

**The President.** And so what is your—with the degree you have, not only do you provide a—you're an important employee for the firm for which you work, you're also now a consultant.

[*Mr. Johnson made further remarks.*]

**The President.** Are you making more money now than in the restaurant business?

**Mr. Johnson.** Oh, yes.

**The President.** That's really important for people to understand, that if you come back to Marshall Community College, for example, and get new skills—how long did it take you to get them?

**Mr. Johnson.** Well, sir, it actually took me 4 years with this program, because there are four specializations on the degree, and I went for all four because of portability. I wanted to be able to go anywhere and do anything.

**The President.** So you went for the full monty.

**Mr. Johnson.** Oh, yes. Indeed. [*Laughter*]

**The President.** Most programs don't take 4 years, I don't think.

[*The discussion continued.*]

**The President.** It's very important for people to understand that, one, the job base is growing in different sectors. You know, I know workers are worried that—you know, "I wish my son or my daughter could have worked in the same industry I've worked in for all my life." But this is a changing economy. It's a different economy. It's an economy that provides great opportunity. However, people are going to have to seize the moment, and that's what we're here discussing. We're discussing this sense of providing—so that people can provide for their families.

And there's two great examples here of people that could have decided, "Well, I don't think I'm going to improve myself," and just stayed doing what they were doing. But instead, I sense a great deal of excitement in their voices about having made a decision that was an important decision, a decision that probably seemed pretty darn hard at first. But now that you've made it and you're in the middle of it, you can recommend it, I suspect.

I love being with an entrepreneur, a job creator, a compassionate soul who is interested in expanding the workforce in a smart way. I want to thank the local government providing for the one-stops. Appreciate you running it, Rocky—or Rock. [*Laughter*]

And finally, I'm so honored to have been here at this community college. Madam President, thanks for opening it up. Thank you for doing what you're doing. Thank you for providing hope for people, providing an opportunity for people to take advantage of this exciting era in which we live.

Finally, I want to conclude by telling you that I talked about the challenges that faced our country. We'll have other challenges too. There's no doubt in my mind, this great country will overcome any challenge put in its path, because this country is great because of the people of this country.

Thanks for coming. God bless, and God bless our great land. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. at Marshall Community and Technical College. In his remarks, he referred to Dan Angel, president, Marshall University.

---

## 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.

---

### March 27

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

### March 29

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.

**March 30**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Appleton, WI, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Gloria Grandone.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

**March 31**

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Antonio Saca of El Salvador to congratulate him on his March 21 election victory. Later, he had an intelligence briefing and then met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

In the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors James Spalding of Paraguay, Dodou Bammy Jagne of Gambia, Colin David Beck of the Solomon Islands, Carlos Alberto de Icaza Gonzalez of Mexico, Imad Moustapha of Syria, Eduardo Ferrero Costa of Peru, and Jose Guillermo Castillo Villacorta of Guatemala.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael W. Marine to be Ambassador to Vietnam.

The President announced his intention to nominate Otis Webb Brawley, Jr., and Vinicio E. Madrigal to be members of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

**April 1**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had separate telephone conversations with United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Prime Minister Konstandinos Karamanlis of Greece, and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to discuss the Secretary-General's proposed Cyprus settlement plan.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, he participated in a Greek Independence Day celebration.

**April 2**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Islom Karimov

of Uzbekistan to express his condolences on the recent terrorist attacks in Tashkent and to discuss counterterrorism efforts.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Huntington, WV, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Robin Black.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Greensboro, GA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Don and Anita McCoy.

In the evening, the President traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his designation of Thomas V. Skinner as Acting Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (Enforcement and Compliance Assurance).

The President announced his intention to designate David Garman as Acting Under Secretary of Energy.

The President declared an emergency in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record snow on January 23–27.

---

## **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 March 30**

Christopher R. Hill, of Rhode Island, 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 Korea.

**Submitted April 1**

Otis Webb Brawley, Jr., of Georgia, to be a member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2009 (reappointment).