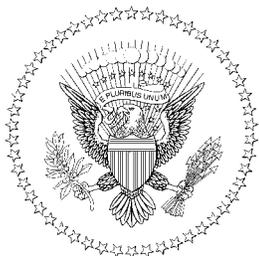


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, May 19, 2003
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on May 16, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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

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Week Ending Friday, May 16, 2003

Proclamation 7675—Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week, 2003

May 9, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every day across the country, from our largest cities to our quietest crossroads, peace officers stand watch over our citizens, selflessly risking their lives to protect individuals, families, neighborhoods, and property against crime. This week, we salute these men and women for their courage, commitment, and service, and we honor those who have fallen in the line of duty. We also reaffirm our commitment to supporting law enforcement by bringing our communities together to fight crime.

Peace officers fulfill a great calling in upholding the rule of law in our society. Law enforcement officers choose their profession and take their oaths knowing that theirs is a dangerous job. They accept these risks, answering the call of duty and demonstrating a willingness to serve that reflects the best of America.

As they work to protect our communities, peace officers often place themselves in harm's way. Some make the ultimate sacrifice in defense of others. During Police Week, and particularly on Peace Officers Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the 148 law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty last year. Those who have fallen are remembered in our hearts and in the memory of our country. Through their service and sacrifice, they have earned our Nation's respect and gratitude.

As we honor these fallen heroes, we should also resolve to support all law enforcement officers by becoming active in the fight against crime. Strong communities and neighborhoods help deter crime. By coming

together as neighbors, and by looking out for each other, Americans can assist law enforcement in preventing crime in our communities and also help secure our homeland from the threat of terrorism. In the new world we face since September 11, one of our best defenses is a vigilant public working with law enforcement to help protect our land.

I created the USA Freedom Corps to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America, and to provide opportunities for Americans to get involved in helping their communities. A key component of Freedom Corps is the Citizen Corps, which helps coordinate volunteer activities that make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared for emergencies. Since the Citizens Corps was launched last year, more than 500 Citizen Corps Councils have been established, bringing together first responders, local government officials, and volunteer service organizations.

Volunteers are also working with police departments through more than 430 Volunteers in Police Service programs in our Nation. Additionally, the number of registered Neighborhood Watch groups continues to grow. To build on these successes, we should continue to strengthen partnerships between citizens and local law enforcement and work to engage more volunteers in public safety and emergency preparedness. By joining together to fight crime, we honor the memory and uphold the legacy of all those who gave their lives to preserve our safety and security.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended, (76 Stat. 676), the Congress has authorized and requested the President to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week," and, by Public Law 103-322, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 136), has directed that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 15, 2003, as Peace Officers Memorial Day and May 11 through May 17, 2003, as Police Week. I call on all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, as well as appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day. I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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., May 13, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7676—National Defense Transportation Day and National Transportation Week, 2003
May 9, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's transportation system takes us where we need to go, keeps our economy moving, and strengthens our Nation's security. On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we celebrate how modern transportation has transformed the world and recognize the men and women who have contributed to its progress. We also renew our commitment to increasing transportation safety and to keeping our transportation system on the leading edge of technology.

Our 21st century transportation system safely and securely transports our citizens

and delivers a wide range of goods throughout the country and the world. In times of war, our transportation system also moves troops and carries defense cargo efficiently. Preserving and enhancing our transportation resources makes that infrastructure safer, facilitates growth in business and industry, creates jobs, secures our Nation, and improves the quality of life of our citizens.

To sustain these advantages, we must continue to invest in our Nation's transportation systems. From enhancing existing highways, waterways, railway lines, pipelines, and airports, to developing fuel-efficient and reduced-emissions vehicles, we must work towards improving safety, protecting the environment, and furthering our national defense. As part of these efforts, my Administration has announced a hydrogen fuel initiative to reverse America's growing dependence on foreign oil by developing the technology to produce commercially viable, hydrogen fuel cells, which will help power cars and trucks with no emissions of air pollution or greenhouse gases. This new national commitment could make it possible for the first car driven by a child born today to be powered by hydrogen, and be pollution-free.

Through the newly created Department of Homeland Security, my Administration is working towards strengthening protections throughout our national transportation system. Designed to increase protections for America's citizens while maintaining the free flow of goods and people across our borders, our comprehensive national plan includes selective maritime restrictions, increased airport security, and improved railroad infrastructure security. We are also enforcing temporary flight restrictions and flying Combat Air Patrols over critical sites, increasing surveillance of hazardous material shipments within our country, and taking measures to keep hazardous materials away from places where large numbers of people gather. We are determined to defend the American homeland, and we will do all in our power to make sure our skies, rails, pipelines, waterways, and roads are safe from terror.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well-being, and

defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as “National Defense Transportation Day,” and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as “National Transportation Week.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 16, 2003, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 11 through May 17, 2003, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn more about how our modern transportation system enhances our economy and contributes to our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this ninth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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., May 13, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 14. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7677—National Safe Boating Week, 2003

May 9, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As summer approaches, Americans are looking forward to enjoying our Nation’s rivers, lakes, and oceans. National statistics show that recreational boating is safer today than ever before, with the number of boating fatalities declining even as the number of boats increases. However, lives continue to be lost needlessly, and we must remain committed to boating safety. During National Safe Boating Week, we are reminded that practicing simple steps can make recreational boating safer and more enjoyable.

This year’s theme, “Boat Smart. Boat Safe. Wear It!” highlights the importance and ease of wearing life jackets. Drowning remains the number one cause of recreational boating fatalities. According to the United States Coast Guard, nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents in 2001 were not wearing life jackets. In many of these cases, life jackets were available on board, but were useless to the passengers in the boats because the speed and suddenness of the accident prevented them from having time to put on their life jackets. The chances of surviving a serious boating accident increase dramatically by wearing a life jacket. Modern life jackets are smaller, lighter, and more flexible, making them easier and more comfortable to wear.

The National Safe Boating Council, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the U.S. Coast Guard are working with other campaign partners to encourage safe boating practices through the 2003 North American Safe Boating Campaign. In addition to wearing life jackets, the campaign encourages boaters to enroll in a boating safety class, to ensure that boats are properly maintained and checked for safety, to follow regulations and guidelines relating to homeland security issues, and not to consume alcohol when operating a boat. More information about staying safe on the water is available by visiting the U.S. Coast Guard’s Office of Boating Safety website at www.uscgboating.org. By improving our skills and increasing our knowledge of recreational boating safety, we can reduce the loss of life, the injuries, and the property damage that occur on our waterways.

Safe boating also contributes to homeland security and frees the time of public safety officers to focus on enforcement issues. The same Coast Guard members, marine patrol, police, and fire officers who respond to recreational boating accidents are also responsible for protecting the security of our ports and waterways. By avoiding boating accidents, Americans can help these officials devote more time and effort to safeguarding our homeland.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C.

131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 17 through May 23, 2003, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this occasion. I also urge boaters to learn about proper boating practices, including the wearing of life jackets, and to take advantage of boating safety programs throughout the year.

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

George W. Bush

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The President's Radio Address

May 10, 2003

Good morning. This week with a vote in the House of Representatives, Congress took a positive step towards passage of my jobs-and-growth proposal. The plan I submitted would create more than a million jobs by the end of next year through immediate tax relief for American families and businesses.

Since I sent my plan to Congress in January, the need for action on the economy has become even more urgent. The unemployment rate last month reached 6 percent, as many employers continue to hold back on the kinds of investments that lead to new jobs. The bill that passed the House of Representatives this week includes all the elements of my plan: cuts in income tax rates this year; reduction of the marriage penalty; an increase in the child credit from \$600 to

\$1,000; an increase in the expensing provision for small-business investment in new equipment; and action to reduce the double taxation of dividend income.

These reforms would bring immediate help throughout our economy. They would leave more money in the hands of families who need it to make purchases and to pay the bills. And this tax relief would give employers greater incentives and resources to invest in new equipment. The result will be more jobs, and that is our goal.

We are also making progress on passing tax relief in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation that includes important aspects of my proposal. I urge the Senate to complete its work next week so the House and Senate can work out their different versions and get a tax relief bill to my desk as soon as possible. This week's progress demonstrates that both houses of Congress and both political parties agree that tax relief will help this economy. Now the discussion is about how much tax relief the American people need and deserve. We need at least \$550 billion in tax relief over the next decade, big enough to make a real difference in the paychecks of American workers, big enough to help entrepreneurs create more jobs, and big enough to give our economy the boost it needs.

This past week, I met a small-business owner named Luke Brindley. Luke and his family started their Virginia business less than 2 years ago with 5 employees, and now they're up to 25. Here's what Luke says: "Any break we get encourages us to hire more people and buy more equipment."

Next week, I will travel to New Mexico, Nebraska, and Indiana to address the Nation's hardworking small-business owners, families, and investors. My message to them will be simple: The surest way to grow this economy and create jobs is to leave more money in the hands of the people who earn it.

I urge every citizen to participate in this important debate and to make your voice heard. Explain to your local representative or your Senators what tax relief would mean to your family and your business, and please tell the members of Congress why our economy needs that relief now.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:02 a.m. on May 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters in Santa Fe, New Mexico

May 11, 2003

President's Golf Game

Q. How's the game?

The President. I need a lot of work.

Q. Better than yesterday?

The President. Equally as feeble—equally as feeble. It's been a fabulous weekend here in Santa Fe. I'm now ready to get back to work. Got some travel to do tomorrow, be talking to the country about the need for an economic stimulus package. And then we're going to go see, Tuesday afternoon, we're going to go to see some of the tornado sites. And it will give me a chance to tell the people who've suffered great loss how much a lot of the Nation prays for them and how we're concerned about them. But it's been a fabulous experience here in a wonderful part of the world. The hospitality by the people here has been just great. I really appreciate it.

Happy Mother's Day, everybody.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:45 p.m. at the golf course at Las Campanas.

Remarks in Albuquerque, New Mexico

May 12, 2003

The President. Thank you all very much. Claudine, thanks for those wonderful words. It is—let me just put it this way, we've had a great weekend here in the Land of the Enchanted.

I want to thank the good folks of Santa Fe for their warm hospitality. I particularly want to thank Governor Bill Richardson, not only for being here but for being so kind to

my wife Laura at a fantastic reception Friday night in Santa Fe. Thank you very much, Governor, for doing that. I'm sure the New Mexican people are going to thank you for cutting their taxes too.

You know, we had a great weekend. I'm here in Albuquerque today to talk about a big decision which is now before the United States Congress and the fact that you can help them make the right decision. I'm here to remind not only you all but our fellow Americans that when you raise your voices, the people in Washington tend to listen.

And I hope you'll join me in raising your voices to make sure that Congress enacts an economic stimulus plan big enough to help people who are looking for work, a plan big enough to encourage economic growth.

You see, the reason we're here at this small business is most new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And so the plan I've submitted understands that. A significant part of any good economic stimulus plan must focus on the entrepreneur in America. In order to make sure people can find work in this country, Congress must pass a plan which invigorates the small-business owner and the small-business dreams of America.

I want to thank the Martinez family for their hospitality and their invitation. I also want to thank the dad for not only being such a good dad but for having a dream and working hard to achieve the dream. We're standing in the midst of what we call the American Dream. The Martinez family is living that dream. They own their own business. And when you own something in America, it means you have a stake in the future. What we want to do is promote the ownership society around America by encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit to remain strong in this country.

I'm proud to be here with Senator Pete Domenici. Senator Domenici is one of the giants of the United States Senate. I'm also proud to be here with Heather Wilson and Steve Pearce, two fine Members of the Congress. I want to thank all the other State officials who are here along with the Governor. I appreciate the local officials who are here. I want to thank you for your warm hospitality.

I appreciate Hector Barreto, who's the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, for joining us today. Thank you for coming, Hector.

It just so happens the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Energy is here, Kyle McSillarow. I appreciate his service to our country.

And recently, I nominated a fine New Mexican citizen to become the Secretary of the Navy, and that would be Colin McMillan. I appreciate you coming, Colin, and thank you for your service to your country.

I want to thank the Chamber of Commerce members who are here. I want to thank small-business owners who are here. I want to thank the MCT employees and family members who are here as well. Thank you for letting me come by to say hello.

And finally, I met a fellow named William O'Leary. Let me tell you what William does; he works with individuals to help them find loans and financial support they need. In other words, he is a volunteer to be a part of a program to help people realize their dreams.

You know, there's been a lot said about the might of our country, and we are a strong country. We're strong militarily. But our greatest strength is the heart and soul of our individual citizens. The greatest strength is the fact that we're a compassionate country who care deeply about neighbors. And when you—William works with people here, and if somebody's got an idea and they want to learn how to advance that idea, he's willing to help. And if you find a neighbor in need or somebody needs help, I urge you to do so.

The compassion of America sets us apart in many ways. We're strong because a lot of people in this country have heard that universal call to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. Many of you in this audience have heard that call. We thank you for your compassion, and we thank you for your decency.

This has been a time of testing for America. It's been a time of interesting testing.

Audience members. [*Inaudible*].

The President. But we have the strength and we have the confidence to meet every single challenge.

For 20 months—for 20 months we have waged a relentless campaign against global terror. An enemy struck us because they hate what we stand for. They hate the fact that we have freedom of speech in America. They hate the fact that we have freedom of religion in America. They hate the fact that we love freedom, and so they attacked us. And they thought we had quit.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. They thought we were soft.

Audience members. No-o-o!

The President. But we love our freedoms.

Audience members. Yes!

The President. Our biggest job is to make sure the American homeland is secure. We've done a lot here to protect the American homeland by creating a Department of Homeland Security. But the best way to secure the homeland is to hunt the killers down one by one and bring them to justice, which is what we'll do.

In bringing people to justice, we freed the people of Afghanistan from one of the most brutal regimes in the history of mankind. Thanks to the United States of America, young girls now go to school for the first time in their lives. We've got more work to do to make sure that's a free society. We will stay in Afghanistan to help the people of Afghanistan help themselves.

We've hunted down and found Al Qaida members in places other than Afghanistan. They just need to know that so long as they want to hurt our country, there is no cave deep enough for them to hide.

We're working with many nations around the world to cut off their money and disrupt their finances, to share intelligence to make sure that we can protect our people. And as part of the war on terror, we liberated the people of Iraq from a brutal dictator. We made America more secure by making sure he does not use weapons of mass destruction.

