said good things about him. [*Laughter*] He nearly fell out. [*Laughter*] So did the boys at the Crawford coffee shop. [*Laughter*] But I said it because he worked hard to get a good bill; he worked with a Republican administration to get a good piece of education reform. We showed what can happen in Washington when you put your political parties aside and focus on what's best for the United States of America.

And that's what's got to happen on this issue of trade. One of the reasons I'm traveling down the spine of America and on the mighty Mississippi is because I want to remind our fellow citizens how important trade is. It's important to these workers that we trade. The people who are loading these ships load them because we're trading around the world. The farmers who are selling product can sell more if we trade. And if the farmers sell more of their product, we can sell more of the machines made in Moline, Illinois, so the good folks up there, the UAW workers, can work.

I'm worried about jobs. And I believe if you trade more, there are more jobs available for hardworking Americans. There are some who play politics with the trade issue; they want to shut down trade. I like to remind people, those who shut down trade aren't confident. They're not confident in the American worker; they're not confident in the American entrepreneur; they're not confident in American products.

I'm just the opposite. I know we got the best workers in the world; I know we can make the best products in the world. And therefore, we ought to have free and fair trade around the world. I'm not the only one that feels that way. Some of the longshoremen that I met coming in said, "We need trade so I can keep working." I got a nice letter from your mayor. He said, you know, he's sorry he couldn't see me because he's on a trade mission to Mexico City, "however, I want you to know that I fully support your efforts to pass legislation giving your administration fast-track authority to negotiate trade agreements."

This isn't a Republican issue; this isn't a Democrat issue. Trade is a jobs issue. And the United States Senate needs to hear the

voices of the working people and get me a bill I can sign.

And you know what else the United States Senate needs to do? They need to pass an energy bill. One of the great things about our agriculture sector is, we grow enough food to feed America. And therefore, we're secure when it comes to food. Gosh, I would hate to be the President of a country that has to import a lot of food. It would mean you're beholden to somebody else's farmers to feed your people.

We grow a lot of food. We can feed our people. We grow enough that we can put it on the ships here and send it around the world, and we ought to be feeding the world, as well. But that's not the case for energy. We receive a lot of our energy, over 50 percent of it, from other parts of the world. Sometimes they like us; sometimes they don't. [*Laughter*] And it's those times when they don't like us that makes me nervous as the President of the country. [*Laughter*] It's in our national interest to have a national energy plan. It's in Louisiana's interest to have a national energy plan. It's in America's interest to have a national energy plan.

A national energy plan will help us conserve more and produce more. It will make us less reliant upon foreign sources of energy, and it will help us create more jobs. The people of Louisiana understand that energy equals jobs. So do a lot of other people in America. This bill is bottled up in the United States Senate. It's about time they focused on creating jobs in America and get me a trade bill and an energy bill for the good of the American people.

The good news is, I think we got a United States Senator—I know we've got one from Louisiana who understands that; John Breaux understands. He understands jobs, and I appreciated him supporting me on the tax cut.

And that's another good piece of legislation that passed out of Washington, and it came just at the right time—just at the right time. You see, our economy started slowing down significantly in March of 2001. And when the economy begins to slow down, one of the best remedies is to let people keep more of their own money, is to take less of the money from the working people.

When a longshoreman is able to keep more of his own money, his family has more money to spend. And as they spend that money, somebody, obviously, has to produce the product for them to buy. And as they produce the product, it creates jobs. And in order to stimulate the economy, one of the good ways to do so is to have tax relief. We passed meaningful, real tax relief that says, finally, our Government trusts people with more of their own money so that people can make the right decisions for their families.

You know, there are some in Washington, however, who seem to be indicating that in order to come out of a recession, you should raise taxes.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. I don't know what economic textbook they've been reading—[laughter]—but it's not the one that most Americans have read. They understand tax relief is the best way to encourage an economic recovery in America.

Now, we can help and should help those workers who lost their jobs as a result of the September the 11th attacks. We should work together to extend unemployment—insurance employment benefits. We ought to help pay for health care for workers that have been laid off; that's something we ought to do. But most Americans don't want an unemployment check. They want a paycheck, and we ought to figure out ways to increase jobs.

An energy plan will help create jobs; a trade bill will create jobs. And we need a stimulus plan that says, "Let's be smart. Let's encourage entrepreneurs and people who buy equipment, and let's accelerate the tax relief so that this economy will grow, so that people who want to work can find work." There is no reason why we can't work together to get a good bill done for the American people.

I like my job a lot. It's a huge honor to live in the White House, and I want to report that Laura is doing a fabulous job. What a great, great First Lady. She's happy, and that's really important. [Laughter] And it's an honor to represent you in Washington, but I really enjoy traveling our country, as well. I like to get out. I like to move around, because it is—one, it reminds me of the true strength of America. And the true strength

of our country is not in our Capital. We've got a great system; no question about it. We've got a fantastic Constitution. But the true strength of America really are the American people—is the American people. That's the true strength. The true strength is the American citizens, people of good heart.

The enemy didn't understand our country. You know, they thought we were so materialistic that we were soft. They thought we cared more about ourselves than we cared about something greater than ourselves. But they were wrong. They didn't understand the character of America. They don't know how tough we can be—they didn't realize how tough we could be if we decided to be tough. They thought we would be impatient, and they're wrong. They thought we'd get tired early. They don't understand us.

A lot of people say, "Well, what can I do to help fight the war on terror?" Well, one, be alert. If you see something happening that's unusual, report to the local law enforcement. Let them know. But the other thing is, is that in order to fight evil, I think one way you do it is to fight it with good—acts of kindness and decency. In order to fight the evil ones and not let their way of life stand, one thing Americans can do is to love a neighbor.

I want to not only unleash our military and the might of our military; I also want to help unleash the compassion of the American people. A soldier in the war on terror is somebody who mentors a child or somebody who walks across the street to a shut-in neighbor and says, "How can I brighten your day? What can I do to love you?" A soldier in the war on terror is a mom or a dad who surrounds—who hugs their children on a daily basis and says to a child, "I love you more than anything in life." Somebody who wants to fight evil with goodness is somebody who wants to get involved in their school system and praises the teacher or helps the education, somebody who goes to a church or a synagogue or mosques and says, "What can we—how can we form a faith-based program to help change people's lives by changing their hearts?"

The enemy has awakened a mighty nation. They made us angry, but they've also made us hopeful because we fully understand the

true strength of our country lies in the hearts and souls of a wonderful, fantastic group of people.

It is my honor to be your President. It's my honor to be here in New Orleans. May God bless you all, and may God bless America. Thank you very much. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:23 a.m. on the Nashville Avenue Wharf at the Port of New Orleans. In his remarks, he referred to Gary P. LaGrange, executive director, and Dave A. Wagner, chief operating officer, Port of New Orleans; Francis E. "Hank" Lauricella, chairman, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans; Gov. M.J. "Mike" Foster of Louisiana; and Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 7517—Religious Freedom Day, 2002

January 15, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Republic, a core principle of our Constitution, and a fundamental human right. Many of those who first settled in America, such as Pilgrims, came for the freedom of worship and belief that this new land promised. And when the British Colonies became the United States, our Founders constitutionally limited our Federal Government's capacity to interfere with religious belief by prohibiting the Congress from passing any law "respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." These constitutional limits have allowed the flourishing of faith across our country, which greatly blesses our land.

George Washington forcefully expressed our collective constitutional promise to protect the rights of people of all faiths, in a historic letter he wrote to the Jewish community at Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island: "the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens" Today, our cities are home to synagogues,

churches, temples, mosques, and other houses of worship that peacefully welcome Americans of every belief. Preserving religious freedom has helped America avoid the wars of religion that have plagued so many cultures throughout history, with deadly consequences.

Today, as America wages war against terror, our resolve to defend religious freedom remains as strong as ever. Many miles from home, American service men and women have risked their lives in our efforts to drive the Taliban regime from power, ending an era of brutal oppression, including religious oppression. At home, Americans demonstrated the vitality of our religious freedom in the enormous outreach by faith communities to help those harmed by the terrorist attacks. In quiet prayers offered to God in churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques and in the helping hands of faith-based groups, Americans have shown a deep love for others and genuine spiritual unity that will sustain us through the difficult days of recovery.

Religious Freedom Day provides us an opportunity to celebrate America's commitment to protect the freedom of religion. On this special day, I encourage all Americans to renew their commitment to protecting the liberties that make our country a beacon of hope for people around the world who seek the free exercise of religious beliefs and other freedoms.

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 January 16, 2002, as Religious Freedom Day. I urge all Americans to observe this day by asking for the blessing and protection of Almighty God for our Nation, and to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities in their homes, schools, and places of worship as a sign of our resolve to protect and preserve our religious freedom.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 17, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 16, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey and an Exchange With Reporters

January 16, 2002

President Bush. I'm going to have an opening statement welcoming our friend to the Oval Office. The Prime Minister is going to say a few remarks. Both of us have agreed to take some questions. I would like those traveling with the Turkish press to have a chance to ask some questions today, as well. We'll both take two questions apiece.

Thank you for coming, Mr. Prime Minister. I'm proud to welcome you as a friend. You have been steadfast in your support in the war against terror, and for that, my Nation is very grateful.

We appreciate your leadership when it comes to foreign policy, and we appreciate your leadership when it comes to economic policy. You and your administration have made some very tough decisions, and the economy is improving as a result of your leadership. And we look forward to having a good discussion about how we can increase trade.

And today I'm informing the Prime Minister that we're lifting the travel ban on Turkey so that our citizens can feel comfortable going to that wonderful country to visit and to enjoy the rich history of one of our valued allies and friends. So welcome, Mr. Prime Minister. It's a delight to welcome you, and thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Ecevit. Thank you very much for your kind invitation, Mr. President. It is a great honor for us. We deeply appreciate the support that you have extended, since you have taken over, to relations with Turkey. We had always good relations with the United States in your—during your time of office. And you have totally enhanced this cooperation and friendship.

We have some very good, concrete good news now, as you have referred to it, Mr. President. The State Department has today issued a statement expressing the will of the United States that we will be able to form an economic partnership—

President Bush. Right.

Prime Minister Ecevit. —in addition to our political partnership. We attach great importance to that—our cooperation with you against terrorism is a great service, not only for our own people but for the whole world.

The American determination to get rid of terrorism in the world is of great importance, of historic importance, and we are glad—we are very happy that we have the chance to cooperate with you to that effect. And Turkish and American cooperation, partnership now together with economic partnership will be beneficial for both—peoples of both our countries.

We had very fruitful discussions during the brief period here. We still have other items on our agenda, and we shall go to New York also to visit the place of terrorism. Thank you very much for sharing this time, for showing this generosity and friendship to us.

President Bush. Well, you're welcome, sir.

Prime Minister Ecevit. Thank you.

President Bush. Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters] and then Sonya [Sonya Ross, Associated Press].

Cyprus

Q. Sir, what do both of you see as the chances of a negotiated settlement with Cyprus—

President Bush. I'll let the Prime Minister speak. Of course, we're very encouraged that there is a dialog now taking place. And I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister for encouraging that dialog. You can't solve a problem unless the parties are willing to talk.

And Mr. Prime Minister, would you like to speak about the Cyprus situation?

Prime Minister Ecevit. Yes. We attach great importance to our dialog with you with regard to Cyprus. It's good news that the leaders of the two communities are now having face-to-face dialog. They may not attain

concrete results immediately, but the very fact, the very process of dialog may lead to satisfactory agreements between the two communities.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that very much. Anybody from the Turkish press?

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, to make your Iraqi policy more efficient, in your efforts to make the Iraqi policy more efficient—

President Bush. Iraqi policy?

Q. Yes, your policy towards Iraq. What are your expectations from the Turkish government?

President Bush. Well, I'm going to have a discussion with the Prime Minister about Iraq. And my expectations, most importantly, are not from Turkey—are from Iraq. I expect Saddam Hussein to let inspectors back into the country. We want to know whether he's developing weapons of mass destruction. He claims he's not; let the world in to see. And if he doesn't, we'll have to deal with that at the appropriate time.

My discussions with the Prime Minister are going to be not only regional in nature but global in nature. And I will assure him that we will consult closely with Turkey on any decisions that I make. Turkey is an ally and a friend, and no decisions have been made beyond the first theater. And the first theater is Afghanistan, and I do appreciate very much the Turkish support for our efforts in Afghanistan.

Q. What if Saddam Hussein doesn't let the—[inaudible]—inspectors?

President Bush. If he doesn't let them in? He'll find out.

Afghanistan/Turkey's Role in the Coalition

Q. On the question of Afghanistan, do you support the Turkish idea of leading the peacekeeping operation there? And if the United States essentially made the peace there, why not involve U.S. troops in keeping the peace?

President Bush. Well, first of all, there's been a lot of international interest in providing troops to help keep the peace. And we welcome that support. As you know, the Brits have now taken the lead in the first

round. There are some discussions as to whether or not Turkey will take the lead in the second round, and I appreciate their consideration of this very important matter.

I believe there is plenty of troops from other nations that are willing to help, and after all, I've made it clear that our troops will be used to fight and win war, and that's exactly what they've done. We've sent them over to fight a war, and we're winning the war.

And on the other hand, we're more than willing to help with the reconstruction efforts. We're—make serious contributions to the interim government of Afghanistan so they can help rebuild themselves. We look forward to the conference in Tokyo. We'll have representatives there.

Just today, Richard Armitage, our Deputy Secretary of State, met with the Finance Minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, and I've been told they had a very good discussion about how to get cash starting to move into the coffers.

But I think there is ample support from around the world to provide troops to help stabilize Afghanistan so the Government can eventually take over its own defense.

Q. Yes, but are you going to channel more funds to support Turkey in its role in Afghanistan?

President Bush. Channel more funds to support Turkey in its role in Afghanistan? You mean, if and when they provide troops? That's what you're talking about?

Q. Yes.

President Bush. Well, we haven't had that discussion yet. And one thing for certain is that we're providing a lot of funds now in the Afghan theater. After all, we're proudly leading the efforts to destroy the Taliban and rout out the Al Qaida. As to reimbursements, that's a discussion we'll have at a later date. Turkey hasn't made up her mind yet as to whether or not she is going to lead the coalition forces. We're just in discussion phases. So I think the budgetary phase—the budgetary discussions should take place after a commitment has been made.

Taxes

Q. [Inaudible]—generous—[inaudible]—Senator Kennedy called for—

President Bush. Oh, let me comment. I appreciate that very much.

Q. I thought you might want to. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Well, Mr. Prime Minister, we put a significant tax relief package in place right at the right time. Our economy was beginning to slow down in March of 2001. Fortunately, I was able to work with both Democrats and Republicans in our Congress to get a good tax relief package out. And when the economy slows down, it makes sense to cut taxes, and that's exactly what's happened. And those who want to revoke the tax cut, basically raise taxes, are those who just don't share my view.

I think raising taxes in the midst of a recession is wrong economic policy. It would be a huge mistake. It's bad for American workers. It hurt when it comes to creating jobs. And so I strongly disagree with those who want to raise taxes here in Washington, DC. I'm confident that the American people agree with me, as well.

And if Members of the House and the Senate listened to their constituents and listened to those who want to find work, they will understand the wisdom of our ways.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Minister of Foreign Affairs Ismail Cem of Turkey; and Hedayat Amin Arsala, Vice Chair and Minister of Finance, Interim Authority of Afghanistan. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Signing the Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act

January 16, 2002

Today I signed into law H.R. 1088, the Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act. This legislation will provide fee relief to the growing number of Americans who have invested in stocks and bonds to save for their retirements, their children's education, and other needs. This legislation will relieve the 50 percent of American households that now own stock, either directly or in pension or mutual funds, from the burden of these fees, while ensuring that the SEC has sufficient

funding to continue to carry out its important mission of protecting investors through vigorous enforcement of securities laws. I applaud the Congress for acting in an overwhelming bipartisan manner in sending this legislation to my desk.

NOTE: H.R. 1088, approved January 16, was assigned Public Law No. 107-123.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996

January 16, 2002

Dear _____:

Pursuant to section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114), (the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2002, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks to the World Affairs Councils of America Conference

January 16, 2002

Well, thank you for that very warm welcome. It's such a pleasure to be here tonight for this gathering. I want to thank the World Affairs Council for promoting citizen interest in global issues, especially an interest in our own hemisphere and its importance to our country.

Eldon, thank you very much for your fine introduction. Back stage he was wondering

whether or not I could understand his accent. I said, "That's not the problem. The problem is, can you understand mine?" [Laughter] I want to thank Jerry Leach, as well. I want to thank the leadership here at the OAS. Cesar, thank you very much for your continued hospitality and leadership. It's good to see my friend Luigi again. I want to thank Enrique Iglesias, as well.

I want to thank members of my Cabinet who are here, in particular, Mel Martinez, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Thank you, Mel. I'm pleased to see Roger Noriega, *el Embajador de los Estados Unidos a la OAS*, for being here. Thank you, Roger. A new member of my team is Otto Reich, Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere. I appreciate Otto being here. And of course, I want to thank the members of my National Security Council who are here, Condi Rice and John Maisto, for their sound and solid advice. Thank you all for coming.

In September of last year, I welcomed my good friend the President of Mexico to the White House. Standing together on the South Lawn, President Fox and I spoke of building a hemisphere of freedom and prosperity and progress. That was 5 days before the terrorists attacked the peace and security of the world, murdering thousands of citizens from over 80 nations, including almost every nation in this hemisphere.

Since the attacks, the United States has received incredible sympathy and support from our neighbors and friends. I've been in close contact with democratic leaders such as Prime Minister Chretien and President Fox and President Cardoso, President Lagos and President Toledo, to name a few. We've been talking on a regular basis about our common interests. Democratic leaders throughout the Americas have offered help and wisdom, friendship, and even peacekeepers, and for that this country is very grateful.

The nations of the Western Hemisphere are resolved: We refuse to live in fear, so we will fight terror wherever it exists. And we're committed to building a prosperous and free and democratic hemisphere. Nothing will distract us; nothing will deter us in completing this great work.

We meet, however, at a time when there are some who question the path to prosperity and stability. Some wonder whether free market reforms are too painful to continue. Some question the fairness of free and open trade, while holding out the false promise of protectionism. And there's even greater danger—that some may come to doubt democracy, itself.

Our answer to these questions and doubts must be clear, and it must be consistent: The hopes of all our peoples, everybody who lives in this hemisphere, no matter where they live, lie in greater freedom. Free markets and open trade are the best weapons against poverty, disease, and tyranny. And democracy is the nonnegotiable demand of human dignity.

The future of this hemisphere depends on the strength of three commitments: democracy, security, and market-based development. These commitments are inseparable, and none will be achieved by half-measures. This road is not always easy, but it's the only road to stability and prosperity for all the people—all the people—who live in this hemisphere.

Our first commitment is to democracy and political freedom. This is affirmed in the Democratic Charter of the Americas, which holds this: Only democracies can be a part of our inter-American dialog and system. And these governments cannot be democratic in name only. Citizens and businesses must know that the townhall, the *alcaldia*, is free from bribery and cronyism and all forms of corruption. These old attitudes and habits are a form of theft, stealing from people their money and their trust and their hopes for a better life. For freedom and prosperity to come, corruption must go. Freedom—the freedom to vote, the freedom to speak your mind, the freedom to worship an Almighty God, the freedom to own your own property—is the great idea of our time; it is the great idea of all time. And by building governments that are more open and honest and fair, we will make freedom more meaningful for all our citizens.

Our second commitment is to security, security against acts of terror. It is the great calling of the 21st century. And I can assure you this Nation will not tire; we will not fade; we'll be resolute in our determination to rout

out terror wherever it exists—in our neighborhood or neighborhoods around the world—security against the lawless violence of drug cartels and their accomplices—our citizens must know that they can exercise their freedoms in security and in peace.

And that is why, for example, the United States, Canada, and Mexico are cooperating in unprecedented ways to build smart borders for the 21st century that ensure safety for ordinary people and trade and filters out terror and drugs.

And that is also why the United States remains committed to helping nations like Colombia defend her democracy. Colombia and the Andean nations are strengthening law enforcement, reducing illegal crops, and expanding legitimate business opportunities as viable alternatives to drug farming and drug trafficking. The United States Congress and I recently approved \$625 million to support these efforts. America will help all nations in the region in cutting off the supply of drugs. And just as importantly, America will help the nations of the regions by reducing the demand for drugs within our own borders.

Our third commitment is to growing and stable economies where the benefits of growth are widely shared, economies where small-business owners and farmers and workers and investors are all able to build and earn their own prosperity. We must foster policies that reward, not punish, entrepreneurship, work, and creativity. We understand that sustained development depends on market-based economies, on sound monetary and fiscal policies, and on freer trade in our neighborhood.

Recent events in Argentina do nothing to change this reality. America is deeply concerned about the difficulties facing our ally and our friend; we're deeply concerned about the effects of the economy on Argentina's great people. We share ties of commerce and culture and family. America is hopeful that Argentina will get through these tough times.

It was an encouraging sign that the President, on taking office, expressed a desire to pursue a Free Trade Area of the Americas. Argentina and nations throughout our hemi-

sphere need to strengthen our commitment to market-based reform, not weaken it. Shortcuts to reform only lead to more trouble. Half-measures will not halve the pain, only prolong it.

The United States is prepared to help Argentina weather this storm. Once Argentina has committed to a sound and sustainable economic plan, I will support assistance for Argentina through international financial institutions. This assistance can soften the impact of the crisis on the lives of the Argentine people and help that country return to growth and prosperity.

Success in the global economy comes to countries that maintain fiscal discipline, open their borders to trade, privatize inefficient state enterprises, deregulate their domestic markets, and invest in the health and education of their people. And those who promise painless protectionism or security through statism assure a bleak and stagnant future for their people.

Countries that stay on the hard road of reform are rewarded. Just look at Chile. Chile has cut its poverty rate in half over the last decade. It has cut its child mortality rate by almost two-thirds since 1980. Or Mexico, that's withstood the setbacks of the midnineties, and its economy has grown by more than 4 percent annually since 1996. Costa Rica's emphasis on education and attracting foreign investment has transformed its economy over the past decade. Costa Rica's exports of computer products are now almost 4 times greater in value than its banana exports and nearly 8 times greater than its coffee exports.

My Nation is no stranger to the difficulties of reform and restructuring. A generation ago, our Government made a mistaken and failed experiment with wage and price controls. Later, during the 1970s and 1980s, millions of our workers were displaced as our industries adapted to the demands of a new global economy. We've grown through the pains of recession, inflation, and unemployment by strengthening our commitments to markets, by enacting sound monetary and fiscal policies, and by embracing free trade. In the end, each of these challenges made us stronger and more prosperous. With all its

tests and difficulties, a faith in freedom is never disappointed.

This belief in markets is justified within our borders and beyond them. Open trade and investment bring healthy, growing economies and can serve the cause of democratic reform. From the success of NAFTA, we know these are facts, not theories.

Acting on this belief, we went to Doha, and strongly support a new global trade negotiations. In this region, we are acting on a number of fronts. We're working to build a Free Trade Area of the Americas, and we're determined to complete those negotiations by January of 2005. We plan to complete a free trade agreement with Chile early this year. And once we conclude the agreement, I urge Congress to take it up quickly. And I ask the Senate to schedule a vote, as soon as it returns, on renewing and expanding the Andean Trade Preference Act.

Today I announce the United States will explore a free trade agreement with the countries of Central America. My administration will work closely with Congress toward this goal. Our purpose is to strengthen the economic ties we already have with these nations, to reinforce their progress toward economic and political and social reform, and to take another step toward completing the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

All of these efforts depend on one thing: Congress must pass trade promotion authority. The House of Representatives acted. In the Senate, the Finance Committee has given its strong bipartisan approval. Now it's time for the full Senate to approve trade promotion authority, so I can put it to work for the good of America—and all of the Americas.

Markets and trade, development and democracy, rely on healthy and educated people. Therefore, we are also working to bring better health care and greater literacy to the nations of our hemisphere. The United States' funding for international basic education assistance programs this year will be over 45 percent higher than last year. And this spring, the first of our regional teacher training centers will open in Jamaica. Additional centers will be operating in South and Central America by year's end.

