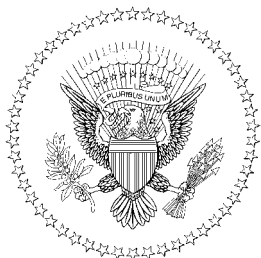


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, February 17, 2003
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Editor’s Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on February 14, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, February 14, 2003

The President's Radio Address

February 8, 2003

Good morning. On Wednesday, Secretary of State Powell briefed the United Nations Security Council on Iraq's illegal weapons programs, its attempts to hide those weapons, and its links to terrorist groups.

The Iraqi regime's violations of Security Council resolutions are evident. They are dangerous to America and the world, and they continue to this hour.

The regime has never accounted for a vast arsenal of deadly biological and chemical weapons. To the contrary, the regime is pursuing an elaborate campaign to conceal its weapons materials and to hide or intimidate key experts and scientists. This effort of deception is directed from the highest levels of the Iraqi regime, including Saddam Hussein, his son, Iraq's Vice President, and the very official responsible for cooperating with inspectors.

The Iraqi regime has actively and secretly attempted to obtain equipment needed to produce chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. Firsthand witnesses have informed us that Iraq has at least seven mobile factories for the production of biological agents, equipment mounted on trucks and rails to evade discovery.

The Iraqi regime has acquired and tested the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction. It has never accounted for thousands of bombs and shells capable of delivering chemical weapons. It is actively pursuing components for prohibited ballistic missiles. And we have sources that tell us that Saddam Hussein recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons, the very weapons the dictator tells us he does not have.

One of the greatest dangers we face is that weapons of mass destruction might be passed to terrorists who would not hesitate to use those weapons. Saddam Hussein has long-

standing, direct, and continuing ties to terrorist networks. Senior members of Iraqi intelligence and Al Qaida have met at least 8 times since the early 1990s. Iraq has sent bomb-making and document forgery experts to work with Al Qaida. Iraq has also provided Al Qaida with chemical and biological weapons training. And an Al Qaida operative was sent to Iraq several times in the late 1990s for help in acquiring poisons and gases.

We also know that Iraq is harboring a terrorist network headed by a senior Al Qaida terrorist planner. This network runs a poison and explosives training camp in northeast Iraq, and many of its leaders are known to be in Baghdad.

This is the situation as we find it: 12 years after Saddam Hussein agreed to disarm and more than 90 days after the Security Council passed Resolution 1441 by a unanimous vote, Saddam Hussein was required to make a full declaration of his weapons programs. He has not done so. Saddam Hussein was required to fully cooperate in the disarmament of his regime. He has not done so. Saddam Hussein was given a final chance. He is throwing away that chance.

Having made its demands, the Security Council must not back down when those demands are defied and mocked by a dictator. The United States would welcome and support a new resolution making clear that the Security Council stands behind its previous demands. Yet, resolutions mean little without resolve, and the United States, along with a growing coalition of nations, will take whatever action is necessary to defend ourselves and disarm the Iraqi regime.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:15 a.m. on February 7 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 8. The transcript was made available by the Office

of the Press Secretary on February 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his son, Qusay; and Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan and presidential adviser Lt. Gen. Amir Al-Saadi of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Colombia

February 8, 2003

Last night, terrorists attacked a nightclub in Bogota, Colombia. The latest reports are that 25 innocent men and women were killed and more than 150 wounded.

On behalf of the United States, I condemn this barbaric act of terrorism. I offer our deepest condolences to the Colombian families and friends of all who were murdered. We also hope and pray for the quick recovery of those that were injured.

I extend to President Uribe and the people of Colombia our deepest sympathy for this horrible tragedy.

We stand with the Colombian people in their fight against narcoterrorists who threaten their democratic way of life.

We will offer all appropriate assistance to the Colombian Government in bringing to justice the murderers responsible for this act.

Remarks at the “Congress of Tomorrow” Republican Retreat Reception in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia

February 9, 2003

Thank you. Please be seated. Nothing like about an hour’s speech for a Sunday lunch—[laughter]—trying to loosen up my vocal cords for the week.

Thanks for having me. And thanks for serving our country. First, I want to tell the family members who are here, I appreciate your sacrifice. I know it’s hard to leave a district and a State that you love. I know your spouse is working incredibly long hours, and I want you to know that I feel that you’re just as an important part of your spouse’s mission.

So on behalf of a grateful nation, thank you all very much for the sacrifices you make.

I want to thank the Speaker and I want to thank Senator Frist for their leadership. I’m confident in their abilities. I know we can work together. And I’m proud to call them friends. I want to thank DeLay for serving in the capacity he does. He brings a lot of Texas wisdom into the House of Representatives. [Laughter] Texas tough, and I’m proud to call him friend as well. I’ve known Tom a long time, and I’m confident by working together we can get a lot done.

I want to thank Santorum—Rick Santorum, that is—and I want to thank Deborah for putting on this event. Where are you, Santorum? There you are. I know it’s not easy to herd cats. It’s a lot easier when you do it in a beautiful place like the Greenbrier though. [Laughter]

I want to thank Roy Blunt for being a good vote counter, and we’re counting on you to count. And I appreciate—and Jon Kyl. Thank you, Jon, I’m honored you’re up here with us today.

So we’ve got some big challenges facing us. I don’t exaggerate when I say this is a significant year for our country. I truly believe that. My attitude, it doesn’t matter how high the hurdle is; we’ll cross it. It doesn’t matter how big the obstacle is; we’ll deal with it, because we represent the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

I know there’s a lot of people paying attention to what’s happening overseas, and so am I. But I want to begin by reminding us that we’ve got a domestic agenda that is positive and strong and hopeful and optimistic.

We believe strongly that if somebody is looking for work and can’t find a job, then we’ve got to do everything we can to grow our economy. Our whole philosophy is based upon growth of the economy. We equate jobs and growth. And we know the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit flourishes, in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses.

And that is why I am passionate about my plan to give people more money. The more money they have in their pockets, the more likely it is that somebody will find work. It is also important for us never to forget that

we represent the entrepreneurs of America and that when you reduce the individual income-tax rates, you're putting money into the pockets of the sole proprietorship or the limited partnership or the subchapter S. The tax reduction plan that I want you to pass and I want to sign will put more money into the pockets of the entrepreneurs of America, which is good for those who are looking for work.

We've already passed it once. We had a pretty good battle. I see some of the soldiers in the tax cut fight of 2001 sitting out there. I repeat what I said earlier: If the tax relief is good 2 or 4 or 5 years from now, with an economy that is not as strong as we want it to be, it is good enough today. Let us get the tax relief plan passed.

And while we're doing it, it makes sense to help our seniors and to make the Tax Code more fair. The double taxation of dividends is unfair. It is unfair to tax profits and the distribution of those profits. And therefore, for the sake of capital formation and for the sake of the lifestyle of the 10 million seniors who receive dividend income, let us end the double taxation of dividends.

I want to appreciate those who are involved with appropriations for working hard to get an appropriations bill to my desk as soon as possible. It would be nice to get the 2003 issue out of the way, as we start to deal with the 2004 budget and appropriations process. I am serious about holding the line on Federal spending. I submitted a budget to you which sets clear priorities, meets those priorities, and will enable us to say to the American taxpayer, "We are wise with your money." And therefore, I look forward to working with you to pass a budget which is realistic and a budget which is responsible.

We will address the Medicare issue in a way which enables us to say as a country, "We've fulfilled our promise to senior citizens." Medicine is becoming modern. Medicare isn't, and we have an obligation to the future of this country to modernize the Medicare system, to fulfill the promise to thousands of seniors, a system which includes more choice, more options, and prescription drugs for the senior citizens of this country.

We need an energy bill in America, a bill which encourages conservation and explo-

ration. We need a Clear Skies legislation so that we can say our party has led to reasonable, sane environmental policy. And we need a forest policy in America, a Healthy Forest Initiative which enables us to maintain the vast treasures, particularly of forest land in the West, and at the same time be wise about how we clear underbrush so that we don't encourage forest fires that—some of the devastating forest fires that took place in the West this year.

I look forward to working with the Senate to get my judges confirmed. I have named some really honorable people to the bench. I want to thank Senator Hatch and other members of the Senate Judiciary Committee for kind of putting aside all that political—the politics that so dominated the discourse.

The first test, of course, is Miguel Estrada. Fabulous story. He's a great, great jurist—a lawyer who will be a great jurist. And I expect that he be given a fair hearing on the floor of the Senate. I expect the people of the Senate not to hold him up, not to try to talk his nomination into the ground, because Miguel Estrada not only represents the American Dream but will do us proud on the bench. I want to thank the Senators for standing strong for this good nominee. And when the vote comes up, this guy is going to be confirmed, and America—the bench and America will be better for it.

I look forward to working with you on a compassion agenda, one that recognizes that in our plenty there are people who hurt, there are people who need love and compassion, there are people who wonder whether or not the American experience is meant for them. I look forward to working to get the Faith-Based Initiative out of the House and the Senate. I look forward to getting the "Citizen Service Act"—a reformed "Citizen Service Act" passed as well.

I'm going to Nashville tomorrow to talk about the compassion agenda. We've got a role in Washington, but the biggest role, of course, takes place in the neighborhoods of our country, when people hear the call to love somebody like they'd like to be loved themselves, when people fully understand that one person can make a significant difference in the life of somebody who hurts. I'm going to reiterate my call for a mentoring

initiative, aimed particularly at junior high students as well as children whose mom or dad may be in a prison. I'm going to call for a focus on those who are addicted to drugs. Listen, we will work hard to continue to drive the demand for drugs down and interdict supply, but there are sad souls in our society who are hooked on drugs. And I look forward to working with the Congress to empower programs which work, particularly faith-based programs which work, to help save Americans one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

And as we show our compassion here at home, I feel strongly about our need to show our compassion abroad as well. Some of you have been to Africa and have seen the suffering. Some of you know firsthand the stories about thousands of abandoned children who are in orphanages, crowded orphanages, because their mom or dad—and dad—and/or dad have died because of AIDS. Some of you know the startling statistics that the people of the continent face. It's a pandemic. It is destruction of human life, the likes of which the modern world hasn't seen, and we need to do something about it.

In my strong judgment, this Nation needs to stand up and show our compassion when a fellow human being suffers. See, if we say every life matters, if we believe that every life has worth, that the Almighty God believes in the worth of every individual, if we believe that, then it makes sense for us to help save lives when we can.

I want to work with you to get the AIDS initiative passed out of the Senate and the House as quickly as possible. It is a plan that is a plan of mercy. It's an important initiative. It's a vital initiative, because we're talking about saving human life. We're talking about showing the world the great strength and compassion of the United States of America. There is no doubt that when you pass this initiative, when our time in Washington, DC, is past and we go home and—sitting around the ranch in Crawford or the front porch in Plano or in Woodlands, that we'll say we heard the call, the cry of people who suffer, and we responded, and the world is a better place because of the actions we took.

And I believe the world will be a better place because of the actions we take when

it comes to fighting terror. First, I thank you all for your hard work to get us a homeland security bill late last year. We'll work with the Congress to implement that so that we can all say that we're doing everything we can to protect the homeland. We've got other initiatives. The BioShield initiative is an important initiative, and we look forward to working with the respective committees and, of course, the House and the Senate to get that passed.

The best way to secure the homeland is to continue to hunt the killers down one at a time. The best way to deal with the threat we face is to find them and bring them to justice, which is precisely what our military is doing right now. We are sharing intelligence the likes of which we've never done before. We're cutting off money. We've got some of our best units chasing these people down, and one by one, we are dismantling their network.

The other day the Italians hauled some in. The Brits hauled some in. Anytime one of these people is arrested, whether we do it or not, we're making progress against the shadowy killer network of Al Qaida. Slowly but surely, we're bringing them to justice, and we're not quitting until the American people are secure and safe.

The issue facing our Nation and the world is the extension of the war on terror to places like Iraq. Prior to September the 11th, there was apparently no connection between a place like Iraq and terror. Oh, sure, he had run some terrorist networks out of his country, and that was of concern to us. But it was very difficult to link a terrorist network and Saddam Hussein to the American soil. As a matter of fact, it was very difficult to link any attack on the American soil, because prior to September the 11th, we were confident that two oceans could protect us from harm.

The world changed on September the 11th. Obviously, it changed for thousands of people's lives for whom we still mourn. But it changed for America, and it's very important that the American people understand the change. We are now a battleground. We are vulnerable. Therefore, we cannot ignore gathering threats across the ocean. It used to be that we could pick or choose whether

or not we would become involved. If we saw a threat, it may be a threat to a friend, in which case we would be involved, but never did we realize the threat could be directed at the American people.

And that changed. And therefore, when we hear of stories about weapons of mass destruction in the hands of a brutal dictator who hates America, we need to take that seriously, and we are. And when we find out there's links between Baghdad and a killer who actually ordered the killing of one of our fellow citizens, we've got to realize the—what that means to our future.

And that's why this administration and this country is holding the U.N. Security Council and the world to its demands that Saddam Hussein disarm. It is important for the country to realize that Saddam Hussein has fooled the world for 12 years, is used to fooling the world, is confident he can fool the world. He is—wants the world to think that hide-and-seek is a game that we should play. And it's over.

You see, our country recognizes, and a lot of other countries now recognize as well, the role of the inspector is to show up and verify whether Saddam Hussein is disarming. That's the role of the inspector. The role of inspectors—there's 104 of them—the role of the inspector is not to go into a state the size of—a country the size of California and try to figure out where this guy has hid things over a 12-year period of time.

And the inspectors have gone to Iraq, and it is clear that not only is Saddam Hussein deceiving, it is clear he's not disarming. And so you'll see us, over the next short period of time, working with friends and allies and the United Nations to bring that body along. And it's a moment of truth for the United Nations. The United Nations gets to decide shortly whether or not it is going to be relevant in terms of keeping the peace, whether or not its words mean anything.

But one thing is certain: For the sake of peace and for the sake of security, the United States and our friends and allies, we will disarm Saddam Hussein if he will not disarm himself.

And so we've got a lot to do—we've got a lot to do to leave behind a safer country and a better country and a safer and better

world. But I'm glad history has called this country into action at this point in time, because there's no doubt in my mind, when we make our mind up, we can achieve a lot.

And there's no doubt in my mind, when the United States acts abroad and home, we do so based upon values, particularly the value that we hold dear to our hearts, and that is, everybody ought to be free. I want to repeat what I said during my State of the Union to you: Liberty is not America's gift to the world. What we believe strongly and what we hold dear is, liberty is God's gift to mankind. And we hold that value precious, and we believe it is true.

And as we work to make the world a safer place, we'll also work to make the world a freer place. And as we work to make America a freer place, we'll work to make it a more compassionate place. Big obstacles have been placed in our way. Working together, we will achieve what we need to achieve to cross those obstacles.

Thank you all for your interest. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. at the Greenbrier. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Deborah Pryce of Ohio; Miguel A. Estrada, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, Tennessee

February 10, 2003

Thank you so much for that warm welcome. I'm honored to be here. I want to thank Glenn Plummer for his kind introduction. I want to thank those who put on the convention for letting some of my fellow Texans in the hall. [*Laughter*] I see Evans. I see Gramm. It's good to see friendly faces. It's good to see people with whom I've spent a lot of quality time. Thanks for letting me come. And I'm honored to be with so many of you all who have dedicated your lives to sharing the good news.

Before I came in this hall, I had the opportunity to have what they call a roundtable discussion with members of the faith community here in Nashville, Tennessee, people who are changing Nashville through their love and compassion and decency.

I met folks from the Campus for Human Development. It's an extraordinary testament to social entrepreneurship based upon faith. And I want to thank all the roundtable participants for sharing with me your stories. I particularly want to thank the four folks who have recovered from homelessness, addiction to alcohol and drugs, for your courage to share your story with the President. It's so inspirational to see your courage as well as to see the great works of our Lord in your heart.

I also landed today and met an extraordinary woman from Nashville named Sherry Jean Williams. She is sitting right over here. Sherry Jean, you mind standing up just for a second? *[Applause]* Thank you for coming. You'll hear me talk about the armies of compassion in America; she is a soldier in the armies of compassion. Sherry Jean mentors children whose mom or dad may be in prison. She volunteers to help grandparents who are raising their children. She is one of millions of people who are helping people in need.

My call to our fellow Americans is, while one person can't do everything, one person can do something to make our society a more compassionate and decent place. And I want to thank you, Sherry Jean, for representing all the decent people, whether they be foster moms or dads—and by the way, being a foster parent is an incredibly important part of our society—or whether being a mentor or whether being somebody volunteering their time for after-school programs to help save lives, particularly lives of our children.

It's also great to be here in Opryland. It's an unbelievable complex. *[Laughter]* You need a roadmap to get around here. *[Laughter]* Either that, or a good Secret Service driver. *[Laughter]* But I'm honored to be back, and I appreciate the warm hospitality.

Opryland has a way of bringing out hidden talents of politicians. You may recall, in 1974, Richard Nixon came to Opryland and played the piano and serenaded his wife. In 1998,

Ashcroft, the great Attorney General of the United States, came and sang a duet with Ray Stevens. *[Laughter]* So I was just thinking—*[laughter]*—but that's as far as it got. *[Laughter]* I think I'll leave the talent to my great friend Michael W. Smith and Sara Paulson Brummett.

It's good to see Michael W. I like a man whose middle name is W. *[Laughter]* He and Debbie joined Laura and me at the White House a couple of nights ago. It was good to be in his presence. And one of the remarkable things about the evening is Michael agreed to play the piano for us. He had to sing for his dinner. Thankfully, he did—*[laughter]*—but what a joy.

For more than 80 years, America's religious broadcasters have been sharing the gospel on the airways. You bring words of truth and comfort and encouragement into millions of homes. Broadcasting is more than a job for you. It is a great commission. You serve with all your heart and soul, and America is grateful. Each one of you knows that the power of faith can transform a life. People of faith and goodness and idealism also have the power to transform our neighborhoods and our Nation. I've set a great goal for America. We must apply the great compassion of our people to the deepest problems of this country.

This country is blessed with virtually millions of good-hearted volunteers who work daily miracles in the lives of their fellow citizens. And today I ask our religious broadcasters, those who reach into every corner of America, to rally the armies of compassion so that we can change America one heart, one soul at a time.

The American people have deep and diverse religious beliefs, truly one of the great strengths of our country. And the faith of our citizens is seeing us through some demanding times. We're being challenged. We're meeting those challenges because of our faith.

After we were attacked on September the 11th, we carried our grief to the Lord Almighty in prayer. Last week, our Nation lost seven brave Americans—brave souls, six Americans and one Israeli citizen, aboard the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. Laura and I went to Houston. We were so honored to meet

the families. There's no question in my mind they are finding strength and comfort because of your prayers and because of the Almighty God.

In times of tragedy, faith assures us that death and suffering are not the final word, that love and hope are eternal. Religious faith not only comforts; it challenges. Faith teaches that every person is equal in God's sight and must be treated with equal dignity here on Earth.

This idea of human dignity forces us to constantly examine our own country and our own hearts. And this ideal has inspired some of the great reforms in American history. People of faith led the struggle against slavery. People of faith fought against child labor. People of faith worked for women's equality, and people of faith worked for civil rights.

And in America today, people of faith are doing the work of compassion. So many good people are serving their neighbors because they love their God. The spirit of service is vital because the need in America is great. There are pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness in America. We do not accept as a fact of life that some Americans must endure permanent poverty or bigotry or a childhood without love and guidance. Our work as Americans is not complete until we build a single nation of justice and a nation of opportunity.

Government, of course, must be involved and will be involved. We just reformed our welfare in America, and we've helped a lot of people. Yet, even as we work to improve the welfare laws, we know that welfare policy will not solve the deepest problems of the spirit.

I first heard an interesting reminder of that fact from Tony Evans. He doesn't remember, but I do. We were in Greenville, Texas. He tells a story about the guy who owns the house and there's a crack running up the wall in the house. So he hires the best painter he can find, and the guy covers the crack and everything is fine, until the crack reappears. And so he hires another painter and he covers the crack. And Tony Evans reminded me and the audience, he said, "You don't fix the crack on the wall until you first fix the foundation."

This economy of ours is growing okay. It can be better. As a matter of fact, we've got plans in place to encourage job growth, ways to stimulate the entrepreneurial spirit of the country, encourage small-business expansion so that people can find work. Yet, there are some needs that prosperity can never meet.

We've arrested and we convict criminals. Yet building more prisons will not substitute for responsibility and order in our souls. The role of Government is limited, because Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That happens when someone puts an arm around a neighbor and says, "God loves you. I love you, and you can count on us both."

And it is that spirit which defines some of the most effective social programs in America. It is that spirit of love and compassion which makes healing lives work. Yet, for too long, some in Government thought there was no room for faith-based groups to provide social services. I have a different point of view. I believe Government should welcome faith-based groups as allies in the great work of renewing America.

I welcome faith. I welcome faith to help solve the Nation's deepest problems. I understand there's a—that Government must not and will not endorse a religious creed or directly fund religious worship. That's obviously not a role of Government, and that's not what we're talking about here.

But governments can and should support effective social services provided by religious people, so long as they work and as long as those services go to anyone in need, regardless of their faith. And when Government gives that support, it is equally important that faith-based institutions should not be forced to change the character or compromise their prophetic role.

If a charity's helping the needy, it should not matter if there is a rabbi on the board, or a cross on the wall, or crescent on the wall, or religious commitment in the charter. I need to ask, does it work? If an earthquake or hurricane damages a Christian or Jewish or Muslim school, that school should not be denied Federal disaster assistance because of its religious character.

What I'm saying is, the days of discriminating against religious groups just because

they're religious are coming to an end. [*Applause*] Thank you. I have issued an Executive order banning discrimination against faith-based charities and social service grants by Federal agencies. I continue to work with members of Congress of both political parties to enact faith-based legislation to encourage more charitable giving, so we're more likely able to rally the armies of compassion. We created faith-based offices in key Cabinet departments to ensure that faith-based groups get equal treatment and fair access to Government funds.

I recognize some people around our country asking what does this Faith-Based Initiative mean? And is it a threat to my very program? And so we're holding meetings across the country to help faith-based groups to understand how they can qualify for Government grants without compromising their mission. We're on an education campaign. We're reaching out to find the social entrepreneurs who exist all across this Nation.

