

gave a hint of things to come during an interview with a New York newspaper. He said, “In the battle between democracy and totalitarianism, the latter adversary will without question win and will control the world. The era of democracy is finished, the democratic system bankrupt.”

In fact, the war machines of Imperial Japan would be brought down—brought down by good folks who only months before had been students and farmers and bank clerks and factory hands. Some are in the room today. Others here have been inspired by their fathers and grandfathers and uncles and cousins.

That generation of Americans taught the tyrants a telling lesson: There is no power like the power of freedom and no soldier as strong as a soldier who fights for a free future for his children. And when America’s work on the battlefield was done, the victorious children of democracy would help our defeated enemies rebuild and bring the taste of freedom to millions.

We can do the same for the Middle East. Today, the violent Islamic extremists who fight us in Iraq are as certain of their cause as the Nazis or the Imperial Japanese or the Soviet Communists were of theirs. They are destined for the same fate.

The greatest weapon in the arsenal of democracy is the desire for liberty written into the human heart by our Creator. So long as we remain true to our ideals, we will defeat the extremists in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will help those countries’ people stand up functioning democracies in the heart of the broader Middle East. And when that hard work is done and the critics of today recede from memory, the cause of freedom will be stronger, a vital region will be brighter, and the American people will be safer.

Thank you, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:46 a.m. at the Kansas City Convention and Entertainment Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Kurpius, outgoing commander-in-chief, and George J. Lisicki, incoming commander-in-chief, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Robert E. Wallace, executive director, Veterans of Foreign Wars Washington Office; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Minister of Defense Yuriko

Koike of Japan; and Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

Statement on the Federal Budget

August 23, 2007

Today’s deficit estimate release by the Congressional Budget Office is good news for American taxpayers. Like the estimates put forward by the Office of Management and Budget, it shows that our Government is on a path to meeting the goal I set forth of putting the budget into surplus by 2012. Balancing the budget requires keeping the economy strong, keeping tax rates low, and keeping spending in check.

Through tax relief, we cut taxes for American families and reduced tax rates on dividends and capital gains, energizing small businesses to invest and expand. And since we lowered these important tax rates, the economy has created more than 8 million jobs, increased wages, and grew tax revenues that will lead to a surplus.

Continued spending restraint is a critical element for accomplishing a balanced budget. I again urge Congress to pass spending bills by the end of the fiscal year without wasteful earmarks, without raising taxes, and in regular order—one at a time and on time. Congress has an opportunity to rise to the occasion and work with my administration to accomplish a balanced budget without raising taxes, and I hope they will do so upon their return to Washington in September.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

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.

August 18

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared an emergency in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Dean beginning on August 17 and continuing.

August 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a briefing on the National Intelligence Estimate. Later, he had briefings on Hurricane Dean and Tropical Storm Erin.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Ottawa, Canada. Prior to his departure from Texas State Technical College Airport in Waco, TX, he awarded the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service to Harry McKillop.

In the afternoon, at the Ottawa International Airport, the President participated in a greeting with Governor General Michaëlle Jean of Canada and her husband, Jean-Daniel Lafond. Later, he traveled to Montebello, Canada. Upon arrival at the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, he participated in a greeting with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada.

Later in the afternoon, in the Ontario Room of the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, the President met with Prime Minister Harper. He then met with President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico.

In the evening, in the Manoir Papineau—Salon Amedee of the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, the President attended a North American leaders' dinner.

August 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, on the porch of the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, he had a working breakfast with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada and President Felipe de Jesus Calderon Hinojosa of Mexico. Later, in the Canada Room of the Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello, he met with the North American Competitiveness Council.

Later in the morning, in the Curling Rink—Heritage Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with Prime Minister Harper and President Calderon. He then participated in a North American leaders' meeting.

In the afternoon, at the Ottawa International Airport, the President met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. He then traveled to Minneapolis, MN, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jim Daly. Later, he traveled to Eden Prairie, MN.

In the evening, at a private residence, the President attended a Norm Coleman for U.S. Senate and Minnesota Republican Party reception. Later, he traveled to Kansas City, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Janet Parks.

The President declared an emergency in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts in the area impacted by the bridge collapse in Minneapolis on August 1.

August 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Riverside, MO. Later, he returned to Kansas City, MO.

Later in the morning, the President met with family members of military personnel killed in the war on terror.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President declared a major disaster in Minnesota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on August 18 and continuing.

August 24

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Rev. Billy Graham.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to attend the dedication ceremony of the Afghanistan-

Tajikistan Bridge on August 26: Carlos M. Gutierrez (head of delegation); William B. Wood; and Tracey Ann Jacobson.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of the Presidential delegation to the 50th anniversary celebration of Malaysia's independence in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on August 31: Jeffrey Clay Sell (head of delegation); Christopher J. LaFleur; Karan K. Bhatia; and Talal Eid.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding beginning on August 18 and continuing.

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 August 18

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Released August 20

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs Daniel W. Fisk on the President's bilateral meetings with Mexico and Canada

Released August 21

Statement by Counselor to the President Edward W. Gillespie on the upcoming assessments of military and political progress in Iraq by Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker

Excerpts: President's Remarks to the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri *

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Released August 22

Fact sheet: Promoting Democracy To Help Make America Safer

Released August 23

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe on the National Intelligence Estimate

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Minnesota

Released August 24

Transcript of a press gaggle by National Security Council Press Secretary Gordon Johndroe

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.

* These excerpts were included in the statement by the Counselor to the President.