

President Bush and I talked about our contribution to the hemisphere and to humanity, to mankind, and that is the fight against drugs and the fight against coke. We have started a head-on fight against drug trafficking in my country, against money laundering, and against coca leaf production by offering farmers alternative crops, which is a way for them to earn a living in a just and legal way.

I have also congratulated President Bush on the very intelligent action he took against North Korea. It could have become a very serious problem for the world had it not been for the tactful intervention by the United States and its allied countries.

**President Bush.** Thank you.

**President Garcia.** In his last trip to Latin America, in spite of some political reactions, which are typical, it has been essential to see the President work with Brazil on ethanol as the new fuel. This will help us refocus on Latin America, which is very favorable for the region.

If President Bush allows me, I am sure that during the time that we will coexist as Presidents, he will achieve great things in the world. And he will visit Peru next year. But thank you very much, Mr. President, for the relationship we have of friendship. You are a very nice person, and I'm sure that our relationship will continue to grow.

Thank you very much.

**President Bush.** Thank you, sir. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President Garcia spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### **Remarks Following a Meeting on Medicare Prescription Drug Benefits** *April 23, 2007*

Thank you all for coming. Today I have been discussing the Medicare Part D reforms that Congress passed and I signed and that Mike Leavitt and a lot of other people helped to implement.

This reform of Medicare has been a great success. Most importantly, it's been a great

success for our senior citizens. The cost of the prescription drug plan has been less than anticipated. The individual stories about people saving money and getting better health care has warmed my heart.

It took a monumental effort by a lot of citizens around the country to make the options that our seniors were given easy to understand. In other words, we reformed Medicare and gave seniors a lot of choices, and it took a lot of loving Americans a lot of time to make these choices available for our senior citizens. Now that the plan is in place, 39 million have signed up for it, drug costs are less than anticipated, and the cost to the taxpayer is about \$200 billion less than anticipated.

The lesson is, is that when you trust people to make decisions in their lives, when you have competition, it is likely you'll get lower price and better quality. It is the spirit of this reform that needs to be now extended to Medicare overall.

The trustees report will be coming out today on Social Security and Medicare. It will make clear that senior citizens are in great shape when it comes to the government making their promises. It'll make clear that baby boomers like me are in good shape, that the government will meet its promises. But for a younger generation of Americans, it sends yet another warning signal to the United States Congress that now is the time to work to make sure the Social Security is solvent for the future, as is Medicare.

And as we begin to think through solutions for Medicare, we ought to make sure that we remember the principles inherent in this Medicare reform that has worked so well for our seniors—and that principle is, competition works. Competition can lower price and improve the quality of people who are a beneficiary of such a plan.

Thank you all very much for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

## Remarks Honoring the 2007 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts

April 23, 2007

**The President.** Thank you all. Please be seated. How about it? Like, the Indianapolis Colts here on the South Lawn—congratulations. Welcome to the Super Bowl champs.

I want to welcome Jim Irsay and Meg and Carlie, Casey, and Kalen. I had the honor of calling Jim after they won. I understand how hard it is to be an owner of a sports team and win. [Laughter] I never did it—[laughter]—but he has, and I congratulate the organization. I congratulate Bill Polian as well. I want to thank all the front office personnel, the schedulers, the ticket sellers, the travel arrangers, the people who never get any credit. I appreciate you being part of a fine organization. And we're here on the South Lawn to congratulate you.

I congratulate the head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, Tony Dungy. And I'm glad his wife, Lauren, is here as well. Tony Dungy is the first African American coach to ever win a Super Bowl. That in itself is a great honor. But interestingly enough, he is a man who has used his—a position of notoriety to behave in a quiet and strong way in the face of personal tragedy that has influenced a lot of our fellow citizens. And I want to thank you for your courage.

Alphonso Jackson is here with us, Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to today, he told me he was a Cowboy fan. [Laughter] Like, what are you doing here, A.J.? Oh, okay, you wanted to see the coach. All right, good. Yes. I thank Randy Tobias, who was an executive from Indianapolis but ran our HIV/AIDS initiative—by the way, helped people in Africa receive antiretroviral drugs. When we came in, there was 50,000 people receiving antiretroviral drugs; now there's 850,000 people receiving antiretroviral drugs. Tobias, thank you for your compassion. Al Hubbard, Economic Adviser to the President, is here—Indianapolis Colt fan.

I want to thank Members of the Congress who have joined us today, starting with Senator Evan Bayh and Susan. It's good to see the Bayh lads with them. Thank you all for coming. Appreciate you being here. Dan

Burton—appreciate you coming, Dan, and, Samia, I'm glad you're here. Thanks for coming, Samia. Mark Souder, Julia Carson, Mike Pence, Baron Hill, Joe Donnelly, and Brad Ellsworth—glad you all are here. Some of these guys get elected for the first time, and the first thing that happens is, the Indianapolis Colts win the Super Bowl. You're not taking credit, are you? [Laughter]

I want to thank all the coaches who are here. I want to thank the families of the Colt family who have helped this organization flourish. I want to—most of all, I want to thank the players. I am proud of you; the country is proud of you. The people from Indiana have supported you, and you didn't let them down. As a matter of fact, this is—last time you won as Colts, though, was 1971. Interesting, I thought about that. Most of you weren't even born. I was, and that's when they beat our Cowboys, A.J. [Laughter] But you've—as Bill put it, he said, "Finally." And a lot of Indianapolis fans said, "Thank goodness." They love to support this team, and you didn't let them down.

It was a pretty tough season, though, when you think about it. It wasn't one of these run-aways. It looked like it was going to be a runaway—Secretary Rice, if you want to come in, please, yes. So, like, you're a big Dungy fan, aren't you?

**Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.** Yes, sir.

**The President.** That's right; that's what I thought.

So the season started off good, like you won the first nine games, and then it appeared this championship team was going to fizzle; it wasn't going to make it. And so they—you lost four out of seven. And they started to, like, write you off, right? They kind of say—you probably—some of these sports writers started to say, you know, well, they don't have what it takes; they can kind of do okay until it comes to the big one, and then they just don't have the character necessary to make it work. They did okay in the wild card, and you move your way through the playoffs, and then all of a sudden, the guy on Super Bowl 41 runs the kickoff back. [Laughter] I'm sure a lot of those skeptics were saying, "Told you so; the Indianapolis Colts, good players, fine people, just don't