

have ethanols derived from produce other than corn. In other words, I'm talking with people on the leading edge of change. And the reason why I've asked them to come in to see me is because I want to make sure that the goal I set by reducing gasoline usage by 20 percent over a 10-year period is a realistic goal. I know it's a necessary goal. It's necessary for national security purposes; it's necessary for economic security purposes; and it's necessary in order to be good stewards of the environment.

My question is, is a practical goal, can we achieve that goal? And the answer is, absolutely. Now, it's going to require continued Federal research dollars, and I call upon the Congress to fully fund my request for alternative sources of energy. It's going to require collaboration between the public sector and the private sector. It's going to require making sure our smartest scientists understand that this is a national priority. But I firmly believe that the goal I laid out, that Americans will use 20 percent less gasoline over the next 10 years, is going to be achieved, and here's living proof of how we're going to get there.

So I want to thank my fellow citizens for joining us. We've got a Nobel Prize winner; we've got all kinds of Ph.D.s, a couple of history majors. But what we're talking about is practical and necessary for the country. So thanks for coming. Americans ought to feel optimistic about our future. We're going to be driving our cars using all kinds of different fuels other than gasoline and using batteries that will be able to be recharged in vehicles that don't have to look like golf carts.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. Participating in the meeting were David Bransby, professor of agronomy and soils, College of Agriculture, Auburn University; Steve Chu, director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; Bruce E. Dale, professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Michigan State University; Daniel J. Elliott, president and chief executive officer, Phoenix Motorcars, Inc.; Lonnie O. Ingram, professor, Department of Microbiology and Cell Science, University of Florida; Stephen P. Long, professor of crop sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Alex Molinaroli, president, Power Solutions, Johnson Controls, Inc.; Michael

M. Thackeray, senior scientist, Argonne National Laboratory; and David Vieau, president and chief executive officer, A123 Systems.

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.

February 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to President George Washington's Estate in Mount Vernon, VA, where they toured the grounds and participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at President Washington's tomb.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

February 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dennis W. Carlton as a member of the Antitrust Modernization Commission (Government Representative).

The President announced his intention to designate Clay Lowery as the Acting U.S. Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Chattanooga, TN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Debbie Chadwick. He then went to Erlanger Hospital—Baroness Campus, where he toured the facility.

In the afternoon, the President went to Porkers Bar-B-Que, where he had lunch and

met with patrons. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Elias Antonio Saca Gonzalez of El Salvador to the White House on February 27.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Morrisville, NC, where, at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jamie Lathan. He then traveled to Franklinton, NC, where he toured Novozymes North America, Inc.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will host the annual U.S.-EU Summit in Washington, DC, on April 30.

The President announced his intention to nominate S. Ward Casscells to be Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Claude M. Kicklighter to be Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Charles Ostendorff to be Principal Deputy Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The President announced his intention to designate Dennis R. Spurgeon as Acting Under Secretary of Energy.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas J. Barrett as Acting Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

The President announced his intention to designate Kimberly A. Owens as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced his intention to appoint James H. Herring as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation.

The President declared a major disaster in Oregon and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by a severe winter storm and flooding on December 14–15, 2006.

February 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with transportation fuel experts and researchers to discuss alternative fuel sources.

The President declared a major disaster in Pennsylvania and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on November 16–17, 2006.

The President declared an emergency in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area struck by record snow and near record snow on February 2–12.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on February 12–13.

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 February 17

Statement by the Press Secretary on Senate action on a nonbinding resolution on Iraq

Released February 20

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow