

to dealing with terror. I appreciate your strong belief in the power of liberty to transform the world we have. I look forward to working with you to continue to lay the foundations of peace, so that generations after our time will look at all of us and say, job well done.

And now it's my pleasure to introduce a leader who understands the importance of freedom. Angela Merkel grew up in East Germany during the dark days of the cold war. She understands what it means to live in a free society. She understands the power of liberty. She's a straightforward person; she tells me what's on her mind. She's a woman of good judgment. She's a strong leader. It's my privilege to welcome her here, and to our friends at the AJC.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:57 p.m. at the National Building Museum. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and former Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; and Nobel prize winner and author Elie Wiesel. A complete transcript of these remarks is available on the White House web site, www.whitehouse.gov.

Remarks on the National Economy

May 5, 2006

Frager's Hardware

The President. Listen, thank you for your hospitality. I'm here to talk about our economy. Today we got some good news: 138,000 additional Americans found jobs over the last month, which is good; the national unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. This economy is strong.

And one of the hopeful things about our economy is, small businesses are doing well. Small businesses provide most of the job growth in our country. The small-business sector is doing well; so is the American economy.

One thing we've got to make sure is that we keep the people's taxes low to keep this economy growing. Raising taxes will hurt small businesses; raising taxes will hurt consumers; raising taxes will particularly affect working people, now that the price of gasoline has gone up. So one of the things Con-

gress has got to do is be mindful that the economic growth we're seeing, the strong economic growth, is dependent upon good tax policy.

At the same time, Congress should be wise about how they spend the people's money. They've got to make sure the supplemental comes to me at a rate that I'll accept, \$92.2 billion, plus money for the pandemic flu. We've got a plan to make sure this economy keeps growing, but today's news is good news for the American people.

And I want to thank you for coming by here to say hi, too.

John Weintraub. All right, I thank you.

The President. It's a good place to shop, by the way. I just spent some of my hard-earned money on Barney. I bought him a couple of toys to chew on—but don't let him know until I get over there, because it's a surprise. Thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. at Frager's Hardware. Participating in the visit was John Weintraub, co-owner, Frager's Hardware. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Announcing the Resignation of Porter J. Goss as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency

May 5, 2006

The President. This morning Director Porter Goss offered his resignation as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency; I've accepted it.

During the course of his tenure, I've established a very close personal relationship with Porter, which is very important for the Director of the CIA. He's spent a lot of time here in the Oval Office. He's told me—he's given me his candid advice. I appreciate his integrity. I appreciate the honor in which—that he brought to the job.

Porter's tenure at the CIA was one of transition. He's helped this agency become integrated into the intelligence community, and that was a tough job. And he's led ably. He's got a 5-year plan to increase the number of analysts and operatives, which is going to help make this country a safer place and help

us win the war on terror. He's instilled a sense of professionalism. He honors the proud history of the CIA, an organization that is known for its secrecy in accountability. I am confident that his successor will continue the reforms that he's put in place, and as a result, this country will be more secure.

We've got to win the war on terror, and the Central Intelligence Agency is a vital part of that war. And so I want to thank you for your service.

[At this point, Director Goss made brief remarks.]

The President. God bless. Thank you. I appreciate you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:44 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Goss.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Washington Hilton Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

May 1

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia. Later, he had intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Umar

Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan to discuss peace efforts in Sudan.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sheila C. Bair to be Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate John M.R. Kneuer to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The President announced his intention to nominate Dawn M. Liberi to be Ambassador to Mauritania.

The President announced his intention to nominate William B. Taylor, Jr., to be Ambassador to Ukraine.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael Wood to be Ambassador to Sweden.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled: Perry E. Anthony; Robert J. Henke; Andrew D. Houghton; and James House.

May 2

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with Republican congressional leaders to discuss legislative priorities.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to San Jose, Costa Rica, to attend the Inauguration of President Oscar Arias Sanchez of Costa Rica on May 8: Laura Bush (head of delegation); and Mark Langdale.

The President declared an emergency in Connecticut and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record snowfall from February 11–12.