I went to Congress at my State of the Union and spoke about two needs I want to share with you today. I have concerns—I know you do as well—about children whose mom or dad may be in prison. Imagine what life must be like for those children. Imagine how they wonder about their future, whether or not this great country holds out hope for them. I know by calling upon the compassionate hearts of our fellow citizens, we can help save those lives by mentoring programs, by putting the child in touch with somebody like Sherry Jean Williams, who realizes somebody does care about them during these tough and difficult times.

Now, I asked Congress to support a mentoring proposal which will bring caring adults into the lives of more than a million children, disadvantaged children, including the children whose mom or dad may be in prison. There's no question in my mind that if this Nation puts our mind to it, we can surround those little ones with love and provide a better hope for them.

As well, I am concerned about those who are addicted to drugs, who fight for their very lives and survival against addiction. I believe that we can take an approach that focuses on the addict, give that person a voucher to be redeemed at any program that he or she

chooses, especially those programs that have got the capacity to change heart and, therefore, change habit. Congress needs to hear this call and work with us to facilitate the mentoring and the healing of those who hurt.

America's religious broadcasters can really play an important role in this work, and I want to discuss what I think that role can be and make a few suggestions today. [*Laughter*] Christian media outlets like yours reach 141 million people every year. That's a huge audience, and it's a responsibility that I know you take seriously. This Nation has got a lot of wealthy and caring congregations, and we've got a lot of churches in low-income areas that need help too. Your voices reach them all. You can communicate with them, rich and poor alike, suburban church and urban church alike. And you can help bring them together to serve those who hurt, so we can achieve a more just and generous society.

It's been said that 11 a.m. on Sunday is the most segregated hour in America. We all have a responsibility to break down the barriers that divide us. In Scripture, God commands us to reach out to those who are different, to reconcile with each other, to lay down our lives in service to others. And He promises that the fruits of faith and fellowship, service and reconciliation will far surpass the struggles we go through to achieve them.

Suburban churches are often just a short drive away from brothers and sisters who are facing great need and doing God's work. There's an opportunity here to end artificial divisions and join together in fellowship and service. There's also an obligation. The poor and suffering are the responsibility of the whole church, even when they're not members of any church.

When a suburban church and an urban church become full partners, great things can happen. Both churches benefit. The Chicago Christ Church of Oak Brook and Lawndale Community Church are working together to serve the sick in Lawndale's health care clinic for the poor. In Boston, Wellesley Congregational Church and the historic Charles Street AME Church are creating a new center to boost the reading and computer skills of Roxbury residents.

Right here on the outskirts of Nashville, Tennessee, in Franklin, Tennessee, a conversion between an associate pastor of Christ Community Church and the pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church began a fellowship that now includes nearly 60 pastors and church members of all different races and denominations. I know that to be a fact because I heard them both talk today. Their churches work together to support a medical clinic for poor children, a legal office that gives free advice, a New Hope Academy, a faith-based school where children from different backgrounds study together, learn the classics together. The inspiration for the church told me that her hope was to provide a vision for the children, a vision that was positive and optimistic and clear. She said it's one thing to teach a child to read, but she wants the literate child to see a better day.

At first, Pastor Denny Denson of the First Missionary Baptist—Denny is with us, by the way—was a little wary about how these very different churches would work together. And here's what he says. He says, "There's some walls still there, but they're down low enough that we can just step over them." And then he said this, he said, "We are committed to each other to the end." And the Nashville area is better off for it.

In all these partnerships lives are lifted up. We see unity and racial reconciliation. We see faith renewed by its works.

So today I ask you to challenge your listeners to love somebody just like they'd like to be loved themselves, to remind them that one person can make a difference in somebody's life, to encourage them to mentor, to encourage them to start a ministry which will find the children of those who are incarcerated and love them. I ask you to challenge your listeners to encourage your congregations to work together for the good of this Nation, to work hard to break down the barriers that have divided the children of God for too long.

There is no question that we can rid this Nation of hopelessness and despair, because the greatest strength of America is the character of the American people. We are a compassionate country, and we are generous toward our fellow citizens. And we are a coura-

geous country, ready when necessary to defend the peace.

And today, the peace is threatened. We face a continuing threat of terrorist networks that hate the very thought of people being able to live in freedom. They hate the thought of the fact that in this great country, we can worship the Almighty God the way we see fit. And probably what makes him even angrier is we're not going to change. [Laughter]

We face an outlaw regime in Iraq that hates our country, a regime that aids and harbors terrorists and is armed with weapons of mass murder. Before September the 11th, 2001, there's a lot of good folks who believed that Saddam Hussein could be contained. Before September the 11th, 2001, we thought oceans would protect us forever, that if we saw a gathering threat somewhere else in the world, we could respond to it if we chose—so chose to do so. But that all changed on that fateful day.

Chemical agents, lethal viruses, and shadowy terrorist networks are not easily contained. Secretly, without fingerprints, Saddam Hussein could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists or help them develop their own. Saddam Hussein is a threat. He's a threat to the United States of America. He's a threat to some of our closest friends and allies. We don't accept this threat.

As a matter of fact, the world saw this as a threat 12 years ago. Twelve years ago, Saddam Hussein was told to disarm for a reason: He's a dangerous man. And he hadn't disarmed. We've tried economic sanctions. He hadn't changed. Over the years, we've tried limited strikes against military facilities. It didn't work. We've offered Iraq the path of voluntary disarmament and inspections. The Iraqi regime is rejecting it.

Saddam Hussein has broken every promise to disarm. He has shown complete contempt for the international community. Last fall the international community spoke with united voice. It said this is your last chance, Mr. Saddam Hussein, to do what you said you would do, which is, in the name of peace, disarm, destroy your weapons of mass destruction. The role of the inspectors is not to play hide-and-seek in a country the size of California, with 104 people. The role of

inspectors is to verify whether or not Mr. Saddam Hussein is keeping his word, whether or not he's showing up with his weapons and destroying them—the weapons, by the way, he says he doesn't have.

My attitude is that we owe it to future generations of Americans and citizens in freedom-loving countries to see to it that Mr. Saddam Hussein is disarmed. It's his choice to make as to how he will be disarmed. He can either do so—it doesn't look like he's going to. For the sake of peace, we will lead a coalition of willing countries and disarm Saddam Hussein.

If war is forced upon us—and I say “forced upon us” because use of the military is not my first choice. I hug the mothers and the widows of those who may have lost their life in the name of peace and freedom. I take my responsibilities incredibly seriously about the commitment of troops. But should we need to use troops, for the sake of future generations of Americans, American troops will act in the honorable traditions of our military and in the highest moral traditions of our country.

We will try in every way we can to spare innocent life. The people of Iraq are not our enemies. The true enemy of the Iraqi people, Saddam Hussein, has a different strategy. In violation of the Geneva Conventions, Saddam Hussein is positioning his military forces within civilian populations in order to shield his military and blame coalition forces for civilian casualties that he has caused. Saddam Hussein regards the Iraqi people as human shields, entirely expendable when their suffering serves his purposes.

America views the Iraqi people as human beings who have suffered long enough under this tyrant. And the Iraqi people can be certain of this: The United States is committed to helping them build a better future. If conflict occurs, we'll bring Iraq food and medicine and supplies and, most importantly, freedom.

As I said in my State of the Union, liberty is not America's gift to the world. Liberty is God's gift to every human being in the world. America has great challenges, challenges at home and challenges abroad. We're called to extend the promise of this country into the lives of every citizen who lives here.

We're called to defend our Nation and to lead the world to peace, and we will meet both challenges with courage and with confidence.

There's an old saying, “Let us not pray for tasks equal to our strength. Let us pray for strength equal to our tasks.” And that is our prayer today, for the strength in every task we face.

I want to thank each of you for your prayers. I want to thank you for your faithfulness. I want to thank you for your good work. And I want to thank you for loving your country.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:07 a.m. in the Presidential Ballroom at the Opryland Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Glenn R. Plummer, executive committee chairman, National Religious Broadcasters; Anthony T. Evans, founder and president, The Urban Alternative; former Senator Phil Gramm of Texas; entertainers Ray Stevens, Michael W. Smith, and Sara Paulson Brummett; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and an Exchange With Reporters

February 10, 2003

President Bush. I'm going to make some welcoming comments. The Prime Minister is going to say some things. We'll then take some questions—two from the American side and two from the Australian side.

Prime Minister Howard is a close, personal friend of mine, a person whose judgment I count on, a person with whom I speak quite frequently. I believe he's a man of clear vision. He sees the threats that the free world faces as we go into the 21st century. I'm proud to work with him on behalf of a peaceful world and a freer society. He's a man grounded in good values, and I respect him a lot, and I'm glad he's back here in the Oval Office.

Welcome.

Prime Minister Howard. Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm delighted to

be back in the United States. We've talked naturally about Iraq and other related matters. I want to say that from the very beginning, the President has shown very strong leadership on a difficult issue. He's been prepared to go out and argue a very strong case. It's not been an issue that's been free of criticism for any of those who've advocated a particular point of view.

Australia's position concerning Iraq is very clear. We believe a world in which weapons of mass destruction are in the hands of rogue states, with the potential threat of them falling into the hands of terrorists, is not a world that Australia, if we can possibly avoid it, wants to be part of. And that is the fundamental reason why Australia has taken the position she has.

And it's the fundamental reason why we believe the goals that the United States set of disarming Iraq are proper goals, and they are goals that the entire world should pursue. We all hope that there might—despite the apparent unlikelihood, we all hope that there might be a peaceful solution. The one real chance of a peaceful solution is the whole world saying the same thing to Iraq.

And that's why we believe the closest possible cooperation and unity of—objective and unity of advocacy is very important.

President Bush. Thanks, John. Don't worry, malfunctioning light. There it is.

Patsy [Patricia Wilson, Reuters] and then Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press]. Were you from Australia?

Q. Yes. Do I get two questions? One from each side? [Laughter]

President Bush. Knowing Ron's habit, you probably will, I guess.

Iraqi Regime Concessions

Q. Iraq has agreed to allow U-2 flights and also private interviews with some scientists. Does this make it harder for you to argue that Saddam Hussein is not—is not cooperating?

President Bush. Iraq needs to disarm. And the reason why we even need to fly U-2 flights is because they're not disarming. We know what a disarmed country looks like. And Iraq doesn't look like that. This is a man who is trying to stall for time, trying to play a diplomatic game. He's been successful at

it for 12 years. But no, the question is, will he disarm?

I notice somebody said the other day, "Well, we need more inspectors." Well, a disarmed—a country which is disarming really needs one or two inspectors to verify the fact that they're disarming. We're not playing hide-and-seek. That's what he wants to continue to play. And so, you know, Saddam's got to disarm. If he doesn't, we'll disarm him.

Australia and the Coalition

Q. Sir, can I ask an Australian question?

President Bush. Please.

Q. Could you tell us whether you count Australia as part of the coalition of the willing?

President Bush. Yes, I do. You know, what that means is up to John to decide. But I certainly count him as somebody who understands that the world changed on September the 11th, 2001. Ironically enough, John Howard was in America that day, in Washington, DC, the day the enemy hit.

In our country it used to be that oceans could protect us. At least we thought so. There was wars on other continents, but we were safe. And so we could decide whether or not we addressed the threat on our own time. If there was a threat gathering from afar, we could say, "Well, let's see; it may be in our interest to get involved, or it may not be." We had the luxury. September the 11th, that changed. America is now a battleground in the war on terror.

Secondly, the Secretary of State made it very clear that there are connections between Saddam Hussein and terrorist networks. And therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us who love freedom to understand the new world in which we live. John Howard understands that.

Ron.

French-U.S. Relations/NATO Unity

Q. In addition to being among the some people who are calling for inspections, the French today blocked NATO from helping Turkey. And President Chirac said nothing today justifies a war.

President Bush. Yes.

Q. Given what Americans and the French went through in the last century, are you upset by their attitude now?

President Bush. No, I wouldn't—"upset" isn't the proper word. I am disappointed that France would block NATO from helping a country like Turkey prepare. I don't understand that decision. It affects the Alliance in a negative way.

Q. You think it does?

President Bush. I think it affects the Alliance in a negative way, when you're not able to make a statement of mutual defense. I had a good talk with Jacques Chirac recently. I assured him that, you know, that we would continue to try to work with France as best we can. France has been a long-time friend of the United States. We've got a lot in common. But I think the decision on NATO is shortsighted in my judgment. Hopefully, they'll reconsider.

Reasons for Action Against Iraqi Regime

Q. Mr. President, there are many Australians—there are many Australians and others who are still not convinced that they should be going with you to war. At this late stage, what's your personal message to them?

President Bush. My personal message is that I want to keep the peace and make the world more peaceful. I understand why people don't like to commit the military to action. I can understand that. I'm the person in this country that hugs the mothers and the widows if their son or husband dies. I know people would like to avoid armed conflict, and so would I. But the risks of doing nothing far outweigh the risks of whatever it takes to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I've thought long and hard about this issue. My job is to protect the American people from further harm. I believe that Saddam Hussein is a threat to the American people. I also know he's a threat to our friends and allies.

The second thing—my message is, and I started speaking about this today, I also have got great compassion and concern for the Iraqi people. These are people who have been tortured and brutalized, people who have been raped because they may disagree with Saddam Hussein. He's a brutal dictator. In this country and in Australia, people be-

lieve that everybody has got worth, everybody counts, that everybody is equal in the eyes of the Almighty. So the issue is not only peace, the issue is freedom and liberty.

I made it clear in my State of the Union—and the people of Australia must understand this—I don't believe liberty is America's gift to the world. I believe it is God's gift to humanity.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:46 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and President Jacques Chirac of France.

Message on the Observance of Eid al-Adha

January 27, 2003

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world as you celebrate the Eid al-Adha holiday.

The Qur'an teaches that the sacred feast of Eid al-Adha is a time for Muslims to join family and friends in thanking the Almighty for His many blessings and to reflect on the great sacrifice and devotion of Abraham. During this festive celebration, peace-loving people around the world, including millions of American Muslims, honor Abraham's example by sharing love and demonstrating compassion for those in need.

This year's celebration comes at a time when our world faces great challenges and important opportunities. The United States remains committed to promoting justice, tolerance, and understanding through-out the world, and we will continue to work together with our Muslim friends and people of all faiths to build a future of peace, freedom, and opportunity for all.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a joyous celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 11. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

**Remarks Prior to a Meeting With
Congressional Leaders**

February 11, 2003

Judicial Nominee Miguel A. Estrada

It's my pleasure to welcome members of both political parties from the House of Representatives to discuss how we can continue to make progress in welfare reform. The welfare law of 1996 made a significant difference in the lives of a lot of our fellow citizens. Our job now is to build on that progress, and I want to thank the Members for being here. I look forward to a good and fruitful discussion.

I nominated a good man named Miguel Estrada for the Circuit Court here in Washington, DC. Miguel Estrada is highly qualified, extremely intelligent. He has the votes necessary to be confirmed. Yet a handful of Democrats in the Senate are playing politics with his nomination. And it's shameful politics. This man is highly qualified, and I expect him to be nominated. And I expect him to get fairer treatment than he's getting from those who are really playing against the spirit of the United States Senate. And so I call upon fair play in the Senate, for the sake of a good, sound judiciary.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:38 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Miguel A. Estrada, nominee to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Statement on Senate Action on the
Nomination of Miguel A. Estrada To
Be United States Circuit Judge for
the District of Columbia Circuit**

February 11, 2003

Last week, the Senate began floor consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Estrada's nomination was first submitted to the Senate in May 2001—almost 2 years ago. Miguel Estrada is a well-qualified and well-respected nominee who enjoys the bipartisan support of a majority of Senators. Fairness

demands that he receive an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor. I urge the Senate to act quickly and allow for an up-or-down vote on this worthy candidate.

**Message to the Senate Transmitting
Amendments to the 1987 Treaty on
Fisheries Between the Governments
of Certain Pacific Island States and
the Government of the United States
of America, With Annexes**

February 11, 2003

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith Amendments to the 1987 Treaty on Fisheries Between the Governments of Certain Pacific Island States and the Government of the United States of America, with Annexes and agreed statements, done at Port Moresby, April 2, 1987 (the "Treaty"), done at Koror, Palau, March 30, 1999, and at Kiritimati, Kiribati, March 24, 2002. I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Secretary of State with respect to these Amendments, related Amendments to the Treaty Annexes, and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding provisional application.

The United States enjoys positive and constructive fisheries relations with the Pacific Island Parties through the implementation and operation of the Treaty, which is one of the cornerstones of our overall foreign relations with the Pacific Island Parties. This Treaty, and the good relationships it has fostered, has provided new opportunities for collaboration between the Pacific Island Parties and the United States on fisheries conservation and management issues. The relationships established as a result of the Treaty have also helped to safeguard U.S. commercial and security interests in the region.

The Amendments to the Treaty will, among other things, allow U.S. longline vessels to fish in high seas portions of the Treaty Area; streamline the way amendments to the Treaty Annexes are agreed; and allow the Parties to consider the issue of capacity in the Treaty Area and, where appropriate, to promote consistency between the Treaty and

the relevant fisheries management convention, which is likely to come into force during the duration of the extended operation of the Treaty.

Existing legislation, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* and the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, Public Law 100-330, provides sufficient legal authority to implement U.S. obligations under the Treaty. Therefore, no new legislation is necessary in order for the United States to ratify these Amendments. However, minor amendments to section 6 of the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, Public Law 100-330 will be necessary to take account of the Amendment to paragraph 2 of Article 3 “Access to the Treaty Area,” which opens the high seas of the Treaty Area to fishing by U.S. longline vessels.

I recommend that the Senate give favorable consideration to these Amendments and give its advice and consent to their ratification at an early date.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 11, 2003.

Remarks to Small Investors in Alexandria, Virginia

February 12, 2003

Thank you all for coming. Thanks for your interest in this country and its future. We’ve got some big challenges ahead of us. We’ve got an opportunity to make the world a more peaceful place and a freer place. And I believe, as a result of the resolve of the United States of America, the world will be more peaceful, and the world will be more free. And here at home, we’ve got a challenge with our economy. I mean, frankly, it’s not strong enough. It is not robust enough. Anytime somebody is looking for a job and can’t find one means we’ve got to work together to create jobs.

Now, the role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish, in which people are encouraged to invest and save, in which there’s confidence in the future of the coun-

try. And that’s what we’re here to discuss today.

I want to thank John Snow for agreeing to serve in our administration. He came at a pretty tough time. [*Laughter*] Some people would have said, “Well, I don’t think I want to take on the job unless everything is precooked and the markets will be surging.” But he realized that this country needed all of us pulling together. So I asked him; I said, “Would you be willing to leave the private sector to serve America?” And he said yes. And I’m thankful for that. I’m glad to have him on my team. His job is to talk about our program all around the country and particularly in the Halls of Congress and convince them about the wisdom of what we’re proposing.

Speaking about Halls of Congress, John mentioned George Allen, the Senator from Virginia. I’m glad that George is here. And Don Manzullo from Illinois is here, too. I’m honored both you guys came. I appreciate your interest. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to do what’s right for the American people.

I want to thank Chuck Schwab, as well, for coming. He’s a—he is a leading entrepreneur in the country. Built his own business. Tomorrow, when I go down to Florida, I’m going to talk about the dreams for small businesses that grow to be big businesses. This is a guy that took a small business and grew it into a big business. It’s really what America is all about, is to have unlimited horizons for people to take risk so they can achieve dreams, no matter what their status in life may be. And the Schwab Company certainly is—represents the great entrepreneurial spirit of our country.

I also want to thank Susan Meisinger and David Hutchins, who run the Society for Human Resource Management. Thank you for opening up your hall. It’s awfully thoughtful of you to let us come in here. I fully recognize it’s not easy to host a Presidential entourage—[*laughter*]—but you did it. And thanks for giving us a chance to come and talk about how we’re going to address some of the big challenges here at home.

My attitude about the economy is that, first, we’ve done a pretty remarkable job here

in America of overcoming some difficulties. The first three quarters of the year 2000 were recessionary. They were negative growth. Fortunately, we passed tax relief, which—based upon the principle, if people have more of their own money, they're likely to spend it, and when they spend it, somebody's likely to provide a good or a service, and when somebody provides a good or a service, somebody's more likely to find work. And I think most economists would tell you that the recession—most objective economists—would tell you that the recession was shallower as a result of the initial tax relief package that both Republicans and Democrats voted for.

Then the terrorists hit us. And people of Virginia know full well the impact of the terrorist attack on the Pentagon and this part of the world. Of course, the people in the great city of New York understood the effect that it had, the terrorist attack had on the New York economy. But it affected our whole economy. The airline industry became—had difficult times. We couldn't get projects started—real estate, big building projects going—because of the lack of terrorism insurance. We actually dealt with that issue in the Halls of Congress, and hopefully big construction projects which will put our hardhats back to work will get going.

The country was resilient, though, and strong, determined to defeat terror and determined to go about our life, no matter what the threat may be. And we began to recover. And then it—then we found out some of our fellow citizens, a few of the many executives which run our companies thought they could lie and cheat. And that created a lot of small investors—and large investors, for that matter—began to wonder whether or not the numbers they were reading were accurate. There was a loss of confidence in the markets because of the corporate scandals.

And we dealt with that, and we're dealing with that. Pretty soon, a good man named Bill Donaldson will become the Chairman of the SEC. He knows what his charge is. His charge is to make sure that when an investor, a member of an investor club opens up his or her portfolio or the balance sheet of a company they've invested in, they know

they're reading true numbers, so we can regain confidence.

Our economy is growing, in spite of all of what I've just described, but it's not growing strong enough. And so I went back to the Congress and proposed a plan that is an aggressive plan, no question about it. But the principle of the plan says, we trust people in this administration. We trust the people to make wise investments. We trust the people with their own money. We trust the moms and dads to be able to save for their children. It's really the crux of the economic plan. It says it's the people of America; it's the ingenuity and hard work and wise investment capabilities of the American people that make this economy strong and different. And therefore, the plan is a plan that puts trust in people. It's a well-thought-out plan. As a matter of fact, over 200 economists today enthusiastically embraced it, said it's a good idea.

The first part of the plan has to do with your income-tax levels. It says everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief. The role of the Government is not to try to pick and choose who the good taxpayers are and who the bad taxpayers are. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief.

Of course, that was already passed in the year 2001. We also are phasing—we're increasing the child credit to \$1,000 over a period of time, reducing the marriage penalty over a period of time, reducing the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent.

