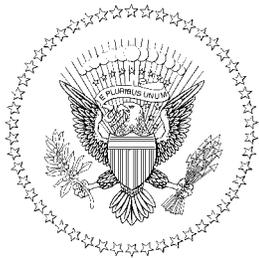


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 2, 2002
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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on August 30, 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, August 30, 2002

**Remarks to the Community in
Stockton, California**

August 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all. I'm glad I came, and thank you all for coming. I'm honored to be here in the great city of Stockton, California. I appreciate you coming to give me a chance to share with you some of my thoughts and concerns and hopes about our great Nation. I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank the mayor. My only regret is the mayor didn't take me down to Billy Hebert Field to see the team play. [*Laughter*] I'm a baseball guy. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank so very much the members of the congressional delegation who met me at Air Force One. I appreciate the hard work of Richard Pombo, who represents this district. I was so pleased that he found a tie for this occasion. [*Laughter*] Doug Ose from the next congressional district is here with us. Doug, thank you for coming. These are two fine Members of the United States Congress with whom I have good working relations, people with whom I can work to do what's right for the American people.

I picked—I picked a fine Cabinet. You need to judge a President based upon the people who he listens to. I listen to some mighty fine people; I really do. I've got great advice, not only in the national security side but also on the domestic side of my job. And I picked my neighbor, somebody from Compton, to serve in an incredibly important position, particularly for the folks in this part of the world, and that is to serve as our Secretary of Agriculture. Ann Veneman is doing a fabulous job.

Mr. Mayor, thank you very much for helping put on this occasion. I particularly want to thank the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce for their hard work in getting this all ready and inviting people to come.

There's one friend I've got here that I've got to say something about. He's a great citizen from Stockton. He's been a longtime friend of mine and my family's, and that's, of course, Alex Spanos. I like to be around optimistic people. It's important to stay in touch with those folks who are optimistic. Once again he has told me that the San Diego Chargers are going to win the Super Bowl. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. —Super Bowl one last time—

The President. That's right. [*Laughter*] And once again, he believes it. [*Laughter*]

Today, at Air Force One, I met Malikah Rashied. Where is Malikah? Where is she? Oh, there she is. Thank you, Malikah. She is a Freedom Corps volunteer. She volunteers for the country. In this case, she works for the California Conservation Corps, assisting in fire prevention cleanup projects, in cleanup projects. We need, by the way, to have a forest policy that—[*applause*].

I mention her because I want people to understand that I understand the true strength of America. It is not in the halls of our Governments but in the hearts of our people. And there are people like her all across the country who are willing to try to make the communities in which they live a better place for all of us. I appreciate your service.

I also appreciate you working on fire prevention. And that's something the Federal Government needs to work on. Listen, we cannot allow our forests to become places where kindling piles up. It doesn't make any sense to me to fly over these huge fires that are consuming much of the West and realize our forest policy encourages—doesn't prevent, doesn't work to make the forest healthier and safer. The forest—the hands-off forest policy proposed by well-meaning people has failed, and now we need to do something about it.

We've got a lot to do in this country. We really do. We've got some big hurdles, big challenges ahead of us. One of the things I've found in Washington is if we can get rid of all the politics and get people thinking about what's important for the Nation, we can get some things done. We really can.

Oh, I know we'll never get rid of all the politics. But at least we can get people thinking and setting the right priorities on behalf of the American people. That's the most—one of my most important jobs, and we're making some progress. If you look at the record, when people decide to come together, we're doing some things right for the American people, starting with making sure the funding priorities of the Government is to win the war on terror.

A new priority has been to help secure the homeland by working with our brave first-responders, the police, the fire, the EMS teams all around the country, those who work hard here in Stockton and all around America. It's been a priority of ours, and both Republicans and Democrats have come together to fund that priority for the good of the country.

I proposed some tough new standards on—for corporate reform. Like you all, I took a look out there and saw a problem. And the problem was, we had some folks who were trying to fudge the numbers. We had some people who decided they weren't going to tell the truth when it came to their assets and liabilities, to the detriment of not only shareholder and employee but to the country itself.

You see, a few—a few began to shatter the confidence of the American people. And so we decided to do something about it. Republicans and Democrats came together. I was honored and proud to sign the most comprehensive corporate reforms since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. This wasn't a Republican idea. It wasn't a Democrat idea. It's an American idea to hold people responsible who betray the public's trust, and that is what we're going to do.

I remember giving a speech in New York about how I thought the corporate accountability bill ought to go. And at one point in the speech, I talked about the fact that our business schools don't teach right from

wrong. They're unwilling to say to future business leaders, "There's a right way to deal with things, and there's a wrong way." And I was lamenting that fact, and I called upon our business schools to show leadership and to teach future leaders right from wrong.

And I was working a ropeline afterwards, and a fellow walked up who's a professor at a business school. And he said, "Thanks for saying that, Mr. President. We needed to hear that." And a large guy—I assumed he was one of the construction folks that was there, construction union leaders that was supportive of this initiative—he said, "If you want to teach them right from wrong, Mr. President, the best lesson you can send is put them in handcuffs."

And that's what's happening. And that's what's happening. We cannot let a few—and I emphasize "a few"—set the tone for the many who are decent, honorable citizens of this country who take care of their shareholders, who are good to their employees, who tell the truth. So we're working together.

The other day, I had the honor of signing a bill that both Republicans and Democrats supported that gives me the capacity to open up markets for U.S. goods. Here's my attitude about trade: If you're good at something, you ought to promote it. If you're good about—if you're good at growing crops, you ought to figure out how to sell more of the crops. And we're the best in the world at farming and ranching.

I'm thrilled to be here in the breadbasket of America, because it gives me a chance to remind our fellow citizens that we have an advantage here in America: We can feed ourselves. And we've always got to be able to do that. It puts us in a—it gives us a strategic advantage, a strategic edge. Imagine if we were going around the world asking for food. It would put the President in a pretty tough position. *[Laughter]* They may want to bargain a little high. *[Laughter]*

But fortunately, we can feed ourselves, and not only that, we produce more food than we need, because we're good at what we do. And therefore, it makes sense on behalf of the producers to open up markets. We ought to be feeding—feeding the world. Where people are hungry, they ought to be eating American food. We ought to be knocking

down those tariffs and those barriers. We ought to be leveling the playing field, and that's precisely what I'm going to do with my new authority.

I told Ann—and she would testify to this—and I told Zoellick, who's our trade man, I said, "I don't want our agriculture producers to be shunted aside when it comes to opening up markets." As a matter of fact, when you're good at something, it ought to be the cornerstone of your policy. So I want agriculture to be the cornerstone of good international trade policy, and it will be. And we made some progress.

I don't know if you've been following this, but we had a little problem with the Russians for a while. They agreed to take our chickens. They were going to buy U.S. chickens, and then all of a sudden they decided not to buy the chickens, and that created a problem. It creates a problem for the chicken growers. It affects prices of other commodities, truly does.

And it was interesting, at one of my press conferences with Vladimir Putin, who I like—he's a good man—he said, "You know, the good thing about our new relationship, as opposed to talking about war, we're talking about chickens." [*Laughter*] But I want the agricultural folks here to understand, we talked about chickens up until yesterday when Secretary Veneman announced an agreement with the Russians that they're going to take U.S. chickens. They're going to honor their obligations.

I bring these examples up because it shows what is possible in Washington when people decide to work together. And they're getting ready to come back in August. And when they come back in August—

[*At this point, there was a disruption in the audience.*]

The President. —and when they come back in August—

[*The disruption continued.*]

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. And when the Congress comes back after their August break, I hope they keep in mind the fact that we need to continue to work together on behalf of the American people. We need to work—

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

The President. And as we work together to make—to make America more secure, we must do so on three fronts. We must work together to make sure that there's economic security. We must work together to make sure there's homeland security. And we must work together to make sure that we win the war on terror to defend our freedoms.

I hosted some folks down to Waco, Texas, the middle of Texas in the middle of August. They obviously had something on their mind. And it was a really interesting forum to hear from people from all walks of life talk about the difficulties they face, the hurdles they face, to create jobs. That's what I'm interested in.

When I hear somebody who wants to work can't find a job, I view that as a problem. It concerns me. I want people to be able to find work. That ought to be the cornerstone of any good economic policy.

And so part of what Congress needs to do is to get together and work on ways to make sure that there's economic security for the American people. The platform for growth is good. It just is.

We've had problems, no question. When we came in, there was a recession. History shows that for the first three quarters of my Presidency, we were in negative growth. The next three quarters have been positive growth, which is good news for the American people. Wages were rising. The productivity of the American worker is the strongest in the world. We're good at—our workers are really good. Our entrepreneurs are innovative. We've got a good tax base, good monetary policy. Interest rates are low. And so we've got the foundation for growth.

But I'm not content with our progress, and here's some things I'd like to see done. First, I can't tell you how strongly I feel and passionately I feel about the need to make the tax cuts that we passed permanent.

See, here's the chapter of the economics book I read—and I admit, some of them in Washington didn't read this chapter. [*Laughter*] I believe that when times are slow—and remember, the first three quarters of our administration was negative growth—when times are slow, you let people keep their own

money. And when they keep their own money, they demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody produces the good or the service. And when somebody produces that good or service, someone is likely, more likely to find work. That's how it works.

And therefore, the tax relief happened at the right time. Not only did we provide lower tax rates—which, by the way, is a spur to small-business growth. Most small-business owners are sole proprietors. Most small-business owners pay tax rates at the individual rate because they're limited partnerships. Most small businesses—small businesses create most new jobs in America. And therefore, we ought to have policy that encourages the growth of small businesses. By cutting individual rates, we understand the importance of small business.

And not only that, we put the death tax on the road to extinction. The death tax is a bad tax. And not only that, we began to change the marriage penalty, because we want the Tax Code to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage.

But here's why I bring up the issue. Because of a quirk in the Senate law, all the work that we did reverts back to normal in 10 years—"normal" being what it was prior to the tax relief. In other words—it's kind of hard to explain—[laughter]—but you get tax relief, and you don't get tax relief, see. It stays in place for 10 years, and then it goes away.

And so Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, have got to understand, for the good of the economy, we need some permanency. People need to be able to plan. They need to be able to know that what is real today will be real tomorrow. Therefore, the tax cuts need to be made permanent.

We've got a problem when it comes to construction here in America, because many folks cannot get insurance to cover losses from potential terrorist attack. There's about \$8 billion worth of projects that have been put aside because people can't get terrorism insurance. That means we've got some hardhats here in America who aren't working who should be working. That means there's some good, hard-working folks who aren't as active as they should be in the job market.

And therefore, I have asked Congress—the House responded, and the Senate came up with a version; they need to get together—to provide terrorism insurance legislation to help these big construction programs go forward. This bill would put people back to work, so long as the House and the Senate understand that the priority is not trial lawyers but hardhat workers in America.

Congress, when they get back, needs to give me an energy bill. In order for the economy to be strong, we've got to have an energy plan. We've got to have a bill that promotes renewable sources of energy, that encourages conservation. But we need more energy explored here at home in an environmentally friendly way. It is in our economic security that we find more energy at home. It is in our national security that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Congress needs to get to work on a reauthorization of the welfare bill. See, the welfare bill is coming up again. And, by the way, it worked when we said to people we will help them find work. It made people less dependent upon Government. It has been a successful, successful public policy in America, and we need to continue that. There are some in the Senate who want to say work isn't important, and so they've got all kinds of loopholes. I think work is incredibly important. Work leads to dignity. And therefore, they need to give me a welfare bill like the House bill that says, we're going to help people help themselves by finding work. That's what we're going to do. We're going to train people for jobs, but we're going to insist that they work in return for help.

And there's one other vital piece of legislation that they need to get to me before they all go back to their districts and campaign, and it's this. I want to unleash the great compassion of America by recognizing the power of faith-based institutions in our society. I ask the question, "Does it work?" That's what I ask. Does it work if somebody's heart is changed and therefore they get off alcohol and drugs? Does that work? And if it does, our Government ought not to fear programs based upon the capacity to change somebody's heart. As a matter of fact, we ought to welcome those programs. We ought to say, "If you've got an idea and you've got a cross

on the wall or the star of David or if you're a mosque, we welcome those ideas to help change society, one person at a time."

We'll never fund religion. Of course we're not going to fund religion. That's not the purpose. But we want to help people, and we should not discriminate against programs which have the capacity to help save lives. When we save a life in America, we make America a better place for all of us.

Congress has got work to do on the homeland security front as well. My most important job is to protect you all, our fellow Americans, from another attack. That's my most important job. And make no mistake about it, there are coldblooded killers out there, and we're doing everything we can to find them. Some people might not think they're out there. They're out there; they just are.

People say, "Why? Why would someone want to attack America?" And the answer is because we love freedom, that's why. They hate us because we value each life. Each life is important here in America; everybody counts. Ours is a country that recognizes in our great diversity that every single person has worth, and they can't stand that. They can't stand the thought of a nation which recognizes that people can worship an almighty God in different ways, that we welcome that type of diversity in America, that we love that freedom. They don't like free speech. They don't like a free press. They really don't like anything about us, it turns out. *[Laughter]* But they're killers. That's the only way I can tell you how I think about them. They're coldblooded killers, and therefore my most important job is to protect the homeland.

And so when I looked at ways to protect the homeland, I realized when I looked at our homeland security there in Washington, we've got over 100 agencies that have something to do with protecting the homeland, and they're scattered everywhere. In order to set the number one priority of these agencies to be the homeland defense, I decided to create a Department of Homeland Security with a new Cabinet Secretary. I did that not to create the size of Government but to make the Government work better. I did it to be able to start changing cultures within agencies. I did it to make sure that agencies had that number one priority, so that I could

report back to the American people that we're doing everything we possibly can do.

And the House of Representatives passed a good piece of legislation, for which I'm grateful. The Senate is now wrestling with it, and I've got some problems with how they're wrestling with it. You see, I need to be—my Secretary needs to be able to move people to different agencies, if need be, to protect America. We need to put people in the right place at the right time.

I'll give you an example. We've got to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, and whether or not they're leaving the country. And yet, when you go down to the border, you'll realize they've got the INS, the Customs, the Border Patrol. We've got to be able to have the same strategy, the same culture. We don't need three competing agencies. We need to figure out how to bring people together to accomplish the objective, and that means we need some flexibility.

Yet, when you look at the Senate bill, it sounds like they're more interested in special interests that have got lobbies in Washington, not the people. They're more interested in having—micromanaging the Department. They're more interested in protecting their turf than giving us the flexibility to do what it takes to protect the American people.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And so the first order of business for both Republicans and Democrats when they get back to Washington is to get the defense appropriations bill on my desk as soon as possible. They ought not to play politics with defense appropriations at this time in American history.

I've asked for the largest increase in spending since Ronald Reagan was the President—defense spending—since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did that for two reasons: One, anytime we commit our military into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, the best possible equipment. And for those of you who have loved ones in the military, you thank them on behalf of a grateful nation and a Commander in Chief. And I thank you for the sacrifice of your family.

And secondly, the defense increase sends a clear signal to friend and foe alike that when it comes to defending our freedom, we're in this for the long haul. You see, there's not a calendar on my desk in Washington that says, now time to quit. That's not the way I think. I believe history has called us into action. History has put the spotlight right here on America. History will determine whether or not we understand the value of freedom, the necessity to keep a vast coalition together to make the world more peaceful. See, that's my goal. My goal is for there to be a peaceful world.

There's going to be some steep hills to climb, because this is a different kind of war. It's not the kind of war that many of our veterans fought in. It's not the kind of war we can measure infantry brigades marching across plains, or squadrons of aircraft. We can't count the enemy's aircraft. We don't know how many foot soldiers they have. That's not the kind of war. Remember, these are the commanders who hide in caves and send their youngsters to their death. That's the kind of enemy we fight.

So we've got to think differently, which means we've got to use all intelligence at our disposal. We've got to make sure that we continue to talk with our friends and allies, that when they know something, we need to know it, and when we have learned something, we will share it with them. It means we need diplomatic pressure. It means we've got to be bold enough to enforce the doctrines. When I say, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," I mean it. When I say, "You're either with us, or you're with the others," I mean that too. And we're enforcing that doctrine. And the Taliban found out exactly what we mean.

I want the youngsters here to understand the nature of your Government. We don't seek—we do not seek revenge here in America. We seek justice. We don't want to conquer anybody. That's not the way we think. We want to liberate people. See, we believe every life matters. It doesn't matter whether it's an American life; every life counts.

And so when we liberated Afghanistan from the clutches of the barbaric regime called the Taliban, young girls—many young girls went to school for the first time. No,

this great country, this great country—this great country has a vision of peace and justice and compassion for our fellow human beings.

But we also understand that in order to achieve those goals we're going to have to do what it takes to make the world more secure. We're going to have to do everything we can to rid the world of terror. And we're making some progress; we're making some progress. We've—our coalition has arrested, hauled them in, however you want to call it, a couple of thousand of them. About that many weren't quite as lucky so far.

We've got more work to do, though. We just do. Where they bunch up, we'll get them. We're making it clear that—to other nations, once we get them on the run, don't let them light in your part of the world. And so we spent time destroying training camps and disrupting infrastructure and disrupting communication capacities. We're getting them on the run. And you watch: Slowly but surely—slowly but surely—we will achieve the objective and bring them to justice.

And as we do so, we can achieve some larger objectives. And by the way, there is another objective that we've just got to keep in mind for the sake of our children and their children. We cannot allow the world's worst leaders to harbor and develop the world's worst weapons, to hold those of us who love freedom hostage. We must not do that.

No, the enemy hit us September 11th, nearly a year ago. And I just can't imagine what was going through their mind. They said, "Well, this Nation is not going to do anything. They're so materialistic, so self-absorbed, and so selfish that they might file a lawsuit or two—*[laughter]*—but that's all they'll think about doing. They'll kind of crumble under their own greed and their own self-centered attitude about life." They didn't know who they were hitting, though, did they?

Out of the evil done to America is going to come some good, because we're a great nation. We can achieve peace—we can achieve peace—by being strong and diligent, reminding people of the great, God-given values that are important to all humanity. We can achieve peace, and will. We can achieve peace—you got to know how I think—I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle

East by being strong and determined and to focus on what's best for people. We can achieve peace in South Asia. I know this seems like high hurdles, but we have a chance. Out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good around the world.

And some incredible good can come here at home too. See, it's important to remember, in this land of plenty there are pockets of despair and hopelessness. There are people who hurt. There are youngsters who wonder or not—whether America is meant for them, whether or not the American Dream applies to them. And of course, it does.

See, I believe when one of us hurts, all of us hurt. When one of us is diminished, all of us are affected. And therefore, we need to do something about it here in America. I believe the enemy has wakened a spirit in this country that understands, in order to fight evil, in order to fight evil—that in order to fight evil, you can do so by loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And that's happening.

It's important for our fellow citizens to recognize that if you were to mentor a child, you're a part of defining the true compassion of America. If you go into a shut-in's home and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you," you're making a difference here in America. If you help feed somebody who's hungry, you're making a huge difference in showing the world the true character of this country.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good, because Americans understand that being a patriot is more—is more than just saying the Pledge Allegiance; being a patriot is serving something greater than yourself.

We learned that lesson most profoundly on September the 11th, when citizens were flying across the country, or thought they were, on Flight 93. They realized their airplane was going to be used as a weapon to take life, perhaps in the Nation's Capital. They were on the phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them. They used the word "love." They said a prayer. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They dove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It is that spirit of serving something—it is that spirit that recognizes while one of us can't do everything, each of us can do something, one thing to help change America, one heart and one soul and one conscience at a time. No, out of the evil done to America is going to come great good, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of fantastic, compassionate, decent fellow citizens.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:30 a.m. in the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Gary A. Podesta of Stockton; Alex G. Spanos, chairman of the board, San Diego Chargers; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks to the Hispanic Community in Santa Ana, California

August 23, 2002

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. Gosh, thanks for coming today. It's my honor to be back in California—such a vibrant and exciting State. I am thrilled to be here in Santa Ana, and this is a vibrant city. And one reason why is because it's got such an energetic, visionary mayor. And Mr. Mayor, I appreciate—and I appreciate your hospitality. And I want to thank Laura, the first lady of this city.