Two weeks ago, on the U.S.S. *Abraham Lincoln*, I shook hands with Navy Petty Officer Damian Lopez. Damian lives 50 miles from here. Sailors and officers of the *Abraham Lincoln* represent the best of our country. These folks, like many others, sacrificed on behalf of their Nation. Here's what he

said. He said, “When we needed to be serious about our job, everybody did their part. I had a part in freeing a nation and serving my country.” Our Nation is grateful to this young man from New Mexico, and we’re grateful to all the people who’ve sacrificed on our country’s behalf, the people who wear the uniform of the United States military.

We have a lot of work to do in Iraq. We have a lot of work to do in Iraq. Haven’t been there very long, by the way—less than 60 days ago that we started our mission. And in that period of time, not only did we remove a regime which threatened our security and held the American people hostage, not only did we remove a regime that brutalized their own people, but we will stay to make sure that the Iraqi people have got the security necessary, the food necessary, the medicines necessary, the conditions necessary to have an Iraq of—[*applause*]. We will stay as long as necessary to make sure that the Iraqi people have a Government of, by, and for the Iraqi people, and then we’ll come home.

We have faced big challenges in this country. But because of the actions we have taken and the sacrifices many have made, America is more secure, the world is more peaceful, and many people are more free.

And as we make sure that America is secure, we’ve also got to make sure we have job security in America. Too many of our people here aren’t working. The inflation—I mean, the unemployment rate hit 6 percent. That should serve as a warning signal for the reluctant Members of the United States Congress that we need to hear the voices of those who are looking for work. And so we’ve got challenges here at home. I’m optimistic we can meet those challenges. After all, we’ve been through a lot here in this country, and yet we’re still growing.

I want to review the history right quick. In March of 2000, the stock market started to decline. In January of 2001, we were in a recession, which meant three quarters of negative growth, and then it looked like we were kind of starting to come out. And then the enemy hit us. And they killed thousands of our citizens, and it affected the psychology of this country. We weren’t used to being attacked. The people are resolved and strong, and we overcame that. And then we found

out some of our citizens forgot what it means to be a responsible citizen. They cooked the books. They didn’t tell the truth to their employees and shareholders alike. They’re now being taken to account and held to account. We expect honest bookkeeping in America.

And it’s important for CEOs of big, publicly held corporations to understand that we expect them to learn the lessons of the past; that shareholders, that employees, that Americans will insist they be held to account if they ever lie, cheat, and steal.

We’re overcoming that. We’ve overcome those obstacles. And yet, too many of our people aren’t working. We’re growing, but we’re not growing fast enough. We’re growing. Inflation is low, which is good. We’re growing because interest rates are low. Energy prices are coming down, which is kind of like tax relief. [*Laughter*] But the greatest asset we have in America is the productivity of our workforce. We’ve got the finest workers in the world here in America.

But in spite of the good news, people are looking for work. And as long as our fellow citizens are looking for work, we must act. So long as families are struggling to pay the bills, we must act here in America. So long as small businesses are hesitant to expand and to create new jobs, we must act. And the “we” in this case is the United States Congress.

I have made my proposal, strongly supported by Senator Domenici, strongly supported by Congressman Wilson and Congressman Pearce. And my proposal is based upon this principle: If your economy is too slow, you need to increase demand for goods and services. And the best way to create demand for good and services is let the people keep more of their own money.

When you got more money in your pocket, it means you’re likely to demand a good or a service. And in our society, when somebody demands a good or a service, somebody is going to produce that good or a service, and when somebody produces the good or a service, it means somebody is more likely to find work. The best way to stimulate this economy is to have robust tax relief for the American people.

And the thing I like about Pete and Heather and Steve is, they know what I know.

When we're up there in Washington, we're not talking about the Government's money. If you listen closely to some of the rhetoric from some of the elected officials, they say, "Well, we're going to do this with the Government's money, or we're going to do that with the Government's money." Folks, we're not talking about the Government's money in Washington. We're talking about your money.

One of the central elements of this plan is to accelerate the tax rate reductions which Congress has already passed. You see, in 2001, I went in front of the Congress, said, "We've got an economic issue. Let's have tax relief for the American people." And they passed substantial tax relief, but the problem was the tax relief plan was phased in over 3, 5, or 7 years. We don't need it phased in over 3, 5, or 7 years. We've got people looking for work today. We want to help people today. We want to expand that economy today. If tax relief is good enough 7 years from now, it's good enough today.

This plan will reduce all taxes immediately. It will reduce the marriage penalty immediately. After all, we want the Tax Code to encourage marriage and not discourage marriage. As well, it will increase the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000 per child, retroactive to January of this year.

I just met Leanne Montoya. * She's a hard-working lady. She's got two kids—sons—who are here. Right? They're somewhere here. [Laughter] There they are. They're little guys. She—her husband died unexpectedly. She's got the toughest job in America, being a single mom, raising two little guys that she loves dearly. This plan will let her keep \$800 of her own money per year. Now, that may not sound like a lot to some of the folks in Washington, but it's darn sure a lot for her and her two boys. And it's not \$800 for 1 year; it's \$800 every year. And it gives her a chance.

Pam and Robert Lucero are with us. And by the way, these good folks shared with me some of their stories. And the reason they're here is I want the American people to understand we're not talking about theory; we're not talking about numbers; we're talking

about what the tax relief plan does to help our citizens survive these difficult period of time. Pam and Robert, they've got two little kids, they'll save \$1,100 a year. It means a lot to them, because it's \$1,100 for every year. And all of a sudden now, it means they've got more of their own money to decide what to do for their families. They get to decide, not the Government. They get to decide what to do with the \$1,100.

Oh, you'll hear the talk about how this plan, you know, only helps the rich people. That's just typical Washington, DC, political rhetoric, is what that is. That's just empty rhetoric. This plan for a family of four making \$40,000 a year would see their tax bill go from \$1,178 a year to \$45 a year.

This is a good plan because it makes a difference to all kinds of people, people who could use that extra money. And this economy could use the fact that people have got a little extra money, and that's important for our fellow citizens to understand.

The cornerstone of the plan, however, focuses on small business. It's an important part of the plan. It's an integral part of the plan. I told you earlier, most new jobs are—in America—are created by small-business owners, which makes it—see, if you're interested in expanding the job base and you go to the origin of job creation, it seems like to me—and the origin of job creation is a small-business owner.

Now what's interesting about America is most small-business owners pay business tax at the individual income tax rate. And the reason why is they're a limited liability corporation or an S corp or a sole proprietorship. And therefore, when you reduce the individual tax rates, you're really pumping capital into the treasuries of the small-business owners across America. It is important for Congress to know, a robust relief plan helps the entrepreneur in this country.

There is today a limitation on what a small business can deduct when they invest in new equipment, and that limitation is at \$25,000. In other words, it puts a cap on investment, so to speak, because of the tax plan—tax incentives or the lack thereof. This plan that Congress is now looking at, strongly supported by your Senator and the two

* White House correction.

Congresspersons here, would raise the cap from \$25,000 to \$75,000 a year.

And here's why that's important. Phil Archuletta is here with us today.

Audience member. Yeah!

The President. Phil and his one friend. [Laughter] He started P&M Signs with his sister in 1991. He went from 1 employee, or maybe 2, to 19. He told me that he is going to expand. He told me that if this new cap goes in, he's more likely to invest in plant and equipment so he can expand his business.

The plan makes—incensed Phil to make the decision to make a capital investment. And if he makes that decision, it means somebody is going to have to make the machinery that he purchases. It means that when he purchases the machinery, his employees become more productive. In other words, the effect of creating incentives is that jobs will more likely be created from the supplier to Phil's business, and as Phil's business becomes more productive, it is more likely somebody is going to find employment from his business.

You see—and it's not just Phil who will be making a decision. Jay Walton of Jay Walton Automotive is here. Perhaps you've had your tires aligned there. Well, he started 29 years ago with three employees. He's kind of like the Martinezes here in Albuquerque. They start small, but they grow big. He's got 24 people. That's a big increase. That means people are working because of Jay's vision. He is a Subchapter S. So when you hear them talking about tax relief, it means the taxes on his business are going down.

But as well, he's interested in expanding. He wants more space for his shop. He wants to add on to his facility. He wants to be able to accommodate consumer demand by expanding his plant and facility. And when he does, it means somebody is going to have to build the plant, which means there's an additional job there. He might buy a hydraulic pump. That means somebody is going to have to manufacture the additional hydraulic pump. Somebody is going to work somewhere else.

The point I'm making to you is, is that when Phil makes the decision he makes and Jay makes the decision to expand their busi-

nesses, there are thousands like them all around America. And it's those cumulative acts of increased capital expenditure which makes it more likely one of our fellow citizens, or additional citizens, are going to be able to find work.

The final aspect of the plan says that we ought to get rid of the double taxation of dividends in America. First of all, there's just a simple fairness issue on the double taxation of dividends. Listen, we should be taxing corporate profits, and we do. But in this country, not only do we tax corporate profits; when part of those profits are distributed to the owners of the companies, small and large alike, it gets taxed again. And who are those owners? Well, 50 percent—

Audience members. [Inaudible].

The President. Yes, you're right. [Laughter] We are becoming an ownership society when it comes to stock ownership. Thousands of people own their own—they own equities directly. But thousands as well own equities through their pension plans. If you're a teacher, you own equities. If you're a policeman, you own equities. A lot of people in this country own equities. And therefore, the more the plan focus—or any plan focuses on helping the market, the more we're helping our average citizens realize wealth.

And that's what we want. We want our citizens to be wealthier, not poorer. Any plan has got to say, how do we help our citizens have more wealth in their pockets? It doesn't make any sense, in a country that is trying to attract capital to increase the job base, to have a shareholder receive about 40 cents on every dollar of profit on his or her investment. That doesn't make any sense. That provides a disincentive from people investing. And we need investment. I've told you the effect of capital investment in our society. The easier it is for companies to attract capital, the more likely it is somebody is going to be able to find work.

I want to talk about two other aspects of the dividend plan. Thirty-one thousand seniors here in New Mexico rely upon dividends to meet their financial needs. We get rid of the double taxation of dividends, that means 31,000 seniors in this good State are to have

more money in their pocket. And that's good public policy, it seems like to me.

The other thing that's important to know is we just went through a period of time in American corporate history where folks said, "Would you invest in my company because, you know, the sky is the limit. I may not have any cashflow, but I've got a heck of a good tale." [Laughter] "Nobody seems to be buying my product, but I've got a good story. After all, we're in a new economy." The problem is the new economy was fine, but old accounting practices still mattered. And when you ran out of cash, you're broke.

Well, in a dividend society, in a dividend-paying society, the pie-in-the-sky pronouncements no longer hold water. Because if your competitor is paying a dividend, you can only pay dividends when you make cash, when you generate enough cash to send to the owners. A good corporate reform would be to have a dividend-paying society, so that the investors, shareholders, small and large alike, will know whether the company is real or not, on whether they get that check every month or every quarter, whether that dividend is coming in.

Dividend—getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will encourage more companies to pay dividends, will encourage more ownership, will help ease the cost of capital, and will serve as good and positive corporate reform in America. Congress needs to get rid of the double taxation of dividends.

So this is the plan. And we're making progress. I want to thank the House of Representatives for passing a plan to the tune of \$550 billion. And as the Senate debates this plan, they've got to remember what drives this economy. The small-business owner drives this economy. Investment drives this economy. And as the Senate talks about this plan, I hope they hear the voices of those looking for work. The more robust the plan, the more likely it is somebody is going to find a job here in America.

Now, you're going to hear a lot of talk about the deficit as an excuse not to cut taxes. And I am concerned about the deficit. But let me explain to you why we have a deficit. We have got a deficit because this economy went into a recession, which means less revenues were coming into our Treasury. The

country slowed down, and as a result, there was less taxes coming into Washington, DC.

We have got a recession because we went to war, and I told the American people, "If we're going to commit our troops into harm's way, we're going to spend whatever money is necessary to make sure we win." Yes, we've got a deficit, but we can deal with that two ways. One is to make sure Congress does not overspend. And I want to thank Pete and Heather and Steve for joining with me on a budget which restricts discretionary spending to 4 percent. In other words—and I will continue to do my part, I assure you, to make sure Congress does not overspend on the expense side.

I fully recognize that some people up there, when they hear—have the word "appropriator" by their name, appropriate. [Laughter] My job is to encourage them to appropriate but in a wise way, and I will continue to do so. But if we hold down spending, the way to deal with the deficit is to encourage revenue growth in the Treasury, and the way to deal with—encourage revenue growth is to stimulate this economy. The best way to deal with the recession is to have an economic growth plan that will cause economic vitality.

Yes, I'm worried about the deficit. I'm worried about the deficit, but I'm more worried about the fellow looking for work. I'm worried about the deficit, but I'm more worried about the single mom who's worried about putting food on the table for her children, so she could find work. And that's where the focus of this administration is going to be.

There's no doubt in my mind this Nation will rise to the challenges which we face. There's absolutely no doubt in my mind that the world is going to be more peaceful because of the actions taken by the United States of America and our friends. There are no doubt in my mind this Nation is going to be more secure because of the resolve and will of the American people.

And there is no doubt in my mind with the right policy out of Washington, DC, that the entrepreneurial spirit of this country is going to remain strong, the productivity of our workers is going to be high, and this economy is going to come back so our fellow

citizens can find work. And there's no doubt in my mind I feel that way, because I'm a fortunate man. I'm the President of the greatest nation on the face of the Earth.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:35 a.m. in the president's office at MCT Industries. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico; Ted R. Martinez, president, MCT Industries, and his daughter Claudine; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Phil T. Archuletta, chief executive officer, P&M Signs, and his sister, Mabel; and Jay Walton, owner, Jay Walton's Automotive.

Remarks in Omaha, Nebraska

May 12, 2003

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all for coming. It is—I'm so glad to be back in Nebraska. Thanks for coming by to say hello. It's an honor to be here. Brad, I want to thank you very much for opening up your fine facility to the entourage that travels with me and all these fine folks. I appreciate the entrepreneurial spirit of Airlite Plastics. I want to thank all the good, hard-working folks that work here to make this company a going concern. I appreciate your hospitality, and I want to congratulate you on your new building. It's a beautiful facility.