So what we've said to the Congress is, "You've already passed all this. You've already accepted the major principle involved in tax relief, which is, trust American people with their money. You've already seen the effects of what a tax relief plan can do. Just accelerate what you've already got on the books. Take that which you have passed, and instead of phasing it in over 3 or 5 years, let's move it this year. If the economy needs a little extra oomph, if more money needs to go into the pockets of our people, so as to encourage economic vitality, why wait? You've been through the debate. You've already talked about the principles involved. Move it up."

This will affect 92 million Americans who will receive, on average, a tax relief of \$1,083.

Now, some in Washington may say, “Well, that’s paltry. That’s not enough.” Uh-uh, \$1,083 is a lot of money for people, particularly when you think about the effect it will have on our economy when millions of Americans take that and invest it or buy things with it. It will have an effect that will increase the economic vitality of America.

You hear a lot of talk about stimulative—what’s stimulative, what’s not stimulative. We anticipate that this plan—this aspect of the plan is over \$50 billion in the economy this year. You see, I plan to not only get them to accelerate the tax relief; I’m going to ask Congress to make it retroactive to January 1st, so it will have an immediate effect on the economy. That’s what’s needed. The timing of tax relief is important, just as important as tax relief is.

And so I’m optimistic that Congress was wise once, and they’ll be wise again on the same plan. This also will have an effect on small businesses. Tomorrow I’m going to Florida to talk to small-business owners and entrepreneurs, and what Americans and Congress must understand—I know George Allen understands this; Don understands this—is that most small businesses pay tax at the individual tax rate.

When you hear somebody say, “I’m a sole proprietorship,” that means you’re paying individual income taxes. If you’re a Subchapter S or a limited partnership, that means you’re paying individual income taxes. And so when you reduce income taxes, you’re really putting capital in the hands of small-business owners, and capital, extra money, gives that person a more likely—a chance to expand. And expansion means jobs. And by far, the vast majority of new jobs in America are created by small-business owners. And so this tax plan not only helps our fellow Americans save, it also helps small-business owners with additional capital. It’s like a huge capital infusion into the small-business sector of America.

On top of that, I’m asking Congress to allow small firms to write up—up to \$75,000 worth of equipment in the year in which they spend it, as opposed to limiting the deductions to \$25,000. And that means a lot for small businesses. When a person can deduct an additional \$50,000 of capital investment,

it means you may have the small-business person invest in one extra machine. But when that’s multiplied all across the country, all throughout America, it means the machine manufacturer is more likely to be able to provide jobs. It means the business that buys the machine becomes more efficient. It means somebody is probably needed to operate the machine so that there’s extra employment there. It will have a ripple effect throughout our economy, which is very important for our fellow Americans to understand.

The other thing I want to talk to you about is the dividend proposal. In America today we tax corporate-income profits, which is fine. We should. It makes sense. But then we take that profit and distribute it to a shareholder in the form of a dividend, one of the owners of the company. And then he gets taxed again, and that doesn’t make sense. You don’t want to keep taxing capital. If capital equals jobs, you really don’t want to tax it but one time, seems like to me. It makes sense.

So when people in America hear us talk about the elimination of the double taxation of dividends, they’ve got to understand we’re doing so with two things in mind: How do we improve the lot of our fellow Americans; and what do we do to increase jobs? If somebody is looking for work out there, and capital equal jobs, therefore, the more capital available for investment, the more likely it is he’s going to find work or she’s going to find work. And that’s what we’re here to talk about today.

The idea of allowing people to keep more of their own money is particularly important for many of our retired citizens. You’ve got a person who’s worked all their life, and they’ve got medical bills, maybe, piling up, particularly since Medicare isn’t all that effective these days for some. Or you’re worried about your grandkids’ education. But really what you’re worried about is you want to make sure that you have got a comfortable existence.

Ten million senior Americans receive some sort of dividend income. It certainly makes sense to me that if part of good policy is to encourage job creation with more capital, it’s a nice dividend, so to speak, to allow

our seniors to have more money as well. So this relief plan will immediately give seniors \$800 on average a year more money, which is vital for their retirement. It's a plan which affects people's lives in a positive way.

Secondly, this is a nation of investors. It used to be when you talk about stocks and bonds—it probably wasn't all that long ago—you'd say, "Well, gosh, how's your portfolio?" And that would probably pertain to a handful of people that lived—knew something about Wall Street. There probably weren't a lot of them in Crawford, Texas, all that long ago, saying, "Hey, my portfolio's good. How's yours?" But now, America's becoming a nation of owners and investors. We're a much more sophisticated country when it comes to stocks and bonds. Eighty-four million Americans own a stock directly and/or through a pension plan. And so, therefore, policy, public policy which affects stock ownership, public policy which affects those who own equities and those—public policy which encourages ownership, makes sense.

I mean, after all, we want 100 percent of our people to be a part of the ownership society. The more somebody owns, the more somebody is going to have a stake in the future of the country. We want everybody to have their own home. We want everybody to have their own balance sheet, their own savings, their own plans. And excluding the double taxation of dividends rewards small investors; it encourages stock ownership.

It also will have a positive effect when it comes to our corporate America. And a lot of corporate America said, "Invest in me. The sky's the limit, a fantastic growth potential." They say, you know, "We may not be making any money, but, hey, give me a shot." And that works in some cases. But it also makes sense to have people say, "Invest in me because you're going to get a steady source of the cashflow of my company. I'm going to share it with you. We're proud that you took risk in us, and in return we're going to give you a steady flow of the cash coming into the company through the form of a dividend."

Eliminating the double taxation of dividends will encourage more of corporate America to distribute profits and cashflow to their investors through dividends. And that's

good; that's a good corporate reform. It's also good for encouraging the ownership society, and it's good for enhancing the lifestyle of millions of Americans all across the country.

The getting rid of the double taxation of dividends is good economic policy for the short term for America; it is good economic policy for the long term of America. And I urge the Congress to eliminate the double taxation of dividends.

One of the things we did before coming over here is we had a roundtable discussion, sitting around a square table. [Laughter] I like—I appreciate Chuck providing the square table—[laughter]—but I'm more appreciative of the members of the roundtable who came to talk.

Now, we talked to Joan Hanover. She and her husband, George, were visiting with us. They are near retirement—retiring—in the process of retiring, meaning they're very smart, active, capable people who are retirement age and are retiring. They receive \$1,700 additional dollars a year when we get rid of the double taxation of dividends. That is a significant amount of money for the Hanovers. It's additional money that they can choose to do with what they—they can do with their own money.

Part of the dialog, by the way—the money we're talking about today is not the Government's money. See, that's the other important thing to remember. It's an important principle when it comes to tax relief. It's your money we're talking about. And the Hanovers are having more money to invest.

Joe Kemper will have an additional \$1,600, he shared with us. The whole tax relief will actually give him \$3,500 additional money in his own pocket, of which 1,600 will be from getting rid of the double taxation of dividends. I hope you didn't mind me saying that, Joe. But the point is, is that—I think Joe will tell you, he's not one of these superrich in America. He's a guy who served his country. He worked hard all his life—\$3,500 means something to him.

When you hear the debate about this kind of class warfare, rhetoric about, "Oh, this is for the rich, only for the rich," I want you to think about the Joe Kempers of the world. I certainly will. A fellow who worked for our Government and now a fellow who we trust

with that \$3,500, because it's his money. And when he invests it, it's going to have a positive effect. All the Joe Kempers of the world taking that extra money and investing it will mean somebody else is likely to find a job, and that's important for our fellow Americans to understand.

We met with Tim Roberts and the Lanes, Brian and Wendy Lane. They were—they are younger parents. The tax relief plan will mean they will have more money to invest for their children. When they set aside the—some of the money that they get in a child's education trust, for example, and that compounds over time, it means it's more likely that that child is going to have a pretty good nest egg. The more money they have, the more likely it is they'll be able to save for their children's future.

If we get rid of the double taxation of dividends, it means that one of the good investment vehicles for a child who is young today will be a dividend-paying stock, because not only will the person be able to get the yield, the person will get the appreciation of the company in which they invest.

These good couples work hard for their children. They make sacrifices for their children. And it makes sense for our tax policy to reward them for their sacrifices.

The plan we've laid out is good for job creation. The plan we've laid out also speaks to the aspirations of many of our citizens. And that's very important for Congress to understand when they debate this plan. It speaks for the aspirations of the senior citizen to have a comfortable lifestyle when they retire. It speaks to the aspirations of the moms and dads to be able to invest for their children. It speaks to the aspirations of a person looking for work today. It really speaks to the hopes of our country that we want our economy to be as strong as it possibly can be, as we take on some of the great challenges which this country has ever faced.

This country will accomplish anything we set our mind to. We will achieve peace in the world. We will work for freedom, not only here in America, a free and just society. We believe in freedom around the world be-

cause everybody has got worth. See, one of the great principles of America is everybody has dignity. Everybody counts. Everybody matters. As I said in my State of the Union, liberty is not America's gift to the world. It is God's gift to human—mankind, and that's what I believe.

And as we think about how to have a better society and a more peaceful world, we've got to trust in the wisdom and strength of the American people. After all, the American people is this country's greatest asset.

I boldly predict that with good policy this economy will be strong. I boldly predict that with wise diplomatic policy the world will be more peaceful. And I can predict that, because we happen to live in the greatest nation on the face of the Earth. Thank you all for coming. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Founders Room at the Society for Human Resource Management. In his remarks, he referred to Charles Schwab, chairman, Charles Schwab Corp.; Susan Meisinger, president and chief executive officer, and David B. Hutchins, chair, Society for Human Resource Management. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Initiatives To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

February 12, 2003

The United States is taking prudent steps to address the long-term challenge of global climate change. We are reducing projected greenhouse gas emissions in the near term, while devoting greater resources to improving climate change science and developing advanced energy technologies. America has already made great progress in this effort: Between 1990 and 2001, industrial sector emissions were held constant, while our economy grew by almost 40 percent. Sustaining and accelerating this progress will help us meet our goal of reducing the greenhouse gas intensity of the American economy by 18 percent by 2012.

A year ago, I challenged American businesses to develop new, voluntary initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I am pleased to announce today that 12 major industrial sectors and the membership of the Business Roundtable have responded with ambitious commitments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decade.

America's electric utilities; petroleum refiners and natural gas producers; chemical, automotive, magnesium, iron and steel manufacturers; forest and paper producers; railroads; the mining, cement, aluminum and semiconductor industries; and many of America's leading corporations have committed to actions that will prevent millions of tons of greenhouse gas emissions in the coming decade. I commend these initiatives which will help these businesses and industries continue to improve their energy efficiency and overall productivity, while contributing toward achieving our goal to reduce the greenhouse gas intensity of the American economy.

As I said last year, every sector of the economy will need to contribute to our efforts to achieve our ambitious national goal. These initiatives are a first step in what we expect to be an ongoing engagement with these and other sectors of our economy in the years ahead.

Underpinning our approach to climate change is an understanding that meeting this long-term challenge requires policies that recognize that sustained economic growth is an essential part of the solution. Policies that undermine the health of our economy would only hamper America's ability to develop and deploy new energy technologies and invest in energy efficiency and productivity improvements. The United States is the world's leader in technological development, industrial productivity, and environmental quality. These strengths make possible the initiatives that have been announced today to reduce or capture and store greenhouse gas emissions.

Memorandum on the Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices

February 12, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, the Commissioner of Social Security

Subject: Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices

When President George H.W. Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, America opened its door to a new age for people with disabilities. Although much progress has been made since then, significant challenges remain for individuals with disabilities who seek full participation in American society.

My Administration is committed to increasing education and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. My New Freedom Initiative strives to provide people with disabilities increased opportunities to lead more independent lives by expanding education and job opportunities, and by ensuring that the latest technologies, which often make education and employment possible, are readily available.

Often, individuals with disabilities require assistive technology mobility devices—such as powered wheelchairs and scooters—in order to access education, training, and competitive employment. While there are several Federal programs, as well as State and local efforts, that help individuals with disabilities obtain these and other assistive technologies, they are not adequately coordinated. Other Federal programs provide funding of assistive technology mobility devices for medical purposes, but the intent of these programs has always been, and should remain, medical rather than educational or vocational.

Consistent with my interest in improving the coordination of the Federal programs that help provide individuals with assistive technology mobility devices, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. *Establishment of the Inter-agency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices.* (a) There is hereby established, within the Department of Education for administrative purposes, the “Interagency Working Group on Assistive Technology Mobility Devices” (Working Group). The Working Group shall consist exclusively of:

- (i) the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Labor, and the Commissioner of Social Security; and
- (ii) such other Federal officials as the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy from time to time, on my behalf, may designate.

(b) The Secretary of Education shall serve as Chairman of the Working Group. The Chairman shall convene and preside at any meetings of the Working Group, determine its agenda, direct its work, and, as appropriate to particular subject matters, establish and direct subgroups of the Working Group, which shall consist exclusively of Working Group members.

(c) A member of the Working Group may designate, to perform the Working Group or Working Group subgroup functions of the member, any person who is part of the member’s agency and who is an officer appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, or a member of the Senior Executive Service.

Sec. 2. *Functions of the Working Group.* The Working Group shall: (a) identify existing Federal Government programs and resources that are designed to help individuals with disabilities obtain the assistive technology mobility devices that they need for education and employment; and (b) work with State, local, and tribal governments, as appropriate, to identify State, local, and tribal programs that are designed to help individuals with disabilities obtain assistive technology mobility devices for education and employment. The Secretary of Education shall take the lead in coordinating these efforts.

Sec. 3. *Report.* In performing its functions the Working Group shall present to me,

through the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, a report not later than 180 days from the date of this memorandum. The report shall include the specific steps that each of the agencies represented on the Working Group will take to: (a) improve coordination among their existing programs; (b) train vocational rehabilitation counselors, other service providers, and individuals with disabilities, as provided by law; and (c) inform individuals with disabilities about these opportunities. The report shall also include a description of how individuals with disabilities can pool funding from existing resources to obtain the assistive technology mobility devices that they need to pursue their educational and employment goals.

Sec. 4. *Termination.* The Working Group shall terminate 30 days after the date of the submission of the report as described in section 3 of this memorandum.

Sec. 5. *General.* (a) Agencies shall assist the Working Group and provide information to the Working Group consistent with applicable law as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Working Group. To the extent permitted by law, the Department of Education shall provide funding and administrative support for the Working Group.

(b) As used in this memorandum, the term “agency” means an executive department or agency of the Federal Government.

(c) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(d) This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs To Act as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

February 12, 2003

Memorandum for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Subject: Designation of Officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs to Act as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

By the authority vested in me as President under the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, I hereby order that:

Section 1. Order of Succession.

During any period when the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Secretary), the Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Deputy Secretary), and the officers designated by Executive Order 13247 of December 18, 2001, to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary have died, resigned, or otherwise become unable to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, the following officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, in the order listed, shall perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary, if they are eligible to act as Secretary under the provisions of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, until such time as at least one of the officers mentioned above is able to perform the functions and duties of the office of Secretary:

Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Director, Veterans Health Administration;
VISN 7 Director, Veterans Health Administration;
Veterans Benefits Administration Southern Area Director; and
North Florida/South Georgia Healthcare System Director.

Sec. 2. Exceptions.

- (a) No individual who is serving in an office listed in section 1 in an acting capacity, by virtue of so serving, shall act as Secretary pursuant to this memorandum.
- (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this memorandum, the President retains

discretion, to the extent permitted by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, 5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*, to depart from this memorandum in designating an acting Secretary.

Sec. 3. Publication.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Subsidy Budget Request for Frontier Airlines

February 12, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with provisions of Public Law 107-42, the Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, 2001, I hereby request the subsidy budget authority necessary to support a \$70 million Federal credit instrument for Frontier Airlines.

I hereby designate this subsidy budget authority, currently estimated at \$12.7 million, as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress Reporting a Certification Required by the Ratification Resolution of the Chemical Weapons Convention

February 12, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the United States Senate on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify pursuant to Condition 7(C)(i), Effectiveness of the Australia Group, that:

Australia Group members continue to maintain equally effective or more comprehensive controls over the export of: toxic chemicals and their precursors; dual-use processing equipment; human, animal, and plant pathogens and toxins with potential biological weapons applications; and dual-use biological equipment, as that afforded by the Australia Group as of April 25, 1997; and

The Australia Group remains a viable mechanism for limiting the spread of chemical and biological weapons-related materials and technology, and the effectiveness of the Australia Group has not been undermined by changes in membership, lack of compliance with common export controls and nonproliferation measures, or the weakening of common controls and nonproliferation measures, in force as of April 25, 1997.

The factors underlying this certification are described in the enclosed statement of justification.

George W. Bush

The White House,
February 12, 2003.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 13.

Remarks in a Discussion With Small-Business Owners in Jacksonville, Florida

February 13, 2003

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for the warm welcome. I'm sure glad I came. [Laughter] It's—I want to talk about some of the challenges which face our country. A little later on, I'm going to go speak to those souls who wear the uniform of the United States military and thank them for their service to the country and tell them we've got all the confidence in their capacity to help us keep the peace and promote freedom.

It's clear we have challenges abroad, particularly the challenge to keep the peace, to secure our homeland, to adjust our way of thinking to make sure that we do everything we can to say with complete confidence that we'll protect America. We'll protect this generation of Americans, and we'll secure the homeland and make the world more peace-

ful, so that future generations of Americans can grow up in peace.

That's a big challenge. And equally as big a challenge is to make sure our economy is strong so that America is a hopeful place, that our economy is strong enough to make sure the entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well—and today we're going to talk to some entrepreneurs who are living the American Dream—that our economy is strong enough to make sure moms and dads have got the capacity to save and invest for their children, if that's what they choose to do, that our economy is strong enough so that people who are looking for work can find a job.

And that's also a challenge we face. Today you'll hear me talk about the plan that I have asked Congress to approve. I want the folks on the stage up here to share with me and with you and others listening what that plan means for their lives. In Washington, we spend a lot of time talking about numbers. I like to remind people that behind each number is somebody's life and why the plan that I've described to the Congress is such an optimistic, hopeful plan for every American.

Before I begin, I want to thank Brother—that would be your Governor. So he had his 50th birthday on the 11th of February. I called him and said, "Happy birthday. Fifty is not quite as old as it seemed to be, is it?" [Laughter] But we're proud of him, and we love him. Actually, I had coffee with Mother and Dad this morning. And Mother said to make sure I told Jeb she loved him still, so —[laughter]—she still loves you. [Laughter]

I want to thank Hector Barreto for being here as well. Hector is the head of the Small Business Administration. One of the commitments of this administration is to promote the entrepreneurial spirit throughout all our country. We want anybody from any walk of life to realize if they have a dream and work hard, they can realize their dreams. That's the greatness of America.

And I'm honored that Joe—Joe Dagher—would invite us into his facility. He had a dream. He realized his dream. He owns his own business. He can call it his own. And we're proud of you, Joe, and thanks for letting us come.

So here's my attitude about economic growth and vitality. It's based upon the principle that if people have more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody in the marketplace is going to produce a good or a service. And when somebody meets that demand with production, somebody is more likely to find work. And so when you couple that with the understanding that the role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur is willing to take risks, it yields this kind of plan.

I believe we ought to cut the rates on everybody who pays taxes, and I believe that we ought to reduce the income tax rates. But you know what's interesting is Congress has already agreed with that plan. In the year 2001, in the face of a recession, we convinced both Republicans and Democrats to support a rate reduction. It helped make our recession more shallow. People did get more money in their pockets, and they did spend that money.

What's interesting about the rate reduction plan that we've proposed is that it is scheduled to phase in over time. It takes 5 years to get the rates down. It takes years to get the child credit up to \$1,000 per child. It takes years to get the marriage penalty reduced to where we want it to be reduced to.

Now, if the economy is still not as strong as it should be and if Congress has already recognized that tax rate reduction helps economic growth, my message to the United States Congress is: Speed up the growth. If it's good enough 5 years from now, it is good enough today.

This economy needs immediate help, so I will ask Congress, when they pass the bill, to make it retroactive to January 1st, which means workers will get money in their pockets immediately, will mean small businesses will get money to invest immediately. It will have an immediate effect on today's economy, something I think we need, something a lot of Americans understand we need, as we—coming out of recession and recovering from a terrorist attack and as we're finally getting—washing out of the system those who thought they could lie and cheat when

it came to their balance sheets. We're recovering from three shocks to the system, and we need a little further wind at the back of this economy.

Now, that means 92 million Americans will receive an average income tax relief package of \$1,083. And that's good. And we'll hear from some of our fellow citizens up here about how much relief this means for them. And if they feel like it, they may share with us what they intend to do with it. *[Laughter]* But one thing is for certain, I will assure them, is at least I understand the money we're talking about up in Washington is not the Government's money. See, it's their money and your money. It's the people's money we're talking about.

Now, one of the things—reasons we came to Joe's business is, I wanted to make it very clear to the American people that tax rate reductions have got an incredibly positive effect on small businesses. Most small businesses are what they call a sole proprietorship or a limited partnership or a Subchapter S corporation. If you happen to be one of those three entities, you pay tax at your business, on your business profits, at the individual income tax rates. And so therefore, by reducing income tax rates, you're really affecting small-business growth, and because over half the jobs in America are created by small businesses, it makes sense to stimulate that aspect of our economy.

Twenty-three million businesses will receive over \$2,000 in income tax relief. Now, that means a lot when you start thinking about the implications. I mean, you've got a one-man shop; \$2,000 may mean the capacity to buy a machine, leverage the money to buy a machine, which means another job.

One of the things we understand in America, though, is investments equals jobs, and therefore, one of the things we're going to try to do is encourage more investment. And so I want to—right now, small businesses are limited to the deduction of only \$25,000 for a capital expenditure. We want to raise it to \$75,000, to encourage small businesses to buy more equipment.

And so those are two aspects of this plan that makes sense. One is how to encourage people to have—how do we encourage Congress to let people have more money in their

pocket, for the good of economic growth and jobs, and what do we do about stimulating small-business activity and growth.

The third aspect of the plan is really to make the Tax Code more fair. We tried to address that earlier, by the way. It is unfair to tax a person's assets twice. That's why I've called upon Congress to get rid of the death tax. See, really what we want is, we want our small-business owners to work hard, to keep their vision, to build up their assets, so they can leave it to whoever they want to leave it to, without the Government standing in between. Congress passed it. They need to make that aspect of the tax relief permanent, like they need to make all aspects of tax relief permanent.