I have called upon the World Bank and other development banks to increase the share of their funding devoted to education. The Inter-American Development Bank has significantly increased this share over the past year. All the development banks should keep moving in the direction of making sure our neighborhood is well educated. I've also urged the World Bank to provide up to 50 percent of its assistance to the world's poorest nations in the form of grants rather than loans, grants for education, for health, for nutrition, for water supplies, and for sanitation.

To this end, my next budget will include nearly \$50 million increase in aid to the World Bank programs that assist the poorest countries. If the Bank demonstrates it can use the funds to achieve measurable results and helps move forward reform, I'm prepared to consider requesting increases over \$100 million in each of my subsequent budgets. This would mean that the amount—the annual U.S. contribution to these World Bank programs would be 30 percent higher than 3 years ago.

This hemisphere is on the path of reform, and our nations travel it together. We share a vision, a partnership of strong and equal and prosperous nations, living and trading in freedom. Together, we will defend that vision against lawlessness and violence. We will assert it against terrorism and protectionism. Especially in times of adversity, we'll maintain our vision, because it unleashes the possibilities of every society and recognizes the dignity of every person. Together—and I mean together—we will build and defend this hemisphere of liberty.

Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in the Hall of the Americas at the Organization of American States. In his remarks, he referred to Sir Eldon Griffiths, chairman, World Affairs Councils of America, who introduced the President; Jerry Leach, president, World Affairs Councils of America; Cesar Gaviria, Secretary General, and Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States; entertainer Enrique Iglesias; Roger Noriega, U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States; President Vicente Fox of Mexico; Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada; President Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil; President Ricardo Lagos of Chile; President Alejandro Toledo of

Peru; and President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde of Argentina. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Export of Bomb Containment and Disposal Units

January 9, 2002

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

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246) (the “Act”), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902 of the Act insofar as such suspensions pertain to the export of bomb containment and disposal units for use in the prevention of terrorist bombings.

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. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

January 15, 2002

On January 18, 2001, by Executive Order 13194, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of the insurgent Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in Sierra Leone and pursuant to which the United States imposed a general ban on the direct and indirect importation of all rough diamonds from Sierra Leone to the United States, except those imports controlled through the Certificate of Origin regime of the Government of Sierra Leone. On May 22, 2001, I issued Executive Order 13213, which expanded the scope of the na-

tional emergency to include actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF and prohibited the importation of all rough diamonds from Liberia.

Because the actions and policies of the RUF continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, and the measures adopted on those dates to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond January 18, 2002. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia.

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

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 15, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:50 a.m., January 16, 2002]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 17.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

January 15, 2002

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

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 18, 2002, to the *Federal Register* for publication. This is the first renewal of the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency.

The national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone on January 18, 2001, as expanded on May 22, 2001, with respect to Liberia, has not been resolved. The national emergency, as expanded, was declared to deal with the threat posed to United States foreign policy by (1) the insurgent Revolutionary United Front's (RUF) illicit trade in diamonds to fund its operations and procurement of weapons in the brutal, decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone; (2) the RUF's flagrant violation of the Lome' Peace Agreement of July 7, 1999; (3) the RUF's attacks on personnel of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone; and (4) the actions of the Government of Liberia in support of the RUF. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia and to maintain in force the sanctions imposed in response to the threat posed by the actions and policies of the RUF.

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. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the National Emergency With Respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia

January 15, 2002

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

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194, of Janu-

ary 18, 2001, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213, of May 22, 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. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

**Executive Order 13253—
Amendment to Executive Order 13223, Ordering the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces to Active Duty and Delegating Certain Authorities to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation**

January 16, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and in furtherance of Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, Declaration of National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks, which declared a national emergency by reason of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, New York, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States, and in order to provide the Secretary of Transportation, with respect to the Coast Guard, with the authority to manage personnel requirements in a manner consistent with the authorization provided to the Secretary of Defense in Executive Order 13223 of September 14, 2001, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Section 5 of Executive Order 13223 is amended by adding at the end: "The Secretary of Transportation is further designated and empowered, without the approval, ratification or any other action by the President, to exercise the authority vested in the President by sections 123 and 123a of title 10, United States Code, and sections 149 (detail members to assist foreign governments), 275(a) (suspension of provisions on

selection, promotion, or involuntary separation of officers), and 722 (administration of reserve forces) of title 14, United States Code, as invoked by section 2 of Executive Order 13223.”

Sec. 2. Section 7 of Executive Order 13223 is deleted and revised to read as follows: “Based upon my determination under 10 U.S.C. 2201(c) that it is necessary to increase (subject to limits imposed by law) the number of members of the armed forces on active duty for the Department of Defense beyond the number for which funds are provided in the appropriation Act for the Department of Defense, which, by virtue of 14 U.S.C. 652, applies to the Department of Transportation with respect to the Coast Guard, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation may provide for the cost of such additional members under their respective jurisdictions as an excepted expense under section 11(a) of title 41, United States Code.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
January 16, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:43 a.m., January 17, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on January 18.

Remarks in a Meeting With Labor Leaders

January 17, 2002

Thank you all. Let me just be to the point: A good energy plan is important for our national security, and it's important for job security. Around the table, I'm honored to be sitting with people who represent thousands of working people. And they asked the same question I asked: What can the Federal Government do to help people find work; what can we do to create jobs?

And this energy bill that we're working on is a jobs bill. And when we explore for power—U.S. power—U.S. energy in ANWR, we're not only helping us become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil and

foreign sources of energy, we're creating jobs for American workers—jobs so that men and women can put food on the table.

That's the question these two leaders ask all the time, “How best can I help the members of my union find work? What can I do to make them, you know, be able to feed their families?” It's the same question I ask. And that's why we're linked up on this issue. We've got Republicans sitting around this table; we've got Democrats sitting around this table; we've probably got some people who don't care about politics sitting around the table. But all of us know that the energy bill that's now stuck in the Senate, that can't get voted on in the Senate, will be good for America. It will be good for our foreign policy, good for our national security, and more importantly, it will be good for jobs.