I'm here to talk about some important matters facing this country. But before I do, I want to remind you about something in this administration: One half of the ticket was born right here in Nebraska. Our great Vice President, Dick Cheney, was born in Nebraska. No wonder he's given me such good advice.

Thanks for coming out. I'm really proud to be introduced by Chuck Hagel. He's a fine United States Senator and a good friend. I appreciate him. He mentioned the Governor. I'm proud to call Mike Johanns my friend, and I'm glad he's here. And I appreciate the first lady of the State of Nebraska joining us here today too. It's good to see you all. Thanks for coming.

I also appreciate so very much Ben Nelson for coming, and his wife, Diane. I'm honored

you all are here. I'm pleased to have you here. Thanks for coming.

You've done a pretty good job about selecting Congressmen—well, better than a pretty good job. You've done a great job here in Nebraska. I'm proud that Doug Bereuter is here and Lee Terry and Tom Osborne—all of them fine Members, and all of them good to work with. And you know what else—you let a man come across the border today to come here. And that would be Congressman Steve King from right across the way in Iowa.

I'm honored the Lieutenant Governor is here. I'm honored the secretary of state is here. I'm honored the attorney general is here. I'm honored the state treasurer is here. I'm honored the state auditor is here. And I'm honored you all are here too. Thanks for coming.

Before we talk about the issue facing this country and our responsibilities and how we're going to assume those responsibilities, I do want to talk about a lady I met at the airport today, a woman named Anne Carroll.

Audience member. Woo-hoo!

The President. Well, somebody's heard of her. That's good. [Laughter] You're probably wondering why I would even mention Anne Carroll. Well, let me tell you why. You see, there's a lot of talk across our country and around the world about America's muscle. They talk about our military might. They talk about our strength, but they overlook the true strength of the country. The true strength of the country is the heart and soul of the individuals in this country.

Anne Carroll volunteers her time. She's very actively involved in the Habitat for Humanity and the International Meals on Wheels. She's involved with helping make somebody else's life better. You know, the great strength of America happens when a neighbor loves a neighbor in need.

The great strength of this country is the hearts and souls of the American people. Don't ever let them tell you the great strength is the military strength. No, that's good. That helps. [Laughter] But we're a loving nation and a compassionate nation and a decent nation.

And I want to thank Anne Carroll, and I want to thank all of you all who work hard to help a neighbor in need. And keep doing

it. The best way to have a compassionate tomorrow for all our citizens is to put your arm around somebody who hurts and say, "I love you. What can I do to help?"

Now, we've been tested. This Nation has been tested. As Chuck reminded you, I was here on that fateful day. The enemy hit us. They thought we were going to fold our tent. They thought we were weak. They thought we were afraid. But what they've seen in the last 20 months is a relentless campaign against global terror, because we love our freedoms. What they have seen is a nation which stands strong when it comes to doing our duty and assuming our responsibilities to fight terror and to make our people more secure.

It wasn't all that long ago that we sent our troops into Afghanistan in order to uphold the doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists," to uphold that doctrine that says, "If you feed or hide a terrorist, we will hold you to account just like we're going to hold the terrorists to account." And the Taliban found out what we meant.

As a result of the skill and bravery of the United States and our coalition friends and allies, we have freed the people of Afghanistan from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind. And now, as a result of our decisions and actions, many young girls go to school for the first time in Afghanistan.

And we're still on the hunt. There's still Al Qaida operatives moving around. And we're going to stay on the hunt until we bring them to justice. We have a duty in this country to defend our freedoms. We have a responsibility to future generations of America to uphold our responsibility to make this country secure. And we assume those duties, and we accept that responsibility.

And so today, as I speak, there are Special Forces teams on the hunt, on the prowl. We're running down leads. We're cutting off their money. We're working with a vast coalition of nations which love freedom, and we'll stay on the hunt until we have totally dismantled the Al Qaida network to make this world more free.

And part of the war on terror was dealing with the dictator in Iraq. Part of making this

country more secure and the world more peaceful was going into Iraq and removing a dictator who had defied resolution after resolution from the international community, a dictator with known terrorist connections, a dictator who had weapons of mass destruction. No, we sent in some of the bravest of the brave. And as a result of their courage and sacrifice, America is more secure; the neighborhood is more peaceful; the world is more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are free.

I want to thank very much the folks from Offutt Air Force Base who went over to the theater—the 55th, Fighting 55th went. About 1,500 of them participated in making sure the Al Faw Peninsula was secure, helped hunt down enemy Scud missiles, helped the recovery of seven POWs in northern Iraq. I'm proud to call them fellow Americans. For those of you who have got a loved one wearing this Nation's uniform, you thank them, and you tell them the Commander in Chief is incredibly proud.

We haven't been at this long. It wasn't all that long ago that I gave Secretary Rumsfeld the orders to move in—less than 2 months ago that our military, along with others, started to liberate Iraq, but we're making progress toward achieving our objective. Our objective is to make the world more peaceful, and the best way to make the world more peaceful is to promote freedom. In America, we believe a free society is a society which is less likely to create terror activities. A free society is one in which people are more likely to channel their God-given talents in a constructive and positive way.

No, we're in Iraq until Iraq is free, completely free. We will help rebuild that country. People with food on the table and with their lights on in their house and people that can move around freely without fear of a gang attacking them, these are people that are more likely to develop a society which is a free society. So first things first. And it doesn't matter how long it takes. The United States will put the conditions right, along with our allies, create the conditions necessary for Iraq to be run by the Iraqis, an Iraq of, for, and by the Iraqi people, and then we'll come home.

There is no doubt in my mind, as a result of the actions that this country has taken to defend ourselves, the world is a more peaceful place. And there is no doubt in my mind, as a result of the actions this Nation has taken to defend ourselves, freedom has a better chance to take hold all across the world. I'm proud of this country. I'm proud of the decisions and actions we have taken, and I'm proud of the values we hold dear to our hearts.

And while we continue to work on the homeland security, we've got to remember that part of a secure nation is one in which people have job security, in which people can find a job if they're looking for work. And I'm concerned about that. That interest—unemployment rate hit 6 percent the other day. And that ought to be a wake-up call to Members of the United States Congress that we've got an issue here in this country, and we need policies that will get people back to work.

I'm optimistic about our future because, like you, I have seen what we have overcome. Let me review the history right quick. The stock market started to decline in March of 2000. And since this is now an ownership society, it affected a lot of people. A lot of people count on their stocks as part of their retirement package. If you're a teacher, you care about the stock market. If you're a policeman, you care about the stock market. If you're an average citizen, it's likely you care about the stock market, because your pension plans or your 401(k)s are invested.

And so the market started going down in March of 2000, and then we went into a recession. That's three quarters of negative growth. From January of 2001, for the three quarters ending—starting January 2001, we were negative. That meant we were going backwards, meant the economy was going down. It meant people were beginning to hurt. And we started getting our feet underneath us and started making some progress; then the enemy hit us. They attacked us, and it affected us. Obviously, took a lot of lives, and we mourn for those lives, and we mourn for those families who still suffer as a result of that attack.

But it also affected the psychology of the country. You see, we thought oceans could protect us forever. And we realized we were

vulnerable under the—in this new era in which we live. But the country came back together. We rallied, and then, all of a sudden, some of our fellow citizens—we discovered that some of our citizens forgot what it was like to be a responsible citizen and they cooked the books. They were CEOs of corporate America, and they forgot they have a responsibility to shareholders and employees to tell the truth. They got a bad case of big-shot-itis. [*Laughter*] But they're now learning that they're going to be held to account if they don't tell the truth.

So we overcame corporate scandal, and we're still overcoming those scandals. We've been through a lot, when you think about it. And yet, we're growing. The economy is still moving forward. As a matter of fact, we're one of the best economies amongst the industrialized world. And that's positive. But we're not growing fast enough. We're not growing fast enough because too many of our citizens are looking for work. And so long as somebody's looking for work that wants to work, says to me we've got a problem.

And therefore, I laid out a plan to deal with it. And it starts—based on this principle. It says, if you're worried about people finding work—in other words, one of the problems we have is we're such a productive economy. We've got the best workers in the world, by the way; the productivity rates are way up in America. But the more productive you are, it means there's better output per worker, which means you better increase demand if you're trying to create new jobs. In other words, if one worker can do more work, you've got to create the need for more work in order to make a job available for somebody looking for work.

And the best way to do that is to stimulate a demand for good and services, and the only way to stimulate a demand for good and services in our economy is to let people keep more of their own money. And notice I said, "more of their own money." Sometimes in the Washington debate—I noticed Senator Hagel emphasized that as well. See, he knows what I know: Sometimes in Washington people forget whose money we're talking about. You hear them say, "Well, the Government's money. Well, we're going to spend the Government's money here," or,

“we’ll do this with the Government’s money.” We’re not talking about the Government’s money. We’re talking about the people’s money. It’s your money.

And the more of your own money you have, the more likely it is our economy is going to grow. See, the more money you have in your pocket, it increases demand for goods and services. And when there’s an increased demand for goods or increased demand for services in our society, in our marketplace, somebody is going to produce the good or a service. And as somebody produces that additional good or a service, it means somebody is more likely to find a job. And we’re here talking about one thing, jobs for the American people. That’s what we’re here talking about.

So here is what I have proposed. Here’s what I’ve proposed. First of all, you’ve got to recognize we did cut the taxes on everybody who paid taxes in 2001. And that made sense. We reduced the penalty in the marriage penalty. We increased the child credit. But the problem was, is that in 2001, it seemed okay to phase those tax relief, those tax cuts in over a 3- to 5- to 7-year period. Well, we know you need that tax relief right now. If you’re a person looking for a job, you’re not interested in tax relief in 7 years. If you’re out there looking for work, you want it today.

And so I submitted to the United States Congress, strongly supported by the people here, that let’s just make it happen now. Let’s not wait. Let’s get tax relief to the American people as quickly as possible. And so that’s what we’ve done. That’s part of the plan. A significant part of the plan is to accelerate the tax relief in place for everybody who pays taxes.

You’ll hear all kinds of rhetoric out of Washington. They’ll say, “This plan only benefits the rich. I can’t be for this, because only the rich people benefit.” Well, it’s interesting they would say that. I just met with a bunch of your fellow citizens who disagree with that concept. I had the honor of having a round-table discussion prior to coming into this hall, and I met with some good, hard-working folks from this part of the world.

The Madrigals are with us today, and so is their extended family—*[laughter]*—Kim

and Greg. They’ve got a son, Noah, and a daughter, Marina. They’re hard-working people. They’re worried about their future. This tax relief will provide them \$900 in tax relief a year. That’s not 900 for 1 year. That’s 900 for a series of years. That’s \$900 this year, next year, next—and all of a sudden, it gives them \$900 to start planning for their future. They get to decide what to do with their own money. It’s their money. They ought to decide what to do with it.

They’re going to talk about making sure that they started a college savings account for their children. All of a sudden, the idea of sending their children to college is a little less onerous, because there’s tax relief. They save that money. They said, “We both had to work through college. We never had anything set aside for us”—this is what Kim says—“so it’s important that we provide something for our kids so they don’t have to do all the struggling we had to do.” That’s a fantastic parent who believes that way. They understand their most important responsibility is to love their children with all their heart. This tax relief helps them.

Jenny Theisen’s with us. Her husband is a staff sergeant out at Offutt. They’ve got children. They want to put money aside for their kids’ saving. They maybe want to do a little remodeling. Now, you see, when somebody makes the decision to get a little extra money in their pocket, they decide to remodel, somebody’s got to show up to the house to do the remodeling. Somebody’s got to bring the hammer and the saw over and the paint. Somebody’s got to go buy the paint. And all of a sudden, you start having a positive effect on the economy when the Jenny Theisens of this world start making decisions about changing the nature of her home.

It’s not just Jenny. There’s going to be thousands of people like her who make the decision with her own money to remodel their homes. And all of a sudden, the remodeling industry gets a shot in the arm, and somebody is more likely to find work. When you leave money in somebody’s pockets and they decide to spend it, it’s going to have a positive effect all throughout the economy.

I met with Julie and Tom Belt from Council Bluffs. They’ve got three young boys.

They're going to save \$1,375 a year. That's real money. That's money that's going to go into the pockets of good, solid, middle-class citizens who will make decisions with that money, and it will begin to circulate through our economy.

And I met the Bullers. They're going to use some of that money to pay their cheering section. [*Laughter*] They're going to save \$1,000 a month—a year, for the out-years.

My point to you is, is that tax relief will have an incredibly positive effect on the hard-working people of this country, people who are working hard to get ahead, people who are struggling with the bills they got today and are worried about their future. Tax relief is good for American families. Tax relief is important and is needed for our economy.

And let me tell you what else reducing the individual rates will do. It will serve as a stimulus for small business. Now, you see, most small businesses pay tax at the sole proprietorship, as a result of being a sole proprietorship or what they call a limited liability corporation or a Subchapter S. And that means they pay taxes at the individual income tax rate. So if you're the traditional mom-and-pop business, you will pay—it's more likely you'll be paying taxes at the individual income tax rate. When you hear people talk about—me talk about reducing income taxes on the individual, I want you to remember that it's also cutting taxes on the small businesses of America.

And let me tell you why that's important. Most new jobs in America are created by small businesses. And if you're interested in job creation, you've got to do something about helping the small businesses of this country. And part of that package is to allow small businesses to deduct \$75,000 a year on equipment purchases, as opposed to the current limitations of \$25,000 a year.

And so today I was down there in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and I was talking to some entrepreneurs and talking to a guy who owned his own garage. I can't remember how long—I think he's owned his business for 20 years. He started off with two people. He's now up to maybe a couple of—you know, 20 people. Anyway, he's growing. And he told me, he said, "If I'm allowed to expense more

than \$25,000, I'm likely to add on to my garage. And when I add on to my garage, it's going to mean I need somebody else to work in the garage"—because it can't sit empty. And then somebody is going to have to come and build the garage.

What we've got to do in our society is increase the vitality of our small businesses and encourage small businesses to invest. When somebody invests, it means somebody has to provide the product. And when somebody has to provide a product, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan I submitted to the United States Congress has got one thing in mind, helping people find work.

And the final aspect of the plan I want to talk to you about is the policy I've submitted to the Congress that will get rid of the double taxation of dividends. Some people say, "Well, the double taxation of dividends isn't going to help anybody except the rich." Well, they don't understand the nature of our society, evidently. More and more and more people now own stocks. More people have got a stake in the future of the stock market because of retirement plans, for example.