I know something about marrying people named Laura. [*Laughter*] We both married above ourselves, Mr. Mayor. [*Laughter*] So, I want to thank you, and I want to thank your city council for hosting us here. And I want to thank very much the—I want to thank the fine folks at this beautiful facility for welcoming us. It's a magnificent asset for this community and for this county and for this State.

It's a thrill to be here to talk about some of the priorities for our Nation. We've got some big priorities, and we've got some big jobs to do. But there's no doubt in my mind we can achieve our objectives, because we're America, and we're full of Americans—people bold and courageous and strong.

But before I do so, I want to talk about two Members of the Congress who have joined us, two fine Americans and good, solid citizens and friends of mine. That would be Chris Cox and Ed Royce. Thank you both for coming.

Rosario Marin—she’s a former mayor in a little—couple of cities away from here. She’s now the Treasurer of the United States of America. And I appreciate you coming, Rosario.

I like to always say hello to the high sheriff. In this case, we’ve got two high sheriffs—one I appreciate so much, Mike Carona. He’s done a fine job. We saw him on TV the other day announcing an important arrest, saying he’s going to help do everything he can to make neighborhoods safe. Sheriff, you did a fine job. And I also want to thank my friend Lee Baca for being here as well. Good to see you, Lee.

Everybody has got to have a good lawyer these days. [*Laughter*] And I’ve got one of the best, and he is here with his family, vacationing in Orange County. He came over from Washington, DC. He knows a good place to travel to when he sees one. And his name is Al Gonzales, and I want to thank my friend and lawyer, Al Gonzales, for being here.

And finally, I want to thank Francisco Paret for being here. He’s a member of the President’s Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. And that’s a commission we take very seriously. We take it seriously because we understand every child in America must be educated in order for this country to realize its full promise. I don’t mean a few children; I mean every single child.

And you’ve got your superintendent of schools here, a good, young leader. He told me the district is 92-percent Hispanic. My attitude is, so what? That means when you succeed, you’ve done such a great job for America. That’s his attitude. You see, some would say, “Ninety-two-percent Hispanic, that’s an impossible district.” Some believe certain children can’t learn. I don’t believe that, and neither does the superintendent of schools.

You see, we start with the premise that every child can learn—every child can learn.

We set high standards because we believe that every child has got the capacity to learn. You see, if you set low standards in society, you know what you’re going to get? You’re going to get low results. You have standards so low that you’ve got these school districts that are going to quit on certain kids. And guess who gets quit on here in America—children whose parents don’t speak English as a first language, for example. Those are the easiest kids to quit on. Or how about inner-city African American kids? They’re easy to quit on.

For the sake of America, for the sake of our future, we must first and foremost understand every child can learn, and devise systems to make sure they do. That’s why at the Federal level we’re spending plenty of money, but we’re also saying, “We trust you all to chart the path to excellence. One size doesn’t fit all when it comes to running the public schools.” But we’re also saying, “Since we believe every child can learn, why don’t you show us? Why don’t you measure? You see, why don’t you tell America or your community or your State whether or not your children are learning to read and write and add and subtract?” And if they are, there will be plenty of praise. But you measure also to make sure that if children are failing, you catch the problems early, before it’s too late. No child in America should be left behind. Every child, no matter his or her background, deserves a positive, solid, excellent education.

And we’ve got to do a better job. And we’ve got to face the facts that too many of our Latino youngsters aren’t learning to read early enough. And that’s a problem. If you can’t read by the fourth grade, you’re not going to be able to read by the eighth grade. And if you can’t read by the eighth grade, you can’t read in high school. It’s a problem, and we’ve got to take it head on. That’s why I want to make sure that we measure. That’s why I want to make sure we challenge a system that sometimes has got standards so low. It’s what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. So one of the things we’ve done in the No Child Left Behind is said, “Let’s start with first things first. Let’s make sure children can read, children from all backgrounds.”

Here in California, our new law provides a 50-percent increase to help students from non-English-speaking homes learn to read. And that's important. No child should be left behind.

And so today, the Department of Education—I'm going to report to you, the Department of Education has awarded California a \$133 million reading grant. And that's to make sure every child can read by the third grade. That's what that's for. I don't mean just a few. I don't mean those from the nice, fancy school districts. I mean every single child.

And one of the reasons why California is one of the first States to receive the grant is because California is using research-based instruction to teach reading. Your State, probably because your superintendent insists on it, has asked the question, "What works?" Not what sounds good, not what feels good, but what actually works. How do you teach kids to read? And that's what you're doing in this State, and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for doing that. And we've got a little money to make sure it works and make sure that we focus on every child.

I don't care for the fact that a lot of the youngsters, the Latino youngsters, don't go to college. It's not a good statistic for America. Less than 10 percent go on to higher education. We must—we must work to encourage participation at all levels of education. But we must make it clear to our youngsters from all walks of life, but particularly Hispanic youngsters, that going to college is essential to being able to fully realize the American Dream.

All of us must set that clear goal for everybody, but we also must help. And that's why we've increased Pell grant funding by more than \$2.5 billion from last year's budget to this year's budget. There's a way to help, and we need to help through good scholarship programs like Pell grants.

I also want to note—want you to know that we're focusing on what they call the Latino-serving higher institutions. For the fiscal year 2003 budget, I've asked for more money to go to support colleges which provide 600,000 Latino students nationwide with educational opportunities. It's an increase of 30 percent.

My point is, is that we've got to make sure that education is affordable and accessible. And we've got to set the goals. We've got to make people understand what is possible here in America. But first things first. We've got to make sure every child learns to read and no child is left behind.

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans is launching what we call the "Yes I Can" national awareness campaign. And it's aimed at encouraging Latino students to obtain a college education. They called together citizens from around the country, they put together this initiative, this plan, this way to convince people that higher education is essential.

Parents can click onto a bilingual Web site called yesican.gov—yesican.gov, to learn about college costs, financial aid, and what their children should be asking their guidance counselor about college. In other words, it's a go-by, it's a help, it's a way to encourage people and help people understand that they—that sending their children to college here in America is a way forward.

And finally, about education, I know it's an important part of life for many students in our border communities in Mexico and Canada to attend school here in the United States. There's a lot of transborder crossing on a daily basis, to take advantage of our great educational opportunities. That's what we want, by the way. We shouldn't try to restrict people. It's good for our colleges, and it's good for the Mexican citizens and the Canadian citizens. And so we're going to expand eligibility for student visas, to ensure that part-time commuter students can continue to study here in America.

You know, education is the pathway to success, and there's just example after example of people who came here with nothing except a dream or a hope and love and got a good education and succeeded. That's what America is about. That's what I love about our country. That's the hope. That's what distinguishes us from many other countries, that we welcome people from all walks of life. We proudly call you an American. We don't say, "Show us your birth certificate, how you're born, where you're born." You're

American, and we love you for being in America. We welcomed you to this country.

And, you know, I've got a shining example right there in Washington I want to share a story with you about, because it's a—we've got a little problem up there with this particular fellow. His name is Miguel Estrada. He's a young guy. He came to our country as a teenager. He barely spoke English. He had trouble with the language because he didn't spend any time learning the language. And he got here, and he worked hard, the result of a good brain, brilliant mind, he now has argued 15 cases before the United States Supreme Court.

I've named him to a high bench, but the Senate won't give him a hearing. Here's a kid who comes to our country, works hard, learns the language. He's a brilliant jurist. He can't even get a hearing. I nominated him over a year and a half ago. I want this man to serve as a bright example of what is possible in America. He'll be a great judge, and the Senate needs to act.

Making sure every child is educated is part of making sure America is a secure country and a hopeful country. We've also got to do some other work to make sure we're secure and hopeful. I want to thank the law enforcement officers who are here today. You've got a big job. Our job at the Federal Government is to put a strategy in place that will make our first-responders more effective. It's not only law enforcement—firefighters and EMS.

And we're doing just that. I've actually tried to create a new Department of Homeland Security, to put agencies under one roof, to make sure that the number one priority of the Federal Government is to protect the homeland. And we need to do that.

I've got to tell you we need to do that, because there are still coldblooded killers out there that would like to hurt America. I want the youngsters to know why. And the reason why is because we love freedom. We value each life here in America. Everybody is important. Every life has meaning. Every life has worth.

And the enemy doesn't think that way. You see, they hate freedom. They hate the idea of people being able to worship freely. They can't stand the thought of Republican and

Democrat actually getting along. [*Laughter*] They don't like a free press. And we do. And we uphold those values, and we will defend them at all cost.

And so for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of values we hold dear, the best way for us to secure our homeland, other than reorganizing and encouraging and focusing on every lead and every hint, is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. The best way to protect America, the best way to uphold that which we love dear, is to get them before they get us. And that's precisely what this country is going to do.

We don't seek revenge. We seek justice. We don't want to conquer anybody. We want to liberate people, because every life matters. Every person has worth. I want the youngsters here to understand that when we went into Afghanistan to uphold the doctrine, if you harbor a terrorist you're just as guilty as the terrorists, that we freed people. Young girls now go to school for the first time, thanks to the goodness of the United States of America and our friends and allies.

No, we're on a mission. I believe out of the evil done to America will come some very—some incredible good. That's what I believe. I believe these people hit a country, and they didn't understand who they were hitting. And who they hit was a country that's tough and strong and determined, but also a country that's beginning to find its soul and its deep compassion.

See, not only if we're—not only can we achieve peace, which I believe can happen and will happen, that we can address those pockets of despair and hopelessness which exist in America, one person at a time. My call to people in this country is that if you want to join on the war on terror, if you want to fight evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

You see, this great country can change and will change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. One of us can't do everything—I know that—but each of us can do something. And I call upon my fellow Americans to be that person doing something: Mentor a child, help a shut-in, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, because this is the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent and compassionate people.

Thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:07 p.m. in the courtyard at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Miguel A. Pulido of Santa Ana; Michael S. Carona, sheriff-coroner, Orange County, CA; Leroy D. Baca, sheriff, Los Angeles County, CA; and Al Mijares, superintendent, Santa Ana Unified School District. He also referred to Public Law 107-110, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Statement on Signing Legislation on the Codification of Public Buildings, Property, and Works

August 23, 2002

I have signed into law H.R. 2068, a bill “to revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to public buildings, property, and works, as title 40, United States Code, ‘Public Buildings, Property, and Works.’” This measure is the latest in a series that is intended to enact all titles of the United States Code into positive law.

In approving this bill, I note that section 312(b)(2), concerning cert in transfers of funds for equipment purchases, and section 3305(a)(3), concerning the use of land as a site for a public building, state that the executive branch may take action only after receiving the approval of certain committees of Congress. The constitutional requirement of bicameralism and presentment is infringed whenever a single house, committee, or agent of Congress attempts to direct the execution of the laws or to promulgate rules or standards intended to bind the actions of executive or administrative officials that have not been approved by both houses and presented to the President. *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 958-59 (1983). The executive branch will therefore interpret these and similar provisions to require advance notifi-

cation only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court’s ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 23, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2068, approved August 21, was assigned Public Law No. 107-217. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks at a Reception for Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon in Dana Point, California

August 23, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks for inviting me. We don’t have views like this in Crawford. [Laughter] What a beautiful spot this is, in a fantastic State. And thanks for coming tonight. It is my honor to come and help support the fine slate of candidates that our party is fielding this year. And it’s my honor to come and support the next Governor of the State of California, Bill Simon.

Bill mentioned that Laura was out here working for—on his behalf. And that day he drew the long straw, and today—[laughter]—you drew the short one. [Laughter] But she’s doing great. I had a talk with her when we got settled into this beautiful spot. And yesterday in Leander, Texas, they named an elementary school for her. So she thought it would be good—and deservedly so, I might say.

You know, when I married Laura, she was a public school librarian. That’s how she made her living. She was a public school librarian, and the truth of the matter is, she didn’t care for politics or politicians. [Laughter] And now she got stuck with one. [Laughter] For the good of the country, she’s a fabulous First Lady. I’m proud of her. Just like Cindy Simon is going to be a great first lady for California.

I like the way the Simon’s value family. That’s important for your leader of the State of California to hold values dear to his heart. And there’s nothing more important than

people who value faith and family and service to something greater than yourself.

This event has not only drawn a lot of hard-working grassroots activists—and I want to thank you for your hard work, not only for what—

Audience member. Working hard.

The President. I know you are. [*Laughter*] Not only for what you have done but for what you're fixing to do, which is to turn out the vote. A lot of times, you never get thanked enough. A lot of times, those of us running for office kind of take you for granted. Well, you want—need to know your President doesn't take you for granted. I want to thank you for your hard work. I want to thank you for what you do. I'm urging you to get out and support this good man and the slate that we have put together here in the great State of California.

But we've got some strong—we've got some strong members of the congressional delegation who are here, and I want to introduce some of them. I'm going to probably need their vote when—[*laughter*]. The good news is, I haven't had to ask the ones I'm about to introduce too often, because they've been loyal friends, and they're strong, like Ken Calvert—I appreciate you coming, Kenny—or Ed Royce, right up the coast here. Ed, thank you for coming.

How about Randy “Duke” Cunningham. Duke.

Audience members. Duke! Duke! Duke!

The President. I asked him how long it took to get up here from his district. He said, when he put in an afterburner, about 3 minutes. [*Laughter*] I appreciate so very much Darrell Issa being here as well. Darrell, thanks for coming. And finally, the Congressman from this district, a true leader in the House of Representatives, Chris Cox.

We've got candidates who are running statewide in this fantastic State. The next Lieutenant Governor of your State of California is Bruce McPherson. I appreciate you coming, Bruce. I've known Bruce for quite a while. He's a good hand, as they say in Crawford. He's a good, hard-working man, who is going to work with the next Governor to do what's right for the people of this State. I want to thank very much Dick Ackerman, who is the candidate for State attorney gen-

eral, for being here. The next secretary of state, Keith Olberg, is with us today. Greg Conlon, who is going to be the next treasurer of your State, is with us today. Gary Mendoza is running a great race for insurance commissioner—is with us today. I appreciate so very much Katherine Smith, running for state superintendent of public construction. Thank you, Katherine. These are fine candidates, and I want to thank you all for supporting them.

I also want to pay tribute to Jack and Joanne Kemp who are here today. Jack has been a great stalwart for the—[*applause*]. It's good to know they still remember you. He's a good friend and a great man, who has been stalwart in the—for our cause and our way of thinking. I appreciate so very much his willingness to work hard to take the edge off a message to make it clear that what we believe in applies to everybody, that we don't believe in excluding people. We believe in including people in our message of—[*applause*].

And I want to thank my friend Gerry Parsky, who has done a great job on my behalf in this State. He had some really heavy lifting to do in 2000. He was my campaign chairman in this State. But he's a good man. He's a good man, and I appreciate his friendship.

But I want to talk to you about the next Governor. The thing I like about Bill Simon is he's willing to work to change the tone of politics. And that's important. If you want to lead, if you're there for the right reason, if you want to serve the people, the first thing you've got to do is change the tone and attitude of people, in this case in Sacramento, California.

You see, if you believe in pitting one group of people against another, you can't get anything done. If you believe that politics is zero-sum—we've got one winner and one loser—you're not going to get positive things done on behalf of the people. Bill Simon is committed to changing the tone in Sacramento, to get things done not just for Republicans, but for Democrats and independents and people who don't give a darn about politics.

And notice, I said “get things done.” I mean “get results,” results such as making

sure that every child gets a good education in this important State. It is really important. It's really important in this big State, in this powerful State, in this State that has got people from all walks of life, that we make sure that every single child gets educated—every child. Not a few, not some in the fancy districts, not some in the suburbs, but every child, everywhere in the State of California.

And that means setting high standards. That means having a Governor who believes every child can learn. You see, the sad fact is, around probably California, I know in Texas and around the country, there are some people who believe children can't—some children can't learn. See, that means they've got low standards, what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you set the low—bar low, you're going to get bad results. And so first and foremost, you've got to have a Governor who believes every child can learn.

Secondly, you've got to have a Governor who trusts the people to make the decisions as to how to get the path to excellence set up in each school district. You see, you cannot have a one-size-fits-all education system, not only out of Washington but out of a big, powerful State, diverse State, like California. You've got to trust the local folks. You've got to trust the teachers and the parents. You've got to be willing to say, "We're not going to try to micromanage from a centralized authority."

Thirdly, you've got to have a Governor—and this Governor—future Governor agrees with me about this—that you've got to be willing to measure. You see, if you believe every child can learn, like I do, then you insist that every child be measured to determine whether they are learning. It's the folks who say every child can't learn, are the ones who say, "Let's don't measure." If you believe the child can't learn, there's no need to tell whether or not they are. Guess what happens with the system that doesn't measure? You shuffle children through—called "social promotion." And guess who gets hurt? Everybody gets hurt in a system that refuses to educate each and every child. I believe we ought to measure, and I believe we ought to measure so we know who to praise. And I believe we ought to measure to make sure

we correct problems early, before they're too late. No child in America and no child in California should be left behind.

And you've got a Governor—future Governor, who understands that. See, it's a frame of mind you've got to have in Washington. Public education isn't a political issue; it is a issue that is important for every single family in this State. You can't play politics with the education system.

You need a breath of fresh air in Sacramento, is what you need. You also need somebody who can balance the budget, somebody who can help set priorities, somebody who doesn't try to be all things to all people. That's what you need. And that's the way Bill Simon is going to be.

And finally, an issue that is dear to my heart is the understanding that we need to help people help themselves in California and in America. We need—for example, when we reauthorize the welfare bill, we've got to make sure that the key component of any new reauthorization is work. We've got to understand that work equals dignity.

But you've also got to understand we've got to help people. We've got to help people be prepared to work. Listen, there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in this State and all around this country. And one way to make sure that we help people is to unleash one of the great strengths of America, and that is the faith-based programs all across our country.

I'm trying to get a bill passed out of Washington that recognizes the power of programs coming out of church and synagogue and mosque, programs—programs all designed to help people in need. Bill Simon understands that. We ought to ask the question, "Does it work? Does it work? Does changing a person's heart help ease addiction, help cure the hopelessness?" You bet it does. And therefore, we ought to have a Governor in this State who's willing to grab the great talent of the State, the compassion of the State, to make sure that every Californian has got an opportunity to realize the great dream of this State. That's the kind of man Bill Simon is.

He doesn't need a poll to tell him what to believe. He's got a compass and a direction. So I hope you work hard to put him

in and work hard to get the rest of the candidates in. It will be a big day for your State, to get a new attitude, a new way of thinking in the State's capital. It's good for all people of this State.

We've got some problems in Sacramento, and we've got some problems we've got to deal with as a Nation. We do. But we're going to deal with them. My most important job—my most important job is to protect innocent life here in the country. And it's still a task, because there's still an enemy that hates us. You know, I'm sure your sons and daughters or grandkids are saying, "Why would anybody hate America? What have we done?" Well, we love freedom, that's what we've done. We value each life. That's what we do here in this country. Each person has got worth, each person has got dignity. Everybody matters.

We love the fact that people can worship freely in America, and we're not going to change. We love the fact that people can speak their mind—

Audience member. I love it—

The President. —and they're not going to change. Keep speaking it. [*Laughter*]

We love the fact—we love the fact we've got a free press. We love that. And anybody who tries to take away our freedoms is going to find out we're plenty tough. We're staring down nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. That's all they are—that's all they are. And therefore, we're going to deal with them as such.

But in order to protect the homeland, I need some help out of Congress. I want to thank the House Members for voting on a good bill that recognizes that when you have over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, kind of scattered all over the Nation's Capital, it's hard to get priorities set; it's hard to get a culture in place that demands the fact that we're all working to keep the people safe. That's what we need to do. We need to bring them under one Cabinet officer.

