

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the SportsZone. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Craig Benson of New Hampshire; Senator Zell Miller of Georgia, who made the keynote address at the Republican National Convention; Thomas D. Rath, national committeeman, New Hampshire Republican State Committee; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government; Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan; and Paul A. Volcker, chair, Independent Inquiry into the United Nations Oil for Food Programme.

Statement on the Final Report of the United States Commission on Ocean Policy

September 20, 2004

I commend the members of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy for their hard work and welcome their Final Report.

Our oceans sustain an abundance of natural wonders, enable the transportation of vital goods, and provide food and recreation for millions of Americans. My administration is working with every level of government, the private sector, and other nongovernmental organizations to advance the next generation of ocean policy. In order to foster more effective management and conservation of our ocean and coastal resources, my administration has launched and supported numerous innovative science, management, and policy initiatives. We have created a new integrated ocean observing system with international partners, embarked on deep oceans research with a state-of-the-art research ship, and advanced legislation to strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We are also building an improved, market-based system to help restore our fisheries and keep our commercial and recreational fishing industries strong. Working with Congress and State Governors, my administration looks forward to building on these initiatives assisted by the work of the Commission.

Proclamation 7818—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2004

September 20, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's farm economy is strong and growing. Farm income is strong, farm exports are at a record high, and my Administration is working to ensure that American farm products are sold all over the world. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, we reflect on the contributions of America's farm and ranch families and underscore our commitment to making our farms safer and to protecting our farm and ranch land.

The safety and health of our farm and ranch families are of critical importance. These Americans perform tasks that contain risks—they operate farm machinery, apply agricultural chemicals and fertilizers, handle large and unpredictable livestock, and work in places where dusts and toxins can contaminate the air. We must continue to raise awareness of dangers and proper safety precautions and equipment, particularly among our young people involved in agriculture. Through education and training, we can help save lives and improve the well-being of our Nation's farmers and ranchers.

Our Nation's farmers and ranchers help feed and clothe people around the world, and they are now helping provide more energy for the American people. By promoting a safer farm and ranch environment, we can strengthen our agricultural economy and build a more prosperous future for all our citizens.

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 September 19 through September 25, 2004, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve America's agricultural workers to