

for Federal workers, it is good enough for the seniors in America.

Together, we've been working to cut down on frivolous lawsuits and pass meaningful medical liability reform. People who have been mistreated by doctors deserve a day in court. Yet the system should not reward lawyers fishing for large settlements. The medical liability issue is a national problem that requires a national solution. The House has passed a good bill, and the Senate should follow suit.

I also continue to work with the Congress to pass a comprehensive energy plan to lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

We must also advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism. We have a responsibility to apply the best, most innovative ideas to the task of helping our fellow citizens in need. We must continue to work for meaningful, real welfare reform, to bring work and dignity into the lives of more and more Americans. The Congress should finish work on a faith-based bill to support the armies of compassion, for mentoring children and caring for the homeless and offering hope to the addicted.

I appreciate the hard work of Orrin Hatch and Bill Frist to make sure that our judiciary functions properly. I have submitted superb nominations to our Federal courts. The confirmation process in the United States Senate should be about justice, not about empty politics.

We have a full agenda for America, and a clear and optimistic vision for our future. We believe in an ownership society. We want Americans to own their own health plan. We want Americans to be able to start their own businesses. We want more families to own homes. We want people to be owning a piece of their retirement, so that every person has the dignity and independence that come from ownership, assets and property that they can call their own.

We also have a vision for a responsibility society. We're changing the culture in this country, from one that has said, "If it feels good, just go ahead and do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else." The culture is shifting to one in which people know they're accountable for what they do, they're responsible for children they bring

into the world; a culture which says, "You have a responsibility to help a neighbor in need."

We can see the culture of service and responsibility is rising around us in America. We started what's called USA Freedom Corps, where response has been fantastic. Our fellow citizens from all walks of life, all political parties, have joined in making sure that people who hurt receive the love and affection they need. Our faith-based charities are strong and vibrant in America. We've got people who are willing to sacrifice on behalf of others, those who wear the uniform, the police and the firefighters. We've got people who are now serving in their communities and being held up as examples—positive examples—so that children can learn the meaning, the real meaning of hero. No, America's culture is changing and changing to the better.

It is such an honor to be the President of a great country. Our Nation has faced mighty challenges over 2½ years. We've been endured terrorist attacks, yet we have grown stronger. We've led the world in the fight against terrorism. We freed a great people from a ruthless dictator and eliminated the threat posed to world peace.

We met every challenge, and we will meet every challenge that comes, because this is the greatest country on the face of the Earth. And the reason it is, is because of the great strength and compassion of the American people.

It is such an honor to be here. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Senator George Allen of Virginia, chairman, National Republican Senatorial Committee; and entertainers the Oak Ridge Boys, who sang the national anthem.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

May 22, 2003

### President's Legislative Agenda

**The President.** I just had a great meeting with Members of the House and Senate. The Vice President and I came up to congratulate

the Speaker and the leader on a season of accomplishment. We've got an obligation to help those who suffer. America's a great, strong country. We're also a compassionate country.

And I thank the Members of the House and Senate for passing an AIDS bill that will help the people of Africa, a really good piece of legislation, a great piece of work by the Speaker and the leader and other Members.

I also came to congratulate them on the soon-to-be passage of an economic jobs-and-growth bill. This is a Congress which is able to identify problems facing the American people and get things done. These are can-do people, and I'm real proud of the work they've done.

I look forward to signing the economic recovery bill soon. The principle of the bill is pretty simple, that we believe the more money people have in their pockets, the more likely it is somebody is going to be able to find work in America. In other words, the more money somebody has, it means somebody is more likely to demand a good or a service, which means somebody will produce a good or a service, which means somebody is likely to find work.

This bill I'm going to sign is good for American workers. It is good for American families. It is good for American investors, and it's good for American entrepreneurs and small-business owners. These two bodies are fixing to go on a well-deserved break. And when they come back, we're going to work together on reforming of Medicare.

**Q.** Mr. President?

**The President.** And furthermore—[laughter]—thank you for your time. [Laughter] Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:34 a.m. outside the House Chamber at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

### **Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Joshua Bolten To Be Director of the Office of Management and Budget**

*May 22, 2003*

**The President.** Good morning. The Office of Management and Budget is one of the most important agencies in our Government. This agency has a central responsibility for implementing the full range of this administration's agenda, from growing the economy and creating jobs to ensuring a strong national defense and a secure homeland. I depend on the OMB Director to keep a watchful eye on the taxpayers' money, to reform the operations of our Government, to make them better managed, more accountable, and driven by results.

I also depend on the Director to provide honest and thorough information on the state of our budget and to offer sound advice as we carry out our national priorities. For this essential position, today I nominate one of my closest and most trusted advisers, Joshua Bolten.

For more than 4 years, first in Austin and now in Washington, I have counted on Josh for his knowledge, his clear thinking, and his sound judgment. From his work in the private sector and practice of law in the investment banking world, Josh has a broad perspective on commerce and international economy. From his experience in both the executive branch and on Capitol Hill, Josh Bolten understands the workings of the Federal Government as well as anybody in this city. And most important, from his tenure as my Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Josh knows the philosophy and priorities of my administration.

Josh Bolten is brilliant. He is tireless. He remains calm in any storm. He is a man of complete integrity. No member of my staff has served with greater skill or earned greater respect amongst his colleagues than Josh Bolten. I'm honored that he's agreed to join my Cabinet.