

changing 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,” to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you’re fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you are responsible for loving your child with all your heart and all your soul. If you’re worried about the quality of the education in your community, you’re responsible for doing something about it. If you’re a CEO in corporate America, you’re responsible for telling the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in a responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we’d like to be loved ourselves.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This isn’t one of those times. You and I are living in a period where the stakes are high, where the challenges are difficult, a time when firm resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. It’s a day I’ll never forget. Workers in hardhats chanted, “Whatever it takes.” A fireman or a policeman—I don’t know which one—grabbed me and said, “Do not let me down.” As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of our country, whatever it takes.

In these times, I’ve also been witness to the character of our Nation. I’ve seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I’ve seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I’ve seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. And we’ve all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most. We will need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every corner of our country. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And

we know that for our blessed land, the best days lie ahead.

Thanks for coming. May God bless. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:17 p.m. in the Resch Center at the Brown County Veterans Memorial Complex. In his remarks, he referred to comedian Dennis Miller; entertainer Wayne Newton; and Brian Noble, head coach, arenafootball2’s Green Bay Blizzard.

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

July 14, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2005 budget amendments for the Departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor. In addition, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed FY 2004 language proposal for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Overall, the discretionary budget authority proposed in my FY 2005 budget would not be increased by these requests.

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

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 15.

Remarks on Signing the Identity Theft Penalty Enhancement Act

July 15, 2004

The President. Thanks for coming. Welcome to the White House.

[*At this point, the lights in the room flickered.*]

The President. Thanks for coming. [*Laughter*] Welcome to the White House. [*Laughter*]

We’re taking an important step today to combat the problem of identity theft, one of