And therefore, it doesn't make any sense to penalize companies—if you're a stockholding society, it doesn't make any sense to penalize companies which distribute cash to the owners. That's a dividend. If you're an owner of the company, it seems like to me you want to maybe get a little something out of it besides the appreciation of the stock. You'd like to get a dividend.

But we penalize that kind of behavior in America because we not only tax the company's profits; we then tax the distribution of the profits to the shareholders. We tax the same dollar twice, and that is not fair. It's not fair policy.

It is not fair to tax the profits twice of our senior citizens. Sixty-four thousand seniors in Nebraska rely on dividends to meet their financial needs. If you're worried about the senior citizen being able to live a comfortable life upon retirement, then you need to join us in getting rid of the double taxation of dividends. A lot of seniors count on dividend income in order to survive, and the double taxation of dividends penalizes those seniors.

The double taxation of dividends will be good corporate reform. You see, we went through a period of time, as you might remember, where people said, "Invest in my company. I've got a good story, but I don't have any cashflow. But give us a shot." Kind of the pie-in-the-sky theory of market investing. "Go ahead and invest. I've got a good tale to tell, but no one seems to be buying my product."

The new economy also was tagged with reality by old economics. That is, if you run out of money, you're not going to be in business. If a dividend society is one which says in order to justify your story, in order to justify your existence, you've got to keep up a steady stream of dividends—you can't say pie-in-the-sky if you've promised the investor and the shareholder that they're going to get a dividend. You've got to perform. And so getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will cause more businesses to pay a dividend. It helps incent them to pay a dividend. And therefore, fancy footwork isn't going to work. The only thing that will work is making sure people have got a steady stream of dividends.

And finally, getting rid of dividend—the double taxation of dividends will lower the cost of capital, will make it easier for people to raise money. And remember, when people have money to invest, it means somebody is more likely to find work. We estimate that getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will add 400,000 new jobs by the end of 2004. I want Congress to take this proposition seriously. It's good for America.

And we're making progress. We're making progress. I want to thank you for your interest in this issue. I ask you to continue working with the members of the Nebraska delegation, to let them know your feelings on this very important issue.

Now, you'll hear people say, "Well, we can't do this because there's a deficit"—if I just take a quick second and just tell you my views on that. I'm concerned about the deficit. You're concerned about the deficit, I know. But let me remind you why we have a deficit. We have a deficit because the economy slowed down, is why we have a deficit. When the economy goes into recession, it means less revenues are coming into the Treasury. Secondly, we have a deficit be-

cause I told the American people, "If we ever put our soldiers in harm's way, we're going to pay whatever is necessary to win, to protect them, give them the best." And that's what we did. It's exactly what we did.

Now, there's two ways to deal with that. One, you can raise the taxes in order to make up the deficit, which doesn't make any sense to me. It'll hurt the economy. If giving people more of their money means more jobs, taking away their money means less jobs. Or you can do our plan, which is hold the line on spending in Washington, DC, which is being realistic with the people's money.

And I want to thank the Members up here that voted for that budget I submitted that holds discretionary spending to 4 percent. So you hold the line on the expense side, and you increase the revenues coming into the Treasury by increasing jobs, by increasing economic vitality. Yes, I'm concerned about the deficit, but I'm more concerned about the person looking for a job today. And this plan we've got not only will deal with the deficit in the long term, but in the short term says, we care about the man or a woman looking for a place to work in America.

I'm confident about our economic outlook, particularly confident when Congress does the right thing and lets you have more of your own money. We don't need to be little-bitty in this deal. We need to be robust to get people back to work. We don't need to be afraid of the politics or afraid of the rhetoric. We need to be strong in our desire to do what is right for this economy. And what is right is a robust plan. And what is right is a strong plan which will get money in people's pockets, so you can decide what to do with it. And when you decide to do positive things with it, somebody's likely to find a job.

No, there's no doubt in my mind that this country can overcome the obstacles that have been put in our way. There's no doubt in my mind that when we remain strong and diligent—and we will—America will be more secure. There's no doubt in my mind, as we continue to work hard for the values we believe, people will realize the beauty of freedom and the benefits of freedom. And therefore, the world will be more peaceful.

There's no doubt in my mind that this economy is going to be strong, because the

entrepreneurial spirit is strong and the people of this country are strong. We've got great workers. We've got a great system. There's no doubt in my mind we'll succeed, because there's no doubt in my mind we're the greatest nation on the face of the Earth because of the American people.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:40 p.m. in the production line of the foam plant at Airlite Plastics. In his remarks, he referred to Brad Crosby, president, Airlite Plastics; Gov. Mike Johanns and First Lady Stephanie Johanns of Nebraska; Lt. Gov. David Heineman of Nebraska; Nebraska Secretary of State John A. Gale; State Attorney General Jon Bruning, State Treasurer Lorelee Byrd, and State Auditor Kate Witek of Nebraska; Senator E. Benjamin Nelson of Nebraska and his wife, Diane; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks in Indianapolis, Indiana *May 13, 2003*

Thanks a lot for the warm welcome. I'm so grateful so many of my fellow citizens have shown up this morning. Thanks for coming. I'm here to discuss some of the challenges that this Nation faces and to let you know I'm optimistic we can overcome anything in our path.

We have a challenge to make sure that we have economic security here at home. That's one of the challenges we face, and I will discuss that challenge. We also have a challenge to protect our fellow citizens from terrorism.

Today's attacks in Saudi Arabia, the ruthless murder of American citizens and other citizens, remind us that the war on terror continues. My thoughts and prayers and those of our fellow citizens are with the families of the victims of yesterday's murder in Saudi Arabia. We pray for them. We mourn the loss of life. These despicable acts were committed by killers whose only faith is hate. And the United States will find the killers, and they will learn the meaning of American justice.

I want to thank the chairman, Dick Lugar, for his service to our country and for his

friendship. He's a fine, fine man. A member of my Cabinet has joined us here today, my man Mitch. Mitch Daniels has been a good friend, a close adviser, and I'm going to miss him. Washington's loss, however, will be the gain of the people of Indiana. He's a fine fellow.

I appreciate very much that Governor O'Bannon has joined us today. Mr. Governor, thank you for coming. I'm honored you are here. And I'm appreciative that Indiana's other Senator, Senator Evan Bayh, has joined us as well. Senator, thanks for coming. I appreciate you coming.

I'm proud that members of the Indiana congressional delegation have joined us as well. Chris Chocoma from up north has come to be with us today. Steven Buyer, Congressman Buyer is with us today. Congressman Dan Burton is with us today. Congressman Mike Pence is with us today, and I'm also very pleased that Congresswoman Julia Carson is with us today as well.

We've got members of the statehouse who are with us. The State attorney general is with us, and other members of the statehouse. Thanks for coming. Mr. Mayor of Indianapolis, I'm honored you are here, that Mayor Peterson has taken time out of his day to greet me.

I just had the honor of talking to some of your citizens about what tax relief will mean to them. I'm going to talk about some of them a little later on. But I want to thank you all so very much for taking time out of your day to kind of tell me what life's all about here. [*Laughter*]

Last night when I landed, I met a lady named Elizabeth Hamilton. She is—the reason I bring up Elizabeth is because I want you to understand that the true strength of America is not our military or our ability to bomb people. The great strength of our country is the fact that we love each other. The great strength of America is that we're a compassionate nation.

There's been a lot of talk about our military, but I want you to remember that the thing that makes this Nation strong is the fact that we have citizens like Elizabeth Hamilton who are willing to love somebody just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

You see, Elizabeth is a reading tutor. She's willing to take time out of her life to help a child learn to read. She understands a society—a hopeful society is one in which we work hard to save lives, one person at a time. She—not only that, but she works at the Christamore House, which is a house—a center aiming to serve people in need, to help people who hurt. Elizabeth, thank you for coming. I'm honored you're here. Please stand up. And for any of you who want to follow the path of Elizabeth Hamilton, we've got what's called the USA Freedom Corps. You can look it up on the Internet if you're interested in helping somebody in need. If you really want to make this country a strong country, volunteer. Help somebody who hurts. Love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

This Nation has been tested. For 20 months, we have waged a relentless campaign against global terror. You see, the enemy hit us, and they didn't realize the nature of this country. They probably thought we would just fold our tents and go home. They don't understand America. They don't understand how much we love freedom. They don't understand how much we cherish—[*applause*]. They probably thought we would forget, but anytime anybody attacks our homeland, anybody—anytime anybody attacks our fellow citizens, we'll be on the hunt, and we'll find them, and they will be brought to justice. Just ask the Taliban. [*Laughter*]

We went into Afghanistan, not all that long ago when you think about it, to uphold a doctrine that said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you hide a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist, and you'll be held to account."

So we, along with a vast coalition, went into Afghanistan to bring people to justice but also to free people from the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in modern history. And now, thanks to the United States of America and a lot of our friends, young girls go to school for the first time. I'm proud of this country and what we stand for.

I figured we've destroyed about one-half of Al Qaida, the top operators of Al Qaida. And that's good. But we've got more work to do. And the other half are going to get

on the run, and we will find them. In order to protect this homeland, the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt down anybody who would do harm to Americans and bring them to justice, and precisely what we're going to do in America.

We will be patient, and we'll be relentless, because that is our obligation to future generations of Americans, an obligation which says that we must work hard to make sure people can grow up in freedom and peace in this country.

We also waged another battle in the war against terror when we liberated the people of Iraq from the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. Thanks to our United States military and coalition forces, America is now more secure; the world will be more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are free.

America is proud of our military. We are proud of their skill. We're proud of their courage. We're proud of people like Army Corporal Damien Luten, who went to high school right here in Indianapolis. On March 23d, he was in a supply convoy in Iraq that came under attack. He was wounded. He was taken prisoner, and—thank God—he was rescued. He now has the Purple Heart. But more importantly, he, like everybody else who wears our uniform, has the gratitude of the United States of America.

And I know our troops are grateful for the support they found in places like Indianapolis. At the public library on Washington Street, a group of grandmothers got together and knitted scarves for our soldiers to keep the desert sand out of their eyes. What struck me was what 72-year-old Tillie Caldwell had to say. And here's what she said—her words, not mine—"What else are a bunch of old ladies going to do?" [*Laughter*] "If I could, I would be the first on the frontline with a rifle." Whoever knows Tillie, tell her I'm glad we're on the same side. [*Laughter*]

We moved into Iraq. We removed the dictator, but we've got work to do. First, we're going to help rebuild the country, make sure the people have got food on the table, make sure the children can go to school, make sure those who need medical supply can find medical supply. We're going to turn the lights on all around the country so that life can return back to normal. And then we'll work

with the Iraqi people to have a Government of, by, and for Iraqi citizens. We'll work to make sure that democracy takes hold, because we believe people everywhere love freedom. And then we're coming home.

A free Iraq will make the world more peaceful, because you see, when people are free, they're less likely to promote terrorism. When people are free, they're more likely to work to realize their aspirations in a positive way. Freedom around the world will bring peace, and that's why America stands so strong for free people everywhere across this globe.

We will work hard to make sure the homeland is secure and freedom prevails. And likewise, we'll work home to make sure everybody can find work in America. I saw the other day that the unemployment rate went to 6 percent. That should be a clear signal to reluctant Members of the United States Congress that we need an aggressive economic growth plan so people can find work.

People can say—they say, "Well, if the unemployment rate is going up, how can you be optimistic?" And my answer is, because we've overcome a lot, and we're still growing. I want to remember what this Nation has been through. First of all, in March of 2000, the stock market started going down. That affected a lot of people because we're an ownership society. Now, over 50 percent of our fellow citizens have got an interest in the stock market. You either own stock directly or your pension plan owns stock. If you're a police officer—and thank you for serving your community, by the way—you've got interest in the stock market because of your pension plans. If you're a retired teacher, you've got interest. If you're a retired citizen, you've probably got some interest in the market. And the market started going down in March of 2000.

And then our Nation went into a recession starting January 1st of 2001. That means three quarters of negative growth, three quarters of going backwards. And then, just as it looked like things were kind of getting better, the enemy hit us. And that affected America. It affected us deeply. It hurt our economy in a lot of ways. And we started getting settled down after that.

And then it became clear, over the past years, some of our citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen. Some CEOs around our country forgot what it meant to be responsible in their jobs. They didn't tell the truth to employees and shareholders alike. They will learn a lesson, that we expect people to be responsible in positions of authority. They will be held to account, and this should serve as a lesson for people in positions of responsibility. It should serve as a lesson for other chief executive officers of corporate America that we expect there to be open accounting and fair compensation packages. We expect there to be responsible behavior in America's corporate boardrooms.

Now, we've been working our way through problems. And in spite of those problems, we're growing. As a matter of fact, we're growing more than most other countries in the industrialized world. And that's positive news. What isn't positive is the fact that too many of our fellow citizens are looking for work. What's not positive is some of your fellow citizens are saying, "What can I do to put food on the table for my family?" And when people are looking for work, it says, we've got a problem, and we need to do something about it.

And so I went to the United States Congress and said, "Here's my plan. Here's what I want you to consider. I want you to consider how to make this economy grow. I want there to be one thing in your mind when it comes to debating what's right or wrong, and it's not politics. It's helping people find a job in the United States of America."

And I've put a plan out that recognizes our strengths. First of all, the entrepreneurial spirit is strong in America. This is a country where if you've got a dream and are willing to work for it, you can achieve that dream. And we've got to keep that entrepreneurial spirit strong in this great country.

Interest rates are low. That's a strength that helps the homeowner either buy a home or refinance a home. We want people owning their homes in America. And interest rates—low interest rates help people own a precious asset like a home. Inflation is down, which is positive. But the best thing we've got going for us is we're the most productive workforce

in the world. Our workers are the best in the world.

That's good news, and it can be bad news. And one of the reasons it's bad news is, the more productive the workforce—in other words, each worker can produce more goods and services per hour—it means you'd better increase the demand for goods and services if you want to increase employment. The more productive we are, the more the economy has to grow in order for somebody to find work.

The best way to encourage—increase demand for goods and services is to let people keep more of their own money. You see, when somebody has more of their own money, they're likely to make a decision on a good or a service. They say, "I want more of this," or, "I need an additional good," in which case somebody is likely in our system to produce it. And when somebody meets that demand by additional production, somebody is more likely to find a job. And we're here to talk about one thing, jobs. That's what we're here to talk about.

So I submitted a plan to the United States Congress that focuses on jobs. First of all, one of the key parts of this plan is that it understands whose money we're talking about. Sometimes in Washington, you hear the rhetoric, "Well, we're spending the Government's money." Now, you don't spend the Government's money in Washington. We're spending your money. It's your money we're talking about.

And so I said, "Let's let the people keep more of their own money." In 2001, the Congress responded. It cuts rates on everybody. That's fair. If you're going to cut the rates, you cut them on everybody. Government shouldn't pick and choose winners when it comes to tax relief. Secondly, it said the marriage penalty is not a good thing. We ought to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. And the third aspect of the plan, I said we ought to increase the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000 per child.

And so, Congress listened in 2001 and passed the plan, except they phased it in over a period of years. And my attitude is this: If the economy is hurting today, if we've got some of our fellow citizens looking for work, instead of waiting 5 years, let's do it today.

The person looking for a job doesn't care what happens 5 years from now. The person looking for a job wants the economy to grow today. For the sake of economic vitality, Congress has got to act and act boldly on this plan to get more of your own money back to you.

And people, you'll hear all the time in Washington, they'll say, "Well, this is only for a certain class of people." That's the old, tired, stale class warfare argument. A family of four making \$40,000 a year would see their Federal tax bill go down from \$1,178 a year to \$45. That's a family of four making \$40,000. And that's \$1,000, not just for one year, but for years. And it gives that family a chance to plan. It basically says that family can use their money the way they see fit. After all, it's your money to begin with.

This plan is important for the small-business growth. It's important to kind of keep that entrepreneurial spirit strong in America, and I'll tell you why. Most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate level. Most small businesses are limited liability corporations, and therefore, they pay tax at the individual rate—or Subchapter S corporations or sole proprietorships. Your mom-and-pop small business is more likely to pay tax at the individual income tax rate. And therefore, when you lower those rates, when you lower all rates, what you're really doing is injecting capital into the treasuries of American small businesses. And the reason that's important is most new jobs are created by small businesses in America.

So when you hear the debate about reducing all tax rates, I want you to remember that a crucial part of this plan focuses on the American entrepreneur and the small businesses. And part of the plan says we're going to raise the amount of money that a small business can deduct on a capital expenditure. In other words, if you buy new equipment right now, you can only deduct up to \$25,000. So we're saying you ought to be able to deduct up to \$75,000.

Yesterday I—it is clear we've got some small-business owners with us who understand the limitations placed on investment. Well, if that's the case, you're some of the 497,000 small businesses right here in the State of Indiana. It seems like to me you're

a good place to be a small-business owner, which is exciting.

I was yesterday—started in Albuquerque and met a fellow who started his own garage. And he started with two employees, now he's got—I forgot how many he said—a couple of dozen, which is incredibly positive. He said to me, "With the increase on the ability to write off more of my capital investment, I'm going to increase my garage space," which means somebody has got to provide the concrete to pour the foundation; somebody has got to figure out where to buy the metal; somebody has got to make the metal. Then he's going to need some extra employees to make sure the garage space isn't empty.

In other words, what I'm telling you is, is that by encouraging small businesses to invest capital, really what we're doing is we're increasing the ability for somebody to find work. The more people are buying goods and products in our society, the more production there will be of those goods and products, and the more likely is one of your fellow citizens who's looking for work will be able to find a job. This is all about jobs.

And the final aspect of the jobs and growth package is to get rid of the double taxation on dividends. And there are a lot of reasons why we should. First of all, it's fair to tax corporate profits. If a company makes money, it is fair that we collect a tax from that company. It doesn't seem fair to me, however, that if the company distributes a share of those profits to the owners, small and large alike, that we ought to tax the profit again. That's not fair.

As a result of the double taxation, shareholders who receive a dividend keep as little as 40 cents on the dollar earned, which raises the cost of capital. It makes raising capital more expensive, and that's not good for society which is interested in creating more jobs. It doesn't make sense to tax anything twice. It certainly doesn't make any sense to tax anything twice and, therefore, make it harder for somebody to raise capital necessary to expand their business, so somebody can find work.

It is very important, also, to realize the reform aspects of encouraging companies to pay dividends. If you get rid of the double

taxation of dividends, more companies will pay dividends.

We just went through a period of time when some of our corporate citizens said, "Invest in my company because I've got an interesting story." I would call that the pie-in-the-sky economic period, you know, "Bet on us. Even though we don't have any cash, we've still got an interesting tale to tell," you know, the new economy. The problem is, the new economy was affected by old accounting practices. And when companies didn't have any money, eventually they went out of business. Well, if you have a dividend-paying society, you can tell an interesting story, but you also better have enough cash to back your story up. A dividend society is one that says, "We've got a good story, but we also have got enough success where we can distribute cash to the owners on a quarterly basis." A good corporate reform will be to encourage companies to back up their performance with cash distribution to the owners.

And who are the owners? The owners are from all walks of life. I've just told you we're an ownership society. If you have a pension plan, you're a—you own stock. If you have a—if you're a retired teacher, you're interested. There's 177,000 seniors in this day who rely upon dividends to meet their financial needs.

Oh, I've heard the rhetoric coming out of Washington: "This is only for rich people. That's why he's doing it." Well, Janet Herke I met today. She has six grandchildren. Every month she sets aside \$100 to help her children eventually pay for her grandchildren's education. She is a responsible citizen. She's retired. She relies upon dividend income. Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will save this good lady \$1,800 a year, for the out-years as well. And the savings mean this to her—this is what she said, "I want to pass along what I've invested and save for my kids and grandkids, because they are the most important things in my life." Now, you tell Janet that this getting rid of the double taxation of dividends is only for rich people.

I met with Wilbur and Doris Richards. I met with the Richards. Wilbur is an Army veteran. He helped liberate World War II—

Europe in World War II. Doris worked in local schools here. They worked hard. The proposal would cut their taxes by 70 percent, and at \$800 more a year, which would help them pay for health insurance, it certainly eases the pressures that now exist on their life. Wilbur says he gets the most out of every buck. And my tax relief plan would give him and seniors like him more bucks to work with—his words, not mine.

Dena Kerhoulas is here with us. She's the lady who's got the same hairstyle as my mother—[laughter]—and sounds just about as feisty. [Laughter] Right after September the 11th, here's what she did: September the 11th, 2001, she bought more stocks, because, she said, "I wanted to show them they don't have us whipped." She has stocks that pay dividends, like a lot of seniors do. These aren't overly rich people. They're rich in spirit, but they're what we call average in wealth. She'd save \$2,000 a year, money she could use, money that when she spends will help somebody find work.

I met the Grubbs family and the Knights—same story over and over again all across America. Getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will help our senior citizens, and that's good policy.

I proposed an aggressive plan, because I want more people working. I proposed a plan where the—some economists say will add a million new jobs by the end of 2004. We don't need tepid steps in Washington, DC. We need plans that will get this economy growing strong so our fellow citizens can find a job.

There's all kinds of reasons why people don't want to support a strong plan. One of the most—one of the ones you hear the most about is that it will cause a deficit. Let me discuss that with you right quick, if you don't mind. Sure, we're in deficit. We're in deficit. We're in deficit because we went through a recession. I explained to you what the country had been through. The stock market went down starting in March of 2000. That means less revenues coming into our Treasury when people sold their stocks. We went through a recession, which means the economy slowed down to the point where there's less revenue coming into the Treasury. Yes, we're

in deficit because we've got less money coming in.

We're also in deficit because I made a promise to the people who wear the uniform of the United States military, "If we put you in harm's way, we will spend what is ever necessary to make sure we win."

We will deal with the deficit. There's a couple ways to deal with it. One way is to raise your taxes, and that's not going to happen. The other way is to do two things. One is to control spending. It's to be responsible with your money. It's to set clear priorities and say to the Congress, "Here are the guidelines. Here's what we expect you to honor," and that is, in this case, no more than 4 percent increase in discretionary spending. In other words, there needs to be fiscal sanity in Washington, DC, and at the same time, have policies which grow the economy so we can get more revenues coming into the Treasury. If you're interested in the deficit, you ought to be supporting fiscal discipline on the one hand and aggressive policies to make sure people can find work on the other hand.

I'm optimistic we're going to make good progress in Washington. I want to thank the House of Representatives for voting on a good plan. It's a good start. And now it's up to the Senate to follow suit. I believe the Senate, when they hear from you, will follow suit. I believe the people in the elected office need to hear from our citizens.

I look forward to signing a good bill, one that will help people get back to work. I look forward to signing a good piece of legislation which will rekindle the entrepreneurial spirit of this country. I look forward to signing a bill that will help America remain strong. And there's no doubt in my mind we will.

I'm confident that the future that lies ahead is a positive future for all our citizens. I'm confident that because of the United States of America, the world will be more free. I'm confident that if we remain strong like I know we will, the world will be more secure. And I'm confident, thanks to the strength and the compassion of our country, the world will be more peaceful. And the reason I'm so confident is I realize that I'm the President of the greatest nation on the face of the world.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 a.m. in the Pepsi Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Frank O'Bannon and State Attorney General Steve Carter of Indiana; Mayor Bart Peterson of Indianapolis; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Pierce City, Missouri

May 13, 2003

Thank you all very much. It is my honor to be here. Can you hear me back there? It is my honor to be here with some of our country's finest citizens. I am sorry I'm here under such circumstances.

I first want to thank the mayor for his hospitality and helping to arrange my visit. I want to thank the good Father for opening up this place of worship, this house of God, to help those who suffer. I find it—and I hope you do—uplifting that in the midst of tragedy, amongst people who have lost their homes, in some cases their loved one, or their businesses, lost their possessions, that we gather to comfort each other and to find help in the house of the Lord, because it's with His strength and His prayer that you'll find the sustenance to go on.

One of the things that struck me as I worked through the crowd here, shaking as many hands as I could, was that the people here who have been affected by the storm are ready to move on, are ready to pick up their lives, and are ready to do everything they can to convert this tragedy into good. Folks want to rebuild their—the feed man told me, he said, “I got wiped out, but I'm starting tomorrow to rebuild my company.” And there's no doubt you will, because there's a lot of people that want to help you.

And for the volunteers who are here, the people who have taken time out of your lives—the Red Cross or the Salvation Army or the church groups or the USA Freedom Corps people—I want to thank you very much for helping your neighbor in need.

I'm asking the FEMA people and the Governor and the mayor and everybody, I said, “Is the Government moving fast enough?” That's the question that I need to know. And

some of you said, “yes,” and some of you said, “no.” And for the ones who said, “no,” we will do everything we can to get you the—what you're owed. We'll process the paperwork as fast as possible, and if you qualify for help, they'll get you the help. That's what we're supposed to be doing.

So one of my visits—one of the reasons I'm visiting here is to ask the question, you know, to people. Because if there's—moving too slow or people are saying one thing and the other thing is not happening, now is the time to find out.

But the other real reason is to let you know there's a lot of Americans who are praying for you. A lot of people around this country saw the devastation—they didn't see what I've seen, because they—you can't tell how bad it is until you actually come here to Pierce City and see it yourself. You can't realize what it's like to see a tornado go right down the main street of a town and just wipe it out. It's hard to envision. But a lot of people know you're suffering, and a lot of people are praying for you, and a lot of people care for you. And a lot of people wish you all the best.

May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:05 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Mary's Catholic Church. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Mark Peters of Pierce City. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks and an Exchange With Reporters in Pierce City

May 13, 2003

Devastation in Pierce City

The President. This is this man's business. They built their business last year. They had a family restaurant. They had a family restaurant. The children worked in it. And their lives got turned upside-down in one minute. This whole town, this whole street got wiped out. The tornado just came straight down the street.

And the only thing I can tell a man who has lost it all and a lady who has lost it all in one moment is, is that a lot of people are praying for them, and our Government is

going to try to do our best. But if you look in his eyes, you can see that—the devastation that took place, when you lose something—all you own overnight. The good news is his family is still standing, and he’s strong. God bless you. God bless you.

Q. What’s your name?

Mr. Rector. Scott Rector. This is my wife, Lynette.

The President. Rector—2002 is when he realized his dream.

Mr. Rector. It’s going to say, again in 2003, here in about 5, 6 months. [*Laughter*]

The President. Yes. Oh, Mike [Mike Allen, Washington Post], okay. We’ll get you in a minute. Any questions, or anything?

Terrorist Attack in Saudi Arabia

Q. Sir, do you think that the bombing in Saudi Arabia was the fault of Al Qaida?

The President. Well, there’s a lot of suspicion it is Al Qaida. Al Qaida is a group of people that they don’t care about taking innocent life. And obviously, these killers didn’t care about innocent life. And we’ll find out. We’ll find out. We’re going to find out.

Q. Sir, are you satisfied with the cooperation the Saudis have given you? And do you believe they did all they could to prevent this?

The President. Well, we’ll let the facts—we’ll sort the facts out and find out what the facts are. Colin Powell is over there now, and I’m confident, when I get back to Washington tomorrow, that George Tenet of the CIA will give me a full briefing of what we know. And we’ll just find out. Let me get back to Washington and sort through the facts.

Q. Are you going to pull more Americans out of Saudi Arabia?

The President. Let me get back to Washington, find out the facts. We’ll assess all the threats. We’ll take the necessary precautions. But one thing is for certain: The people that killed the Americans and other innocent life will be tracked down, and they will be brought to justice. It doesn’t matter how long it takes. The war on terror goes on. And this incident in Saudi Arabia shows the country that we still have got a war to fight. And we will fight it, and we will win it.

Just like the people of this city are going to rebuild this city, this country is going to defend our security and fight these terrorists.

Q. This bombing looked like it was pretty well-planned.

The President. It was very well-planned, yes.

Q. So these guys have a little bit of money, they have some infrastructure—

The President. It doesn’t take much money to put a car bomb together. It takes hatred. It takes hatred in your heart. It takes an absolute disregard for innocent life. And that’s the nature of Al Qaida. I can’t say for certain it was Al Qaida yet, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it was.

Q. Do you think Iran—

The President. Iraq?

Q. Iran.

President’s Visit to Pierce City

The President. Oh, I have no idea. Look, it’s way too early. Let me get back to Washington and get the facts, and we’ll work on it. In the meantime, my heart is right here in Pierce City, Missouri, with the people whose lives were destroyed as a result of a tornado that swept down this street.

And let me say one thing about what I saw at the church. I saw not only a determined group of citizens, but I saw a group of volunteers from all over this State, and even some from Texas, I want you to know, that they want to help them. And for that, I’m grateful, and I know their Nation is as well. There’s a lot of love in this country.

Q. There were so many storms, all of a sudden, unlike anything you’ve seen before.

The President. That’s what happens sometimes. You know? That’s just what happens sometimes. Weather patterns change. And you know, I’m from Texas, where we had the Jarrell tornado come and just wiped out the city of Jarrell. They hadn’t had a tornado in that part of the State in a long time, and lo and behold, one shows up, and people lost their life.

Q. Do you think the Government is doing enough?

The President. Well, that’s what I’m here to ask. And I want to make sure FEMA responds quickly. I’ve been told by the Governor he’s satisfied. The mayor has told me

that he believes we're moving fast enough. But I'm moving out of the councils of government. I'm trying to get directly to the people to find out. And there's—a lot of people are content, and some people are frustrated.

Yes, ma'am.

Q. So many people here didn't have insurance—

The President. That's right, and we're going to have to deal with that.

Q. Is there money available that's not a loan for these people?

The President. Well, we have—we'll just have to figure it out, take a look and see. But you're right, there's a lot—a lot of the homes were insured, and a lot of the businesses weren't. And as you can see, this street right here, all the commerce in this entire town was wiped out. The mayor was talking about what it means to be trying to run a city that has got no sales tax revenue because nobody can buy anything because the businesses are destroyed.

And this is devastation—complete devastation here in Pierce City, and that's what we're here to—listen. We've got the people from the Federal Government all over it. The people from the State Government are listening to people's complaints. And we'll just see the best we can do. I am not going to make a promise to these good people that won't be fulfilled. So I'm here to listen, first of all.

Terrorist Attack in Saudi Arabia

Q. Were you surprised at this attack could take place a year-and-a-half—after a year-and-a-half of—

The President. No, I'm not surprised. Al Qaida—until Al Qaida is completely brought to justice, they want to hurt Americans and our friends and allies. And so we'll do everything we can to secure the homeland, and we'll do the best we can to make sure people can't come into our country and hurt us. But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is the policy of the Bush administration and will be the policy of the Bush administration for a long—hopefully, a long time. I know so long as I'm the President, we will deal with these people.

That's the only way to secure the country. And so these—they'll hit and run, and they'll try to hide. We're going to get them.

Texas Legislature

Q. Sir, you mentioned Texas. Have you been following what's going on in the Texas legislature?

The President. I have not.

Q. Democrats leaving the State to avoid a vote—

The President. No, I haven't—[laughter]—but I'm confident my friend, that Governor Perry will be able to deal with it.

Why don't we get out of the rain? Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2:30 p.m. during a tour of the city. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Holden of Missouri; Mayor Mark Peters of Pierce City; and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13301—Increasing the Number of Members on the Intelligence Oversight Board

May 14, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12863 of September 13, 1993, as amended by Executive Order 13070 of December 16, 1997, is further amended by deleting the word “four” from the first sentence of section 2.1 and inserting in its place the word “five”.

George W. Bush

The White House,

May 14, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting on the Deployment of
United States Military Personnel as
Part of the Kosovo International
Security Force**

May 14, 2003

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

In my report to the Congress of November 15, 2002, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of combat-equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report prepared by my Administration, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peace-keeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide an international security presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army; provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is about 2,250 U.S. military personnel, or approximately 9 percent of KFOR's total strength. Additionally, U.S. military personnel occasionally operate from Macedonia, Albania, and Greece in support of KFOR operations. Nineteen non-NATO contributing countries also participate with NATO forces in providing military personnel and other support personnel to KFOR.

The U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered around Gnjilane in the eastern region of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining

a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, provides a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizes checkpoints and patrols in key areas to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence.

The UNMIK continues to transfer non-reserved competencies under the Constitutional Framework document to the Kosovar Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG). The PISG includes the President, Prime Minister, and Kosovo Assembly, and has been in place since March 2002. Municipal elections were successfully held for a second time in October 2002.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. NATO has adopted the Joint Operations Area plan to regionalize and rationalize its force structure in the Balkans. The KFOR has transferred full responsibility for public safety and policing to the UNMIK international and local police forces throughout Kosovo except in the area of Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns. The UNMIK international police and local police forces have also begun to assume responsibility for guarding patrimonial sites and established border-crossing checkpoints.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ted Stevens, President pro tempore of the Senate.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Iran**

May 14, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 14, 2003.

**Remarks Following Discussions With
President Roh Moo-hyun of South
Korea**

May 14, 2003

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome our good friend the President of South Korea to Washington, DC, and the Oval Office and now the Rose Garden. I've been really looking forward to this visit. We've had several phone calls where we've discussed important issues, and now we've had a chance to discuss important issues face-to-face.

I have found the President to be an easy man to talk to. He expresses opinions very clearly, and it's easy to understand. One thing is for certain: We will work to have the best possible relations between our countries, and it's based upon close consultation on a wide variety of issues. There's no question in my mind we'll have the kind of personal relationship where we can—will consult freely to solve major problems.

We of course discussed the need to have a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula. I assured the President we will continue to work to achieve a peaceful solution. We're making good progress toward achieving that peaceful resolution of the issue of the Korean Peninsula in regards to North Korea.

We talked about other issues. One important issue is to make sure we continue working closely on economic issues. I have confidence in regards to the South Korean economy. I believe South Korea will continue to be an engine for economic growth and vitality. And I look forward to working with the President to continue to foster very strong bilateral relations.

So, Mr. President, I'm glad you're here. Welcome.

President Roh. When I left Korea, I had both concerns and hopes in my mind. Now, after having talked to President Bush, I have gotten rid of all my concerns, and now I return to Korea only with hopes in my mind.

In a very short period of time, we have smoothly reached an agreement. It was not even necessary to tell President Bush all the logic that I had in mind to convince him before I came here. President Bush had an accurate idea of what concerned me and what were my hopes. And I second to what President Bush has just stated.

There is one thing that he didn't mention. We have reached agreement that the Korea-U.S. alliance have been maintaining its strength over the past 50 years, and it will become only more stronger in the coming 50 years or even more. And I could think of many achievements that we both obtained from this meeting, but the most important one of those is the fact that President Bush and I had a very frank and candid discussion. And apart from our national agenda, we also built a close, personal friendship.

I would like to rephrase myself. We have reached agreements on many national agenda issues, but more importantly, we have become to trust each other and have confidence in each other.

I would like to reiterate my heartfelt thanks to President Bush and his aides for providing me with this opportunity. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:42 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. President Roh spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Republic of Korea: Common Values, Principles, and Strategy

May 14, 2003

On May 14, 2003, President George W. Bush of the United States of America and President Roh Moo-hyun of the Republic of Korea held a summit meeting at the White House in Washington, D.C. Noting that 2003 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the U.S.-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty, the two leaders pledged to work together to promote the values of democracy, human rights and market economy shared by the people of both nations and to build a comprehensive and dynamic alliance relationship for continued peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

The U.S.-ROK Alliance

President Bush and President Roh welcomed the fiftieth anniversary of the U.S.-ROK alliance and paid tribute to those who have contributed to the alliance, particularly the Korean host communities and the members of U.S. Forces Korea (USFK) who have devoted themselves to the defense of peace and freedom on the peninsula. President Bush reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to a robust forward presence on the peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders pledged to work closely together to modernize the U.S.-ROK alliance, taking advantage of technology to transform both nations' forces and enhance their capabilities to meet emerging threats.

In the context of modernizing the alliance, the two leaders agreed to work out plans to consolidate U.S. forces around key hubs and to relocate the Yongsan garrison at an early date. President Bush pledged to consult closely with President Roh on the appropriate posture for USFK during the transition to a more capable and sustainable U.S. military presence on the peninsula. They shared the view that the relocation of U.S. bases north of the Han River should be pursued, taking careful account of the political, economic and security situation on the peninsula and in Northeast Asia. The two leaders also noted the opportunity provided by

the Republic of Korea's growing national strength to continue expanding the role of the ROK armed forces in defending the Korean Peninsula.

President Bush and President Roh welcomed the growing bilateral U.S.-ROK cooperation on international security challenges beyond the Korean Peninsula. President Bush thanked President Roh for his support on Iraq and welcomed the Republic of Korea's decision to deploy medical and construction units and undertake other efforts to assist with post-conflict humanitarian assistance and reconstruction in Iraq. President Roh expressed his support for U.S. and international efforts to establish lasting peace and security in the Middle East. The two leaders also reviewed progress and cooperation in the war on terror, noting the contribution of ROK forces to Operation Enduring Freedom and Afghan reconstruction.

To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the alliance, the two Presidents welcomed the convening of forums of experts to conduct discussions on the future of U.S.-ROK relations and to generate fresh ideas for both governments.

North Korea

President Bush and President Roh reaffirmed that they will not tolerate nuclear weapons in North Korea. They noted with serious concern North Korea's statements about reprocessing, possession of nuclear weapons, and its threat to demonstrate or transfer these weapons. They stressed that escalatory moves by North Korea will only lead to its greater isolation and a more desperate situation in the North.

Both leaders reiterated their strong commitment to work for the complete, verifiable and irreversible elimination of North Korea's nuclear weapons program through peaceful means based on international cooperation. They welcomed the role played by China at the April 23-25 trilateral talks in Beijing. They agreed that the Republic of Korea and Japan are essential for a successful and comprehensive settlement and that Russia and other nations can also play a constructive role in multilateral diplomacy. While noting that increased threats to peace and stability on the peninsula would require consideration of

further steps, they expressed confidence that a peaceful resolution can be achieved.

Noting that the United States and the Republic of Korea are the two leading donors of humanitarian food assistance to North Korea, the two Presidents reaffirmed that humanitarian assistance is provided without linkage to political developments and noted the need to ensure that the assistance goes to those in need. President Bush stressed that North Korea's nuclear programs stand in the way of the bold approach and the ability of the international community to consider comprehensive steps to assist the many needs of the North Korean people.

President Roh outlined his Peace and Prosperity Policy and President Bush reiterated his support for the process of South-North reconciliation. President Bush noted that the Republic of Korea has used this dialogue channel to call upon the North to resolve the nuclear issue. President Roh stated that future inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation will be conducted in light of developments on the North Korean nuclear issue. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining close coordination between the U.S. and ROK governments on this issue as well as in trilateral consultations with Japan.

Economic Relations

The two leaders agreed on the importance of working together to promote prosperity in their two countries, in the region, and around the world. They agreed that Korea's economic fundamentals are strong and expressed high confidence in the prospects for continued increases in trade, investment and growth in the Republic of Korea. President Bush welcomed and supported President Roh's commitment to continued structural reform of the Korean economy and his goal of making Korea a regional hub for trade, finance, and investment in Northeast Asia. The two leaders agreed that progress on open trade, investment, and transparency are essential to making this hub concept a reality, and recognized the important role of the private sector in this effort.

The two leaders expressed a desire for enhanced bilateral economic cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to resolve bi-

lateral trade issues through consultation, and agreed to explore ways to further strengthen the already close economic and trade partnership. Recognizing the importance of global trade liberalization, the two leaders expressed their determination to work together to achieve a successful conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda. The two leaders also agreed to strengthen cooperation in the APEC forum.

Toward a Full Partnership

Taking note of the one hundredth anniversary of Korean immigration to the United States, President Bush conveyed his deep respect not only for the contributions of Korean-Americans to American society but also for the ideals of democracy, peace and prosperity realized by the citizens of the Republic of Korea. President Roh extended his appreciation to the U.S. government and its people for all that has been done to help Korean-Americans realize their dreams in American society.

President Bush and President Roh highlighted the importance of increasing bilateral cooperation across a broad range of global issues. In this context, the two leaders welcomed U.S. and ROK cooperation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project, in the Global Forum on Corruption to be held in Seoul later this month, and on other efforts to improve the environment and combat crime and infectious diseases around the globe.

The two leaders agreed that their frequent telephone calls since President Roh's election in December and their substantial discussion in Washington have built a personal foundation of mutual trust and respect that will enhance U.S.-ROK coordination on North Korea and other challenges in the months and years ahead. President Roh thanked President Bush for his hospitality and invited him to make a return visit to Seoul at his convenience. President Bush said he looked forward to another visit to the Republic of Korea.

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

Remarks at the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast

May 15, 2003

Thank you all. Thank you all very much. *Sientese. Gracias, Luis. El honor es mio.* It is an honor to be here again this year. I'm so pleased that you would have me back for the National Hispanic Prayer Breakfast. I'm really pleased this is becoming a tradition in Washington, DC.

It is important and it is good to begin the day with prayer and fellowship. Prayer is an opportunity to praise God for His works and to thank Him for His blessings. Prayer turns our minds to the needs of others, and prayer changes our hearts as we seek God's will.

I want to thank you for reminding the Nation and our Capital about an even greater source of strength and authority. I want to thank my friend Luis for being a general in the army of compassion. He is what I like to call a social entrepreneur.

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are with us today. I see Senator Bill Frist, the leader of the United States Senate. Senator Frist, thank you for coming. I was told one of the leaders of the House, Nancy Pelosi, is to be here.

I'm not going to try to read off every single name of every single person in the Congress who may or may not be here; I'll probably skip one and add one that isn't. *[Laughter]* But let me just tell you, I'm honored to be working with them. It's a fine group of our fellow citizens, all working together to try to do the best thing on behalf of the American people.

I want to appreciate Gaddi Vasquez, who is the Director of the Peace Corps, who's with us today. *Donde esta?* Hey, Gaddi, thank you for coming.

I think the Mayor is here. Mr. Mayor, I appreciate you coming. I'm honored to have you here. I always like to tease the Mayor about the potholes in front of the White House. *[Laughter]* There aren't any. Says to me he's doing a pretty darn good job.

I want to thank Reverend Jose Martinez and Manuel Vasquez. I want to appreciate the beautiful musicians who sang today. I'm honored that the students from St. Rita's

Catholic School in Alexandria are with us today. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate the pastors who are here and the leaders from around our country. Welcome back to Washington.