But today I want to talk to you about another unfair aspect of the Tax Code, and that is the double taxation of dividends. It's fair to tax a company's profits. What's not fair is when you take—the company takes those profits and distributes them to one of the owners of the company, the shareholder, and that person then has to pay tax on it. It means Government is really interfering with capital. It means there's less capital in the system for investment. And if investment means jobs, by nature, getting rid of the double taxation of dividends will make it easier for capital to accumulate, make it more likely people will find work.

Secondly, the double taxation of dividends hurts our senior citizens. It's particularly acute here in the State of Florida. There's over 10 million seniors rely upon dividend income during their retirement years. Why would we want to have something unfair in the Tax Code which also penalizes those who we really need to help after their retirement?

The double taxation of dividends will also put a premium on good accounting. In other words, if you're distributing dividends, your whole growth portfolio, your whole growth agenda will be based upon yield, as opposed to pie-in-the-sky projections. Of course, people will say, "Well, gosh, I'm going to invest in this company because I want a share of their cashflow or share of their profits." And therefore, the company ownership must base its projections on how they treat the shareholder, as opposed to some pie-in-the-sky prognostication about what may or may not

occur. Growth will occur based upon the certainty of the dividend being distributed. It will be a really important corporate reform in America, in my judgment.

So this is what I've asked the Congress to approve. There's a lot of talk about whether or not this is what they call stimulative, whether or not it will affect the economy. Of course it will, because over the next 15 months we'll have pumped in \$100 billion of additional money into the private sector. That money will circulate. As that money circulates, it's more likely somebody is going to be able to find work.

And so I'm here not only to share the details of the plan with you; I'm here to ask you to contact your Senators and your Members of Congress, remind them of whose money we're talking about, and remind them of the philosophy I've just outlined to you as how best to create jobs. The role of Government is to create an environment in which people are willing to risk and take risks and to go to work and work hard, and tax relief encourages that kind of environment.

So we're going to first start off and hear from Sue Butts. Sue is a entrepreneur. She owns her own business. She owns Supreme Janitorial. She has owned it since 1968. Is that right?

Ms. Butts. Ninety-two.

The President. Ninety-two. Okay. [Laughter]

Ms. Butts. It's been in existence since '68.

The President. You bought it in '92.

Ms. Butts. Ninety-two.

The President. I will just tell you that she will receive a \$3,300 tax reduction if Congress—when Congress passes this plan. I'm optimistic, by the way, that Congress is going to get the message. Why don't you tell us? Give us your thoughts.

[At this point, the discussion proceeded.]

The President. Yes, I think it's important for our fellow citizens to know that there are ways for Government to incent people to invest, and this is a good way. I mean, here's a classic example of somebody who has limited the amount she is going to invest based upon tax policy. And the idea of raising the limit to \$75,000, in this case, it sounds like, could encourage more investment.

Now, what that means is somebody is going to be tasked with building the machine she purchases or the equipment she purchases, and that person will be working. And then, of course, the people who she hires will have more equipment. And it may mean that she needs an extra person to deal with the equipment she purchases.

Economies grow with the circulation of money. And this is a classic example of how tax policy will encourage investment and the circulation of money.

And so, thanks for sharing that with us. Congratulations on being a successful entrepreneur, by the way.

Ms. Butts. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. James is a installation supervisor. He is a taxpayer. He is a man who has got a daughter that he cares a lot about. And he's a guy who is going to have his taxes fall by 20 percent when this plan goes through. You see, there's a lot of rhetoric in Washington about the—rich this, rich that, class warfare. This is the kind of guy I'm worried about, and this is what this tax plan—the tax plan speaks to people like James Thomas. Welcome.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. You've got more to say than that. Here's your chance. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Thomas. I'm going to let it rest at that.

The President. See, here's the thing about—you know, a dad puts aside money for the daughter. The daughter invests it. It rolls over. There is a compounding effect when it comes to investments. Money saved and invested will keep rolling over and rolling over. So the \$2,100, by the time she goes to college 8 years from now, will be significantly larger than that. And I appreciate you thinking about that. It's very important for people to make the sacrifices for their children. It's hard to raise kids. Tax relief will make it easier for people to make sacrifices. It will help people meet the priorities they've set.

And I want to thank you, James, for that.

Zim is an entrepreneur. He—Zim, tell us about your business. You've got some of your employees here, too.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. We're in Joe's house, Joe's business. Joe, tell us what you do, tell us when you started this company, why you started the company. And thanks for letting us come by.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. This country must never forget what Joe just said. This is a welcoming society, based upon allowing people to realize their dreams. I love to be in the presence of somebody who is realizing their dreams.

We love freedom in America. We love the fact that people are free. And I want to remind you what I said, Joe, and I believe this as sure as I'm sitting here: Liberty is not America's gift to the world; liberty is the Almighty God's gift to mankind. We just have a chance here in America to protect liberty and freedom. And I want to thank you for sharing that with us.

Another man who is living the American experience is Joey Gonzalez, a hard-working man. You recommend him, don't you? He works for Zim. [*Laughter*] Joey, thanks for coming.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. What you just said—you said, your most important job is not working for Zim, necessarily; your most important job is to be a loving dad. And I appreciate that example.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Jodie also works with Zim. And Jodie, we're proud you're here. She's married. She's got a little girl who is 9.

[*The discussion continued.*]

The President. Well, I appreciate you sharing that with us. Thanks. You're right, some of those pennies are going to the Government, and they should. I mean, as a matter of fact, I'm now going over to the base, and we're sending people into harm's way. They deserve the best pay, the best equipment, the best possible training. And that requires—there are legitimate uses of Government. But what we're talking about today is really setting priorities, funding those priorities, but remembering how to increase revenues. Revenues increase with economic vitality and fiscal discipline in Washington, DC.

Revenues increase by empowering people and entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow and, at the same time, saying to Congress, “Let us focus on important priorities.” Remember whose money it is we’re talking about. We’re talking about your money.

And I want to thank you all for coming today to give us—give me a chance to talk about our vision for economic vitality and growth, for letting people understand that behind every number there is a life that will benefit, and when individuals benefit or small businesses benefit, we all benefit. It’s the cumulative effect of millions of acts—decisionmakers in the marketplace, which affects job creation.

This administration is committed to job growth. I want to repeat to you, so long as any American who wants to work can’t find a job, we will be committed to job growth.

And so I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and share this plan with you. This is a realistic plan. It is a hopeful plan. It is a plan based upon sound principle. It’s a plan which will work. It’s a plan that your Members of Congress—Ander is all right. Don’t worry about him. Crenshaw is with us. John Mica is with us. I don’t worry about those two. But there are some who haven’t gotten the message yet, and they need to hear from you. And you can start right here in the State of Florida, contacting your elected Representatives and letting them know how you feel.

I want to thank you for coming. I want you to know that we’re citizens of the greatest country on the face of the Earth. God bless.

NOTE: The discussion began at 10:28 a.m. in a printing press room at Dagher Printing. Discussion participants were: Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Joseph Dagher, owner, Dagher Printing; Sue Butts, owner and president, Supreme Janitorial Services; and Zimmerman Boulos, owner and president, James Thomas, installer, Jose Gonzalez, installer, and Jodie Beere, sales assistant, Office Environments and Services.

Remarks at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville

February 13, 2003

Thank you all very much. Admiral, thank you for that—for those kind words, and thanks for the warm welcome. I’m honored to be with the service men and women and families of the Jacksonville naval community. I’m proud to be at Naval Station Mayport.

Last August, the sailors and pilots of the “Big John” returned from 4 months in the North Arabian Sea, where you served in Operation Enduring Freedom. With your outstanding performance, you proved that “Jack is back.” [Laughter]

Some of you here have served in the U.S.S. *Enterprise* battlegroup. You were among the first American ships in the Afghan theater. And when it came time to strike the terrorists in Afghanistan, you were ready on arrival. Together, the “Big John” and the “Big E” launched thousands of sorties from their decks, supporting coalition forces on the ground. You helped liberate the Afghan people. You defended the American people, and each and every one of you here has made America proud.

The United States Navy carries the might and the mission of America to the farthest parts of this world. In this challenging period for our country, great tasks lie ahead for the Navy and for our entire military. And I know we can depend on you, because this United States military is second to none.

I appreciate Admiral Natter for his leadership. I want to thank the Governor of Florida for his leadership too. [Laughter] He’s doing everything just like his mother told him to. [Laughter] I’m listening to the same mother, I want you to know. [Laughter]

I want to thank the members from the congressional delegation, Ander Crenshaw, who represents this district. I know he’s a strong supporter of the military families living here in Jacksonville, and I appreciate John Mica coming as well. These are two Members of the United States Congress that

I know I can count on when it comes to making sure this United States military is strong and ready.

I want to thank State Senator Jim King and his wife, Linda, for being here today. I appreciate all the leadership from different battlegroups here—based here.

Today when I landed on Air Force One, I met a fellow named Arden Battle. He is a machinist mate, senior chief, U.S. Navy. Let me tell you something. He represents the spirit of this military that makes me proud. Not only are we tough and good fighters, he leads hundreds of your fellow sailors into volunteering in the community in Jacksonville, Florida. He and others like him serve as a role model for young kids. He mentors. He and his group teach children how to read. He not only serves this country to keep the peace, he serves this country to be more compassionate for all of our citizens.

My call to you is, a lot of people look up to you because you wear the uniform. Do your duty. Not only work hard to be a good soldier and sailor, but also love somebody like you'd like to be loved yourself.

I want to thank Arden and all those of you who have heard a call to become involved in your neighborhoods and your communities to help somebody who hurts. America is a better place for your compassion and your love.

I want to thank the other community leaders who are here. I want to thank those of you who support our military, but I'm particularly grateful to all the military families who are here with us today. Family members serve and sacrifice for our Nation. Each one of you knows that Navy life is rewarding, but it can be dangerous. It can be difficult. Every day our military families are putting America's interests first, and America thanks you.

Across this great land, I hear it all the time: The people of this country admire our men and women in uniform. They're praying for you. They're concerned about you and your families. Our people in uniform and families deserve our gratitude, and you deserve our support.

Last year I signed the largest increase in defense spending in a generation. Last week I sent a budget to Congress with another significant increase in defense spending. Those

who wear our uniform and their families deserve the best possible housing, the best possible pay, and the best possible training. With the support of this Congress, I will make sure that our military has every resource, every weapon, everything you need to defend America and to keep the peace.

Across six decades, ever since World War II, Mayport has been providing the "Finest Service to the Finest Fleet." This port has been home to generations of sailors who fought America's battles with distinction and courage. Now you're called to defend our freedom and to defend the security of America against a new kind of enemy.

This enemy reaches across oceans. It targets the innocent. There are no rules of war for these coldblooded killers. They seek biological and chemical and nuclear weapons to commit murder on a massive scale. This enemy will not be restrained by mercy or by conscience. This enemy will be stopped, and it will be stopped by the might and will of the United States and our friends and our allies.

The terrorists brought this war to us, and now we're taking it back to them. We're on their trail. We're smoking them out. We've got them on the run. We're hunting them down one by one, all across the world. With our allies, we've arrested or otherwise dealt with—[laughter]—many of the key commanders of Al Qaida. And that includes the terrorists who planned the bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole*.

So far, more than 3,000 suspected terrorists have been arrested in many countries. Just about that number met a different kind of fate. They're not a problem anymore.

