

gap, I will ask Congress to approve an additional \$1 billion, a total of 12.3 billion, for the Title I program in the 2004 budget. This would be the highest funding level ever for Title I, which serves our neediest students.

Our reforms will not be complete until every child in America has an equal chance to succeed in school and rise in the world. For every child, education begins with strong reading skills. With the Reading First program, we have set a national goal to make sure that every child in America is reading by the third grade. To move toward that goal, I will request more than \$1.1 billion for Federal reading programs in next year's budget, an increase of \$75 million over last year's budget request. This investment will go only to support programs with proven results in teaching children to read.

The No Child Left Behind Act was a victory of bipartisan cooperation. By this law, we affirmed our basic faith in the wisdom of parents and communities and our fundamental belief in the promise of every child. The work of reform is well begun, and we are determined to continue that effort until every school in America is a place of learning and achievement.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:43 a.m. on January 3 at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 4. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10). The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

### **Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Israel**

*January 5, 2003*

Today terrorists struck again in Israel, murdering and injuring scores of civilians in Tel Aviv. I condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms. It is a despicable act of murder, and I express my condolences to the Government and people of Israel and espe-

cially to the families of the victims. Secretary Powell has already spoken to Prime Minister Sharon to convey the condolences of the American people. The United States remains determined to continue our efforts toward peace in the Middle East, a goal that the terrorists seek to destroy. All who genuinely seek peace in the region must join in the effort to stop terror. The United States is determined to continue the global fight against terrorism and against the terrorist organizations that conduct operations such as the murders in Israel today.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel.

### **Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters**

*January 6, 2003*

**The President.** I have an opening statement here, and I'll answer a couple of questions.

I want to thank my Cabinet for coming. This is the 15th Cabinet meeting we've had since we were sworn in, and I appreciate each of you working so hard on behalf of the American people.

Today we talked about the issues facing our country. The war on terror continues. We will hunt down the terrorists wherever they hide. We'll do everything we can to secure the homeland.

We heard a briefing today from Tom Ridge about how the reorganization of the Homeland Security Department is going. It's very important for Congress and the Senate to confirm Tom as quickly as possible and to confirm his team, so they can get doing the work of the American people.

Here at home, I hope the Congress will extend the unemployment benefits for—for the American workers who don't have a job—soon, as quickly as possible. As well, it's important for Congress to pass the '03 appropriations bills. We're living under continuing resolutions. The agency heads here are—want to have their budgets finalized so that they can have certainty in the appropriations with which they have to work. Congress has got work to do.