Last May, when I came, you honored me with a special gift, a bilingual Bible that was made for me in Mexico. And this Bible means a lot because with it came a promise. You promised that you were praying for me. There is no greater gift that a President can receive. I have felt the comfort of those prayers, and I am really grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Hispanic Americans bring many gifts to this Nation, hard work and strong cultural traditions and patriotism. Above all, the Hispanic community lives every day *por los valores de fe y familia*. Your good works and reverence bring compassion to our country and honor to Almighty God.

In the last several weeks, we have learned the names of some exceptional young men and women who have shown the strength and character of America. At the National Naval Medical Center, I met Master Gunnery Sergeant Guadalupe Denogean. Sergeant Denogean is an immigrant from Mexico who served in the Marine Corps for 25 years. This spring he was wounded near Basra, and he was sent back to America for treatment. When asked if he had any requests, the good sergeant just had two, a promotion for the corporal who helped rescue him, and he wanted to be an American citizen.

I was honored to be with the sergeant the day he received a Purple Heart and took the oath of citizenship. It was an amazing experience, a truly American experience, to be in the hospital where he was recovering from his wound, to see this son of Mexico raise his right hand and pledge to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. He had kept that oath for decades before he took it, and I'm proud to call him my fellow American.

Our country is proud of all the Hispanic Americans who serve in uniform. We're deeply grateful for those who have died in the cause of our security and in the cause of freedom. We honor their memory. We

pray for their families. We honor the communities and the churches where they learned the value of service and sacrifice.

Because of their sacrifices, America is a more secure country. Because of their sacrifices, the world will be a more peaceful place. And because of their sacrifices, people who had lived in bondage under the strong arm of a brutal dictator are now free.

America is blessed by their sacrifices, and America is also blessed by the sacrifices that you make every day as you care for the sick, house the homeless, feed the hungry, and preach the Word—*la palabra*.

In the Book of James, we are reminded that faith without works is dead. By loving a neighbor as you'd like to be loved yourself, you prove every day that faith is alive. By your work and prayers, you have formed your own army, an army of compassion. And by living your faith, you bring hope to those who need it most.

It is appropriate that the group sponsoring this breakfast has the name *Nueva Esperanza*—New Hope. Hope allows us to dream big, to pray bold, and to work hard for a better future. I want to thank you for your abiding hope, for your steadfast faith, and for your acts of love. I want to thank you for helping to keep prayer an important part of our national life. May God continue to invigorate you as you work to make this country a compassionate home for anybody. May God continue to invigorate you as you reach out to help a neighbor in need.

This country needs your compassion. We need your works. We need your love. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:38 a.m. in a ballroom at the Capital Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to Rev. Luis Cortes, Jr., founder and president, Nueva Esperanza; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at the Peace Officers' Memorial Service

May 15, 2003

Thank you all very much for that warm welcome, and thank you for the privilege of joining you all for this memorial service.

Today Americans join in tribute to a great profession and remember good men and women who have fallen in the line of duty. We recall their stories. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to their families and their colleagues, and we honor their distinguished service to the cause of justice and peace.

I appreciate Chuck Canterbury's leadership. I appreciate his candor. I appreciate the fact that he cares deeply about the men and women who wear the uniforms all across our country. The Fraternal Order of Peace has got a good man in Chuck Canterbury, leading this fine organization.

He also replaced a good man, a man that I could call friend, in Steve Young. I know Denise and his son Steven are with us today, and our prayers are with you, Denise and Steven, as you continue to cope with the life without your good husband and good dad.

I appreciate so very much members of my Cabinet being here today. John Ashcroft stands strong for law and order in our country. I'm honored that Gale Norton and Elaine Chao will join us as well. The Director of the FBI, Bob Mueller, is doing a fantastic job in converting the FBI into a agency which is going to be on the frontline of making sure terrorists do not harm our American citizens, and I appreciate your leadership, Director Mueller.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I know Duke Cunningham is here. I see Mac Collins. I know there are other Members from the United States Congress who are here. Thank you for coming to join us. I want to thank Aliza Clark for her continued leadership; Jim Pasco. It's good to see Ray Kelly. I want to thank Marc Anthony and Jaime McCarthy for joining—

for lending their talents to this solemn service. I appreciate you all coming.

I want to thank all the law enforcement officers who have come here today to honor the fallen. But I want to thank you as well for what you do every day to make sure our country is a secure country. I particularly want to say to the families, there is a lot of love and compassion in this Nation of ours. A lot of people pray for you, and my hope is that their prayers will give you the strength necessary to move on.

This year, 377 names are added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial, including 148 who were killed in the line of duty in 2002. The death of a peace officer is a reminder that peace can be fragile and safety will always need defenders. Law enforcement officers know that evil is real, and evil has servants of its own, criminals and terrorists who live by violence and make victims of the innocent.

And law enforcement officers know that evil must always be opposed. Justice and order and safety in every time are the achievements of bravery. More than 700,000 of our fellow Americans show that bravery as sworn officers of the law, and this Nation is grateful to your service.

The risks of law enforcement come in difficult assignments and even in routine calls. Officers train and prepare for many threats. Yet preparation will never take the danger away from a hard profession. Mary Ann Collura, an 18-year vet from Fair Lawn, New Jersey, Police Department, was killed while confronting an armed man after a high-speed chase. A fellow officer later said, "You know, there are probably a hundred cops like this who did everything right and still have their names on the wall. You put your fate in the hands of God every day when you go out there."

For an officer's loved ones, daily life is also an act of faith. Family members share the uncertainties and worries of service. America recognizes and honors the sacrifice of our law enforcement families. We thank you for your service to our country as well. And every May 15th, we think especially of those who have received the sudden and terrible news, many of whom are here today. Your sadness and loss are deep and so is your pride. Long be-

fore tragedy came, you knew this person you loved was brave and good, and your country knows it, too.

Last October, Virginia State Trooper C. Mark Cosslett was killed while racing to a scene. He had spent the morning at a preschool, comforting children who were frightened by the sniper attacks here in Washington—in the Washington area. One of the parents later said, "I never met Mark Cosslett and wouldn't have known his name but for his fatal accident. I do know one thing, and I knew it before he was gone, at a time when my family was looking for a hero, there he was."

In times of challenge and uncertainty, we see more clearly who has really earned our admiration. At a memorial service for Chicago Patrolman Benjamin Perez, the police chaplain said this: "Heroes are not found on basketball courts or in rock bands. They're found on the backs of engines and the front seats of squad cars."

Over the past 20 months, Americans have rediscovered how much we owe the men and women who repeat an oath and carry a badge. They have not only taken a job, they have accepted a mission. When they are called for help, they answer it. You see danger; they will confront it. All of us rely, every day, on their high standards of conduct, their skill, and your sense of duty.

In the spring of last year, Sheriff's Deputy David March of Los Angeles County pulled over a stolen car and was shot and killed by the driver. His colleagues remember him as a good street cop. It's one of the most perilous and essential jobs in America. His boss, Sheriff Lee Baca, said, "an honest man who had no fear, a man of faith who believed in others." About a week before his death, Deputy March sent an e-mail to his station commander, and here's what he said. "My goals are simple. I will always be painfully honest, work as hard as I can, learn as much as I can, and make a difference in people's lives."

These are the values we expect of every sworn law enforcement officer, honesty and hard work and devoted service. These are the values Americans see every day in the officers of law who patrol the streets and highways, investigate crimes, and arrest the accused. And every time such a man or woman is

taken from us, our Nation has lost one of its finest citizens, a community has lost a friend and protector, and a family has lost an example of character and courage who they will love and respect forever. Today in their memory, the flag of the United States of America flies at halfstaff. We pray God's blessings on those who grieve. Our Nation honors each name. We are grateful for each life.

May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:40 p.m. on the West Grounds at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Chuck Canterbury, national president, Steve Young, former national president, and James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Fraternal Order of Police; Aliza Clark, president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly; and singer Marc Anthony.

Statement on the Indonesia-Free Aceh Movement Agreement To Resume Discussions on Implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement

May 15, 2003

The United States welcomes the decision of the Government of Indonesia and the leadership of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) to resume discussions in Tokyo this weekend aimed at implementing the December 2002 Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (COHA) between Indonesia and the GAM. The United States strongly supports efforts to pursue a negotiated peace in Aceh within the framework of a unified Indonesia.

I commend President Megawati for demonstrating her Government's commitment to the Aceh peace process and for her willingness to go the extra mile in pursuit of peace. In returning to the negotiating table, the two sides are taking a concrete step toward a better future for the people of Aceh. I call on the leadership of the GAM to renew its commitment to a peaceful solution in Aceh and for both sides to pursue good faith implementation of the COHA. The United States appreciates the determined efforts of the Henri Dunant Center to advance the cause

of peace and justice for Aceh. I also wish to thank Prime Minister Koizumi and the Government of Japan for hosting the negotiations between Indonesia and the GAM and taking an active leadership role in this process.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the Protocol of 1997 To Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978

May 15, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and consent of the Senate to its ratification, the Protocol of 1997 to Amend the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 thereto (hereinafter the "Protocol of 1997"). The Protocol of 1997, which would add Annex VI, Regulations for the Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as Modified by the Protocol of 1978 (hereinafter the "MARPOL Convention"), was signed by the United States on December 22, 1998. I also enclose, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State and its attached analysis of the Protocol of 1997, as well as Resolution 2 of the 1997 MARPOL Conference with its annexed Technical Code on Control of Emission of Nitrogen Oxides from Marine Diesel Engines.

The MARPOL Convention is the global agreement to control pollution from ships. MARPOL Annex VI regulates the emission into the atmosphere of specified pollutants from ships. It complements the other annexes to the MARPOL Convention, which relate to the transport of oil (Annex I), harmful substances carried in bulk (Annex II), harmful substances in packaged form (Annex III), ship-generated sewage (Annex IV) and garbage (Annex V). The United States is a party to all of these annexes with the exception of Annex IV.

MARPOL Annex VI regulates the prevention of air pollution from ships by limiting

the discharge of nitrogen oxides from large marine diesel engines, governing the sulfur content of marine diesel fuel, prohibiting the emission of ozone-depleting substances, regulating the emission of volatile organic compounds during the transfer of cargoes between tankers and terminals, setting standards for shipboard incinerators and fuel oil quality, and establishing requirements for platforms and drilling rigs at sea.

MARPOL Annex VI is an important step toward controlling and preventing emissions of harmful air pollutants from ships. U.S. ratification of the Protocol of 1997 will demonstrate U.S. commitment to an international solution and should hasten the entry into force of the Protocol of 1997. Ratification will also enhance our ability to work within the treaty framework to obtain subsequent amendments that will require further reductions in emissions of nitrogen oxides that are now achievable through the use of modern control technologies which the United States strongly supports.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Protocol of 1997 and give its advice and consent to ratification, subject to the declarations and understanding set out in the accompanying report of the Secretary of State.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 15, 2003.

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

**Proclamation 7678—National
Hurricane Awareness Week, 2003**

May 15, 2003

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Destructive winds, tornadoes, torrential rains, ocean water storm surges, and flooding make hurricanes one of nature's most extreme hazards. As hurricane season approaches, Americans who live in hurricane-prone areas must prepare to help ensure

their safety and minimize damage to their communities.

Hurricane season officially begins June 1 and continues through November 30. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), an average of 10 tropical storms develop in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico, and 6 become hurricanes each year. In the past 2 years alone, 9 tropical storms and 1 hurricane hit our country, causing 54 deaths and more than \$6 billion in damages. While we cannot stop these storms from occurring, we can take steps to limit our vulnerability. Being aware of the dangers of tropical storms and hurricanes and knowing what to do to mitigate their devastating effects are our best defenses.

Federal, State, and local agencies across America are working diligently to prepare our communities for natural disasters. Beginning this year, NOAA's hurricane forecasts will look 5 days into the future, rather than 3 days. This enhanced forecasting ability, combined with efforts to improve the accuracy of hurricane warnings, enables coastal residents and emergency personnel to more effectively prepare for a storm's arrival. In addition, Federal agencies such as FEMA and organizations such as the American Red Cross have teamed up with State and local agencies, rescue and relief organizations, the private sector, and the news media to distribute information to the public and coordinate efforts before, during, and after a tropical storm or hurricane has struck.

To help individuals prepare for an approaching tropical storm or hurricane, FEMA recommends practical measures, to make sure that homes and businesses are ready by developing a plan for what to do; securing loose objects and protecting property by covering glass with plywood or shutters; and creating a disaster supply kit with flashlights, a battery-powered radio, food that does not need refrigeration, water, and first aid supplies. The National Weather Service also encourages acquiring a weather radio equipped with the Specific Area Message Encoder feature that provides automatic alerts when important weather information

is issued for an area. For more information on how to prepare for the ravages of hazardous weather, you can go to the National Weather Service website at www.nws.noaa.gov.

Millions of Americans are at risk of being personally affected by a tropical storm or hurricane. More than one in six Americans in the continental United States lives along the Eastern Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico coast, and millions of tourists visit these areas annually. Because of the growing populations in coastal areas, it is essential that Americans prepare for hurricanes and other natural disasters. During National Hurricane Awareness Week, we promote awareness of these weather hazards, organize our efforts, and work to improve our ability to endure and survive tropical storms and hurricanes.

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 May 18 through May 24, 2003, as National Hurricane Awareness Week. I call upon government agencies, private organizations, schools, and news media in hurricane-prone areas to share information about hurricane preparedness and response in order to help prevent storm damage and save lives. I also call upon Americans living in these coastal areas of our Nation to use this opportunity to learn more about how to protect themselves against the effects of hurricanes and tropical storms.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, 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., May 19, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 20.

Executive Order 13302—Amending Executive Order 13212, Actions To Expedite Energy-Related Projects
May 15, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Amendments to Executive Order 13212.* Executive Order 13212 of May 18, 2001, as amended, is further amended by:

(a) in section 1, immediately before the period at the end of the section, inserting “and projects that will strengthen pipeline safety”;

(b) in section 2, after “energy-related projects” inserting “(including pipeline safety projects)”; and

(c) revising section 3 to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. Interagency Task Force. (a) There is established, within the Department of Energy for administrative purposes, an interagency task force (Task Force) to perform the following functions: (i) monitor and assist the agencies in their efforts to expedite their reviews of permits or similar actions, as necessary, to accelerate the completion of energy-related projects (including pipeline safety projects), increase energy production and conservation, and improve the transmission of energy;

(ii) monitor and assist agencies in setting up appropriate mechanisms to coordinate Federal, State, tribal, and local permitting in geographic areas where increased permitting activity is expected; and

(iii) perform the functions of the interagency committee for which section 60133 of title 49, United States Code, provides.