And so I want to thank you, Jimmy, for your leadership. And Doug, thank you very much. I appreciate you all working with us. I appreciate members of my Cabinet for coming. Together, we can show the country that when we work together, we can do what's right—do what's right for the working folks.

And so I'm honored you would let me come by. It's a privilege to be around this table. There's no telling what kind of conversations have gone on around this table. [Laughter] But it is a huge honor. Thank you, sir. Doug, thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in the boardroom at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters headquarters building. In his remarks, he referred to James P. Hoffa, general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and Douglas J. McCarron, general president, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks on Signing the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001

January 17, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, thanks, Laura. I appreciate those kind words, and I love you a lot.

I want to welcome you all to the White House. It's our honor to entertain you all and to let you witness a piece of history here. The bill I'm going to sign rests on the belief that our strong Nation is built on strong families. The legislation reaffirms our country's commitment to helping children grow up in secure and loving families by encouraging adoption, by helping young adults make their way in life after they leave foster care, and by expanding mentoring for children who have a mom and dad in prison.

I'm proud of the men and women of Congress who worked hard to make this happen. This is a really good piece of legislation. In this town, sometimes the really good pieces of legislation aren't really recognized, because there hadn't been a lot of fighting and hair-pulling and gnashing of teeth. But this bill, sponsored by both Democrats and Republicans, is a meaningful, real piece of legislation that's going to change people's lives.

I want to thank Mike DeWine, and I want to thank Ben Cardin, and I want to thank Deborah Pryce, three of the bill's sponsors who have come today, for your hard work. I am sorry that Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia and Wally Herger of California are not here, as well. But the five names I just named are responsible for getting this piece of legislation through the House and the Senate and to my desk. And thank you all.

I, too, want to thank Tommy. He's worked really hard. He's a good, compassionate man who cares deeply about our society. And Tommy, thanks for your hard work. You tell your staff, thanks, too, for working.

The family is the foundation of this society. And here's what I know. It's the place where we find deep human fulfillment and where we find love. It is where character of our Nation is shaped and where values are forged. Families provide us with comfort and encouragement, compassion and hope, mutual support and unconditional love. No family is perfect, but every family is important.

Promoting strong families was my firm commitment when I was the Governor of Texas, and promoting strong families remains a priority for me as your President. We all know that children who are surrounded by love have a strong foundation for success as adults. When someone thinks a child is the

most important person in the world, that child will grow up to be confident in their self and loving toward others. She'll make her community stronger and her Nation better.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program has a great goal, keeping families together whenever possible. It helps to prevent the removal of children from their homes. And if that must happen to protect a child's safety, it supports efforts to correct the problem that broke the family apart and reunite the family safely and quickly. It also supports adoption and post-adoptive services to place children with loving families, to ease a child's transition into a new family, and to help ensure that families stay strong and intact. My budget next year will build on this good work, by requesting \$505 million in funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, \$130 million more than it receives this year.

The bill I sign today also supports children who grew up in foster homes by authorizing States to provide vouchers of up to \$5,000 a year for education and vocational training to teens who have aged out of the foster care system. My budget next year will ask Congress for \$60 million to fully fund this program.

I'm especially pleased that this bill authorizes funds for a crucial part of my Armies of Compassion Initiative, mentoring children whose parents are in prison. These children don't see their parents every day but, like all children, need help with homework, someone to play catch with, someone to hug them. Countless adults are willing to open their hearts to these children, and we should do all we can to support their compassion. Government cannot love a child, but it can support those who do, parents and family members and neighbors and caring adults who have heard the call.

We have some parents with us today who have heard the call, who share their love with their children and are building strong families through adoption. Derek and Cindy Baliles are police officers in Montgomery County, Maryland. Thank you all for coming. They knew they had a lot of love to offer, and they knew as soon as they met Taylor and Gerald—better known as G-man—*[laughter]*—that the boys would make great

additions to their family. The boys obviously feel the same way. Thanks to their hard work, thanks to the hard work of a county social worker, their adoption was finalized quickly, on the same day as their mother's birthday.

Willie and Sybil Gray originally planned to adopt one little girl who would become a sister to their son, Christopher. But an adoption agency told them that Kenyetta and Katrina, two sisters who needed a new home, needed to be adopted. The girls and their new parents quickly bonded, and Willie and Sybil will finalize their adoption in the next few months.

Adoptive parents like Willie and Sybil and Derek and Cindy give their children the most precious gift possible, their love. Advocates for adoption, many of whom are in this room, know that when you find a loving family, it makes a huge difference in a child's life, and know that our national goal must be to find a loving family for every child that needs one.

Sadly, a great American and a strong advocate for adoption and stable families passed away this week. Dave Thomas was best known as the founder of Wendy's Restaurants. But people who devote their lives to helping children know that Dave Thomas shared their commitment. As a child who was adopted, Dave once said, "I feel strongly that all children deserve a secure and loving family." His own family provided the foundation that allowed him and encouraged him to become one of America's most successful entrepreneurs and one of America's most familiar faces.

Dave's vision of America was one in which all children would be a part of a loving family, so they could grow into healthy and happy and successful adults. This bill that I'm fixing to sign will bring us closer to his vision.

And now I'd like the Members of the Congress and Secretary Thompson to join me as I sign the "Promoting Safe and Stable Families" legislation.

[At this point, the President signed the bill.]

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson. H.R. 2873, ap-

proved January 17, was assigned Public Law No. 107-133.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the President's Council on Bioethics

January 17, 2002

The President. It's nice to see everybody.

Participant. We're very pleased to be here.

The President. I'm glad you're here. First, let me just say a couple of comments. One, I think—let me thank Leon for taking on the assignment. I appreciate so very much Leon's counsel early on in my administration about how to deal with some very important issues. And then, obviously, I made the decision to put together a council, and I want to thank you all for serving.

I just told NBC News in there that I really think you can help be the conscience of the country, to help us understand some really, really difficult issues that face America and will really face us as we go down the road, and what a vital, vital contribution that you're going to make. It'll help people like me understand what the terms mean and how to come to grips with how medicine and science interface with the dignity of—the issue of life and the dignity of life and the notion that life is—you know, that there is a Creator.

This is, I think, one of these historic moments for our country, as we come to grips with a new world and how to deal with the new world. And I hope you take this—I know you take this seriously, and I just want to assure you I take it seriously and so does this administration. We all have consciences, and we wrestle with very tough issues. And there's no easy answer to some of the issues. It's hard to look at a parent of a child who's dying and believes if you take life, it will save a life. I mean, these are tough, tough issues to confront.

And I've confronted one already, and there will be others. And I look forward to your advice and counsel, and so does the Nation. It's not just me, it's the country that's going to count on you to really think through what we face.

And not only that, it will serve the world, because we're now in a unique position. I

don't want to be megalomaniac about my views, but we're leading—we're leading on a lot of fronts. And this is another front in which this country can lead, because I can assure you that other leaders are looking at it. I've talked to them, and they don't know what to do. They're wrestling with decisions, and when America makes up her mind to do something, a lot of people listen. So this is a huge forum.

So thanks for taking it on. And I want to thank Leon for his leadership. And I want to thank Tommy for being here—and Dr. Marburger. And I'll be glad to listen, answer questions. I'm not sure what we ought to do, Leon, but first you ought to say something.

[At this point, Dr. Leon R. Kass, bioethicist, University of Chicago, and Chair, President's Council on Bioethics, made brief remarks.]

The President. Let me say two other things, and then I will listen. One, you need to monitor the stem cell issue. That was the charge I gave on national TV that day, and I forgot to mention that. And the other thing is that I have spoken clearly on cloning. I just don't think it's right. On the other hand, there is going to be a lot of nuance and subtlety to the issue, I presume. And I think this is very important for you all to help the Nation understand what this means.

And with that, I'd be glad to hear folks. Mr. Carter.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:55 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson; John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; and Stephen Carter, William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, Yale Law School. The Office of the Press Secretary released the names of 17 members of the President's Council on Bioethics on January 16. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Dr. Kass. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7518—Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday, 2002

January 17, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For too brief a time, our Nation was blessed by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King was a modern American hero whose leadership rallied people of all races to rise up against injustice. His commitment to stand peacefully for the conviction that all men are created equal brought about changes in the laws of our Nation, and he paid the ultimate price for the courage he demonstrated in attempting to ensure that all men and women were treated equally in the eyes of the law and by their fellow citizens. It is with a great sense of pride and gratitude that we celebrate this 17th national holiday in honor of Dr. King's life and work. Let us take this opportunity to recall his vision and renew his call for equal justice for all.

We enter this new year and this annual celebration with a revived national spirit. The events of September 11, 2001, have drawn us closer as a Nation and increased our resolve to protect the life and liberty we cherish. And while our patriotism and neighborly affections run high, these circumstances have given us renewed purpose in rededicating ourselves to Dr. King's "dream." As he said on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963: "I have a dream my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by content of their character." Dr. King's words were not just a call to change our laws, but they also served as a challenge to all Americans to change their hearts by refusing to judge people by their skin color or their national origin, by their race or their religion. For while we have made progress, there is much work to be done, both at home and abroad.

In the face of massive injustice, Dr. King's unwavering commitment to nonviolent means of bringing the people of our Nation together provided a foundation for healing and trust. That trust brought us through our recent tragedy as we reached out to each other without regard to race or religion. Dr. King spent his life working for those who held the uncelebrated jobs in our communities—people who simply performed their work with dignity and pride. The words from his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech of 1964, spoken about the workers in the freedom movement, still ring true for those men and women who unselfishly attempted to rescue innocent persons in the World Trade Center buildings and at the Pentagon:

Most of these people will never make the headlines and their names will not appear in Who's Who. Yet when years have rolled past and when the blazing light of truth is focused on this marvelous age in which we live—men and women will know and children will be taught that we have a finer land, a better people, a more noble civilization—because these humble children of God were willing to suffer for righteousness' sake.

We are so thankful for those "humble children of God," and we are thankful for the life and times of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His abiding faith in America has helped us become a fairer and more colorblind society.

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 Monday, January 21, 2002, as the Martin Luther King, Jr., Federal Holiday. I encourage Americans to observe this day with appropriate community programs, gatherings, and civic activities that honor the memory and the legacy of Dr. King.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 18, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 24.

Proclamation 7519—National Mentoring Month, 2002
January 18, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

National Mentoring Month allows us to recognize the important contributions made by the millions of our fellow citizens who choose to strengthen our Nation by giving their time, effort, and heart to serve as a mentor and role model for a young person. Through quality education programs, community initiatives, and personal involvement, mentors help our children become better citizens by showing them how to make the right choices, to work hard, and to care for their neighbors in need. Mentors play an important role in a child's life, particularly if a parent is absent. A mentor's involvement in the life of a child can brighten that child's future, help maintain healthy families, and help promote more vibrant communities.

Community mentoring programs have given millions of young people, particularly those at high-risk for poor school performance and behavior problems, a boost in life. Statistics indicate that most children who have been mentored improve their school attendance and performance, go to college, and are less likely to use drugs or alcohol. By being a positive role model, a mentor can demonstrate the blessings of living a virtuous life by sharing their values and experiences and motivating a child to learn and achieve. We must teach our children the difference between right and wrong; and we must seize every opportunity to help a young person find the right path. We must also teach discipline and accountability.

Many adults recall lessons they learned from childhood as a result of observing and interacting with role models. They recognize

their childhood homes and schools as places where love, encouragement, and instruction provided them with the tools they needed to become contributing citizens. Today, the role of families, schools, and communities remains crucial to providing stability and direction to America's young people.

My Administration strongly supports Federal, State, and local programs that help families stay together, keep both parents involved in their child's life, and utilize our education system to stand by parents and reinforce the values that are taught in the home. I am particularly pleased that the Congress passed and I have signed into law legislation I proposed to strengthen and expand successful mentoring initiatives aimed at serving a vulnerable population: children whose parents are incarcerated. This new initiative—"Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001"—represents the first comprehensive Federal effort to improve the lives of these children. This important legislation will help surround vulnerable youth with positive, one-on-one role models, and help them not just dream big dreams, but achieve them.

On the occasion of National Mentoring Month, we pay tribute to the parents, teachers, community leaders, and citizens who serve as mentors and role models for our children. We encourage others to become involved in mentoring.

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 January 2002 as National Mentoring Month. I call upon the people of the United States to recognize the importance of being role models for our youth, to look for mentoring opportunities in their communities, and to celebrate this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., January 23, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on January 24.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the
Extension of Normal Trade Relations
Status for Certain Former Eastern
Bloc States**

January 18, 2002

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

On September 21, 1994, President Clinton determined and reported to the Congress that the Russian Federation was not in violation of paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 402(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, or paragraphs (1), (2), or (3) of subsection 409(a) of that Act. On June 3, 1997, he also determined and reported to the Congress that Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine were not in violation of the same provisions, and made an identical determination on December 5, 1997, with respect to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. These actions allowed for the continuation of normal trade relations for these countries and certain other activities without the requirement of an annual waiver.

On June 29, 2000, pursuant to section 302(b) of Public Law 106-200, President Clinton determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Kyrgyzstan, and on December 29, 2000, pursuant to section 3002 of Public Law 106-476, he determined that title IV of the 1974 Trade Act should no longer apply to Georgia.

As required by law, I am submitting an updated report to the Congress concerning the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The report indicates continued compliance of these countries with international standards concerning freedom of emigration.

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.

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.

January 13

In the morning, from the Oval Office, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan and with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee of India, to discuss the situation in South Asia.

January 14

In the morning, the President traveled to East Moline, IL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. He also had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss cooperation against terrorism and peace efforts in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Springfield, MO, and Aurora, MO. In the evening, he traveled to New Orleans, LA.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jack C. Chow for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Special Representative of the Secretary of State for HIV/AIDS.

The President announced his intention to nominate Margaret Goldwater Clay, Michael Goldstein, and John Henry Winston to be members of the Board of Trustees for the Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Saul to be a member and Chair upon confirmation, and Gordon Whiting and Alejandro Modesto Sanchez to be members of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the National Institute for Literacy Advisory Board: Carol C. Gambill, Douglas Carnine, Carmel Borders, Blanca E. Enriquez, Jean Osborn, Phyllis C. Hunter, Mark G. Yudof, Juan R. Olivarez, William T. Hiller, and Robin Morris.

January 15

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 16

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

The President named the following individuals to serve on the President's Council on Bioethics: Leon R. Kass, Chair; Elizabeth Blackburn; Stephen Carter; Rebecca Dresser; Daniel Foster; Francis Fukuyama; Michael Gazzaniga; Robert P. George; Alfonso Gomez-Lobo; Mary Ann Glendon; William B. Hurlbut; Charles Krauthammer; William F. May; Paul McHugh; Gilbert Meilaender; Janet D. Rowley; Michael J. Sandel; and James Q. Wilson.

January 17

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom concerning cooperation against terrorism and the situation in South Asia. He then had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he met with President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania in the Oval Office, and then participated in a Partners in 4-H Awards ceremony in the Roosevelt Room.

In the evening, the President hosted a cocktail reception in the Residence for Republican Congressmen.

During the day, the President participated in the filming of the television productions "The Bush White House: Inside the Real West Wing," which will air on NBC on January 23, and "Inside the White House," which will air on the Discovery Channel on January 25.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay to Washington, DC, on February 15.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan to Washington, DC, on January 28.

January 18

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Eduardo Alberto Duhalde of Argentina to discuss the economic situation in Argentina. He also had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Roosevelt Room with members of the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security to thank them for their efforts in the past year. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President welcomes the visit of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany to Washington, DC, on January 31.

The White House announced that the President announced that the White House will once again be open to tours, beginning on a limited basis in early February, for school groups.

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 January 12

Statement by the Press Secretary: Pakistani President Musharraf's Speech

Released January 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Elections in Madagascar

Released January 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 1202, S. 1714, S. 1741, and S. 1793

Released January 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2278, H.R. 2336, H.R. 2751, H.R. 3030, H.R. 3248, H.R. 3334, H.R. 3346, and H.R. 3348

Statement by the Press Secretary on appointments to the President's Council on Bioethics

Advance text of the President's remarks to World Affairs Council

Fact sheet: U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (English and Spanish versions)

Released January 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Chairman Karzai to Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle To Visit Washington

Fact sheet: President Bush Acts To Promote Strong Families, Safe Children

Fact sheet: Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act (LIBERTAD)

Released January 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Washington by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved January 15

S. 1202 / Public Law 107–119
Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 2001

S. 1714 / Public Law 107–120
To provide for the installation of a plaque to honor Dr. James Harvey Early in the Williamsburg, Kentucky Post Office Building

S. 1741 / Public Law 107–121
Native American Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Technical Amendment Act of 2001

S. 1793 / Public Law 107–122
Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act of 2001

Approved January 16

H.R. 1088 / Public Law 107–123
Investor and Capital Markets Fee Relief Act

H.R. 2277 / Public Law 107–124
To provide for work authorization for non-immigrant spouses of treaty traders and treaty investors

H.R. 2278 / Public Law 107–125
To provide for work authorization for non-immigrant spouses of intracompany transferees, and to reduce the period of time dur-

ing which certain intracompany transferees have to be continuously employed before applying for admission to the United States

H.R. 2336 / Public Law 107–126
To extend for 4 years, through December 31, 2005, the authority to redact financial disclosure statements of judicial employees and judicial officers

H.R. 2751 / Public Law 107–127
General Shelton Congressional Gold Medal Act

H.R. 3030 / Public Law 107–128
Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2001

H.R. 3248 / Public Law 107–129
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 65 North Main Street in Cranbury, New Jersey, as the “Todd Beamer Post Office Building”

H.R. 3334 / Public Law 107–130
To designate the Richard J. Guadagno Headquarters and Visitors Center at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, California

H.R. 3346 / Public Law 107–131
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the reporting requirements relating to higher education tuition and related expenses

H.R. 3348 / Public Law 107–132
To designate the National Foreign Affairs Training Center as the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center

Approved January 17

H.R. 2873 / Public Law 107–133
Promoting Safe and Stable Families Amendments of 2001