

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Significant Narcotics Traffickers
Centered in Colombia**

April 23, 2002

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report that my Administration has prepared on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 23, 2002.

**Remarks at the National Teacher of
the Year Award Ceremony**

April 24, 2002

The President. Well, thank you, Rod. Thanks very much. I want to welcome you all to the White House and the spectacular Rose Garden. I'm a part of a proud tradition: For 25 years, American Presidents—for 50 years, American Presidents have been privileged to present the National Teacher of the Year Awards.

This ceremony not only honors a single individual; this ceremony honors an entire profession. Teachers make extraordinary contributions to the communities in which they live and, therefore, make extraordinary contributions to our entire country. We give our teachers a great responsibility, to shape the minds and hopes of our children. We owe them our thanks and our praise and our support.

I wish the First Lady would be here today. She is—she reminds me on a daily basis of the importance of being a teacher. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. She really didn't care for politics much—[*laughter*]—didn't particularly care for politicians. [*Laughter*] But I'm so glad she said

yes when I asked her to marry me. She's a great First Lady and loves the idea of teaching, and one of her jobs is going to go around the country and remind people of the noble profession of teaching and encourage people to become teachers.

I appreciate Secretary Rod Paige. I've known Rod a long time; we're fellow Texans. When I picked somebody to be the Secretary of Education, I didn't want some theorist; I wanted somebody that had actually been in the trenches, who understood the importance of public education and how to make it work. And I wanted somebody that had a passion to make sure that no child got left behind in America. And I found the right man in my friend Rod Paige, to be the Secretary of Education.

Secretary Paige. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank two Members of the United States Congress: Judd Gregg, with whom I worked closely on the education bill we passed—he's from the State of New Hampshire—Todd Tiahrt from the State of Kansas. Thank you both for coming.

I just had the honor of having my picture taken in the Oval Office with 57 teachers of the year, and it was joyous. It was great. I want to thank you all for coming. It seemed like some of you were just as excited as I was to welcome—[*laughter*]—but it's a great office, as you could see. It's such an honor to be in that office on a daily basis, just like I know you feel it's an honor to be in your classrooms on a daily basis. So congratulations; thanks so much for being a teacher; thanks for setting such a great example; and welcome.

I also want to thank and congratulate our four finalists: Marian Galbraith, Henry Brown, Tracy Taylor Callard, and Chauncey Veatch. I'm going to say something about Chauncey a little later on.

Before I do so, though, I want America to remember how important it is to have good teachers in our classrooms. Teachers help students to read and write and to think and to count. These skills are essential, yet teaching them is only a part of a teacher's work. A good teacher instills in their students a lifelong interest in learning. A good teacher

gives young people a sense of their own possibilities, along with a respect for themselves and for others.

To paraphrase Oliver Wendell Holmes, the greatest teacher makes others believe in greatness. And they leave a lasting mark on the lives around them. And that's why it's easy for me to say teaching is such a profound profession. Teachers are indispensable. We ask a lot from them, and teachers are right to expect a lot from us.

I believe there is a role for the Federal Government in public education. It's—the role is to work with local folks to set the highest of high standards and to expect the best. It's to support people at the local level, with the full understanding that the best education emanates out of the classrooms, not from bureaucracies in Washington, DC. The role is to fund, which we do. And the role is to support our teachers through teacher training, retention, and recruitment, as well as to understand that simple things can matter to teachers a lot, like allowing for there to be a tax deduction for out-of-pocket expenses. We'll take the side of teachers as we work hard to provide a first-class education for every child—and we mean every child—in America.

This year's National Teacher of the Year understands the need to make sure no child gets left behind. He's made extraordinary contributions to his students, two of whom are with us today. I'm so honored that both these gentlemen came from California all the way over here to Washington to honor a teacher. It says a lot about our honoree.

This is a man who spent more than 25 years serving his country in the United States Army. Colonel Veatch, after serving the Army, turned to teaching over a decade ago. He now teaches social studies at Coachella Valley High in Thermal, California, where the overwhelming number of his students come from migrant families.

Chauncey Veatch is known as a kind and courteous, a tireless worker, a team player, a man who has transformed the school in which he works and the community in which he lives. Nearly all of the students at Coachella Valley High School are Hispanic. *Y por eso, Mr. Veatch habla espanol.* [Laughter] He speaks Spanish. He uses the language

to communicate with his students and to show respect for a culture. He's involved in many after-school programs and community events. In short, he's changed a lot of lives for the better.

Through Chauncey Veatch's efforts, students long considered discipline problems started showing up on the honor roll. A teen with a learning disability who read at the elementary school level became an active participant in class. Boys dropped out of gangs to join the Cadet Corps, the student campus security force that he helped organize.

