

objectives and does not waste taxpayer dollars.

Our economy continues to face serious challenges. This morning we learned that America lost jobs again in September, disappointing news that underscores the urgency of the bill that Congress passed today. It will take more time and determined effort to get through this difficult period. But with confidence and leadership and bipartisan cooperation, we'll overcome the challenges we face, return our Nation to a path of growth and job creation and long-term economic prosperity.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:03 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 1424, approved October 3, which was assigned Public Law No. 110-343. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### Remarks Following a Visit to the Treasury Department

*October 3, 2008*

**The President.** I just had the honor of talking to Treasury Department employees. I thanked them for their hard work over the past 6 weeks in dealing with a serious financial crisis.

I do want to thank the Secretary too. Mr. Secretary, you and your team have worked incredibly hard. You've worked with the Congress; you've worked with the financial markets, both domestically and internationally. I know that your people are exhausted in there, and I'm—really appreciate the fact that I'm going to sign a piece of legislation that'll be a part of solving this crisis, an important part of solving the crisis.

And so I just went up to thank people. Sometimes people in government never get thanked enough for all the hours they keep. And I've got a lot of confidence in you, Mr. Secretary, and your team. And I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by, and looking forward to getting this plan in place. I just told the people in the Rose Garden that, you know, it's complicated, and we're going to make sure that whatever we do is done in a deliberate fashion, and one

that will be effective and be mindful of the taxpayers. Appreciate serving with you.

**Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson, Jr.** Thank you very much.

**The President.** Appreciate serving with you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:38 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 1424, approved October 3, which was assigned Public Law No. 110-343. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### Proclamation 8300—Child Health Day, 2008

*October 3, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Americans have a duty to promote the health and safety of our children. On Child Health Day, we affirm that all children are a precious gift, and we underscore our commitment to helping them realize their full potential.

Families are the foundation of our society, and parents play the vital role of providing stability, guidance, and discipline so children can lead healthy lives. Teachers, caregivers, and mentors can also help teach children about the importance of making good choices. All Americans can help our Nation's youth become healthy and responsible adults by encouraging them to avoid risky behaviors such as early sexual activity, drugs, alcohol, and violence.

My Administration remains dedicated to helping younger generations achieve their dreams by supporting programs that encourage children to maintain healthy and active lifestyles. The Helping America's Youth initiative, led by First Lady Laura Bush, is helping children make smart decisions so they can confront challenges and live longer and better lives. The HealthierUS initiative encourages positive habits and addresses public health issues facing our Nation's youth, such as childhood obesity. Through the President's Challenge, we are promoting personal

fitness and encouraging youth to stay active beyond the school gym. Through these and other efforts, we can make our country stronger by teaching children the importance of healthy choices.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 18, 1928, as amended (36 U.S.C. 105), has called for the designation of the first Monday in October as “Child Health Day” and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Monday, October 6, 2008, as Child Health Day. I call upon families, schools, child health professionals, faith-based and community organizations, and State and local governments to reach out to our Nation’s young people, encourage them to avoid dangerous behavior, and help them make the right choices to achieve their dreams.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

Americans have a duty to promote the health and safety of our children. On Child Health Day, we affirm that all children are a precious gift, and we underscore our commitment to helping them realize their full potential.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:30 a.m., October 6, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 7.

**Proclamation 8301—German-American Day, 2008**

*October 3, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

For generations, German Americans have contributed to our Nation’s identity, culture, and prosperity. On German-American Day, we recognize the many Americans with Ger-

man ancestry who helped make our country great, and we celebrate our strong friendship with Germany.

The people of Germany and the United States share important family and cultural ties, and millions of American citizens are of German descent. Some of their forebears were among the first to settle Jamestown, and they and many others like them helped lay the foundation for our country, which has become the most prominent symbol of freedom in the world. Many German Americans have shaped our way of life and added to our country’s rich heritage.

In celebrating German-American Day, we honor generations of German Americans who came to our shores with dreams of opportunity and contributed to the greatness of our country.

**Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 6, 2008, as German-American Day. I encourage all Americans to celebrate the many contributions German Americans have made to our Nation’s liberty and prosperity.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this third day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:30 a.m., October 6, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on October 7.

**Proclamation 8302—Fire Prevention Week, 2008**

*October 3, 2008*

*By the President of the United States of America*

**A Proclamation**

Fire Prevention Week is an opportunity to call attention to the importance of fire safety, especially in the home, and to honor our Nation’s firefighters for their heroism.