The problem I face is that the Senate doesn't quite understand what the House has done. See, I need to be able to move people—I need to be able to move people to the right place at the right time in order to make the border more secure, for example. We've got different agencies on the border

all competing. We've got the INS and the Customs; we've got Border Patrol, three fine agencies with great people, but they're not—they compete. They need to work together. We've got a new day in America. The Senate is more worried about their political turf and less worried about the security of the American people.

But you need to know there are a lot of fine people—I mean fine folks—working on your behalf, people running down every hint that somebody might be thinking about doing something, people sharing intelligence, people working overtime to do everything they can. And I don't mean people just at the Federal level; I'm talking about at the State level and at the local level. I'm grateful for the law enforcement folks here in the State of California, who care deeply about the citizens of this State. I'm grateful for our FBI agents who are working hard. I'm grateful for all the people who are involved with the homeland security.

We're doing everything we can—you just need to know it—everything we can to make sure that we protect the people. But the best way to protect the people is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what we've got to do. That's what we have to do, and that's what we're going to do. That's why I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did so because I want to send a clear message that any time we put one of our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. If you've got a loved one in the military, you tell them the Commander in Chief and the country is really proud of their service. And I'm proud of your support for your loved ones. I'm proud of them. It's really important they serve. They're serving a great nation.

We also have a big increase in our defense spending because I want the enemy and friend alike to know that we're in this for the long pull. There's not a calendar on my desk—one of those kind of flipping calendars. You flip it, and it says, now time to quit. [*Laughter*] That's not how I think, and that's not how you think.

You see, history has called us into action. History has given us a chance to defend freedom, to bring freedom not only here at home—to make sure we preserve it here at home—but to have freedom in other parts of the world. That’s what history has done. We’re making good progress, by the way. We’re making good progress, thanks to our coalition and thanks to our friends. We’ve captured over a couple thousand of them. [Laughter] Seriously.

Audience member. Round ‘em up, George.

The President. About the like number haven’t been so lucky. [Laughter] But we’ve got more work to do; we just do. And no matter where they light, we’re going to get after them. We’re going to uphold the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you’re just as guilty as the terrorists.

I spend a lot of time talking about this, because not only is it on my mind and it’s our priority, but it’s very important for the American people to understand we face a different kind of war. Sometimes you’ll see it on TV, and sometimes you won’t. Sometimes you’ll see our actions; a lot of times you won’t. But you’ve just got to know that we’re chasing them, one by one.

And not only that, it’s very important for our future to deal with those leaders, those leaders—the world’s worst leaders, who want to harbor and develop the world’s worst weapons. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our future. I’m a patient man. We’ve got tools at our disposal, but we have got to defend freedom. We owe it to the future generations to do so.

You know, when the enemy hit us, I can’t imagine what was going through their mind. See, they must have thought that this great Nation was so self-absorbed, so materialistic, and so shallow that after September the 11th, we might just file a lawsuit or two. [Laughter]

But they found out we think differently here in America. They found out what this country is made out of. We’re a strong nation, but we’re a decent nation as well. See, we don’t seek revenge; we seek justice. We don’t go to countries to conquer; we go into countries to liberate, just like we did in Afghanistan. We believe in the worth of human beings all around the world. Our dream is

for freedom not just for our own children but for children all around the globe. That’s the way our Nation thinks.

I’m going to tell you what I believe. I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe it. I believe that if this Nation remains strong and tough and pursues terrorism, upholds doctrine, is true to our word, is willing to delineate between good and evil, that we can achieve peace, that we can have peace not only for our own people, but we can have peace in places where they’ve quit thinking about peace, like the Middle East or South Asia. I believe that.

I want you to tell your children, when they hear the talk of war or they talk about our United States taking action, that it’s all a design, it’s all aimed to make this world a peaceful place.

And here at home, I believe that out of evil done to America is going to come some incredible good as well. I mentioned the fact that there are pockets of despair and hopelessness in California and America. There just are. I believe when one of us hurts, we all hurt. But I understand the role of Government is limited. See, Government can hand out money, but what it cannot do is put hope in people’s hearts or a sense of purpose in people’s lives.

No, societies change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. Societies change when people say, “I want to love my neighbor just like I was loved myself.” And that’s what’s happening here in America. People have said, “What can I do to help?” I’ve said, “Do some good.” It’s the collective acts of our kind and decent and compassionated citizens which defined the true character and true face of our country.

No, the enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done on that terrible day is going to come a more compassionate and decent and hopeful America. You see, people have taken a step back here in this country, and they now understand that serving something greater than yourself is part of being a patriotic American. It’s more than just putting your hand on your heart and saying, by the way, “one Nation under God.” It’s more than that.

A patriot is somebody who mentors a child. A patriot is someone who brings hope into a life that is hopeless. A patriot is somebody who works to feed the hungry. That's a patriot. A patriot is somebody who's a responsible citizen, responsible for loving their children with all their heart and all their soul but responsible for working in the community in which they live. And that's what happening here in America.

And perhaps the most vivid example of what I'm talking about, a vivid example of an attitude change, a clear beacon of what's happening in America took place on Flight 93, when citizens were flying across the country. History shows that they were on the cell phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them and goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the airplane that was to be used as a weapon, perhaps against the White House or the Capitol, they drove it into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, I believe—I believe from the bottom of my heart that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. The world is going to be more peaceful, and this country is going to be more compassionate and decent and hopeful, because this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. We're the greatest country because we've got the greatest people on the face of the Earth.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:04 p.m. at the St. Regis Monarch Beach Resort. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and former Representative Jack F. Kemp, and his wife, Joanne. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7584—Women's Equality Day, 2002

August 23, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Today, American women enjoy unprecedented opportunities in business, education, politics, and countless other aspects of our

society. Historically, however, women suffered grave inequalities and were denied some of the most fundamental benefits of citizenship.

Each year on August 26th, we mark the important anniversary of the day on which women gained the right to vote. In celebrating Women's Equality Day, we remember the brave and determined individuals who worked to ensure that all women have the opportunity to participate in our democracy. Their dedication to the suffrage movement improved our society, and continues to inspire women today.

When the first Women's Rights Convention was convened in Seneca Falls in 1848, women in the United States had limited financial, legal, and political power. In addition to being denied the right to vote, they also could not own property, control their wages, or claim custody of their children.

Courageous heroes like Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony refused to accept women's status, and began a determined struggle to gain suffrage for women. Leading active and vocal groups like the National American Woman Suffrage Association and the National Woman's Party, these women risked attack and arrest to organize marches, boycotts, and pickets, while mobilizing an influential lobbying force of millions. Finally, on August 26, 1920, the women's suffrage movement accomplished its goal through the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

In Afghanistan, the Taliban used violence and fear to deny Afghan women access to education, health care, mobility, and the right to vote. Our coalition has liberated Afghanistan and restored fundamental human rights and freedoms to Afghan women, and all the people of Afghanistan. Young girls in Afghanistan are able to attend schools for the first time.

As we celebrate this day, I encourage all Americans to learn about our important achievements in equality. Looking to the future, we must remain diligent as we work to ensure the rights of all of our citizens, and to support those who struggle daily for life's basic liberties.

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 August 26, 2002, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs and activities.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 27, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 24, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on August 28.

**Remarks at a Breakfast for
Gubernatorial Candidate Bill Simon
in Westwood, California**

August 24, 2002

Thank you very much. Please. Thanks for that warm welcome, and good morning. It's great to be here. I'm—had a great stay here in California, went to Stockton and then Dana Point and finishing off our visit here in the Los Angeles area. I'm off to New Mexico, and after I spend the afternoon in New Mexico, I'll be back in Crawford, Texas, where I'll tell the First Lady of your thanks.

By the way, she's doing a fabulous job. She is a really remarkable woman. She is a—when the Nation needed a calm, reassuring voice, she provided it. And when I need someone to kind of calm me down, she does. I'm real proud of Laura. She was born and raised in Midland, Texas. She was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics. She didn't like politicians. And now she a great First Lady of the United States. [Laughter]

I also thank Cindy Simon for being a good, strong mom and a great wife and a future first lady of the State of California. I appreciate David Murdock for his hospitality. And

I want to thank you all for coming. I want to thank you for supporting this good man in his quest to be the Governor of this important State.

I stand by his side because I know that you can do better in California, that the status quo is not acceptable, that what Sacramento needs is a breath of fresh air, a new way of thinking, a new attitude about politics. That attitude starts with understanding the job of the Governor is to serve everybody. It's not to pit one group of people against another. It's not to take into account of who is for you and who is against you and, therefore, make decisions based upon that. You need a Governor who makes decisions based upon principle, not polls, a Governor who understands that setting priorities is important.

You see, you can't balance the budget unless you set priorities. You can't be all things to all people in the political process. You need a Governor who is willing to make tough decisions. And I know Bill Simon is that kind of person. See, he doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think. You've either got it inside your soul, or you don't. And this man's priorities are strong—his faith and his family and his desire to serve his community. And those are important values for somebody who wants to lead the State of California.

And what I appreciate most of all is his compassion for education. I share the same passion. Education—good education policy starts with a frame of mind that says every child can learn. That sounds simple, of course, but that's not the way it is in a lot of school districts. You see, it's a—and I learned this lesson as the Governor of the State of Texas, when I traveled around my own State. I went to places where it became apparent to me that people thought some children couldn't learn, generally kids whose parents didn't speak English as a first language, the newly arrived, or the inner-city African American child. You know, it's easy to walk into a classroom and just assume these kids can't learn. "Let's just move them through, see. Let's just get them out of the system." Those days have got to end, and Bill understands that. If you want a hopeful California for everybody, you must start with an

education system that starts with high expectations. In other words, you've got to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

There are two crucial ingredients to doing that—one is recognize there are a variety of paths to excellence. In other words, one size doesn't fit all when it comes to schools; that you've got to trust the local folks, the parents and the teachers and the principals, to design the path to excellence. That's really important out, of Washington, DC. I mean, one of the really good parts of the No Child Left Behind legislation was that we divested Washington of power. And Bill understands you've got to do the same thing in Sacramento. You cannot micromanage your way to excellence in education.

And another cornerstone of excellence is to measure, is to be willing to take on the status quo by measuring. See, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning. And the only way you do that is you devise accountability systems, accountability systems designed to let us all know the truth. And if children are learning, it gives us an opportunity to praise the teachers and the principals and the curriculum that's used. But you see, an accountability system also will show which children aren't learning. And then that becomes an opportunity to correct problems early, before it's too late. Every child matters in California, and no—not one single child—should be left behind.

Bill understands that. And I appreciate his vision and his care. I also appreciate his understanding that the great strength of this country is not in our governments but in the hearts and souls of our people, and that any of us in positions of responsibility must be willing to challenge and rally the great armies of compassion which exist all across the country—these armies of compassion can be found in church, synagogue, or mosque; they can be found in the Boys and Girls Clubs; they're found in the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; they're found in the bosoms of our fellow citizens—and that, while Government can hand out money, what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. And the job of Government is not to discriminate against faith-

based and charitable programs but to welcome them to make the society a better place for all.

So I appreciate his vision. I appreciate his attitude. And I appreciate the fact that with your help he's going to be the next Governor of the State of California.

Before I leave I do want to give you an update about the issues we face on a national basis. First, our economy is—has had some tough times. We inherited a recession. The first three quarters of my Presidency were negative growth. That means it's a recession. The positive news is the next three quarters have been positive growth. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Productivity is up. We've got the best workers in the world. We've got the most innovative entrepreneurs in the world. Things are clicking along.

Obviously, we're recovering from the attacks. We're making progress. The tax cuts that we passed were incredibly important, incredibly important to our economy. And one of the things Congress needs to do is make them permanent. In order for entrepreneurs to plan, they have got to make the tax cuts permanent. We're making progress, but we're not going to rest. You've got to understand, though, I understand the role of Government is not to create wealth. That's not the role of Government. The role of Government is to create an environment in which businesses—small, large, entrepreneurs—can flourish. And that's the kind of work we'll continue to do until anybody who wants to find a job can find one. That's my concern.

The economy is on my mind and so is the defense of our homeland. And it would be on your mind, too, if you saw what I saw on a daily basis, which is a continued threat to our country. And we take every threat seriously. I had the opportunity of meeting one of our finest, an FBI agent who is here today, and you just need to know that whether it be the FBI or other intelligence-gathering networks, agencies in the United States, or State or local officials, we're all working overtime to protect the American people.

We've got a new task at hand. We're in a new era. The first war of the 21st century is taking place, and we must respond at home in an intelligent and smart way. That means sharing intelligence, that means running

down every hint, that means chasing every single lead. And that's exactly what we will continue to do.

It also means that we've got to reorganize our Government in a smart way. I gave—I'm sure you've heard by now that I've asked the Congress to reorganize the agencies involved with homeland defense so that there's one bureaucracy, one agency. When I first got going, people said, "Well, gosh, it doesn't seem to make sense." I said—I assured them, I wasn't running, you know, "Vote for me. I want Government to be bigger." That wasn't my slogan. [Laughter] But now that we're in this new war, I'd like it to work better, so I can assure the American people that we're doing everything we can to fulfill our number one priority, which is to protect innocent life here at home.

And so we've asked the Government to respond. The House has. The Senate is kind of caught up in—not kind of, really caught up in their own special interests. They kind of want to micromanage. They want to tell the administration branch, "You can't move this person here or there without a permission slip." We need flexibility. We need the ability to move people around. We need the ability to better protect our borders. We need the ability to make sure our first-responders are better trained.

And so I think we're going to get a good bill, but not unless the Senate lets us move people—the right people to the right place at the right time. And I need this agency. I need it so I can assure the American people that at home we're doing everything we can.

And we are. But the best way to make sure that we secure the homeland and protect and defend our freedoms is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time. That's what we have to do, and that's exactly what we are going to do. We're going to do so because we love freedom. One of the challenges I knew I would have—that the farther we got away from September the 11th, the more likely it would be people would forget—would forget the challenge, would not remember the pain and suffering. We kind of think that the enemy might have forgotten—their ideology, now that they struck, would just kind of go away.

That's not reality, you see. That's not the way the world is today. These people are haters. They're coldblooded killers. They can't stand the thought that we worship freely. They do not like the thought that we value each life. And so the only way to deal with them is to use every resource at our disposal and to bring them to justice.

Now, you notice I said "bring them to justice." I didn't say "seek revenge." We're not a revengeful nation. We believe in justice. I also want to assure you all—I particularly want you to assure your children—that when the United States moves, when we uphold doctrine—like the doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of them, you're just as guilty as they are"—that doctrine—that when we made our decision against the Taliban and moved against the Taliban, we did so not to conquer anybody. America doesn't conquer people. We went in as liberators, because not only do we value life here at home, that everybody matters, we feel the same way about lives around the world.

We don't like it when barbaric regimes such as the Taliban deny young girls the opportunity to go to school. See, that's not in our grain. We don't think that is the right way. And in this case, not only were we able to uphold a doctrine, but by the use of force to uphold that doctrine, we also liberated young girls and liberated women and liberated men from the clutches of a terrible regime.

We've got a lot of work ahead of us. Obviously, one of the jobs is to continue to work on keeping our coalition together. That part of the doctrine said, "Either you're with us, or you're with them." And most people have chosen to be with us, because they understand that we do believe in freedom, and we're motivated by positive values—not American values, by the way, but universal, God-given values. Those are the values we hold dear.

We've got to continue to work to gather intelligence around the world and share it, so that we can haul them in. And we, being the coalition, have done a pretty good job of arresting or incarcerating, however you want to call it, over a couple of thousand of Al Qaida killers. So one by one we're finding them, and another—about the equal number

haven't been quite as lucky, as a result of the war in Afghanistan.

But we're making progress. But you need to know there are still some of them out there. How many we don't know. They haven't all raised their hand. This is a different kind of war. [Laughter] This isn't one of these wars where you measure the enemy's strength by the number of tanks or the number of airplanes or the number of ships. This is a—it's hard to count an enemy which—the leadership of which hides in caves and sends young boys to their death. That's the nature.

But this country is strong, see. They didn't know who they were hitting. I like to tease them by saying, they must have thought all we were going to do is file a lawsuit. [Laughter] They didn't understand America. They didn't understand the fact that we do love things. We love freedom. We love each other. We cry when somebody gets hurt, like what happened on September the 11th. We mourn the loss of—any time anyone of our brave soldiers is killed in combat. We care deeply about our fellow citizens. And so, therefore, when they struck us, they struck a chord.

It's not only a patriotic chord of love of country; it's a chord of service, is what it is. You probably have heard me say this, but I truly believe it, that this is an opportunity; out of evil will come some good. That's what I believe. And the good that will come will be peace. If we remain strong and tough and take on some of the tough tasks that we're going to have to take on, we can achieve peace—not only peace for the short run but, more importantly, peace for future generations, not only peace for our fellow Americans but peace for the Israelis and the Palestinians, peace in South Asia. That is the dream. We have an opportunity—we have an opportunity. I see a world that is peaceful.

Well, sometimes we're going to have to be tough and have to speak clearly about the difference between good and evil. We can't equivocate. We must speak about universal values. We must be strong in principle, but we can get there.

And at home—at home we can be a more compassionate America. I first got into politics—when I first got into politics—actually,

when I first got into politics I lost, in 1978. [Laughter] The second time I got into politics—[laughter]—when I was running for Governor, I told the people of my State one of the reasons I was running was to help be a part of a cultural change, from a culture that said, “If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else.” That's how I tried to define the culture in a way people could understand. My dream was to be a part of a shift toward a culture which says, “Each of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that there needs to be a period of personal responsibility in America.”

It's amazing how life works, and I like to use Flight 93 as an example. The culture is shifting; it's shifting after 9/11. The enemy has awakened a spirit in America that says, part of a culture based upon personal responsibility is to serve something greater than yourself in life, starting with serving your children as loyal moms and dads.

Flight 93 was an example of that. It was a vivid, sad, tragic example, but nevertheless, it's one that will serve to me, and I think many Americans, as a reminder about what I'm talking about. These are people that were on an airplane; they learned the airplane was going to be a weapon. They got on their cell phones. They told their loved ones they loved them. They used the word “love.” They said a prayer, and they drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

It's an example, a vivid example of what I'm talking about. You see, when you mentor a child, you're serving something greater than yourself in life. When you love a shut-in, when you teach a child values by being a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop leader, when you say to a person who wonders about their future that, “I love you; can I help you,” these acts of compassion and kindness and decency are all part about being an American, a patriotic American who understands there is a responsibility to something greater than self.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come a more compassionate and decent America. When one of us hurts, all of us hurts. And we can change America, one

person, one conscience, one soul at a time. We can. We can all make a difference.

I hope you can tell that I'm an optimistic fellow, and I'm optimistic—and rightly so—because I'm the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the most decent and compassionate people. Thank you for helping Bill.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:45 a.m. in the Regency Room at the Regency Club. In his remarks, he referred to Cindy Simon, wife of candidate Bill Simon; and David H. Murdock, chairman and chief executive officer, Dole Food Company, Inc.

The President's Radio Address

August 24, 2002

Good morning. While visiting the west coast this week, I saw the destructive effects of one of the worst wildfire seasons in history. The catastrophic blazes we have seen this summer, and which I saw firsthand in Oregon, threaten the safety of forest communities and firefighters, destroy homes, businesses, farms and critical wildlife habitat, and leave behind long-lasting environmental damage. I join all Americans in thanking the brave firefighters for their service.

As we work to put out the fires and bring relief to their victims, we also have a responsibility to prevent the devastation that can be caused by future fires. For too long, America's fire prevention strategy has been shortsighted. Forest policies have not focused on thinning, the clearing of the forest floor of built-up brush and densely packed trees that create the fuel for extremely large fires like those experienced this year.

This hands-off approach to forest management has been devastating to our environment, and it can take more than a century for forests to recover from these fires. One forest ranger said of this year's fire season, "In the next few years to come, it won't be the exception; it will be the norm because of how we have managed our forests."