One migrant student at the high school had to work with his family until November, but Mr. Veatch saved him a place in his class and then spent hours with the student helping him catch up. According to this young man, "Mr. Veatch does this for all of his migrant students." No child will be left behind.

Mr. Veatch's former principal, Rick Alvarez, has paid this tribute to him. "Believing our students can succeed," Rick says, "is not a desire or a facade but is actually something Chauncey lives. This caring can be seen in his eyes and heard in his voice and felt in his presence and mostly seen in his actions."

Chauncey Veatch says his mission as a teacher is to be "a dream maker for my students, not a dream breaker." He understands that parents of every background share the same dreams for their children, dreams of improvement and independence and hope. "To dream is to be filled with hope," he says, "I know this because I see the faces of hope daily."

We want all our schools and all our teachers and principals to look at our children and see the faces of hope. And that's exactly what the teachers we honor today have done, on a daily basis.

Mr. Veatch, for teaching is not just a career; it is a high calling; it's a form of service to children and to a nation he loves. He has served both the children and our country extraordinarily well, and it is my honor to present Chauncey Veatch the National Teacher of the Year Award. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:25 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rick Alvarez, assistant superintendent of administrative services, Coachella Valley Unified School District.

Remarks at the Dakota Ethanol Plant in Wentworth, South Dakota

April 24, 2002

Thank you all. Please be seated. Ron, I want to thank you very much. I thought Washington was where it got a little windy. [Laughter] You've got to remember, I was raised in west Texas. I'm kind of used to the wind. It reminds me of home.

I want to thank you all for a warm welcome. Thank you for being so gracious. Ron, thank you very much for hosting us here. I appreciate the briefing I had and the chance to meet with some of your fellow citizens in South Dakota, a chance to talk about ag policy. And I want to thank all those for coming as well.

I appreciate so very much Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman traveling with me today. I'm proud of the job Ann is doing. She's a great leader for the Ag Department. She understands farmers, understands farming, and she's doing America a fine job.

I want to thank your Governor for coming. Janklow and I have been friends for a long time. I was a Governor of Texas, he was a Governor of South Dakota; and he kept telling me what to do all the time when I was around him. [Laughter] But I appreciate you being here, Governor. Thank you very much.

We share something in common; we both married above our heads. [Laughter] I'm sorry my wife isn't with me. I had the honor of saying hello to the first lady of South Dakota at the steps of Air Force One. I bring up Laura because I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian who really didn't like politics and didn't care for politicians, either, I might add. [Laughter] And she has been such a calm and steady influence for the country, and she's come a long way from a public school librarian to a great First Lady. I'm real proud of her.

I want to appreciate the Senate majority leader, Tom Daschle, for being here today. Tom, I'm honored you'd come. And Tom and I have spent some quality time together. I invite him to the Oval Office for breakfast—he doesn't eat much, I want you to know, which is good for my wallet. [Laughter] But I appreciate working with him. And I also

appreciate Senator Tim Johnson being here as well. Thank you, Tim, for coming. As well, we're honored to have the only Congressman from the State of South Dakota, John Thune—thank you for being here, John.

I want to spend some time talking about agriculture and the importance of agriculture for our country, but before I do, I want to tell you about the war. I want you to know that we're fighting against killers, cold-blooded murderers, and they still want to hurt us. Bill Janklow and I were talking coming in about what he has done to help secure the homeland here in South Dakota. And for that, I am grateful, and you need to be. He takes it seriously. He is on top of the situation here in South Dakota.

And I believe that around the country we're making great progress toward making our homeland more secure. We've got to do a better job of understanding who's coming into our country and why they're coming in, and, if they're going out, when they're supposed to be going out. We've got a good amount of money in the budget, as Senator Daschle can tell you, to make sure that our first-responders are ready, should something happen. We've got a good initiative on bioterrorism that we're working on, to make sure the homeland is secure.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these murderers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what America is going to do. The reason I tell you that is it's important for you to know that this war to secure our homeland and to protect freedom is not going to end anytime soon. I don't have a calendar on my desk that says, by such and such a date we're going to quit. That's not how I think, much to the chagrin of the enemy. You see, I don't know what they were thinking when they attacked America. They must have thought we were so materialistic, so self-centered, so weak that all we were going to do was to file a lawsuit. They found out we don't file lawsuits when it comes to defending freedom; we send our United States military.

And I've submitted a budget to the United States Congress that sets our defense as the number one priority. It's a big increase, no question about it. But my attitude is we're in it for the long haul, and we must send