

Week Ending Friday, November 12, 2004

The President's Radio Address

November 6, 2004

Good morning. This week, the voters of America set the direction of our Nation for the next 4 years. I am honored by the support of my fellow citizens. I commend Senator John Kerry for a spirited campaign.

Now the election is behind us, and our country is ready to move forward. Our Nation is fighting a continuing war on terror, and every American has a stake in the outcome. Republicans and Democrats and independents love our country, and together, we will protect the American people. We will persevere until the enemy is defeated and our Nation is safe from danger. Every civilized country also has a stake in the outcome of this war. Whatever our past disagreements, we share a common enemy and common duties to confront disease and hunger and poverty in troubled regions of our world.

I will continue reaching out to friends and allies, including our partners in NATO and the European Union, to promote development and progress, to defeat the terrorists, and to encourage freedom and democracy as the alternatives to tyranny and terror.

Here at home, we have serious responsibilities and historic opportunities. To accelerate the momentum of this economy and to keep creating jobs, we must take practical measures to help the small-business sector. We must confront the junk and frivolous lawsuits that are driving up the cost of health care and hurting doctors and patients. We must continue to work on education reform to bring high standards and accountability, not just to elementary schools but to the high schools as well. We must reform our complicated and outdated Tax Code to get rid of needless paperwork and make our economy more competitive in the world. And we must show our leadership by strengthening the Social Security system for our children and grandchildren. This is more than a prob-

lem to be solved. It is an opportunity to help millions of our fellow citizens find the security and independence of ownership.

Reaching these goals will require the broad support of Americans. To make this Nation stronger and better, I will need the support of Republicans and Democrats and independents, and I will work to earn it. I will do all I can do to deserve your trust.

A new term is a new opportunity to reach out to the whole Nation. We have one country, one constitution, and one future that binds us. And when we come together and work together, there is no limit to the greatness of America.

In the election of 2004, large issues were set before the country and discussed every day of the campaign. Now Americans are expecting bipartisan effort and results. My administration will work with both parties in Congress to achieve those results and to meet the responsibility we share.

With the campaign over, the United States of America goes forward with confidence and faith. I see a great day coming for our country, and I'm eager for the work ahead.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:15 a.m. on November 5 at Camp David, MD, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks to Reporters Following a Visit With Wounded Troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center

November 9, 2004

Listen, I've—Laura and I have just toured one of the wards upstairs. I am—every time I come to Walter Reed, I'm struck by the courage and bravery of our men and women

who wear the uniform. It's such an honor to meet the troops who are wounded. And it's so uplifting to see their spirit, their drive to become rehabilitated, their love of their country, their support of the mission.

Laura and I spent time with the moms and dads and husbands and wives of those who are wounded, and I was struck by just the patriotic sense that they have and that—their strong support for their loved ones.

Every time I come to the hospital, one of the things I try to determine is to—whether or not our troops and their families are being treated with first-class care. It's very important for all of us involved in decisionmaking to know that a troop who had been injured in Iraq or Afghanistan is immediately brought to care. And to a person, they were very strong in their support and praise to how this hospital is run.

I want to thank the generals, the doctors, the nurses for running this hospital. I mean, it's—it's such a comforting sense for me to be able to tell a loved one, your person hurt, your loved one will get the best care possible.

And finally, we've got troops in harm's way in the Fallujah area right now, and our prayers are with the soldiers and their loved ones as they're doing the hard work necessary for a free Iraq to emerge. There are still terrorists there who are trying to stop the march of freedom. And at the request of the Allawi Government and alongside of Iraqi troops, coalition forces are now moving in to Fallujah to bring to justice those who are willing to kill the innocent and those who are trying to terrorize the Iraqi people and our coalition, those who want to stop democracy. And they're not going to succeed.

And so we wish our troops all the best and Godspeed to them as well. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:01 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ayad Allawi of the Iraqi Interim Government. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Resignation of Donald L. Evans as Secretary of Commerce

November 9, 2004

Don Evans is one of my most trusted friends and advisers. He has been a valuable member of my economic team. Don has worked to advance economic security and prosperity for all Americans. He has worked steadfastly to make sure America continues to be the best place in the world to do business.

To encourage job creation here at home, Don has worked closely with me to reduce taxes, open markets for American goods and services, and promote a level playing field abroad.

Don shares my belief that the promise of America means our best days lie ahead. Together, we have worked to make that a reality.

I thank Don for his outstanding service to our Nation and wish him and Susie all the best as they return home to Texas.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Evans' letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of John Ashcroft as Attorney General

November 9, 2004

John Ashcroft has worked tirelessly to help make our country safer. During his 4 years at the Department of Justice, John has transformed the Department to make combating terrorism the top priority, including making sure our law enforcement officials have the tools they need to disrupt and prevent attacks. In doing so, he has made sure that the rights of Americans are respected and protected.

I applaud his efforts to prevent crime, vigorously enforce our civil rights laws, crack down on corporate wrongdoing, protect the rights of victims and those with disabilities, reduce crimes committed with guns, and stop human trafficking. I appreciate his work to fight Internet pornography. I am grateful for