We need a different approach. People who fight fires and study forests agree that we

must strengthen the health of our forests through a combination of thinning and quickly restoring areas damaged by fires. By actively managing our forests in this way, we'll help our environment by reducing the number of acres of forest land that catastrophic fires burn each year.

On Thursday, I announced important new steps to restore the health of America's forests and help prevent the kind of devastating fires we have seen this year. We will guard against excessive redtape and endless litigation that stand in the way of sensible forest management decisions.

I have directed Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman and Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton to reduce bureaucracy and speed up the process of thinning on public lands. And I urge Congress to pass legislation that will ensure that vital forest restoration projects are not tied up in courts forever. Some Members of Congress have already gotten important forest reform passed for their States because they know it is the fastest and most effective way to get forests thinned. We should pass this important reform to help protect all of America's forests.

My administration will work with Congress to deliver on the unfulfilled promises of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan. The plan was crafted to protect wildlife habitat and recreational areas, while employing more than 100,000 people through sustainable timber harvesting in a small portion of the forests. My proposals will reduce the threat of wildfires that have destroyed people's homes and livelihoods. They will restore the health of America's forests, provide greater safety to our citizens, and protect our environment for generations to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:35 a.m. on August 21 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to the Community in Las Cruces, New Mexico

August 24, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. It's great to come to a place where you can see cowboy hats and belt buckles, boots. Thanks for letting me across the State line. [*Laughter*] I was just raised right around the corner, in Midland, Texas. So I kind of consider Las Cruces to be kind of home.

But thank you all for greeting me today, and thanks for the warm welcome. It is my honor to be here in this beautiful State, in this dynamic city, to talk about the three great goals we have for this country—three great goals: First is to win the war on terror; second is to make sure that we protect our homeland; and third is to assure you that we will not rest until our economy is strong. Anybody who wants to find work must be able to find work in this country. We're going to help this economy grow.

And this is a great place to talk about the strength of America. It's a great place to come to talk about the fact that, even though we've got challenges, we can overcome these challenges because we're Americans. We work hard. We have great values. We're optimistic people. There is no challenge that we can't overcome, and the people of this great part of the country understand that as well as anybody else.

I want to thank my friend the senior Senator, Pete Domenici. He's a fine, fine man. Not only is he a fine man, he is a great United States Senator. And not only is he a great United States Senator, he loves New Mexico a lot.

And then, of course, there's the retiring Congressman, Joe Skeen, who has brought such class to the office of—that he has held. We're real proud of Joe. We're proud of his courage. We're proud of his strength. We're going to miss him in Washington, DC, but Washington, DC's loss is your gain. He and Mary love this part of the country, and he's going to have a lot of farewells. This is not his farewell speech from me, but nevertheless, it's my honor to talk in front of his constituents and tell him how much we love him and how much we care for he and Mary. Joe,

thanks for coming today. [*Applause*] They sure love you, Joe.

Jay, I want to thank you very much for inviting me and this small entourage I travel with—[*laughter*]—to this very important campus. It's—New Mexico State has got a proud reputation, and you've made it even more proud, Jay. And I appreciate your service. I want to thank all the folks who helped put this event on, particularly in this beautiful facility, where I guess the Aggies tend to dominate.

I want to thank Ruben Smith, the mayor of Las Cruces, for being here. Mayor Smith, thank you for your time. Dora Dominguez, the president of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber, helped put on this event, and I'm most grateful for the Chamber members who are here. I want to thank very much Sara Misquez, who is the president of the Mesquero Apache Tribe, who is with us today. I appreciate Jesus Segura, who is the mayor of Sunland Park.

I want to thank very much a special person who met me out there at the airport, Ophelia Chaffino. She is a USA Freedom Corps volunteer. She is a foster grandparent who tutors 4th and 5th year-olds. Let me tell you why I want to bring up the—Ophelia and people like her. Because I understand, and I hope you understand, the great strength of our country is not our governments. The great strength of our country is our people. And when people—and people can make a significant difference in all kinds of ways in the communities in which they live. The fact that Ophelia wants to mentor children is a significant contribution.

Oh, you know, some may step back and say, "Changing one life isn't that much." Changing one life is a lot—a lot. And I want to thank the soldiers in the armies of compassion which exist in Las Cruces, all across New Mexico, and all across our country, for working hard to make our society a compassionate and decent place. Where are you, Ophelia? Thank you for being here. Please stand up and wave.

I appreciate so very much Ruben King-Shaw, Jr., who works for the Health and Human Services Administration, being with us today. Why don't you stand up, Ruben? I'm going to say something about you. Ruben

is here to make sure that we improve health care for the people of New Mexico. You can sit down, Ruben. [*Laughter*] Ruben is a good man. I've known him—I'm proud that he came up and worked in my administration. He also has got a big heart.

One of the concerns we have is that nearly half of low-income adults here in New Mexico are uninsured. And that's a problem—and that's a problem. Most of the uninsured adults are Latinos or Hispanic. And so what Ruben did was, he came to approve an application that will allow for, the best way to put it is creative financing, to make sure that 40,000 additional adults in this State are able to get health insurance, to work with the State and Senator Domenici to provide a plan so that more of your citizens will be able to have health insurance. And Ruben, I want to thank you for taking time off of your vacation to come and work that plan and implement it so that the good folks in New Mexico have got a better quality of life. Thank you for coming.

No, as Pete mentioned, we've got some hurdles to cross here in the country. We've got some issues we have to deal with. One of the issues, of course, is our economy. When I came in, the country was beginning a recession. It's just a fact. We had three quarters of negative growth. And then the terrorists hit us, and that affected our economy. And then something bubbled to the service that had been brewing for a while: We found out some of our citizens wanted to cook the books. Some of our citizens didn't feel like they could do it the honest way. They had to try to slide one by us. Corporate scandals erupted.

We've had three major challenges to job creation in the country. But you need to know, we're going to deal with it, and we're going to deal with it in a strong way. My view is, the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses and entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers can prosper, so we can create jobs around the country.

And one of the things we did together—and I'm talking about Republicans and Democrats—is we took a page out of this textbook that said, "If you want to try to en-

courage job creation, if you want the economy to grow, you let hard-working people keep more of their own money." Pete and I and Joe have read that textbook. Some in Washington haven't. [*Laughter*] We understand if you let a person keep more of their own money—by the way, you notice I don't say "keep more of the Government's money." It's not the Government's money we're talking about. It's the people's money. If people keep more of their own money, it means somebody is going to demand a good or a service. And if somebody demands a good and service, somebody is likely to produce that good or service, and when somebody produces that good and service, somebody's more likely to find work. The tax relief that we passed happened right at the right time. And for the sake of economic vitality and job creation, we need to make the tax relief permanent.

And at the same time, my job is to work with fine Members like Senator Domenici and make sure that we don't overspend. We want to make sure that we're fiscally responsible. That doesn't mean that we can't set priorities and fund those priorities, and we will. But as Pete will tell you, every idea is a good idea in Washington, no matter what it costs. [*Laughter*] My job is to make sure that the good ideas that meet our priorities are funded, like fighting and winning the war on terror, protecting the homeland, and taking care of people who can't help themselves, and education—our children. Those are the priorities.

We need to work together. When they get back out of their break and when they get back to Washington, they need to work to put some of our construction people back to work, by passing a terrorism insurance bill, one that will allow large-scale construction programs to go forward that aren't going forward because they can't get insurance necessary to cover a possible terrorist attack. And by the way, the bill ought to be more worried about the hardhats than the lawyers. This ought to be a bill that is aimed to help the working people.

We need to make sure that we've got pension reform. A lot of you all have got assets tied up in what they call 401(k)s or IRAs, but if you're in a 401(k) and you're working

for a company and the boss sells, you ought to sell. By the way, I've just signed, in a new law, that type of provision. It says what's good for one is good for all. If it's good for the head man, it ought to be good for everybody else working for the company.

But we also need to have a law to allow people to diversify. We shouldn't force people who work for a company and who get company stock to have to stay in that stock forever. After a reasonable period of time, they ought to be able to diversify their portfolio. They ought to get sound investment advice, and they ought to get reports on a quarterly basis, not an annual basis. In order to make the economy stronger, we need to have pension reform on behalf of the workers of this country.

Thirdly, I just got a new bill that will allow me to encourage trade. Let me explain my position on trade, and I'll start with something that's dear to the people of this part of the world, and that's agriculture. The good news for America is, we grow enough food to feed ourselves. That's good news. Imagine what it would be like if we didn't grow enough food to feed ourselves, if we had to go around the world asking for food. We'd be a little more vulnerable as a nation.

It's good for our national security that we've got enough food to feed ourselves. But we've got more than we need, because we're the best in the world at growing things. Our farmers and ranchers are the best in the world. And if you're the best in the world at something, you ought to encourage it. And so, therefore, my job is to open up markets for U.S. agricultural products. It is the best way to allow our producers to make a living. It is in our Nation's interest we do so.

And people say, "Well, of course, he's going to say that, but that hasn't been the way it's been." And I understand that. I know there's some skepticism about level playing fields. And I know a lot of the farmers and ranchers and some from other industries have said, "Well, we've heard that song and dance before." But you've just got to know how I think. If you're good at something, we're going to promote it, and we ought to start from our strength when it comes to enhancing job creation and creating wealth through trade, and that is agriculture.

And let me just give you one example of what I'm talking about. We grow a lot of chickens here in America. [*Laughter*] Well, we do. [*Laughter*] And the Russians decided they were going to—they thought about buying our chickens. Then we got the chickens moving, and they changed their mind. And I talked to President Putin quite a bit about that. So one time at one of our press conferences, he said, "Listen, our relationship has changed so much, we're no longer talking war; we're talking chickens." [*Laughter*] Two days ago, our Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman, announced that the Russians are going to buy all the chickens they said they would buy. That's good for chicken producers. It's good for hog producers. It's good for cattle producers. It's good for America. It's good for America that we open up markets to sell our products. It's going to mean jobs for the working people of this country.

It's commonsense policy. And the other day I had a chance to lay out a little bit of commonsense policy which affects the folks in the northern part of your State that Pete and I just talked about. We're having some serious fires here in America. One of our most precious resources, our forests, are burning up. And one of the reasons they're burning up is because we're doing a lousy job of maintaining our forests; we're doing a lousy job of maintaining our treasure. We've got to change our forest policy.

Our forest policy now says, hands off. And guess what happens when you have a hands-off policy—your forests become diseased; they end up like a big pile of kindling. And all it takes is one lightning strike.

I flew over the huge fire in Oregon—I mean, thousands and thousands of precious forest lands are burning. For the sake of a healthy forest, for the sake of leaving a legacy for future generations, we will change the forest policy of this country to thin the forest lands to keep them healthy.

And finally, I had the honor of signing the most comprehensive corporate reform bill since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. It's a long time ago, it seems like. But it was needed. It was when Republican and Democrats came together. It's a good piece of legislation which said the auditors will be audited;

crooked people are going to be held to account. We don't want anybody taking advantage of trustworthy people. For the sake of economic vitality and job creation, for the sake of confidence in our system, we're going to rout those out who cook the books. It's no longer going to be easy money; it's going to be hard time for people who have not upheld their responsibility.

We've got hurdles to cross, but I'm confident in the future of this country. I'm confident in our economic vitality, because I know our people and I understand the entrepreneurial spirit. I know the fact that we're the best and most productive workers in the world. We are. I know that low interest rates and low inflation provide the platform for economic vitality. We're just not going to rest. We're not going to rest until people are able to find work, people who are looking for work can find work.

And I'm not going to rest when it comes to protecting our homeland either. That's my most important job, is to prevent people from hitting us again. I say "people"—I say "people"—let me qualify that—coldblooded killers. That's all they are. There's no other way to say it. There's no other apt description than to tell you exactly how I think they are, and they're coldblooded killers. And they want to kill again because they hate what we love, and we love freedom.

We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We respect the fact that people worship freely in America. They don't value life. We value life. We say, "Everybody counts in America. Everybody is precious in this land." So long as they're out there, we've got to do everything we can to protect the homeland. And you need to know there's a lot of good folks working hard to do just that, good folks at the Federal level and at the State level and the local level.

I mean, anytime we're getting a hint, we're acting on it. Anytime we get a whisper that somebody might be thinking about doing something to America, people are on it. And we're following every lead. People are working hard. But I want to take a step further, and I've asked Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. And let me explain to you why I made that suggestion.

There are over 100 agencies in Washington, scattered all over Washington, I might add, that have got something to do with homeland security. And it seems logical to me that if the number one priority of this administration—and by the way, future administrations—is to protect the homeland, then we ought to have the capacity to make that the number one priority of the other 100 agencies. You see, you can't just say, "That's your priority," and everybody snaps to. The best way to get them to snap to is to put them under one Secretary of Homeland Security. And that's what we intend to do.

But let me tell you something, what I'm not going to do is accept a bill that tries to micromanage the process, tell us who to hire, where to move them, and how to do it. I warn the Senate—and Pete—I'm not warning Pete, because he understands what I'm talking about. He knows who I'm talking about. There are Senators who are more worried about the special interests in Washington than they are about protecting the people. They're more interested in their turf than they are about homeland security. And they need to get me a good bill. I can count on him.

But the best way to protect the homeland—we're going to work hard to do this—we're going to make sure our border—we need to know who's coming in the country, what are they bringing in the country, if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. We need to have a strong first-responders initiative to work with the mayors and the county judges and the sheriff's departments to be able to respond. We need to work closely with some of our labs to devise ways to be able to detect and respond to a bioterrorist attack, for example, or the use of weapons of mass destruction. There's a lot we're going to do.

But my theory is and my strategy is—and it's the way it's going to be so long as I'm the President—the way to best protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one by one, and bring them to justice. And so I submitted a budget, an appropriations request to the Congress that was the largest defense increase since Ronald Reagan was the President.

I did it for two reasons—two reasons: One, anytime we put our soldiers into harm’s way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best equipment possible. We not only owe it to the men and women who wear our uniform; we owe that to their loved ones as well. The other reason I submitted this budget is because I wanted to tell our friends and allies and enemy alike that we’re in this deal for the long haul. See, when it comes to defending freedom, there is no calendar that says you’ve got to quit by such-and-such a date. That this—history has called us to action, and we’re going to stay on course, stay steady, until we have achieved the mission, which is to make the world free, to defend our freedoms.

Now, I understand that this is a different kind of war, and I hope you do as well. You see, no longer are we able to count the size of the enemy by counting tanks or airplanes or ships. This is an enemy which hides in caves and then sends youngsters to their suicidal death. These people kind of run and scatter. So it’s a different kind of mission; it’s a different kind of war. But we’ve got a strategy. And they understand the strategy is, get them on the run, and once we get them on the run, don’t let them light anywhere. And if they do try to light someplace, bring them to justice. And that’s precisely what the United States is going to do.

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

The President. And so my request to the Congress—and I know Pete agrees with me—is to get the defense bill to my desk as soon as they get back. We need to get the defense bill signed. See, the Senate passed it, and the House passed it. They need to get the differences quickly. We’re at war. We need to send that signal loud and clear to our troops and to the world, that we’re strongly united in this effort to win the war against terror.

I say it’s hard to count, but I’ve got kind of an idea of how we’re doing. I say “kind of.” We estimate that over 2,500 or—of the enemy have been captured by the United States or our friends and allies. And remember, we’ve got a huge coalition of countries that are working together to cut their money off or to share intelligence, put pressure. And

the—we’ve got about 2,500 of them or so, maybe a little more than that, that are now in captivity, that are no longer in caves, that aren’t able to fight. And just about that many weren’t as lucky.

We will continue to uphold the doctrine that says, “If you harbor one of them, you’re just as guilty as those who killed American citizens.” We will be relentless and patient and strong and determined and wise about how we conduct this war. And we’re going to win the war on terror. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren; that’s who we owe it to. We owe it to them as well to make sure that the world’s worst leaders are not able to develop and deploy the world’s worst weapons. We’ve got a lot of work to do. But I’m proud of our military, and I’m proud of our team, and we’re going to get the job done.

I believe that out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I believe that. I know it’s going to happen, because we’re America. I can’t imagine what was going through the enemy’s mind when they hit us. They must have thought, “That Nation is so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so shallow in its beliefs, so selfish, that after 9/11 all they might do is file a lawsuit or two.” [Laughter] They found out different about America. They understand—they’re beginning to learn the character of this Nation. They and our allies and the enemy understand that when we go into a country, we go in not as conquerors but as liberators.

I want you all to tell your children, this great Nation, in liberating Afghanistan, made it possible for young girls, many young girls for the first time in their life, to be able to go to school. They’re learning that this Nation does not seek revenge; we seek justice. And we will all learn, by being strong and tough and diligent and compassionate, we can achieve peace.

In the midst of all this talk—in the midst of all this talk, I want you all to tell your children that this country of ours yearns for peace, that we want peace for not only this generation but future generations to come. Oh, the hill might be steep at times. It might be a rugged terrain, like you’re used to out here in New Mexico, but we’re going to cross that terrain to achieve peace—not only peace

for ourselves, but, see, we value life all around the world. When we say we value life and everybody counts, it's not just American lives; it's lives in every part of the world.

I believe we can achieve peace by routing out terror and professing the God-given values—not American values—God-given values that matter to everybody. I believe we can achieve peace in parts of the world that have quit on peace.

I believe out of the evil done to America can come some incredible good here at home, besides peace. See, ours is a great country, full of hope. But we've got to recognize there are pockets of despair and addiction and hopelessness. We've got to understand that when one hurts, all hurt. We have a chance, I believe, to take the evil done to America and convert it to great good. Because—well, let me put it to you this way: People say, "What can I do to help?" You know what you can do to help? You can love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. That's what you can do.

Oftentimes we look to Government, but Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. No, it's those millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place in America which really and truly define the true character of the country and enable me to predict that out of the evil done to America will come some good.

You see, mentoring a child is part of helping change America for the better. We can change our society, one person at a time. I hear people say, "I can't do everything." Of course you can't, but you can do something. You can do something to help change America, one lost soul at a time.

And that's happening in this country; it really is. People are beginning to understand there is a different kind of patriotism alive in America. It's the patriotism that's much bigger than just putting your hand over your heart and saying, "one Nation under God." It's a patriotism that says, serving something greater than yourself is part of being a patriotic American. It's a patriotism that understands that you're responsible for the decisions you make in life. And if you happen to be fortunate to be a mom or a dad, love your child with all your heart and all your

soul. Tell them you love them every single day, in order to make America a more compassionate and more decent place.

It's a patriotism that says, each of us have a responsibility to the quality of life in the communities in which we live. Help your schools. Go to your churches or synagogues and help feed the hungry. That's what the patriotism is, and it's alive and well and was best exemplified on that fateful, horrible day, September the 11th, when some of our fellow citizens on a flight that was flying across the country realized the plane they were on was to be used as a weapon, a weapon perhaps at the White House or at our Nation's Capitol. History shows that they were on cell phones, and they told their loved ones they loved them. Some of the last words they said were "love." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they served something greater than themselves in life. They set an example for all of us here in America.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this is the most compassionate, decent, strong nation on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. in the Pan American Center at New Mexico State University. In his remarks, he referred to Mary Skeen, wife of Representative Joe Skeen; Jay Gogue, president, New Mexico State University; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Congressional Candidate Steve Pearce in Las Cruces

August 24, 2002

Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. Congressman, thank you. I'm proud to come and ask for the people of this good district in this important State to vote for Steve Pearce to be the next United States Congressman. He's a man of good judgment. When we were walking in, he said, "A lot of folks wish Laura were here." [Laughter] And I told him, well, he drew the short straw. [Laughter]

She is doing great, by the way. She was—actually, her grandmother and her mom grew up right down the road from here, right outside of El Paso. And she was born and raised in Midland, which is right across the boundary, as you know. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. She didn't particularly care about politics or politicians, for that matter. [Laughter] And here she is as the First Lady. And what a great job she has done. I'm real proud of her. And in a couple of hours, I'm going to see her in Crawford, Texas. [Laughter]

I appreciate so very much Cynthia Pearce. Both Steve and I married above ourselves. [Laughter] Cynthia is a great lady. I appreciate your willingness to go to Washington. It's important. It's important for our country that good people choose to serve and that the people back good people. And we're backing a good man in Steve Pearce to be the next Congressman.

