

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 17.

nounced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Requests for Budget Amendments

October 16, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2004 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to reimburse emergency expenses to suppress forest fires in FY 2003.

These amendments would adjust upward the total discretionary budget authority requested by \$0.4 billion, bringing the total discretionary funding agreed to by my Administration and the Congress to \$786.0 billion. While this request increases total discretionary spending beyond the previously agreed upon level, my Administration and congressional leadership determined earlier this year that emergency funding could be added when mutually agreed upon in advance. This request is consistent with that agreement.

The requests in this transmittal are for the purpose of fulfilling known and urgent requirements that cannot reasonably be met through the use of existing agency funds. I hereby designate the specific proposals in the amounts requested herein as emergency requirements.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest an-

October 11

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

October 12

During the day, the President returned to Washington, DC.

October 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President participated in interviews with regional television stations.

October 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and later met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President participated in television and radio interviews with Asian journalists. He also dropped by a meeting between Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, Office of Management and Budget Director Joshua B. Bolten, and other officials and bipartisan Senators to discuss proposed legislation concerning reconstruction aid to Iraq.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to celebrations on October 16–20 at the Vatican in Rome, Italy, marking the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's pontificate and the beatification of Mother Teresa: Columba Bush (head of delegation); James R. Nicholson; Jim Towey; Mary Ellen Bork; Frances Winfield Bremer; Joseph C. Canizaro; Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV; Raymond L. Flynn; Mary Ann Glendon; Deal W. Hudson; John M. Klink; Sister Mary Rose McGeady, DC; Peggy Noonan; Kate O'Beirne; and Gabrielle Reynolds.

October 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Dinuba, CA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fresno, CA. Later, he traveled to Riverside, CA.

The President announced the nomination of Robert McFarland to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Information and Technology.

The President announced the nomination of Susan Johnson Grant to be Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Energy.

The President announced the nomination of Marguerita Dianne Ragsdale to be Ambassador to Djibouti.

The President announced the nomination of Margaret Scobey to be Ambassador to Syria.

The President announced the nomination of Margaret DeBardeleben Tutwiler to be Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy.

The President announced the nomination of Drew R. McCoy to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to designate Jeffrey E. Phillips as Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs.

October 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and then traveled with him to San Bernardino, CA.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Riverside. Later, he was joined by Mrs. Bush at March Air Reserve Base, and they then traveled to Tokyo, Japan, arriving in the afternoon of October 17.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Ion Iliescu of Romania to the White House on October 28.

The President announced his intention to nominate Timothy J. Dunn for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure as Deputy Permanent Representative of the U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States.

The President announced his intention to nominate Adam Marc Lindemann to be a member of the Advisory Board for Cuba Broadcasting.

The President announced his intention to nominate James C. Struble to be Ambassador to Peru.

October 17

In the evening, the President met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan at Akasaka Palace. Later, also at Akasaka Palace, he and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Minister Koizumi.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart Holliday to be Alternate Representative of the U.S. for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador.

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 October 14

Robert L. Crandall,
of Texas, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Michael S. Dukakis, term expired.

Michael D. Gallagher,
of Washington, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, vice Nancy Victory, resigned.

Susan Johnson Grant,
of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy, vice Bruce Marshall Carnes, resigned.

Virginia E. Hopkins,
of Alabama, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, vice Edwin L. Nelson, deceased.

Stuart Ishimaru,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2007, vice Paul M. Igasaki, term expired.