(b)(i) The Task Force shall consist exclusively of the following members:

(A) in the performance of all Task Force functions set out in sections 3(a)(i) and (ii) of this order, the Secretaries of State, the Treasury, Defense, Agriculture,

Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Transportation, the Interior, Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, Energy, and Veterans Affairs, the Attorney General, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Administrator of General Services, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and such other heads of agencies as the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality may designate; and

(B) in the performance of the functions to which section 3(a)(iii) of this order refers, the officers listed in section 60133(a)(2)(A)–(H) of title 49, United States Code, and such other representatives of Federal agencies with responsibilities relating to pipeline repair projects as the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality may designate.

(ii) A member of the Task Force may designate, to perform the Task Force functions of the member, a full-time officer or employee of that member's agency or office.

(c) The Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality shall chair the Task Force.

(d) Consultation in the implementation of this order with State and local officials and other persons who are not full-time or permanent part-time employees of the Federal Government shall be conducted in a manner that elicits fully the individual views of each official or other person consulted, without deliberations or efforts to achieve consensus on advice or recommendations.

(e) This order shall be implemented in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch."

Sec. 2. Judicial Review. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government, and is not intended to, and does not, create any right

or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 15, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 19, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 20.

Remarks on Presenting the Commander in Chief's Trophy to the United States Air Force Academy Falcons

May 16, 2003

The President. Coach, how are you?

Coach DeBerry. Sir.

The President. Sit down, please.

Coach DeBerry. Thank you, sir. Honored to be here.

The President. Thanks. Getting to be a habit. [*Laughter*]

It's my honor to welcome back to the White House the Air Force Academy Falcons, who have now won the Commander in Chief's Trophy for their 6th consecutive year and 16th time overall. The football rivalry amongst our academies is—our military academies is one of the great traditions in our Nation, and I want to congratulate the Air Force Fighting Falcons for supremacy on the football field.

I particularly want to say something about Fisher DeBerry. He's obviously a unique guy who has got the unbelievable ability to motivate people in a good way. So Coach, I congratulate you. We're proud of you, and the school and the men you coach are better off for your presence.

I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. For some reason it seems like the Colorado Congressmen have taken an interest for being here. [*Laughter*] Senator Allard, thanks for coming, and Congressman Hefley, as well as Congressman Dicks

from the State of Washington, and Congressman Sam Johnson from the State of Texas. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you guys being here.

Now, Sam is an old fighter pilot—well, not an old fighter pilot—[*laughter*]—was a great fighter pilot—[*laughter*]—who one time dead-sticked a Cessna onto the Dallas—the Dallas Tollway at night. [*Laughter*] That's how he got to be elected to the Congress. [*Laughter*]

Jim Roche is with us, the Secretary of the Air Force. Thank you for coming, Mr. Secretary. The Acting Superintendent of the Air Force, General Weida, is with us as well. I'm glad you're here. I want to thank you all for coming as well, the folks that—not only the players but the folks that make sure the players get the helmet and the water and the tape on their ankles and the people who support Air Force football.

The academies are really important for a lot of reasons. Obviously, what you learn on the football field is even more important since we're still at war. And it's the qualities of—that you learn on the football field that will serve our Nation in good stead after you graduate. Some of your fellow football players saw war in Iraq. And as a result of their bravery and their skill, the country is now more secure; the United States people are more secure; the world is going to be more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are now free from the clutches of an incredibly brutal dictatorship. What you—the character you displayed in your drive to be the best will serve our Nation well, because we're still at war. We learned that lesson in Saudi Arabia the other day. An Al Qaida—a group we think is Al Qaida killed innocent life just for the sake of killing them.

And we'll do everything we can to protect our homeland. We'll do the best we can with the Transportation Security Agency. We'll do a better job on the borders. But the surest way to protect our homeland is to find these killers and bring them to justice, which is what the United States of America is going to do. The skills you have learned on the football field and at the Air Force Academy are going to be necessary skills to protect the American people from the true threats of the 21st century.

So I'm proud to welcome you all here as football stars and champions, but I'm more proud to be able to reassure our fellow Americans that people of high caliber and high quality and high skill will serve in our Nation's defense during a dangerous time, which will allow me to boldly predict the United States of America will win the war on terror.

And so it was an honor to bring a—you call it a six-pack when you win 6 years in a row? [*Laughter*] Six-peat. A great coach and a great American. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, head football coach, and Brig. Gen. Johnny A. Weida, USAF, commandant of cadets and commander, 34th Training Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Remarks on Departure for Camp David, Maryland, and an Exchange With Reporters

May 16, 2003

Senate Action on the President's Agenda

The President. We had a good day yesterday in the United States Senate as the Senate passed a bill that will make it more likely people looking for work will find a job. I'm pleased with the progress. I look forward to working with House and Senate leadership to reconcile any differences they have and get a bill to my desk as soon as possible. I'm optimistic about our economy and its future. I'm even more optimistic now that the Senate has acted.

I'm also so pleased that the Senate passed a bill to help ease the suffering on the African Continent as well as in some Caribbean nations. We've got a HIV/AIDS initiative that will help—say to the world that the United States is a compassionate country; we care deeply about the suffering that takes place in the world.

Again, I want to thank the Senate for—as well as the House—for passing a good piece of legislation. It looks like that bill can get done pretty quickly, and I'll be able to sign it and take it to Europe with me as a symbol of the great depth of compassion that our country holds for those who suffer.

I'll ask—answer a few. Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, can you live with a tax cut like the one the Senate passed that goes away after 3 years?

The President. Here's the thing about the tax cut. The tax cut must be strong and robust so people will be able to find work. That's what I'm focused on. I'm interested in jobs and job creation. And the more bold the tax relief package, the more likely it is a fellow American will be able to find work.

Saudi Arabia/Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, in terms of combating terrorism at home, do you think the Saudis have gotten the message this time around?

The President. Well, Saudi Arabia is our friend, John [John Roberts, CBS News], and we're working closely with them to track down the killers of American citizens and British citizens and citizens from Saudi Arabia as well as other countries.

The best way to defend the homeland, the best way to secure the future of the American people is to find the killers before they strike us. And that's exactly what we're doing now inside of Saudi Arabia.

Obviously, we mourn the loss of life. It is a—it is certainly a wake-up call to many that the war on terror continues, that we've still got a big task to protect the American people and others who love freedom from the designs of—and the will of these purveyors of hate. And we'll find them. We'll bring them to justice.

Q. But sir, is the message coming from this administration to the Saudis that you've got a problem, you have to deal with it—

The President. The message—

Q. —and you have to wake up to the fact that you have to deal with it?

The President. Yes, here's the message. The message is the war on terror goes on, that there are killers on the loose—obviously, killers on the loose inside of Saudi Arabia in this example. And we want to work with them and find them, find those killers and bring them to justice. And we are still in a—it's dangerous in the world. And it's dangerous inside Saudi Arabia, and it's dan-

gerous so long as Al Qaida continues to operate.

And so we'll chase them down. We're doing everything we can to secure the homeland. The best way to secure the homeland is to work with countries like Saudi Arabia and to find the killers and get them before they get us. And that's what this country will do.

Woodward [Bob Woodward, Washington Post].

Q. Sir.

The President. How are you?

Q. Very well.

The President. Yes, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

2004 Election

Q. Mr. President, you filed with the FEC today. How does it feel to be a candidate? And how do you assess your chances?

The President. The American people will decide whether or not I deserve a second term. In the meantime, I am focusing my attention today on finding—helping people find work. And that's where I'm going to be for a while. I want this economy to be robust and strong so that our fellow Americans who are looking for a job can find a job.

We've also got a lot of work to do on the security front. As John clearly pointed out, we've got an issue. We're dealing with countries from around the world to make sure that they know that the war on terror continues. No one should be complacent in the 21st century, the early stages of the 21st century, so long as Al Qaida moves. I've told the country that we've brought to justice about half of the Al Qaida network—operatives, key operatives. And so the other half still lives. And we'll find them, one at a time.

Listen, have a great weekend. Thank you all.

You're looking good, John, from the war zone.

Q. Thank you, sir. I call it the Iraq-kins Diet. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Implement the Jobs-and-Growth Package

May 16, 2003

I commend the Senate for its bipartisan passage of a jobs-and-growth package that includes all of the components of my original plan. By including a measure to completely abolish the double taxation of dividends, the Senate has demonstrated that they are committed to creating as many jobs as possible for American workers. The Senate bill also speeds income tax rate cuts for individuals and families, increases the child credit, provides marriage penalty relief, and increases expensing for small businesses.

Jobs are on the line, and I look forward to working with the full Congress to pass a robust economic growth plan. I call on Congress to resolve their differences quickly so that I can sign a bill that will help create jobs, boost take-home pay, and spur economic growth.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Implement the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

May 16, 2003

With today's vote in the United States Senate, Congress has given the hope of life to millions of people in countries most afflicted by AIDS. This historic legislation will enable us to provide critical treatment and care for millions who suffer and greatly expand successful prevention programs to help those at risk.

I look forward to this legislation reaching my desk as soon as possible so we can begin to turn the tide in the fight against AIDS.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 16, 2003

On May 20, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13047, certifying to the Congress under section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related

Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), that the Government of Burma has committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, thereby invoking the prohibition on new investment in Burma by United States persons contained in that section. The President also declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*

Because actions and policies of the Government of Burma continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 20, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond May 20, 2003. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Burma. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 16, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:06 p.m., May 16, 2003]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 16, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency

is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17, 2002.

The crisis between the United States and Burma that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. The actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 16, 2003.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting a Report on the
National Emergency With Respect to
Burma**

May 16, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I am providing a report prepared by my Administration, covering the 6-month period since November 20, 2002, on the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 16, 2003.

**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.

May 10

In the morning, at the home of family friend Roland Betts in Santa Fe, NM, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on May 8 and continuing.

May 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Albuquerque, NM, where he met with small-business owners and employees at MCT Industries.

In the afternoon, the President had a telephone conversation with major league baseball player Rafael Palmeiro to congratulate him on hitting his 500th home run. Later, he traveled to Omaha, NE, where, at Airlite Plastics, he participated in a roundtable meeting with married couples to discuss proposed tax cuts.

Later in the afternoon, the President was informed by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joseph W. Hagin of the terrorist attacks which occurred earlier in the day in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In the evening, the President traveled to Indianapolis, IN. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to discuss the terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia. At the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, he met with Indiana Republican Party members.

Later in the evening, the President had a briefing with Deputy Chief of Staff Hagin and then another telephone conversation with National Security Adviser Rice to discuss the terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Greta N. Morris to be Ambassador to the Marshall Islands.

The President announced his intention to appoint Susan F. Sugai as a member of the Arctic Research Commission (academic representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Valles Caldera Trust: Tracy Hephner (management of game and nongame wildlife), Larry Icerman (financial management), and Barbara H. Johnson (nonprofit conservation organization).

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the areas struck by an ice storm on April 3–5.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 5 and continuing.

May 13

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card concerning the May 12 terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia. He then had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, he met with senior citizens to discuss his jobs-and-growth package.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Springfield, MO. He then took a helicopter tour of the Pierce City, MO, area damaged by recent tornadoes. Later, after landing in Pierce City, he had briefings on the tornado damage by FEMA Director Michael D. Brown and other officials, met with tornado victims and rescuers at St. Mary's Catholic Church, and took a walking tour of the damaged area.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to discuss the May 12 terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. Suzanne Mencer to be Director

of the Office of Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security.

May 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain to discuss the situation in Iraq and reform efforts in Bahrain. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to discuss the May 12 terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia, the war on terror, the situations in Cyprus and Iraq, and peace efforts in the Middle East.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council. He also met with Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the evening, the President had dinner with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea.

The President declared a major disaster in Maine and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter cold and frost on December 17, 2002, and continuing.

May 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had a briefing with Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove and others on preparations for his 2004 Presidential campaign.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rafael Hipolito Mejia Dominguez of the Dominican Republic to the White House for a meeting on May 20.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristin J. Forbes to be a member of the Council of Economic Advisers.

The President declared a major disaster in Illinois and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on May 6–11.

May 16

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situation in Iraq

and the recent terrorist attacks in Chechnya and Saudi Arabia. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway to discuss the situation in Iraq and the peace process in the Middle East.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with U.S. military personnel, some of whom were injured in military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and their spouses.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 14

Lillian R. BeVier, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2004, vice Hulett Hall Askew, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Naomi Churchill Earp, of Virginia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2005, vice Reginald Earl Jones, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Peter Eide, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of 5 years, vice Joseph Swerdzewski, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

April H. Foley, of New York, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2007, vice Dan Herman Renberg, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Thomas A. Fuentes, of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2005, vice Thomas F. Smegal, Jr., term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

R. Bruce Matthews, of New Mexico, to be a member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2005, vice Joseph DiNunno, resigned, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Neil McPhie, of Virginia, to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of 7 years expiring March 1, 2009, vice Beth Susan Slavet, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

James C. Miller III, of Virginia, to be a Governor of the U.S. Postal Service for the term expiring December 8, 2010, vice Einar V. Dyhrkopp, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Greta N. Morris, of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Nicole R. Nason, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Sean B. O'Hollaren, resigned.

William A. Schambra, of Virginia, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring

September 14, 2006, vice Carol W. Kinsley, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Stanley C. Suboleski, of Virginia, to be a member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of 6 years expiring August 30, 2006, vice Marc Lincoln Marks, term expired, to which position he was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Donna N. Williams, of Texas, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2006, vice Robert B. Rogers, term expired, to which position she was appointed during the last recess of the Senate.

Submitted May 15

Henry F. Floyd, of South Carolina, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina, vice Dennis W. Shedd, elevated.

William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Thomas G. Nelson, retiring.

Ronald A. White, of Oklahoma, to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, vice Frank Howell Seay, retiring.

**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 May 10

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Released May 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Released May 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the terrorist act in Znamenskoye, Chechnya

Fact sheet: U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Space Policy

Released May 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the death of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Maine

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed S. 162

Released May 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary: President Mejia of the Dominican Republic To Visit Washington

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Illinois

Released May 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 14

S. 162 / Public Law 108-22
Gila River Indian Community Judgment
Fund Distribution Act of 2003