And he's going to be replacing a good man. I am proud of Joe Skeen. I am proud of his courage. I appreciate you, Joe. I want to thank Joe and Mary for their service, 22 years of service to this district. He has done a fine job, and we're going to miss him.

I also was pleased today—earlier today, to be in the presence of another great New Mexican citizen, and that is your senior Senator, Pete Domenici. Pete had to make up his mind whether he wanted to hear me speak twice or go fishing. [Laughter] He chose the right course. [Laughter] He's fishing. [Laughter]

I want to thank very much the Lieutenant Governor, Walter Bradley, for being here today. Walter, thank you for coming, and thank you for your service. Thank you, Walter.

I'm proud to be in the presence of the next Governor of the State of New Mexico, John Sanchez. I appreciate you, John. He's got the next first lady with him, Debra. Thanks for coming, Debra. I appreciate you being here. John's going to win, and he's going to make a big difference for the people of New Mexico, a positive influence. It's a—John's got a great story. I love his spirit, and I love his attitude.

I also appreciate Rob Perry, the next attorney general of the State of New Mexico. I

had the honor of just—who they call “just call me Sharon.” Where are you, Sharon? Thank you, Sharon. Good luck. Sharon is going to be the secretary of state of New Mexico.

I want to thank the party chairman for being here. John, thank you for coming. I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. You see, you can't win unless you get people who are willing to put up the signs—and it looked like they did a pretty darn good job, Steve, when I came in today—[laughter]—and do the mailings and go to the coffee shops all around the State of New Mexico and tell the people what a great slate we've got—look the people in the eye and tell them the values that these people bring to the office when they win. That's important. So not only do I want to thank you for coming tonight, but I want to thank you very much for what you're fixing to do, and that is to work hard. Anytime you find a good one, you've got to get out and help, and we need your help.

I also want to thank two friends of mine who have made a big difference in New Mexico, New Mexico politics, and the life of New Mexico politics, and that's Colin and Kay McMillan and Ken and Kathy Zangara. Thank you all for coming. I saw the Zangaras the other day over there in Crawford, and they said, “I'm going to see you in Las Cruces.” I said, “Okay.” And here they are. And they're working hard, and so are you all. And it's important. It's important. This election is an important election because we've got a lot to accomplish in Washington, DC. I need good, solid allies when it comes to making our Nation the very best it can be.

And that starts with having somebody understand that when you're talking about taxpayers' money, he realizes it's not the Government's money. When we're talking about taxpayers' money, it is the people's money. And you've always got to remember that in Washington, DC.

And that's important because we cut the taxes for the people. See, Steve and I understand this concept, that if somebody has more money, they're going to demand a good or a service. And if they demand a good or a service, somebody is going to provide that good or service. And when somebody does,

it's more likely somebody is going to find work. And when you've got a slowdown in your economy—as a matter of fact, it was more than a slowdown when I came into office; it was a flat-out recession—it's best to understand that when people have more money, it provides wind in the sails of our economic vitality.

And one of the issues we have, though, in Washington is this—is that because of a quirk in the Senate rules, the tax relief we provided—not only tax relief for small businesses and hard-working people but tax relief on marriages and getting rid of the death tax, by the way, which is vital for families here in New Mexico—but that tax relief goes away after 10 years. And so, for the sake of economic vitality, so people can plan, for the sake of understanding whose money it is that we're talking about, I need somebody in Congress who will join me in making sure the tax cuts are permanent. And that is Steve Pearce.

I appreciate Steve's commonsense approach to issues. I'm not surprised. After all, there's a lot of commonsense people here in this part of the world, and he's from Hobbs. And I know a little something about Hobbs—it's right around the corner from Jal. [*Laughter*] People there have got common sense. They see a problem, and they try and solve it.

Let me give you one example of what I'm talking about, something I talked about when I was in Oregon the other day, and that is, we've got a problem with our forests. We've got a problem with an important national treasure. You see, there has been an attitude that if you just leave things be, the forests will be more healthy. And we're learning—we're paying a price now for that kind of attitude. By letting things be, kindling piles up. And then lightning will strike, and all of a sudden we've got these massive fires that are destroying a national treasure.

Steve proposed legislation that would encourage thinning so that we would make the forests more healthy and more long-lived. That's the kind of commonsense approach we need in Washington, DC. For the sake of our national heritage, for the sake of our forests, let's bring some common sense to conservation/environmental policy.

I appreciate a man who understands farming and ranching. And that's really important in Washington, DC. You see, one of the great advantages we have as a nation is that we provide more food to our people than we need. Imagine if it were the other way around. Imagine if we were going hat in hand around the world asking for food. It would put us in a different national security position. No, we need commonsense farm and ranch policy. We need to make sure that not only do we have less regulation but that we've got to sell our products. You see, there's nothing better for our cattlemen than to be selling that beef around the world. If you're worried about price, the best way to encourage high price—prices so people can make a living and stay on the farm or the ranch, is to not only feed ourselves but to feed the world. I intend to use agricultural policy as the cornerstone of good economic policy for the United States of America.

We need people up there who understand energy. We don't have an energy plan. I'm waiting for the Congress to finally get me an energy plan, one that is based upon common sense, one that says, of course, we can do a better job of using technologies to conserve energy, and we've got to do things about renewable energy. In other words, we've got to do a better job of protecting the resources we have by being wiser about how we use them. But we've got to find more energy here at home. For the sake of job security and for the sake of national security, we need to become less dependent on foreign sources of power.

We need that kind of voice in Washington. We need somebody to bring some common sense up there. We need somebody who understands what I understand, that education has got to be a top priority of this Nation and of this State. Now look, I want you all to understand, I haven't forgot where I came from. I fully trust the local people to chart the path for excellence in the public school system. In essence, what we have done is, we're passing power out of Washington. One size doesn't fit all in Washington, DC. But it's important to have people up there who understand that we've got to set high expectations for our children, to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations.

We've got to face the fact that there are some districts around the country—and probably some here in New Mexico—where some assume that certain children can't learn, particularly those whose parents don't speak English as a first language, and therefore, the system just shuffles them through. That's unacceptable to me. That's unacceptable to Steve.

And that's why I've insisted that if you receive Federal money, you've got to show us whether or not children are learning to read and write and add and subtract. You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you're not afraid to measure; you're not afraid to hold people to account; you're not afraid to ask that question, can our children read, and can they write? And if they can, there's plenty of praise for our teachers. And for those of you who teach or are involved with public schools, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. But we've got to use the accountability system to catch the problems early and to solve the problems early, before it is too late. This business about just quitting on kids has got to end. No child in America should be left behind.

And I appreciate Steve's service in the Armed Forces. And that's important knowledge to have in Washington, DC, because we're at war, and we're in a tough struggle. We're in a tough struggle against a determined enemy. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, is how I define them. These are people who truly hate. They hate what we stand for, particularly because we love what we stand for. We love freedom. They hate us because we love freedom. We love the fact that people are able to worship the Almighty in a free society. They have hijacked a great religion to profess their hate. See, they don't like the idea of people being able to express themselves freely.

And so long as we hold those values dear, they will come after us. That's just the way—just the way they are. And so our biggest job—and I say "our"; it's a collective effort, but a lot of it starts in Washington, DC—is to secure the homeland. It's to do everything we can to make sure that the good people of this country don't suffer what happened on September the 11th.

And we're making some progress. We really are. There's a lot of hard-working folks, folks at the Federal level and at the State level and at the local level, who are working hour after hour to run down any hint, any lead, and disrupting any possible plans to hit America.

I've made a proposal there in Washington. I want to explain to you right quick about why I did so. I said, "We need to create a new Department of Homeland Security." When I first said that, a couple of my buddies in Texas said, "I thought you ran on the platform that you weren't going to make Government bigger." I said, "That's true. That's true, but I'd definitely like to make it better." And when we have a responsibility, it ought to be able to do its job. And my concern, having looked carefully at the situation, is that there's over 100 agencies in Washington, DC, that have something to do with the homeland security. They're scattered everywhere. It's awfully hard to create a culture and set priority when they're scattered about.

And so I said to the Congress, "Why don't you create a Department of Homeland Security, so that we can better enforce our borders?" Listen, we need to know who's coming in, what they're bringing in, and if they're staying. And if they're not—or if they're leaving when they're supposed to be leaving. We need to do a better job of coordinating a first-responder strategy with our brave police and sheriffs departments and EMS teams and fire teams around the country. We need to do a better job of understanding the effects of weapons of mass destruction and being able to respond to those threats. We've got to have the capacity to gather intelligence, analyze intelligence, assess our vulnerabilities, and deal with them. And that's what this new Homeland Department is going to do.

I made good progress in the House. I want to thank Joe for his vote. It's got a little problem in the Senate because the Senate appears to be more worried about special interests in Washington, DC, as opposed to the interests of the American people. They want to micromanage the Department.

I'll give you an example. We've got, as you know as well as anybody else—we've got agencies on our border. They wear different uniforms. They've got different strategies

sometimes. They've got a stovepipe-type organization. For the sake of our homeland security, I need the ability to be able to put the right people at the right time at the right place, in order to protect America. We've got to be able to have interoperability between our agencies, between Customs and the INS and the Border Patrol, for the sake of the security. I will not accept a bill from the Senate which ties our hands and does not let us do the job you want us to do to protect our homeland.

But the best way to make sure we secure the homeland is to get the enemy and hunt them down, one by one. And that's what we're going to have to do. It's a different kind of strategy because it's a different kind of war. In the old days there was infantry and tanks and formations and fleets. That's not the kind of war we're facing right now. We're facing a war in which the commanders hide in a cave and send youngsters to their suicidal death. They blend in big cities; they hide. But we've got them on the run. We're flushing them out, one by one, and we're making pretty good progress. We really are. We've hauled in over a couple thousand of them, and a like number wasn't as lucky. They met their fate.

But there's more of them out there. There's more of them out there, and we're learning who they are. And they're just not going to be able to hide from us because, one, we've got a great military, and two, we put a vast coalition together of people who understand what's at stake.

I submitted to the Congress a significant increase in our defense budget. I want to explain to you why I did. It's significant—it's the most significant since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I did so because I wanted to send two messages to our country and to everybody else, and that is, one, anytime we put one of our troops in harm's way, they must have the best equipment and the best pay and the best possible training. We owe it to our soldiers—[*applause*]^{*}—we owe it to our troops, and as importantly, we owe it to our troops' families. And secondly, the increase in the defense spending should send a clear message to friend and foe alike that the United States of America is a determined and patient nation, that we will do whatever

it takes to defend our freedom. No matter how long it takes, we're going to do what it takes to bring peace to the world. Oh, you hear some of them squawking about it up there, but I think most Americans understand what's at stake. They remember the horrors of September the 11th. They know that there is a determined enemy. They know that we are never going to abandon the values which we hold dear, and so long as we hold those values dear, they may try and come and get us.

I laid out some doctrine early in this conflict—two basic doctrine: one said that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist; if you feed them or clothe them or hide them, you're guilty. And the Taliban found out exactly what we meant. Now, I do want you to tell your children—and I say this every chance I get—that your great Nation, in upholding that doctrine, went into Afghanistan not to conquer anybody but to liberate people. And that's what we did. We got young girls, many young girls, going to school for the first time, thanks to the United States of America.

And we're still there. We're there to help promote democracy, a value which we hold dear. And we're there to hunt down Al Qaida. Anytime they bunch up or anytime we find them, we've got fantastic troops on the ground, hunting them down, one person at a time.

That doctrine pertains to other countries, of course, and the idea is, once you get them flushed out and get them on the run, there ought to be no place for them to light, no safe haven, no possible place to train. So you need to know your Government is doing everything we can to continue to remind other countries that we expect them to be with us or with the enemy.

Recently, a couple of months ago, the Philippines had a problem there with what they call the Abu Sayyaf^{*} group. They had kidnapped two Americans, the Burnhams, from Kansas. They were Al-Qaida-related, and the Philippine Government, thanks to our training, went and got the head of the Abu

^{*} White House correction.

Sayyaf.* Slowly but surely, we're accomplishing our mission. And we will not stop until we finish.

There's a long way to go. We've got a lot of work to do, and sometimes you'll see the work on your TVs, and sometimes you won't. It creates a certain sense of anxiety amongst the speculators and the pundits, but that's okay. It's a new kind of war. We're steady. We're patient, and we're making progress, because we understand the stakes, and the stakes are high. The stakes are these: whether or not our children can grow up in a free and peaceful world. Those are the stakes. And that's why I talk about making sure that the world's worst leaders aren't able to develop and harbor the world's worst weapons.

Now listen, I've got a lot of tools at my disposal, and I'm a patient, patient man. But I understand freedom, and I understand history has put the spotlight on this country. And so long as I'm the President, this country isn't going to blink; we're going to lead. And I look forward to having Steve's support in this effort.

I want you to know that I believe—I firmly believe that by leading this coalition and by remaining strong and diligent and focused, that we can achieve peace. It's very important for you to tell the youngsters who are trying to figure out what all this means that the goal in this Nation is a peaceful world. That's what I hope. Sometimes it may not look like we're getting there, but that is where we're headed, and that's what I believe we can accomplish. Not only do I believe we can achieve peace here, but I believe we can achieve peace in other troubled areas. I firmly believe that if we remain strong on terror and promote values of human dignity and the values of freedom, that we can achieve peace in the Middle East or in South Asia.

The enemy must have not known who they were hitting. They thought that we were a selfish nation, you know, that we were so materialistic that all we would do is file a lawsuit—[laughter]—that we weren't tough, that we didn't have character. That's what they must have thought. They're learning otherwise.

* White House correction.

You see, this is a nation which knows what I know, that out of the evil done to our country is going to come some good, not only a more peaceful world but a more compassionate country, a country in which everybody understands that the American Dream is meant for them—everybody. My belief is that one of—when one suffers, all of us suffers. I also know there's limitations on Government, that Government can hand out money. We do a pretty good job of it sometimes, but what Government cannot do is affect the human spirit. It can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government is not love. Love comes when our fellow Americans put their arms around the shoulder of somebody who hurts, and says, "I love you. I love you. What can I do to help you?"

People say, "I'd like to join the war on terror," or, "What can I do to make my country a better place?" And my answer is, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Mentor a child. Have a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. Be willing to teach people values. Make a difference in one person's life. Oh, I know that that doesn't seem huge. One person can't do everything, but one person can do something. One person can be that somebody who's making a difference in a child's life or a neighbor's life.

And that's happening in America. It really is. People are beginning to understand. They've taken a step back, and they've said, "What is this all about? What does it mean to be an American?" I believe Americans from all walks of life, every political party, even those that can't stand politics, understand that patriotism means serving something greater than just yourself.

The enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. They're paying a terrible price and will continue to do so. But the dividend of the tragedy is going to be a stronger America. And by "stronger America," I mean a more hopeful America, a decent America, an America where anybody, regardless of their background, comes, they will have the opportunities that we have had.

There's addiction in our society. There's hopelessness in our society. There's fatherless in our society. But all those problems that may seem insurmountable can be solved

one citizen at a time. And so my call to our country is, be that citizen making a difference in somebody's life.

I first started running for politics in—well, the second time I ran for—the first time I didn't do so good—[*laughter*—in Midland. Came in second in a two-man race. [*Laughter*] We've got some friends from Lubbock here. They may remember that. [*Laughter*] The second time I ran, I said, "I hope to be a part of a cultural change in America. I hope that I can, in some small way, influence a shift in the culture from one that had said, 'If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else for your problems.'" See, my hope was that our society would evolve toward a period in which all of us are responsible for the decisions we make in life, that if you're a mom or a dad, your most important job and your most important responsibility is to love your children with all your heart and all your soul, that if you're a citizen of Las Cruces, New Mexico, or Hobbs, New Mexico, you have a responsibility to ensure that your school system is the best it can possibly be, to support your teachers, to work in your community in any way it takes to make a difference in somebody's life.

I'm a big proponent of what I call the Faith-Based Initiative, because I understand that many times a changed heart will lead to a changed life, and out of our churches or synagogues or mosques come the capacity to change a person's heart, to make America a better and more decent place.

The period of responsibility is coming. I can see it all across our country. People have assumed that new patriotism. It's not just rooting for a military. It is being an active citizen, a participant in making America a genuinely decent place. And perhaps the most poignant example of that came on Flight 93. Citizens were flying across the country, you may remember. They had heard that the airplane was going to be a weapon. They said to their loved ones, "I love you. I love you." They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They drove the plane in the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because this

is the finest country, with the finest people on the face of the Earth.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:15 p.m. in the San Andres Ballroom at the Las Cruces Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Jenna Welch, mother of First Lady Laura Bush; Cynthia Pearce, wife of candidate Steve Pearce; Mary Skeen, wife of Representative Joe Skeen; New Mexico gubernatorial candidate John Sanchez, and his wife, Debra; Rob Perry, candidate for New Mexico State attorney general; Sharon Clahchischilliage, candidate for New Mexico secretary of state; John Dendahal, chairman, Republican Party of New Mexico; Ken Zangara, Bernalillo County chairman, Republican Party of New Mexico, and his wife, Kathy; and Colin McMillian, chairman, New Mexico's Bush for President 2000 campaign, and his wife, Kay. Mr. Pearce is a candidate for New Mexico's Second Congressional District.

Memorandum on Development of an Interagency Disability Web Site

August 27, 2002

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Directive to Develop Interagency Disability Web Site

Twelve years ago, the Congress passed and President George H.W. Bush signed one of the most significant civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964—the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In doing so, America opened its door to a new age for people with disabilities.

Through the New Freedom Initiative, my plan to reduce barriers to people with disabilities, my Administration is committed to ensuring that all Americans have the opportunity to learn and to develop skills, to engage in productive work, to choose where to live, and to participate in community life. This effort will allow America to draw on the talents and creativity of all its citizens.

In an effort to remove barriers for people with disabilities, I am instructing Federal agencies to work together to develop a comprehensive Federal web site that serves people with disabilities. This site will provide individuals with access to a single point to go

online for Government information and resources related to disabilities and to the New Freedom Initiative.

The development of this web site shall be coordinated by the Department of Labor. Information and services for the new web site shall be shared by all Federal agencies. Therefore, I direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to work together in developing and launching this new citizen-centered and useful web site. I further direct agencies, within 60 days of the date of this memorandum and on an ongoing basis thereafter, to work together to provide information about their programs and access to their services to the Department of Labor. The information and services should be relevant to people with disabilities and should include the programs in the New Freedom Initiative. Agencies shall also work with State and local governments, as appropriate, in collecting information about the State and local government programs and access to services for people with disabilities to be included in the web site.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 28.

Proclamation 7585—To Implement an Agreement Regarding Imports of Line Pipe Under Section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974

August 28, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On February 18, 2000, pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Trade Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2253), the President issued Proclamation 7274, which imposed additional duties on certain circular welded carbon quality line pipe (line pipe) provided for in subheadings 7306.10.10 and 7306.10.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) (safeguard measure) for a period of 3 years plus 1 day, with the first 9000 short tons of imports that are the product of each supplying country

excluded from the increased duty during each year, and with annual reductions in the rate of duty in the second and third years.

2. Section 203(a)(3)(E) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)(E)) authorizes the President to negotiate, conclude, and carry out agreements with foreign countries limiting the export from foreign countries and the import into the United States of an imported article with regard to which the U.S. International Trade Commission has made an affirmative finding regarding serious injury, or the threat thereof. Section 203(f)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(f)(1)) authorizes the President, if action under section 203 takes effect with regard to an imported article, to negotiate agreements of the type described in subsection (a)(3)(E) and, after such agreements take effect, suspend or terminate, in whole or in part, any action previously taken.

