

December 12

In the afternoon, at the National Building Museum, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in the taping of the annual “Christmas in Washington” concert for later television broadcast.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception.

December 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael O. Leavitt to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

December 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at Blair House, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception for members of the diplomatic corps.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President participated in a holiday reception.

The President announced his recess appointment of Ronald Rosenfeld as a Director and designation as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

December 15

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President-elect Traian Basescu of Romania to congratulate him on his December 12 election victory. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Members of Congress and some of their constituents, who presented the President with gifts.

In the afternoon, in the Residence, the President had lunch with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy.

In the evening, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President participated in a holiday reception for moderators and panelists from the ongoing White House Conference on the Economy.

Later in the evening, on the State Floor, the President participated in a holiday reception.

December 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a holiday reception for members of the press.

December 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President received an update on the report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. Later, he signed Executive Order 13366—Committee on Ocean Policy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Bobby R. Burchfield as a member of the Antitrust Modernization Commission.

The President made additional disaster assistance available to West Virginia, which was impacted by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on September 16–27.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 13

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released December 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan