

practical ways to help these countries take advantage of clean coal technology.

As well we will explore ways we can work with like-minded countries to develop advance nuclear technologies that are safe, clean, and protect against proliferation. With these technologies, with the expansion of nuclear power, we can relieve stress on the environment and reduce global demand for fossil fuels. That would be good for the world, and that would be good for American consumers as well.

This strategy will work for our children and our grandchildren. We should have put this in place several decades ago. We haven't had a national energy strategy in this country for a long period of time. I tried to get the Congress to pass it 4 years ago. Now is the time for them to act. For the sake of this country, for the sake of a growing economy, and for the sake of national security, we've got to do what it takes to expand our independence. We must become less dependent. And there's no doubt in my mind that technology is going to help us achieve that objective.

One reason why I believe so strongly is because free societies are able to adjust to the times, and we're the freest of free societies. We're a society where it doesn't matter where you were raised or where you're from. If you've got a dream, you can pursue it and realize your dream.

Our country has always responded to challenges because we've got people with such great imaginations and such drive and such determination. Twenty-five years from now, people are going to look back and say, "I like my hydrogen-powered automobile"—[laughter]—you know, "I produced a little extra energy this year from my home." Our farmers are going to be saying, "You know, the crop's up, and we're less dependent."

Now is the time to put that strategy in place. Now is the time to do the right thing for America. Now is the time to set aside political differences and focus on what is good for the United States of America. And with your help, we'll achieve that.

God bless you all. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:16 p.m. at the Hilton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Marianne Sensale-Guerin, president and

owner, Guerin Associates, LLC, and 2005 SBA National Small Business Person of the Year.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Passage of the Proposed "Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act"**

*April 27, 2005*

I commend the House for its bipartisan vote to protect the health and safety of minors by ensuring that State parental involvement laws are not circumvented. The parents of pregnant minors can provide counsel, guidance, and support to their children and should be involved in these decisions. I urge the Senate to pass this important legislation and help continue to build a culture of life in America.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 748.

### **Statement on the Iraqi Transitional National Assembly's Vote To Confirm Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari and His Cabinet**

*April 28, 2005*

Iraq's Transitional National Assembly has voted by an overwhelming margin to confirm Ibrahim al-Jafari as Iraq's next Prime Minister. They also have approved a list of Cabinet ministers who will represent the unity and diversity of Iraq in the months ahead. I join with all Americans in congratulating Iraq's new leaders and in wishing them well as they begin to serve their country in this new Government. I appreciate the dedicated work of the outgoing Interim Government, which has governed Iraq for the last 10 months.

The Iraqi Transitional Government will confront important challenges in fighting terrorists and enemies of democracy, training the Iraqi security forces, and providing basic services to its citizens. It will also lead the difficult and essential work of drafting a new constitution for a free and democratic Iraq. The United States is confident that the new Government will meet these challenges in the months ahead, and America will stand by Iraq, its leaders, and the Iraqi people as

they continue their work to establish a stable, peaceful, and democratic Iraq.

**Statement on House of Representatives Passage of a Budget Framework Resolution**

*April 28, 2005*

I applaud the House for passing a budget framework that protects America, helps economic growth, funds our priorities, and keeps us on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009. This is a responsible budget that reins in spending to limits not seen in years. I appreciate the Members of Congress in the House and the Senate who worked hard to produce this agreement and who support its passage. It is not the Government's money that gets spent in Washington, DC. It is the people's money, and taxpayer dollars must be spent wisely or not spent at all.

**Proclamation 7890—National Charter Schools Week, 2005**

*April 28, 2005*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Strong schools are the building blocks of a prosperous and hopeful country. To ensure that all our children receive the education they need to succeed, schools must be innovative, accountable, and committed to student achievement. The charter school movement was founded on these principles and has played an important role in expanding educational choices in America. This week, we highlight the importance of charter schools and recognize their contributions to American education.

Charter schools are unique because they are public schools operating under a contract from a public agency. In exchange for increased flexibility in teaching methods and curricula, these schools promise to meet strict accountability standards designed to improve student performance. Four hundred new charter schools opened in 32 states for the 2004–2005 school year, and there are nearly 3,400 charter schools serving almost

one million children in America. These institutions have provided a valuable alternative to families throughout the country.

My Administration is committed to advancing public education in America. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 is bringing increased accountability to our schools. Test scores are rising, and the achievement gap for minority students is closing. Our continued strong commitment to this legislation is ensuring that parents have greater flexibility when deciding on how best to educate their children. To support and enhance school choice, I have proposed \$219 million for Charter School Grants and \$37 million for Credit Enhancement for Charter School Facilities. I have also called for \$50 million in new funding for the Choice Incentive Fund to support development of innovative school-choice programs.

We must continue to demand better results from our schools so that every high school diploma represents a significant level of educational achievement and all graduates are armed with the tools to succeed in the 21st Century. I commend the teachers and administrators of charter schools and all educators who are providing innovative alternatives that prepare our children for a bright and successful future.

**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 May 1 through 7, 2005, as National Charter Schools Week. I call on parents of charter school students and all those involved with charter schools to share their success stories and help Americans learn more about the important work of these institutions.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand five, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-ninth.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:55 a.m., May 2, 2005]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on May 3.