3. The United States Trade Representative, pursuant to sections 141(c)(1)(C) and 203(f)(1) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2171(c)(1)(C) and 2253(f)(1)), negotiated an agreement with the Republic of Korea (Agreement) limiting the export from Korea and import into the United States of line pipe through the imposition of a tariff-rate quota, to take effect on September 1, 2002. The agreement was signed on July 29, 2002.

4. Pursuant to sections 203(a)(3)(E) and 203(f) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2253(a)(3)(E) and 2253(f)), I am replacing the additional duties and 9000 short ton exclusion applicable to imports of line pipe from Korea with a tariff-rate quota, on a quarterly basis, to take effect beginning on September 1, 2002.

5. Section 604 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including but not limited to sections

203 and 604 of the Trade Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to establish a tariff-rate quota to carry out the Agreement, subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS is modified as provided in the Annex to this proclamation.

(2) Any provision of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that is inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation is superseded to the extent of the inconsistency.

(3) The modifications to the HTS made by this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time, on September 1, 2002, and shall continue in effect as provided in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS, unless such actions are earlier expressly modified or terminated. Effective at the close of March 1, 2004, or such other date that is 1 year from the close of the safeguard measure, the modifications to the HTS established in this proclamation and by Proclamation 7274 shall be deleted from the HTS.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:34 a.m., August 29, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex were published in the *Federal Register* on August 30.

Proclamation 7586—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences for Argentina

August 28, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “1974 Act”) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(C)), provides that a country that is no longer treated as a beneficiary

developing country with respect to an eligible article may be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to such article if imports of such article from such country did not exceed the competitive need limitations in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)) during the preceding calendar year.

2. Section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)) provides that the President may disregard the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)(i)(II)) with respect to any eligible article from any beneficiary developing country if the aggregate appraised value of the imports of such article into the United States during the preceding calendar year does not exceed an amount set forth in section 503(c)(2)(F)(ii) (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(F)(ii)).

3. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that Argentina should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to certain eligible articles that previously had been imported in quantities exceeding the competitive need limitations of section 503(c)(2)(A).

4. Pursuant to section 503(c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act, I have determined that the competitive need limitation provided in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) should be waived with respect to certain eligible articles from Argentina.

5. Section 604 of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and title V and section 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to provide that Argentina, which has not been treated as a beneficiary

developing country with respect to certain eligible articles, should be redesignated as a beneficiary developing country with respect to those articles for purposes of the GSP:

(a) general note 4(d) to the HTS is modified as provided in section A of the Annex to this proclamation.

(b) the Rates of Duty 1-Special subcolumn for each of the HTS subheadings enumerated in section B of the Annex to this proclamation is modified as provided in such section.

(2) A waiver of the application of section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(II) of the 1974 Act shall apply to the eligible articles in the HTS subheadings and to the beneficiary developing country listed in section C of the Annex to this proclamation.

(3) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) The modifications made by the Annex to this proclamation shall be effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the publication of this proclamation in the *Federal Register*.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 30, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation and its annex will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 3.

Executive Order 13273—Further Amending Executive Order 10173, as Amended, Prescribing Regulations Relating to the Safeguarding of Vessels, Harbors, Ports, and Waterfront Facilities of the United States

August 21, 2002

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of title II of the Act of June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191) (the “Act”), and in addition to the finding in Executive Order 10173 of October 18, 1950, and any other declaration or finding in force under section 1 of the Act, I find that the security of the United States is endangered by reason of disturbances in the international relations of the United States that have existed since the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, and that such disturbances continue to endanger such relations, and hereby order that:

Part 6 of Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended by:

(a) Adding after section 6.01–5 the following new section: “6.01–6 Area Commander. “Area Commander,” as used in this part, means the officer of the Coast Guard designated by the Commandant to command a Coast Guard Area.”; and

(b) Amending section 6.04–1 to read as follows: “6.04–1 Enforcement. (a) The rules and regulations in this part shall be enforced by the Captain of the Port under the supervision and general direction of the District Commander, Area Commander, and the Commandant. All authority and power vested in the Captain of the Port by the regulations in this part shall be deemed vested in and may be exercised by the District Commander, Area Commander, and the Commandant.

(b) The rules and regulations in this part may be enforced by any other officer or petty officer of the Coast Guard designated by the District Commander, Area Commander, or the Commandant.

(c) Any authority or power under this part vested in, delegated to, or exercised by a

member of the Coast Guard shall be subject to the direction of the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating.”

George W. Bush

The White House,
August 21, 2002.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., August 30, 2002]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 3.

**Remarks at a Luncheon for
Gubernatorial Candidate Steve
Largent and Senator James M.
Inhofe in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**
August 29, 2002

Thank you all. It’s nice to be here in Oklahoma. Thanks. I appreciate so very much the invitation to come and throw my support behind a fine United States Senator and a person this State is surely going to reelect, and that’s Jim Inhofe. And I’m also honored to be here with “Governor” Largent. It’s got a nice ring to it.

Thanks for inviting me. There’s not much that differentiates Texas and Oklahoma—maybe the Red River, a little difference of opinion about football. [Laughter] But I’m thrilled to be here to see so many friends. I’ve always felt at home in Oklahoma, and I want to thank you all for such wonderful hospitality. As my friend said, he said, “You got to remember when you’re heading up there, civilization ends at the Red River.” And as my Oklahoma friends said, “Yeah, depends on which side you’re coming from.” [Laughter] But one thing is for certain—people on both sides of the Red River love America.

I want to appreciate Don Nickles. He is a leader in the United States Senate. I spent a lot of quality time with him. There in the Cabinet Room, we’re talking about important issues and plotting strategy on how to get things through the Senate that are positive for America. Don, he loves Oklahoma, of

course, and he always reminds me about the virtues of Oklahoma. But he clearly loves America too. He’s providing important leadership for our country, and for that I am grateful. And I, too, want to call you friend, and thanks for being here, Don.

I appreciate so very much Kay Inhofe for putting up with Jim and for being such a good mom. The Inhofes are—got fantastic values, because they understand good values, first and foremost, start at home. I’m honored to meet—gosh, I don’t know how many grandkids I met—eleven of them. Well, if they all get out to vote, it’s going to be a landslide. [Laughter] But I want to thank the Inhofe family. I want to thank Kay. And I also want to thank the next first lady of Oklahoma, Terry Largent, in her support for her husband, Steve.

All of us up here on this stage married above ourselves. [Laughter] I had the privilege of saying goodbye for a brief period of time to our First Lady, who’s down there in Crawford. She is—she was born and raised in west Texas. That’s kind of like western Oklahoma, not a lot of native trees and not a lot of water but a lot of really good people. She’s down to Earth; she’s capable. You know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian, and the truth of the matter is, she didn’t particularly care about politicians or politics. And here she is, and what a great comforting voice and what a great wife, and what a wonderful First Lady we have. I am incredibly proud.

Anyway, she sends her love. She sends her love, and she joins me in thanking those of you who want to help these good candidates. Thank you for what you’ve done and what you’re going to do, which is turn out the vote, which is to go to your coffee shops and your churches and your community centers and tell the people of Oklahoma you’ve got two good ones in these candidates. It makes sense to send these people to their respective jobs, not for the good of Republicans but for the good of all the people in the great State of Oklahoma.

I want to thank the members of the Oklahoma congressional delegation. I am proud to work with them on a regular basis. I’m proud we have worked together to accomplish some things on behalf of the American

people. I want to thank Congressman John Sullivan, who is here. I want to thank Wes Watkins, and we're going to miss you, friend. Ernest Istook is here; thank you for coming, Ernest. Frank Lucas is here. I appreciate you, Big Frank, for coming. And finally, another man we're going to miss is J.C. Watts. I appreciate you, J.C. I'm sure you'll be able to figure out how to get a hold of me if you need me. [Laughter] But thank you both for your service, and thank all the congressional Members for being here.

I was so pleased to see that my friend Tom Cole won a primary in a convincing way. He beat a field of good people. But he's going to be the next Congressman, replacing J.C. Watts. I thank you for coming, Tom.

I appreciate your Lieutenant Governor, Mary Fallin, for coming today. I appreciate her long service to the great State of Oklahoma. I appreciate her working with my friend Frank Keating, who's done a fine job on behalf of the people of Oklahoma. I want to thank the mayor of Oklahoma City, Kirk Humphreys. Kirk has done a fine job for Oklahoma City. I'm proud to call him friend, and I know the people of this city are proud to call him mayor.

I thank Brenda Reneau for being here, who is the head of your department of labor. I also want to thank Chad Alexander, who's the chairman of the Republican Party. And again, I want to thank you all for coming.

Most of all, I want to extol the virtues of your next Governor. He's a solid citizen. He doesn't need a poll to tell him what to think or what to believe. It's clear when you get to know Steve that he's got his principles indelibly etched on his heart. He's got his priorities straight. He has faith foremost in his life, and his family are his two priorities, and then comes government. But it's with—those kind of priorities are important for a leader. And that's what you're trying to figure out, who's the best leader for the people of Oklahoma, who has got a vision based upon principle, not based upon polls, who will set the right priorities for the people of this State. And there's no doubt in my mind that Steve Largent has the right priorities for the people of this great State of Oklahoma.

And his first priority—his first priority is to make sure every child in this State gets

educated, not just a few, not just some from the big, fancy school districts, but every child. That's his vision. See, he understands what I know, that if you have low standards, you get low results. If you don't believe every child can learn, then certain children won't learn. And that's inexcusable to the State of Oklahoma.

So Steve travels this State, talking about setting the highest of high standards with the belief that every child can learn. He also understands that if the legislature micromanages the public schools, if they decide to set all kinds of rules that require permission slips in order for there to be local control of schools, you won't get excellence for every child. So like me, he is a strong advocate of local control of schools.

But as well, he understands what I know: You've got to hold people accountable. You see, if you believe every child can learn, then you're willing to say, "Let's see." If you believe certain children can't learn, then you don't support accountability. If you believe every child can learn, you're not afraid to measure, to determine whether every child is learning. You see, the accountability is so important to make sure no child gets left behind. It's important also to make sure that you address problems early, before it's too late. Steve knows what I know: There are no second-class children in the State of Oklahoma.

I appreciate his attitude about the role of Government and the entrepreneur. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government should create an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, which means you've got to have wise tax policy. You see, you use your Tax Code in order to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit. If you over-tax the entrepreneur, it diminishes the capacity for the small business to grow and to create good, vibrant jobs. He understands that.

And one of the big issues that he is going to take on is to reform the workers' compensation system here in the State of Oklahoma. He also knows that by far the biggest engine of job creation is small business. That's where most of the new jobs come from in America, and therefore, we've got to have policy aimed at small business. And one thing

we've got to do, in order to make sure small business grows, is to understand the role of the lawsuit in our society. You need to have yourself a Governor who's willing to look at the plaintiff's attorney straight in the eye and ask for and get tort reform in the State of Oklahoma.

I appreciate his values. I appreciate his vision. I appreciate his background. I appreciate the fact that he's a winner. And I appreciate that I'm on the stage with the next Governor of Oklahoma, Steve Largent.

And I appreciate being with a United States Senator who stands on principle, who does what he thinks is right and has lived up to his word. He's a fellow that said, "I'm going to Washington. I'm not going to change." And he didn't. I think the thing that struck me most about Jim in our conversation on Air Force One—by the way, it's not a bad way to travel—[laughter]—was that when he described when his daughter was professor of the year. See, he's from a family of teachers. His wife is a teacher. They raised some teachers. Jim understands the importance of teaching, and for those of you who have got family members who are teachers or you're teachers yourself, I want to thank you from the bottom of our collective hearts up here for what you do. But he's a man who understands the importance of teaching in our society, teaching not only lessons of reading and writing but teaching right from wrong.

He understands the role of energy, the need for an energy policy. See, the people of Oklahoma also understand that. We need an energy policy in America. We need a policy that encourages conservation and renewables, but we need a wise policy that makes sure we've got energy here at home. It's in our economic interests that we promote jobs through good energy policy, and it's in our national security interests that we become less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil. We need to get us an energy bill. These two Senators understand that. We need to get that bill to my desk as soon as they get back from the August recess. It's in our Nation's interest that we do so.

Jim also was supportive of the tax relief plan that I campaigned on and got through the Congress. And that was important. You see, you've got to remember something

about our economy: When we came in there, the economy was just beginning to get into a recession. There had been a slowdown, but the first three quarters of my administration was in recession. That means the economy was going backwards. Thankfully, the last three quarters have been going forward. But one of the reasons why—I'm absolutely certain one of the reasons why is because we let the people keep their own money.

We read from the same textbook. It's the textbook that says, if you let the people have their own money, they will demand a good or service. And if they demand a good or service, somebody will produce the good or service. And when somebody produces that good or service, somebody is more likely to find jobs. The tax cut, which needs to be permanent—it needs to be permanent—came at the right time for the American economy. And I want to thank Jim for his strong support.

See, he and I understand this: When it comes time to spend the money in Washington, we're not spending the Government's money, we're spending the people's money.

I want to thank Jim for his support of making sure our seniors have got prescription drugs and Medicare. It's time to modernize an important system. The system has lagged behind reality. Medicine has changed. Medicare hadn't. And we need leadership in the Senate to make sure the Medicare system meets the needs of our seniors, not only in Oklahoma but all around the country. And I want to thank you on that, Jim, very much for your leadership.

And finally, we need to get him back up there so he'll support some judges that I nominated. I found fine people to serve on our bench, good, honorable, honest people. We named one, Priscilla Owen, recently. She's smart. She's capable, one of the top students when she was in law school at Baylor. She got elected twice—I think twice, but I know she got elected at least twice statewide in Texas, with overwhelming numbers. She's a very, very smart and capable woman. But somehow, some of them up there don't like her. I guess maybe they don't like the fact that I nominated her. But this isn't right for the judicial system, for them

to be playing politics with a fine, smart, capable woman. And we need people like Jim Inhofe up there to defend my judicial nominees in Washington, DC.

And I need him up there because he is a strong voice for the defense of this Nation. He's one of the leading advocates for national defense in Washington. We both understand that history has now called us into action. History has now said to America, you must defend freedom. And that's exactly what this country is going to do.

I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I did so for two reasons: One, I want to make it absolutely clear that any time we put one of our soldiers into harm's way, that person must receive the best training, the best possible pay, the best equipment. We owe it to our soldiers, and we owe it to their families.

And I appreciate Jim Inhofe's strong, strong support for that defense budget. He's one of the leaders on the floor of the Senate. He also understands that we need to send that increase up there because we want to make it clear to our friends and allies and foes that we're in this deal for the long pull. There is no calendar on my desk that says, by such-and-such a date, we're quitting. See, when it comes to the defense of freedom, when it comes to the defense of the values we hold dear, this United States will be relentless and tough, and we will be victorious.

My most important job now is to defend innocent life in America. The enemy has taken the battle to us, and they're still there. These are haters. They're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. You need to tell your kids—people say, “Well, what do I tell my children?” You tell your children, because this Nation loves freedom, they hate us; because this Nation values each and every life—see, every life is important to America. Every life is noble. Every life is worthwhile. That's the exact opposite of the enemy. They don't value life. They're willing to take innocent life just like that. They've hijacked a fine, fine, and important religion just to cover their murderous ways.

And remember, it's a different kind of enemy. You see, you used to be able to measure the strength of an enemy by counting

his tanks or airplanes or ships. These are the kind that go to a cave and send youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the kind of people we're fighting. But there's no cave deep enough for America or dark enough to hide. No matter how long it takes, one by one we're going to hunt them down and bring them to justice.

And that's what that defense budget says. That's what that defense budget clearly says. And that's why, as soon as the Congress gets back, they need to get the defense bill to my desk and not play politics with the defense of the United States of America.

No, that's the best way to defend the homeland, is to hunt them down. In the meantime, I've got to have a Department of Homeland Security that more enables me to tell the American people we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland. I mean, we need to know who's coming in the country, what they're bringing in the country, and if they're leaving the country when they say they're going to leave the country. We need to have the capacity to put the right people in the right place at the right time to defend America.

I readily concede I didn't run on the platform, “Vote for me. I promise to make your Government bigger.” I did say, “I'm going to try to make it work better.” And so when I got up there and realized there's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security, I knew it would be hard to hold people to account with that many agencies scattered all over Washington. So I made a proposal to the Congress. I said, “Join together, and let's have a Department that works.”

The House responded, and I want to thank the House Members here. These two Senators have responded. The problem is, is that there's other Senators in Washington who want to micromanage the process. See, they put their own turf ahead of the security of the American people. They're more interested in special interests in Washington than the interest of homeland security. I will not accept a homeland security bill that ties the hands of this administration or future administrations to defend the homeland against the enemy.

My point to you is, Jim understands this. He doesn't need—he doesn't need a special

meeting at the White House to understand this. See, he understands it right off the bat, and that's why it's important that you reelect him. He also understands that there's going to be some tough times ahead for America. There just are. If you're in this for the long pull, if you're fighting an enemy that hides in the shadows of the world, it's going to take a while.

We owe it to our children, however, that we keep going on. That's who we owe it to. But not only to our children, we owe it to children all around the world. We will enforce doctrine—one doctrine says, "You're with us, or you're with them." And we work hard to keep this coalition of nations together. It makes it easier to share intelligence and to haul them in when we can find them. And by the way, we've pulled in over—a couple a thousand of them. A couple of thousand Al-Qaida-types and terrorist leaders are no longer circulating around. By the way, about equal that number weren't as lucky.

We've got a lot of work to do. We've got a lot of work to do to also enforce that doctrine that says, "If you harbor one of them, you're just as guilty. If you harbor a terrorist, you're as guilty as the terrorist."

So it's important to have Senators and Members of the House who understand the need for this Nation to be steady and resolved and determined and honest about the difference between good and evil. It also is important to have leadership that understands that we must not allow the world's worst leaders to develop and harbor the world's worst weapons.

I've got a lot of tools at my disposal, and I'm a patient man. And I'm a patient man. But I understand that history gives us an opportunity to make the world more peaceful. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. And you need to tell your little ones that part of that good is a more peaceful world, that there's going to be some steep hills to climb between now and then, but by being tough and strong, patient, smart, and wise about using our assets and all the tools at our disposal, that we can make the world more peaceful for generations to come.

By fighting terror where we find it, and by rallying people to join us, I believe the

evil done to America—out of that evil will come peace. I also know here at home that we'll be a better America.

I don't know what went through the minds of the enemy when they attacked us. They probably thought we were so materialistic, so selfish, so self-absorbed, so greedy, that all we'd do after September 11th is maybe file a lawsuit or two. They didn't understand the character of this Nation. They didn't understand that if you try to take away our freedoms, we're going to respond. See, we love—we love freedom. That's what they didn't understand. They hate things. We love things. They act out of hatred. We don't seek revenge. We seek justice out of love.

They also couldn't have possibly realized that the evil done to America would waken a spirit of compassion in this country. See, people say to me, "How can I join the war on terror?" I say, "Just love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. If you want to fight evil, put your arms around a child and say, 'I love you. I'd like to mentor you. I want to help you.'" You see, in this land of plenty, there are pockets of despair, addiction, and hopelessness. I understand full well Government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts. It can't provide a purpose for people's lives. No, that is done when our fellow citizens take the time out of their life to love somebody. That's when that happens.

See, America is changing, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, because our fellow Americans have now understood—understand—that being a patriot is more than the Pledge of Allegiance, pledging your allegiance to "one Nation under God." A patriot is somebody who is willing to take responsibility for their lives, willing to love a neighbor, willing to mentor a child, willing to go to a shut-in and help somebody in need, willing to feed the hungry, willing to be a Boy Scout leader, willing to change America one soul, one conscience at a time. And that's what's happening here in America.

America has understood that each of us can't do everything, but each of us can do something to make our country a better place. Perhaps that was best illustrated on Flight 93. Citizens flying across the country—they

realized their plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones they loved them. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They saved lives. They served something greater than themselves.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, peace, and a more compassionate, decent, hopeful America for everybody—I mean everybody—who's lucky enough to call themselves citizen of this great country.

We're going to succeed. There's no question in my mind. On my wall there's a painting of a west Texas scene by Tom Lee. He said, "Sarah and I live on the east side of the mountain. It is the sunrise side, not the sunset side. It's the side to see the day that is coming, not to see the day that has gone." I see a day that is coming that is fantastic for America, because we are the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Cox Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Kay Inhofe, wife of Senator James M. Inhofe; Terry Largent, wife of candidate Steve Largent; Tom Cole, candidate for Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District; Gov. Frank Keating of Oklahoma; Chad Alexander, chairman, Oklahoma Republican Party; and Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Remarks at the Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School in Little Rock, Arkansas

August 29, 2002

Thanks for receiving me. I'm honored to be here at Parkview. I appreciate the Patriots band playing. I'm sorry I missed it. They tell me it's one of the best in the State.

I want to thank my friend Mike Huckabee for introducing me. I appreciate his leadership. As you'll hear here in a second, we've got some interesting initiatives taking place in Arkansas, because of the determination by this State and by this Government to set high expectations for every child.

I want to thank very much Rod Paige for his leadership. You know, when I was trying to determine who to pick as the Secretary

of Education, I wanted somebody who actually had been an educator. They've got a lot of theorists in Washington. I wasn't interested in theory; I was interested in results. And Rod was running the largest school district in our State, the Houston Independent School District. And he did a fine job, and I figured if he could handle the Houston Independent School District, the Department of Education was nothing. [*Laughter*] And so I want to thank Rod for being here. I appreciate his leadership. He understands the role of principal and superintendent.

Speaking about principal, I want to thank Dr. Brown, Linda Brown, for her hospitality and all the folks at this fine school for making this event—or setting up this event, giving us a chance to come. I fully understand the Presidential entourage can be a burden sometimes. But you handled it well. And Linda, thank you very much—appreciate you.

I want to thank Senator Tim Hutchinson for coming; Congressman Vic Snyder and Congressman John Boozman, three members of the Arkansas Federal delegation. I appreciate you all being here today. Thanks for your hospitality. I appreciate so very much Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller for joining us here today as well. I want to thank your mayor, Jim Dailey, for being here. Mr. Mayor, thank you for your hospitality. I appreciate so very much Ray Simon, who's the director of the Arkansas Department of Education; Dr. Steve Franks, who's the director of the Arkansas Workforce Education; and Ken James, who's the superintendent of Little Rock schools.

We had the honor—I had the honor of meeting them and talking to them and visiting about how best to implement a strategy that not only encourages every child to learn but a strategy that continues to raise the standards, that raises the bar. I found the visit to be extremely worthwhile, and I hope they did as well.

I'm here to talk about education. Before I do so, I want to remind people we've got a lot of challenges ahead of us here in America. One of the things that's very important as we confront those challenges is to never forget about education. See, the big challenge we have now is to make sure the enemy

doesn't hit us again. That's a big challenge. I want the students to understand here why someone would want to hurt America in the first place. And it's because your country loves freedom; that's why. We love freedom. We love the freedom to worship. See, we value the idea of being able to—people being able to worship freely an almighty God. That's what we value in America. And we're not going to change.

We value the idea of people being free to succeed. See, each life matters in America. Everybody has worth. And yet the enemy, they hate what we love. They don't—they don't respect innocence. Life doesn't mean anything to them. They've hijacked a great religion in order to spread their hate. So long as we love freedom, there's going to be this enemy out there.

And so my biggest job, my most important job as your President, is to secure our homeland, is to do everything we can, everything in our power, to make sure that you're safe and your families are safe. But it's even more than that—to make sure you can grow up in a free society, to make sure that you have the same freedoms that I enjoyed when I was growing up. That's the job at hand.

And let me tell you what we're doing about it. We're working at all levels of government to run down any lead, any hint, any evidence that somebody might be fixing to try to do something to America. There's a lot of really fine people at the Federal and State and local level who are working hard to protect you, working hard to do anything we can to disrupt what might be a plan to hurt America or Americans.

I've asked the Congress recently to help me meet this task by setting up what we call a Department of Homeland Security. So when you hear talk about the Department of Homeland Security, it's really meant to make sure that we coordinate at the Federal level all these agencies involved with some sense of homeland security. See, prior to September the 11th, we never really had a focus for securing our homeland. Now we do.

And the best way to make sure everybody involved with homeland security is focused on this number one priority is to put them under one Department. And it's moving

along okay. Seems to be a few roadblocks in the way—some are more interested in their own political turf than they are in the security of the American people, and they're worried about special interests as opposed to the security of the people. But I'm confident that by working together, that we'll get us a Homeland Security Department that will actually function, that will have flexibility, that will allow us to move people to where they need to be. I mean, we need to enforce our border in this new day. We need to understand who's coming in, what they're bringing, and whether they're leaving when they say they're leaving, for the sake of homeland security. And I need the flexibility to be able to do that. And I want to be able to report to you that we do have the capacity to do everything in our power to protect you. It's my number one priority.

But you all have got to understand the best way to protect the homeland security is to chase these killers, these people down, one by one, and bring them to justice, which is precisely what our Government is going to do. I say "justice" because we don't seek revenge; we seek justice. We seek justice. And you need to know that when we go into a country to enforce a doctrine—see, there was a doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist." But when we went to enforce that doctrine, this great country didn't go in as conquerors. We went in to liberate, and we liberated a country from the clutches of a barbaric regime. It's hard for any American to understand this, but many young girls never went to school because of these people. And now, thanks to America and our friends and allies, they're going to school. We're liberators, not conquerors, here in America. Every life matters, whether it be an American life or the life of an Afghan girl.

And we've got a lot of work ahead of us. See, you all are growing up in an era with a different kind of war. You used to be able to tell the strength and size of the enemy by counting his tanks or his airplanes. These haters are the types that, since they don't value innocent life, are willing to bomb indiscriminately. And they hide in caves and send

youngsters to their suicidal death. That's the nature of the enemy.

But they have picked on a country which is a strong country, a country which, because we love our freedoms, is a country that's patient and tough and resolved to do what it takes to define history in a way that is—that values your life and your freedoms. And that's what this country is going to do.

We've got a big task at hand. I just wanted you to know. I want to give you an update so that when you read the newspapers or watch television about this war, that it's a different kind of war. The war goes on, and it's a war the United States is going to win.

These are big challenges for our country. These are big challenges for this great Nation, but we'll meet the challenges. And we've got another big challenge—is to make sure every child gets educated. That's a huge and significant challenge for our country. And notice I said "every child"; I didn't say just a handful of children here or maybe just those who go to suburban school districts. I said "every child," and I mean every single child in America. And it starts with setting high standards. It starts with believing that every child can learn. It's a mindset that's essential for this country.

See, if you believe that only certain children can learn—in other words, if you have low standards—you're going to get low results. If you set the bar low, that's exactly what you're going to get. You're going to get mediocrity. So the mindset has got to be that every child can learn. It's a mindset you have here in Arkansas, by the way. You do; you believe it. I can feel it. I've been to this—this isn't my first time to go to an Arkansas school. Certainly you've got it at this school. The Patriots believe every child can learn.

That starts with the leadership of the principal. Really fine schools have always had a fine principal. It starts with the understanding of your teachers. And for the teachers who are here, I want to thank you for teaching. It's a noble profession and an important profession.

It also is a mindset necessary for the moms and dads of Arkansas and America. The moms and dads have got to understand that they should expect the best for their children. They ought to set high standards.

There's another part of this philosophy that matches what I just said, and that is, who best to trust when it comes to meeting those standards. See, I've learned something firsthand—I kind of always knew it, but not all the smart people in the world live in Washington—[laughter]—a lot of smart ones right here in Little Rock. As a matter of fact, the people who care more about the children of Little Rock, Arkansas, are the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas. And therefore, the cornerstone of good education policy ought to be to trust the citizens of Little Rock, Arkansas, to chart the path for excellence for every child. That's called local control of schools.

This new bill I had the honor of signing—and by the way, I reminded some people earlier, I was traveling the country with Senator Kennedy of Massachusetts. We were an odd couple in some people's mind. [Laughter] But nevertheless, we both share the same vision of high standards and trust in the local people. He was a supporter of this bill. And I had the honor of signing it. I pushed it as well.

And a secondary—a third part of the philosophy is this, and this is a very important part of the philosophy. It says, if you believe every child can learn, then you want to know whether every child is learning. See, if you believe every child can learn, then it's important to have an accountability system which tells us whether every child is learning. I've heard it all. I'm sure—some of the students are saying, "All he wants to do is test us all the time. I don't like tests." Well, too bad. [Laughter] We want to know. How do you know whether or not every child is learning unless you measure? You got to measure in order to know. In order to correct problems early, before they're too late, you must measure.

See, accountability will serve as confirmation as to whether or not the curriculum is working. It will serve as confirmation as to whether or not your teacher-training programs are working. It will serve as confirmation as to whether or not children are learning the basics of education.

And so we have—we say, "In return for Federal money, show us. Show us whether or not kids are learning to read and write

and add and subtract. Show us whether or not the minimum is being met,” because every child matters in America; every child matters. And as we named this bill, no child should be left behind. The name of the bill is No Child Left Behind. And I meant no child.

And so, therefore, we’ve got this philosophy in place that the Governor has been working on, and your States have been working on, and there’s—in an accountability system there are consequences. If the State is unable to meet standards, if a school can’t meet State standards after a period of time, something has to happen. In other words, you can’t leave children trapped in schools that won’t teach and won’t change. And so one of the things that’s going to happen is public school choice or after-school tutoring.

In other words, every child matters, and therefore, when a child is trapped in a school that’s not changing, the parents have got to know something is going on. There’s a consequence. It’s not meant to punish anybody. It’s meant to save lives. Every child counts. And so, therefore, what Arkansas is beginning to do as they develop standards and accountability, a scorecard to let us all know who’s succeeding and who needs improvement—you’ve got an after-school tutoring program that’s cranking up. And I want to thank the Governor for that. And I want to thank the commissioner of education for that. It is a way to assure the parents and enforce to the children that somebody cares about them. If you’re deficient, you need help, and this good bill we passed provides that help for the State of Arkansas. And you all are on the forefront of that.

You know, one of the interesting things, one of the initial grants we gave out was for reading. Reading is a civil right. See, reading is the new civil right in the 21st century. It’s important for our citizens to understand that if you can’t read, it’s going to be hard to make it in America. If you cannot read, you’ve got a problem. And if you can’t read in the fourth grade, it’s likely you’re not going to be able to read in the eighth grade. And we’ve got to get it right, folks, early, before it’s too late. Accountability will tell us whether or not the curriculum you’re using makes sense.

And there is a science to reading. It’s not an art. It’s a science. We know what works and what doesn’t work. And so part of this no child left behind—we have what we call the Reading First program, with significant grants to States, to get people up to speed, to get them to the starting line. To make sure the accountability system has got merit, every child has got to be reading early.

And the State of Arkansas has got a reading program based upon sound research and a reading program that has been proven to be effective. And so you’ve got one of the first Reading First grants in this State, by the way. And it’s going to make a huge difference in the lives of your children. And I want to appreciate very much those who are working on making sure that the minimum is met—no child is left behind. But the minimum is not good enough for America. See, we don’t believe in the minimum in this country. We believe in the maximum.

We’ve got to aim higher. We need to challenge every student. I don’t mean just the top 10. I mean every student needs to be challenged. We’ve got to make sure that people understand, starting with the parents, by the way, that they ought to challenge their children to take the toughest classes possible. That’s what we have to do. You get people up to the minimum, but that’s not good enough. We’ve got to provide people to continue to challenge themselves.

I talked to three fine students today, two from this school and one from another school, talking about the need to be challenged. We heard from—we heard that many times parents don’t really understand the significance of challenging—of having their students taking challenging courses, that many students—and maybe you all are some of them here—say, “Well, I don’t want to take a tough course. See, I can’t pass that. Only the really smart people take the tough courses, and I don’t happen to be all that smart. Therefore, I’m not going to take it.” I doubt that’s the case in this school, but there are schools where that’s the case.

Or you hear students saying, “Don’t take the tough courses. It will make you a nerd.” [Laughter] You’re missing out if that’s the way you think. See, you’re missing an opportunity. It’s an opportunity lost. It is not in

your self-interest that you think for such low standards. And I want the parents of this State and across the country to understand that the minimum isn't acceptable for your children. And there's a way to achieve—there's a way to achieve something significant in this State, and I want to talk to you about an interesting program that we actually tried in Texas that worked.

But it's to the citizens' advantage not only that we raise standards and challenge students—you've got colleges where they're teaching remedial reading—not only colleges in Arkansas but around the country. That's not right, see. You don't want your higher education systems to be remedial education systems. If you want the best for your citizens—and I presume everybody in this State does—then we've got to get it right early and make sure that we continue to challenge our students. One reason I came here is because this is a school that challenges the students in two incredibly important subjects, math and science and, of course, the arts as well.

But today I want to talk about what we're creating in Arkansas, called the Center for State Scholars. It's the first of five States that had been chosen. Again, you were chosen because you've got a Governor who cares; you've got people who care; you believe in setting high standards. And here's the way it works. The first thing that happens is that the business community, which is—and the catalyst will be what they call the Business Roundtable, which is a national group of large employers—comes together, and they start becoming involved in the school—Little Rock school district, for example. And they start interviewing children in eighth grade about their ambitions and explaining reality. If you don't have any ambitions, the minimum wage job isn't going to get you to where you want to get, for example. In other words, "What is your ambitions? And oh, by the way, if that is your ambition, here's what it's going to take to achieve it." It's kind of a reality check.

And again, I'll repeat to you, the meetings don't take place with just A students. Every student—every student is going to be contacted. Every student is going to be involved. And then what happens is, is that they start promoting advance courses. In other words,

it's a practical application of reality to what must take place in the classrooms.

It sounds so simple, but it works, by the way. We've seen it work in Texas. I mean, thousands of students have been challenged to take AP courses. Thousands of students who didn't really realize the value of raising the bar have gone—taken extra credits and have learned new language. I mean, it is an effective way to spread the word to parent and student alike that if you're interested in your future, raise the bar. Take the toughest courses. That, in itself, has a positive effect on the schools.

See, I believe teachers want the very best. I believe they love the thought when students say, "Teach me more. Raise the standards for me, please." This is going to be a positive thing for the State of Arkansas, I can assure you. The Texas Scholars Curriculum score—Texas Scholars score 102 points higher on the SAT than their counterpart. By the way, this is thousands of students, not just a handful. Those who have completed physics and pre-calculus are now up by 50 percent since the program was started 10 years ago. It works. And it's going to be implemented here in Arkansas.

One of the reasons I've come is not only to herald the need for good education but to talk about this center right here in your State. I call upon your business community to participate. The grants that we're issuing from the Federal Government will help kind of bring people together, help people understand what it takes to make this program successful. It takes business participation. It takes a willing school district. It takes a State that's willing to facilitate. It takes parents who care, and it takes students willing to listen. And it's going to happen here in Arkansas. And as a result of this program, I firmly believe when you implement it, your great State is going to be better off. You'll shine. You'll be a beacon for others to see what is possible.

I want to talk about one other thing, if you don't mind. Here's how I think. Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. And I want our students to hear that. Out of the evil—and make no mistake, what was done on September the 11th was evil—is going to come some good.

I believe the world will be more peaceful. And you just need to know that that's the game—that's the goal, is peace in this world, not only peace here at home but peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace, peace in parts of the world where people have said peace is impossible. I think it is. That's the vision I have. And I know by leading in that direction that we can achieve peace. I believe that.

And here at home we can have a more compassionate America. I don't know what went into the minds of the people that attacked us. They probably said, "Well, this country is so self-absorbed and so materialistic and so selfish that nothing would happen. Oh, they may file a lawsuit or two, but other than that, they're so weak, nothing would happen"—is what they probably thought. And they're learning something else about America. See, they're learning the true character of the country.

Not only are we tough when we need to be tough, not only are we patient when we need to be patient, but we're a compassionate country. That's what they're learning. See, people understand that being a patriot is now—now they understand is more than just putting your hand over your heart. See, a patriot is loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to join the war on terror, do some good.

There are pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction in this good country. There just are. And when one of us hurts, we all hurt. Now, my view of Government is, Government can hand out money—and it can, and it does quite often, I might add—[laughter]—but what it cannot do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when a loving soul says, "I love you," to somebody in need. That's when that happens. It happens when somebody puts their arm around a child and says, "What can I do to make your life better? How can I mentor you? How can I help?"

My call to the seniors and juniors and sophomores here is to understand that serving something greater than yourself in life is a part of being an American. And when the enemy hit us, a lot of good folks stepped back and said, "What is life worth? What do we need to do? How can I help? How can

I serve?" Service is a part of being a responsible citizen. Service to somebody in need is part of being a whole person.

Today I had the honor of meeting Connie Melton, who greeted me at Air Force One. She's a graduate of Parkview Arts and Science Magnet School. She is the founder of the Arkansas affiliate for Dress for Success, which provides suits and business attire to low-income women trying to enter the workforce. I met her at the airport. I said, "How are you doing?" She said, "We've helped over 100—100—people already." She's been in business, I think she said, a little over a year. One hundred lives have been changed, she said, through the simple act of providing somebody with some decent clothes to help them out.

You see, our society hurts in many places, but it can change. It can change, one heart, one soul at a time. And while we all realize one of us can't do everything, one of us can do something to be a part of helping change those hearts and souls. Connie Melton, citizen, soldier in the army of compassion, didn't need a Government law to tell her to step forward. She listened to a universal call, something much higher than Government. And she's affecting the community in which she lives in such an incredibly positive and hopeful way. Connie, thank you for coming—appreciate you being here.

The reason I appreciate so very much Connie coming is, I want all of us, older and younger alike, to realize one person can make a difference. And I hope you do. I hope the youngsters here aim high and shoot high. I hope you set high standards for yourself and work hard. I hope you make the right choices in life. But I also hope you understand that here in America, helping somebody in need doesn't take all that much, but by doing so, you can help set the true face of compassion for this great Nation.

It is my honor to come to this wonderful school. I wish you all the best. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:55 p.m. in the school's auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; and Linda Brown, principal, Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School. The Office of the Press Secretary

also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a Dinner for Senator Tim Hutchinson in Little Rock

August 29, 2002

The President. Well, thank you all. Thank you all very much. I appreciate your warm welcome. Thank you. Thank you all. Well, thank you very much for coming out tonight. I'm proud to come back to Arkansas. I'm surprised you let a Texan come here this many times. [Laughter] I came here today to talk about educational excellence. I went to Parkview Magnet School to talk about setting high standards and making sure no child gets left behind. And tonight I'm here to urge the good people of this State to send Tim Hutchinson back to the United States Senate.

He's a hard worker. He cares deeply about the people of Arkansas. He's doing a fine job as the United States Senator. I'm proud to call him friend. I appreciate his advice, and I appreciate you all working hard to send him back up to Washington, DC.

I'm so grateful that Randi Hutchinson, his wife, is campaigning with him and standing by his side during this campaign for reelection. I appreciate meeting Randi. And it's an honor to have you here, Randi. Thank you. And speaking about wives, I'm sorry mine is not here.

Audience members. Me too.

The President. Yes, I know you are. [Laughter] You drew the short straw. [Laughter] She's doing great. I'm really proud of Laura. She's down in Crawford. It's where I'm heading after tonight, for a couple more days. She—you know, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. She didn't care for politics and didn't particularly like politicians. [Laughter] Now she's stuck with one. And she's doing a fabulous job as First Lady.

I want to thank John Boozman, who's a member of the United States Congress, for being with us today. John, thank you for coming down for the fundraiser. I had the honor of being with your Governor earlier today. He's off working. You need to send Mike

Huckabee back to the Governor's office here in Arkansas. He's a fine fellow. And so is your Lieutenant Governor, who is with us tonight, Win Rockefeller. Thanks for coming.

