

by saying, we're only going to tax rich people, but that's not the way it works. Rich people tend to hire lawyers and accountants, and you get stuck with the bill. We don't need more money. We need to prioritize your money. We need to be wise about how we spend your money.

Raising taxes in a time of economic uncertainty would be bad for the economy, and it would be bad for our people. I believe we ought to trust Americans to spend their money. I mean, the truth of the matter is, you can spend it more wisely than the Government can. And so in my State of the Union the other day, I called upon Congress to make the tax cuts permanent. I want to deal with this aspect of uncertainty. See, if you think your tax bill is fixing to go up—which it is, unless Congress acts; it will be going up in a couple of years—it could change your behavior. It could cause people to pull back and not be confident about the future.

And I also called on them to stop this business about putting special projects in legislation without being voted on. That doesn't make any sense. I mean, our process is one where there should be transparency and—like, if a project is important enough for a Member of Congress to slip into what's called a conference report, that project ought to be important enough for there to be a full vote—Members of Congress get to look at it and see if it makes any sense.

So I've got an agenda for Congress. I'm looking forward to working with them on how to stimulate the economy in the short term, but make sure we remain a strong economy in the long term. And I'm looking forward to working with them. I like the spirit I found up in the Halls of Congress. There's still a little politics in Washington, DC, but that's not to say we can't work for the common good.

And I appreciate you all giving me a chance to come by and visit with you. I hope you can tell I'm optimistic about the future of the country, realistic about the issues we face, and have—got a plan to deal with them. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:47 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Donald J. Hall, Jr., presi-

dent and chief executive officer, Hallmark Cards, Inc.

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.

January 26

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, at the Capital Hilton Hotel, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the Alfalfa Club dinner.

January 27

In the afternoon, the President participated in a speech preparation session for his January 28 State of the Union Address.

January 28

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Family Theater, he participated in a speech preparation session for his State of the Union Address. Then in the Oval Office, he participated in an interview with Ann Compton of ABC News Radio.

In the afternoon, in the Second Floor Family Dining Room, the President had a background lunch with television correspondents.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Mirek Topolaneck of the Czech Republic to the White House on February 27.

January 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Baltimore, MD, where he met with Jericho Program graduates.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert J. Callahan to be Ambassador to Nicaragua.

The President announced his intention to nominate Heather M. Hodges to be Ambassador to Ecuador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Barbara J. Stephenson to be Ambassador to Panama.

The President announced his intention to nominate William E. Todd to be Ambassador to Brunei.

January 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Torrance, CA.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Los Angeles, CA, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteers Marni and Berni Barta. Later, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee luncheon.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to San Francisco, CA, where, upon arrival at San Francisco International Airport, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Richard Berwick. He then met with Amador Valley High School student Kevin Laue and his parents, Jodi and Jim Jarnagin. Later, he traveled to Hillsborough, CA, where, at a private residence, he attended a Republican National Committee dinner.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada to discuss Afghanistan.

In the evening, the President returned to San Francisco International Airport, where he met with the family of a marine killed in Iraq. He then traveled to Las Vegas, NV.

The President declared a major disaster in Indiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on January 7 and continuing.

The President announced that he has asked Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt to serve as his personal representative at the funeral of Gordon B. Hinckley on February 2, 2008, in Salt Lake City, UT.

The President announced his intention to nominate Marianne M. Myles to be Ambassador to Cape Verde.

The President announced that he has nominated Elisebeth C. Cook to be Assistant Attorney General (Legal Policy).

January 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at a private residence, he attended a Nevada Victory luncheon.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Cherie Yager. He then met with Jeanne Assam, a security guard who stopped the December 9, 2007, fatal shooting at New Life Church in Colorado Springs, CO. Later, he traveled to Cherry Hills Village, CO, where, at a private residence, he attended a Colorado Victory and Bob Schaffer for Senate reception.

In the evening, the President traveled to Kansas City, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Samuel Turner, Sr.

The White House announced that the President will host the North American Leaders' Summit on April 21–22 in New Orleans, LA.

February 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Then, at Eggtc. restaurant, he had breakfast with local business leaders. Later, he traveled to Parkville, MO.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Missouri Victory and Sam Graves for Congress reception. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Amadou Toumani Toure of Mali to the White House on February 8.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe winter storms from December 6–19.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate
