

[At this point, Secretary-Designate Gutierrez made brief remarks.]

The President. Great job. Thank you. Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Susan Evans, wife of Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-Designate Gutierrez. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Resignation of Stephen Friedman as Director of the National Economic Council

November 29, 2004

Steve Friedman has been a trusted adviser and vital member of my economic team, working tirelessly to help make sure that America continues to be the best place in the world to do business.

Steve played a valuable role in enacting the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003 that helped move our economy from recession to the robust growth we are experiencing today. As a key member of my White House senior staff, Steve has led efforts to develop the policies that are strengthening our economy and helping to create jobs. Steve has done an excellent job of coordinating the work of my economic team and has played a key role in developing the economic policies for my second-term agenda.

Steve is a good-hearted man who possesses great wisdom and a can-do attitude. I am grateful for his superb work and wish him and Barbara all the best as they fulfill their plan to return home to New York.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Director Friedman's letter of resignation.

Executive Order 13362— Designation of Additional Officers for the Department of Homeland Security Order of Succession

November 29, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, it is hereby ordered that:

Section 1. During any period when the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, and the officers designated to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary by section 88 of Executive Order 13286 of February 28, 2003 ("Amendment of Executive Orders, and Other Actions, in Connection With the Transfer of Certain Functions to the Secretary of Homeland Security"), have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Homeland Security, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Director, Region V, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VI, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VII, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
Director, Region VIII, Federal Emergency Management Agency;
and
Director, Region X, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

(a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this order.