I want to thank members—two guys who are running for the United States Congress. Former Member Jay Dickey is with us today. Jay, thank you very much. And the man they call "TR," Tommy Robinson, is with us as well. I appreciate my family friend John Paul Hammerschmidt for being here tonight and for being the national committeeman from the State of Arkansas. Thank you, John Paul. I want to thank your chairman, Marty Ryall, for his leadership here in the State of Arkansas.

And I appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here. I appreciate you for what you have done and what you're going to do. See, over the next couple of months, you need to go to your coffee shops and your churches and your synagogues and your community centers and turn out the vote. You need to tell the people, when you find a good one like Tim Hutchinson, "We need to send him back to office."

And there are some good reasons why, starting with the fact that he has a good vision for education. We passed a good piece of legislation out of Washington for education. It's one that Tim had a lot to do with. He worked hard on that legislation. And let me describe the principles and why it's so important to have this type of person in Washington. It first starts—the bill says, and he and I both believe, that every child can learn. That sounds simple, but too often in our society, we've lowered the standards. We don't believe every child can learn. Therefore, we have low standards. It's what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. If you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results. So this bill believes that if you set high standards and believe every child can learn, you start with the right frame of mind.

Secondly, it says, we trust the people of Arkansas, the people of this good State, the people of Little Rock and Jonesboro and all the cities, to chart the path for excellence for every child in their community. We believe in local control of schools.

And finally, at the core of the bill is this principle: It says, we want to know whether

or not our children are learning. You see, if you believe every child can learn, the next question is, are they? And the only way to know is to measure, is to hold people to account, is to let the children take a test to see whether or not they can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can learn, then you want to know.

And you see, when you find out children aren't learning, it gives you the tools necessary to do something about it. If you believe every child can learn, they ought to show us whether or not every child is learning. And if they're not, we need to correct problems early, before it's too late. You see, there are no second-class children in the State of Arkansas, and no child should be left behind.

I appreciate Tim's stand on education policy, and I appreciate his stand on tax policy. When I took office, I knew things were kind of slow, but I didn't realize that we were in the beginning of a recession. The first three quarters of my Presidency were negative growth; that means recession. Thankfully, people like Tim Hutchinson supported my call for tax relief. See, we read from the same textbook. It's a little different from some of the other ones in Washington. It says, if you let a person keep their own money, they will demand a good or a service if they have more money. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good and service, somebody is more likely to find jobs in the midst of a recession. It is important to let the people have their own money.

Tim was the original author of the \$500-per-child tax credit in the House. And he supported the doubling of that tax credit in the new tax relief plan. Not only does the tax relief plan lower all rates, which, by the way, stimulates small-business growth—see, most of the new jobs in Arkansas and around the country are created by small businesses. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by the entrepreneurs who start their own business. Yet most of those small businesses are sole proprietors or limited partnerships, which means they pay taxes at the individual rate. When you lower the individual rates, you stimulate the growth of our

economy by stimulating the entrepreneurial spirit in America.

This tax relief plan did more than that. It mitigated the ill effects of a marriage penalty. The Tax Code ought to promote family, not discourage family. And finally, the tax relief plan put the death tax on its way to extinction. I know there's a lot of farmers and ranchers in this State and some in this audience. The death tax is bad for our ranching families. It's bad for our farming families, and it's bad for the entrepreneurial families of Arkansas.

And Tim was right by my side on this tax relief plan. But what's interesting—not interesting, kind of a quirk in the law, is that all this, all the tax relief that we passed goes away after 10 years from the sign of passage—from the time of passage. That's the quirk in the Senate rules. It's hard to explain, I understand. You ought to try that in the Crawford coffee shop. *[Laughter]* On the one hand, we giveth; on the other hand, we taketh away. For the sake of planning, for the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of job growth, you need to have a United States Senator who will join me in making this tax relief permanent.

I appreciate Tim's concern about health care, health care not just for Republicans but health care for everybody who lives in Arkansas. He's on the leading edge of those in the Senate who want to bring a reasonable reform to Medicare. See, Medicare is an incredibly important program, but medicine has changed, and the program hasn't. Medicine has changed, and yet the bureaucracy still strangles the capacity for our seniors to get the care they need. We need to reform Medicare and make sure our seniors have got prescription drugs.

I appreciate Tim's support for the farm bill. See, he and I understand that good economic policy at home means that you've got to have a strong agricultural sector. It's a luxury for this President to be able to say we feed ourselves. Imagine if we were around the world asking for food. We've got a great farm economy, and the farm bill we passed recognizes that. And Tim was one of the leaders that helped get that farm bill out of the Senate and to my desk. I was proud to

sign the farm bill. It was good for Arkansas farmers.

And finally, I appreciate his leadership on sending a clear message to people who have got positions of responsibility in America. Our economy was hurt by a recession, and then it got shocked by the attacks of September the 11th. And then, of course, we found out that bubbling up through the years was this business about people trying to cook the books, some of our corporate leaders deciding that the best way to get ahead was not to tell the truth, was not to uphold their responsibilities to employee and shareholder alike.

I signed the most comprehensive corporate reform legislation since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. And Tim Hutchinson was a strong supporter. It says this: If we catch you cheating, if you're not a responsible citizen, if you think you can cook the books, you're wrong. We're going to find you, and we'll prosecute you, and no more easy money, just hard time.

Finally, I support—I appreciate Tim's support on our war against terror and our need to protect the homeland. My most important job is to protect the homeland, is to protect innocent people. After September the 11th, the stakes obviously changed. The enemy brought war to us, and they're still out there. They just are. By the way, they're nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers. They hate us because we love freedom. They can't stand the thought of a society which values free speech, which says you can worship the Almighty any way you see fit. They hate the idea of people being able to come to our country and succeed. The more we love freedom, the more they hate us. But you know what, we're never going to stop loving freedom. This great country loves freedom and will do anything it takes to protect that freedom.

You need to know there's a lot of good folks working a lot of hours to protect you. Anytime we get a hint or any piece of evidence that somebody might be plotting against America, we're moving—we're moving. There's a lot of good folks who are gathering intelligence and now sharing it like it's never been shared before. Obviously, everything we hear we take seriously, and we're

trying to do everything we can to disrupt and deny.

In order to make sure that I can look you in the eye and say, "We're doing everything to secure the homeland," I have asked the Congress to join me in setting up a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because in order to change a culture and in order to set homeland security as a number one priority, I felt like we needed to gather up agencies involved with the homeland security and put them under one umbrella organization. You see, there's over 100 of them, scattered all over Washington, which means it's kind of hard to set a tone and a culture. It's hard to set a priority.

And so I asked Congress, I said, "Let's get together and come up with an American idea"—it's not a Republican idea; it's not a Democrat; it's an American idea—"to do everything we can to give us the tools"—not only me, but future Presidents the tools—"necessary to guard our homeland." And I'll give you an example. We need to know who's coming in America, what they're bringing into America, and if they're leaving when they say they're going to leave America. And yet, on our borders, we've got your Customs and INS and Border Patrol, three different agencies, three different cultures, three different uniforms. I need the capacity to be able to move people to the right place at the right time to protect the homeland.

The House of Representatives got the message. They provided flexibility so that this President and future Presidents can do what it takes to move people in the right place. The Senate, unfortunately, doesn't see it that way. Fortunately, Senator Hutchinson does. But see, there are some Senators out there who would rather listen to special interests in Washington, DC, than listen to the voice of the people. There are Senators who would rather give us a rule book this thick about how we have to behave and what we must do to protect the homeland, than to trust any administration for protecting America. I refuse to accept a bill which ties my hands or the hands of future Presidents.

And I want to appreciate Senator Hutchinson's understanding of that. And I'm proud to call him supporter on helping craft a Homeland Security Department which will

stand the test of time and will do the job on behalf of the American people. But the best way to protect the homeland, the surest way to secure our freedom, the best way to leave a peaceful legacy for our children is to hunt the killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's what the United States of America is going to do.

And it's going to take a while. It's a different kind of war. People during World War II were used to measuring progress based upon infantries marching across the plain or squadrons of aircraft flying here or ships sailing across the sea, getting this island or that island. That's how they used to judge progress. This is a different type of war, but it's war. And the stakes are just as high.

See, this is the kind of war where you have their commanders hide in caves. They find the deepest and darkest cave they can, and then they send their soldiers, their youngsters, to their suicidal death. That's who we're fighting. See, these people have no regard for human life. Innocence doesn't matter to them. They've hijacked a great religion in order to provide cover for their hatred. But there's no cave deep enough for America, as far as I'm concerned.

See, we've got a fantastic coalition of nations which understand what's at stake, and we've got the finest United States—we've got the finest military in the world. Our soldiers are performing brilliantly under tough, tough conditions. And that's why—the fact that they're in the field is why I submitted the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so for two reasons. One, anytime our soldiers are in harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to them, and we owe it to their loved ones. And for those of you who have got a relative in the military, I want to tell you how proud that their Commander in Chief is. I'm really proud. They're fine, fine people who are sacrificing on behalf of our Nation.

And the second reason I submitted this request, as big as it is, is I wanted to send a message to our friends and foes alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. They understand this war isn't going to end tomor-

row, that when it comes to our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes. The United States of America will fight terror and fight its sponsors and will uphold doctrine. One doctrine says, "Either you're with us, or you're with them." And the other doctrine says, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist who committed the murders on September the 11th."

And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll see the progress on your TVs, and sometimes you won't. It's a different kind of war; it's a hard war to measure. But slowly, but surely, we're rounding them up, one way or the other. We estimate there's over a couple of thousand of them who have now been captured by our friends and ourselves, hauled off, no longer a part of the army. And another like number just weren't as lucky. They met their fate.

But we've got a lot of work to do; we really do. We—our strategy is pretty clear. First was to rout out the Taliban. And you need to tell your kids this about America: One, we do what we say; and two, when we went into that country, we went in as liberators, not as conquerors. We freed people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. Young girls, many young girls, go to school for the first time in their lives, thanks to the United States of America and our allies and friends.

And we're not leaving. We're not leaving for two reasons: One, there's still Al Qaida, and we're after them. Slowly, but surely, we're getting them. And secondly, we want democracy to flourish in Afghanistan. We believe in the values here at home—ought to be applied elsewhere, not American values but God-given values that each life matters, that every voice ought to be heard.

We're getting them on the run, getting them moving around, and then making sure that we deny sanctuary to these killers. The other day—a while ago, you may remember the Philippines. They asked for our help. I said loud and clear to them, "If you want help, we'll provide you help. If you can't do it yourself, give us a call." And the Philippines, as a result of Gloria Arroyo's fine leadership—and frankly, some of our training—put a force together and did in the head

of what they call Abu Sayyaf. This is the group of Al-Qaida-sponsored terrorists who kidnapped two Americans as well as others and brought people to their death. They don't care about life. But we got the leader. We got the leader because our coalition remains firm.

No, our job is to get them on the run, deny them sanctuary, and slowly, but surely, get them and bring them to justice, which is exactly what this country is going to do. We owe it to our children. We owe it to our grandchildren to make sure that the world's worst leaders do not develop and deploy the world's worst weapons. We owe it to future generations of America to make our stand for freedom.

Oh, I know there's a lot of speculation in the press, and you've just got to know something about me—I'm a patient man. And we've got a lot of tools at our disposal. We've got a lot of pressures we can bring to bear. We've got friends in the world. But for the sake of our children, we're going to deal with the problems now presented. For the sake of freedom, we will not allow these tyrants to hold the United States or our friends and allies blackmail with weapons of mass destruction.

I appreciate Tim's understanding, and I appreciate his support on this war against terror. I believe that out of the evil done to this country is going to come incredible good. I believed that shortly after the attacks, and I still believe it. See, I believe that the stronger this country is on our quest for freedom and our willingness to battle terror, the more likely it is we'll achieve peace. And I don't mean peace just for Americans; I mean peace around the world.

The tougher we are against terror, the more willing we are to speak clearly as a nation, the more likely it is we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace. Peace is possible in the Middle East. Peace is possible in South Asia.

I want you to assure your children when they hear their President talk about fighting the enemy or bringing them to justice, I have peace in my mind. That's my vision. I want there to be a peaceful world for all people. See, this country values all life; not just American life, every child counts. When I

say no child is left behind—that's obviously a slogan for education here in America—I mean it for everywhere else too. Children ought to grow up in a peaceful world, and the United States of America can affect that peace. It's not going to be easy. There's going to be some steep hills to climb. But if any nation can do it, it is this strong and—this Nation that's based upon values.

And here at home, we can achieve some incredible good too. I don't know what went through the mind of the enemy. They probably thought that we were so self-absorbed and so materialistic, so selfish in our ways, that after 9/11 all we might do was file a lawsuit. [*Laughter*] See, they didn't understand our country. They didn't know that, when it comes to something we value, we're plenty tough. Nor did they realize that when they hit us, a new culture would begin to evolve, a culture of serving something greater than yourself in life.

The thing I love about our country is that we're a compassionate nation. I hope you understand that in the midst of plenty, there are pockets of despair in America, hopelessness and addiction, people wondering whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. And I believe we have a chance now, as we take a step back and look at our inner souls, to help solve those problems.

Government can hand out money. I realize that. As I like to say, we do a pretty good job of it. But what Government cannot do is put a sense of purpose in people's lives. It can't put hope in people's hearts. That is done when our fellow Americans put their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you." People say, "What can I do in the war against terror? How can I fight evil?" My answer is, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

And it's happening in this country. It sure enough is. People realize that a patriot is more than somebody who puts their hand over their heart and says, "one Nation under God." They understand that a patriot is somebody who is willing to serve something greater than themselves, and that can be in all kinds of ways. It can be leading a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. It can be coming out of your church and feeding the hungry or coming out of your synagogue and helping

somebody who doesn't have housing find housing. You see, it's the millions of acts, millions of acts of kindness and decency that take place on a daily basis which defines the true character and true hope and true decency of this country.

No, the enemy hit us, but they've awakened a great spirit of personal responsibility. One of the reasons I decided to run for Governor of Texas is, I wanted to be a small part of a cultural change in America. I wanted to help encourage this country to reject the culture which said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it, and if you've got a problem, blame somebody else." My dream was to help usher in a period of personal responsibility, when each of us understood we're responsible for decisions we make in life. If you're fortunate enough to be a mom or a dad, your most important job and important responsibility is to love your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you're a citizen of Little Rock, Arkansas, you have a responsibility to help heal those who hurt. That is a responsibility for being an American, and that period of responsibility is coming.

The enemy hit us. They're evil. But out of that evil is going to come incredible good. Perhaps the most vivid example is that of Flight 93. Deena Burnett is here today with us. Her husband was on that flight. She knows about which I'm about to speak. She heard it firsthand. These were great Americans who were flying across the country and learned that their airplane was going to be used as a weapon. Who knows what it was targeted for, the White House or the Capitol, but it was going to be used as a weapon. Their loved ones said goodbye on the telephone. Their last words were, "I love you," to their loved ones. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll," and they took the plane in the ground. There is a new spirit in America of serving something greater than yourself in life.

No, the enemy hit us. They didn't know they were hitting—they hit a great nation. I promise you, out of the evil done to America is going to come incredible good, because we're the finest nation on the face of the Earth, full of the finest people.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:30 p.m. in Governor's Halls II and III in the Statehouse Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas; Tommy Robinson, candidate for Arkansas' First Congressional District; Jay Dickey, candidate for Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District; John Paul Hamerschmidt, national committeeman, and Marty Ryall, chairman, Republican Party of Arkansas; and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines.

Memorandum on Refugee Assistance to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Committee of the Red Cross

August 30, 2002

Presidential Determination No. 2002-29

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as Amended

Pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2601(c)(1), I hereby determine that it is important to the national interest that up to \$6.6 million be made available from the U.S. Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and to the International Committee of the Red Cross to address unexpected urgent refugee and migration needs arising from the crisis in Liberia and from the return of refugees to Sierra Leone.

You are authorized and directed to inform the appropriate committees of the Congress of this determination and the obligation of funds under this authority, and to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting a Certification on
Protection of Advanced
Biotechnology**

August 30, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I certify that for calendar year 2001:

In accordance with Condition 9, Protection of Advanced Biotechnology, the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States are not being harmed significantly by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, those chemicals and toxins listed in Schedule I of the Annex on Chemicals.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

**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.

August 24

In the morning, the President traveled from Dana Point, CA, to Westwood, CA, and later to Las Cruces, NM. In the afternoon, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 26

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince

Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss Saudi-U.S. relations and peace efforts in the Middle East.

August 27

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch, the President met with Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia to discuss peace efforts in the Middle East, cooperation against terrorism, child custody cases in Saudi Arabia dealing with American citizens, and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with the Ambassador and members of the Ambassador's family. Later, the President took the Ambassador and his wife, Princess Haifa Bint Faisal, on a tour of the ranch.

The President announced his appointment of Dee Hansen as U.S. Commissioner and Chairman of the Bear River Commission for Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming.

The President announced his intention to designate W. Scott Railton as Chairman of the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Community Development Advisory Board: William Bynum and Mark Pinsky (community development financial institution representatives), Robert Gauthier (Native American tribal development representative), Richard Jaramillo and John Rigler II (insured depository institution representatives), Debra Schwartz and Pablo Wong (consumer/public interest organization representatives), and Carolyn Williams (community development representative).

August 28

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan to discuss the Prime Minister's efforts to resolve conflicts between North and South Korea, and other issues concerning North Korea.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad: Steven Some,

Warren Lloyd Miller (Chairman), Ned Bandler, Chaskel Besser, Phyllis Kaminsky, Michael B. Levy, Lee Seeman, Amy S. Epstein, and Irving Stolberg.

August 29

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Oklahoma City, OK, where, upon his arrival, he met with Herbert Rettke, a volunteer at the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Medical Center.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Little Rock, AR, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on education at Parkview Arts and Science Magnet High School.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to Guam by authorizing an increase in Federal funding for the recovery from Typhoon Chata'an that struck the area on July 5-6.

1456, H.R. 1576, H.R. 2068, H.R. 2234, H.R. 2440, H.R. 2441, H.R. 2643, H.R. 3343, and H.R. 3380

Released August 24

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Russian military aircraft attack on villages in northern Georgia

Released August 26

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 27

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released August 28

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released August 29

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Guam

Fact sheet: President Promotes Stronger Curriculum in Back-to-School Season

Released August 30

Transcript of a press gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

**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 August 23*

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that on August 21 the President signed H.R. 223, H.R. 309, H.R. 601, H.R. 1384, H.R.

* This item was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved August 21*

H.R. 223 / Public Law 107-211
To amend the Clear Creek County, Colorado, Public Lands Transfer Act of 1993 to provide additional time for Clear Creek County to dispose of certain lands transferred to the county under the Act

H.R. 309 / Public Law 107-212
Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act

* These public laws were not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.

H.R. 601 / Public Law 107-213
To redesignate certain lands within the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and for other purposes

H.R. 1384 / Public Law 107-214
Long Walk National Historic Trail Study Act

H.R. 1456 / Public Law 107-215
Booker T. Washington National Monument Boundary Adjustment Act of 2002

H.R. 1576 / Public Law 107-216
James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act

H.R. 2068 / Public Law 107-217
To revise, codify, and enact without substantive change certain general and permanent laws, related to public buildings, property, and works, as title 40, United States Code, "Public Buildings, Property, and Works"

H.R. 2234 / Public Law 107-218
Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2002

H.R. 2440 / Public Law 107-219
To rename Wolf Trap Farm Park as "Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts", and for other purposes

H.R. 2441 / Public Law 107-220
To amend the Public Health Service Act to redesignate a facility as the National Hansen's Disease Programs Center, and for other purposes

H.R. 2643 / Public Law 107-221
Fort Clatsop National Memorial Expansion Act of 2002

H.R. 3343 / Public Law 107-222
To amend title X of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, and for other purposes

H.R. 3380 / Public Law 107-223
To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park