The world changed on September the 11th, 2001. You see, we learned that oceans no longer protect us, that a threat that gathers on the other side of the Earth can strike our own cities, can kill our own people. That's what we learned. And I'm not going to forget that lesson. You see, we saw what terrorists could do with four airplanes as weapons. We're not going to wait and see what they can do with even deadlier weapons.

Today, the gravest danger in the war on terror, the gravest danger facing America and the world, is outlaw regimes that seek and

possess nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. These regimes could use such weapons for blackmail, terror, mass murder. They could also give or sell those weapons to terrorist allies who would use them without the least bit of hesitation. That's the reality of the world we live in, and that's what we're going to use every ounce of our power to defeat.

We have an obligation to protect America and the Americans. We understand our responsibility, and jointly we'll do just that. We'll protect America and our friends and allies from these thugs.

The civilized world has awakened to the growing danger posed by the Iraqi regime. Twelve years ago, Saddam Hussein agreed to disarm as a condition of suspending the Gulf war. Three months ago, the United Nations Security Council gave him a final chance to meet that obligation. Saddam Hussein is not disarming. He's deceiving.

America has laid out the facts for the world to see. Saddam Hussein has chemical weapons programs and the means to use them. Saddam Hussein has biological weapons program and the means to deliver those weapons. He has secretly attempted to obtain materials needed to produce nuclear weapons. Saddam Hussein aids and protects terrorists, including members of Al Qaida. He harbors a senior Al Qaida leader who ordered the assassination of an American diplomat, the same man who plotted against Spain and Italy and the Republic of Georgia and Russia and Great Britain and France and Germany. The Iraqi regime is engaged in a massive campaign to conceal its weapons of mass destruction and its ties to terrorists, and that deception continues today.

At any moment during the last 97 days—and during the last 12 years—Saddam Hussein could have completely and immediately disarmed himself. Instead, he's used all this time to build and to hide weapons. He must be hoping that by stalling he'll buy himself another 12 years. He's wrong. This country will not accept a serious and mounting threat to our Nation, our people, and our friends and allies.

Military force is always this Nation's last option. Yet if force becomes necessary to disarm Iraq and enforce the will of the United

Nations, if force becomes necessary to secure our country and to keep the peace, America will act deliberately; America will act decisively; and America will act victoriously with the world's greatest military.

America will also be acting with friends and allies. An overwhelming majority of NATO members oppose the threat of Iraq and understand that tough choices may be necessary to keep the peace. Many nations have offered to provide forces or other support to disarm the Iraqi regime. Every nation of the Gulf Cooperation Council has agreed to help defend and protect Kuwait. And now the world's most important multilateral body faces a decision.

The decision is this for the United Nations: When you say something, does it mean anything? You've got to decide, if you lay down a resolution, does it mean anything? The United Nations Security Council can now decide whether or not it has the resolve to enforce its resolutions.

I'm optimistic that the U.N. Security Council will rise to its responsibilities and this time ensure enforcement of what it told Saddam Hussein he must do. See, I believe, when it's all said and done, free nations will not allow the United Nations to fade into history as an ineffective, irrelevant debating society. I'm optimistic that free nations will show backbone and courage in the face of true threats to peace and freedom.

If there is a conflict, American forces will act in the honorable traditions of our military and in the highest moral traditions of this country. Our military will be fighting the oppressors of Iraq, not the people of Iraq. America's military fights not to conquer but to liberate.

In case of conflict, this great Nation is already putting plans and supplies into place so that food and other humanitarian relief will flow quickly to the Iraqi people. You see, we seek more than the defeat of terror; we seek an advance of freedom and a world at peace. That is the charge that history has given us, and that is a charge we will keep.

In crucial hours, the success of our cause will depend on the men and women of our military. You serve this Nation's ideals, and you live out those ideals in your code and in your character. I've seen your love of

country and your devotion to a cause larger than yourself. I've seen your discipline, your idealism, and your sense of honor. I know that every mission you are given will be carried out with skill and unselfish courage.

The first time the U.S.S. *Enterprise* was ever deployed in a crisis was October 1962, when President John F. Kennedy ordered it to quarantine Cuba, which was arming itself with nuclear missiles aimed at our Nation. President Kennedy understood that dangers to freedom had to be confronted early and decisively. He said of the cold war, "These are extraordinary times. We face an extraordinary challenge. Our strength as well as our convictions have imposed upon this Nation the role of leader in freedom's cause."

Today, at the dawn of a new century, America is still the leader in freedom's cause. And our generation is called to a central role in this Nation's history. As Americans, we can be confident: The American people are strong and resolute. The American Armed Forces are brave and ready, and in freedom's cause, we will prevail.

May God bless you all. May God bless our family—your families—and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. at the Echo Foxtrot Pier. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Robert J. Natter, USN, Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Welfare Reform Legislation

February 13, 2003

I commend the House for acting quickly on bipartisan welfare reform legislation that builds upon our successful efforts that have moved millions of Americans from welfare

to work. This compassionate approach will help many more Americans realize a better life of independence, hope, and dignity that comes with having a job. It will also promote strong families and healthy marriages, while freeing States to seek innovative ways to improve services to those who are transitioning from the welfare rolls to the workforce.

I now urge the Senate to act without delay to strengthen our efforts to help our fellow Americans on welfare achieve independence through work.

Statement on Congressional Action on 2003 Appropriations Legislation

February 13, 2003

I commend the Congress for finishing work on the 2003 appropriations bills. This budget will provide valuable resources for priorities such as homeland security, military operations, and education, while adhering to the spending restraint set forth in my budget. I look forward to signing this legislation and to continuing a course of fiscal discipline.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of William Donaldson as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

February 13, 2003

I applaud the Senate for acting quickly to confirm William Donaldson to be the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. In this new role, he will continue to crack down on corporate wrongdoing, work to protect investors, and restore confidence in our capital markets. I also thank Chairman Shelby, Senator Sarbanes, and the Senate leadership and commend them for their efforts.

Memorandum To Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan and Jordan

February 13, 2003

Presidential Determination No. 2003-15

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination to Authorize a Drawdown for Afghanistan and Jordan

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the laws and Constitution of the United States, including section 202 and other relevant provisions of the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act (Public Law 107-327) (the "Act") and section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318, I hereby direct the drawdown of up to \$165 million of defense articles, defense services, and military education and training from the Department of Defense, \$158 million for the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, and \$7 million to Jordan to assist in its operations in Afghanistan, and further have determined, in accordance with section 205 of the Act, that such assistance to Jordan is important to the national security interests of the United States.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress and to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Iraq

February 13, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243) and as part of my effort to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on matters relevant to that resolution including on matters relating to planning for post-liberation Iraq under section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-338). The report also dis-

cusses recent developments in the areas previously reported pursuant to section 3 of the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) on our efforts to obtain compliance by Iraq with the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Remarks on Improving Counterterrorism Intelligence

February 14, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's nice to be back to the FBI again. The last time I was here was 14 months ago, and our country had just realized we were at war. We had just learned that America was a battlefield. Since the morning this country was attacked on September the 11th, folks in law enforcement all around the country have been working under urgent and difficult circumstances. And the first thing I want to tell you all is that this Nation is grateful for your hard work.

Across the world we are tracking and confronting and defeating international terror. Within our own country, we're taking unprecedented measures to protect the American people against a serious and continuing danger. There is no such thing as perfect security against a hidden network of cold-blooded killers. Yet, abroad and at home, we're not going to wait until the worst dangers are upon us. We continue to be in a state of war, but we're making progress. And today I want to talk about the Terrorist Threat Integration Center, which will help us meet the challenges of war, will help us do everything we can to say clearly to the American people, "We're working overtime to protect you. We're doing everything in our power to make sure the homeland is secure."

The officials who are present here represent thousands of patriotic Americans who know that we've been called into action, that this is a new era. One of the reasons I express

such confidence in the country is because I understand the character of the people who have been called into action. And there's no doubt in my mind we will prevail.

I want to thank Attorney General John Ashcroft for doing such a fabulous job at the Department of Justice. He's assembled a fantastic team which is representing our country with distinction. I want to thank Tom Ridge for becoming the first Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. I want to thank Wolfowitz and Armitage, who are up here with us—two of the prettiest members of my administration. [Laughter] They're doing a fabulous job. Paul works with the Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld. Dick works with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Both these men are incredibly important members of a team that is doing everything in our power to protect freedom and secure the peace. I appreciate their hard work. I want to thank Bob Mueller for transforming the FBI. He's got all my confidence. And so does the Director of the CIA, George Tenet. Both these men had incredibly important agencies in our war against terror. Both of them have responded to the call. America is better off for their service to our country.

I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. I see Senator George Allen is here, Chris Cox, Frank Wolf, Jim Turner, and Jane Harman, Members of the Congress, the House, the last four representing both political parties. I want to thank you for your dedication to the country. It's been a joy to work with you all to better secure our homeland, to join together to do everything we can to protect America.

I also want to thank Chief Ramsey, who is here, and Chief Moose and Jim Pasco. I appreciate you all and all the other local law enforcement officials who have come today. You play an integral role in the defense of our country. You're on the frontline, and for that the American people are grateful. When you get back home, I hope you tell the troops how much I respect them and what they do, how much America counts on them and how grateful we are for their sacrifices on behalf of the safety and security of the American people.

Before September the 11th—if you can remember that far back—we all thought oceans

could protect us from attack. The Nation thought we were secure from any gathering danger that might be occurring somewhere else. After all, our history pretty well predicted that we would be safe.

But everything changed on that morning, and it's important for our fellow citizens to understand that everything did change, that we must do everything in our power to stop an enemy from coming here to hurt us—that's our first task. Last week's decision to raise our national terrorist threat is a stark reminder of the new era we're in, that we're at war and the war goes on.

We've got agencies at every level meeting threats. We've got people standing watch 24 hours a day. Perseverance is power in this war. Determination is essential in this war. We will persevere, and it doesn't matter how long it takes. See, that's the nature of the country that we live in. We owe it to our citizens to protect us within the Constitution that we're all sworn to uphold, and we will do that.

We're not only doing everything here at home, but we're doing everything we can abroad. Let me first tell you this: We're winning the war on terror. We've hauled in thousands of terrorists. They're captured. They're off the street. They're not a problem. Like number were not as lucky, and they're not a problem, either. We're dismantling Al Qaida one person at a time. There used to be a kind of a brain trust of these people. And slowly but surely, we're bringing them to justice. We're at war in a different kind of war. It's a war that requires us to be on an international manhunt. We're on the hunt. It's a war that causes us to need to get the enemy on the run. We got them on the run. And it's just a matter of time before we bring them to justice.

This war requires us to understand that terror is broader than one international network, that these terrorist networks have got connections, in some cases, to countries run by outlaw dictators. And that's the issue with Iraq. When I speak about the war on terror, I not only talk about Al Qaida. I talk about Iraq, because, after all, Saddam Hussein has got weapons of mass destruction, and he's used them.

Saddam Hussein is used to deceiving the world, and he continues to do so. Saddam Hussein has got ties to terrorist networks. Saddam Hussein is a danger, and that's why he will be disarmed—one way or the other.

All our successes in the war on terror depend on the ability of our intelligence and law enforcement agencies to work in common purpose. In order to better protect our homeland, our intelligence agencies must co-exist like they never have before. In order to hunt the terrorists down, one by one, our intelligence agencies must cooperate fully with agencies overseas.

Under the leadership of Director Tenet and Mueller, the CIA and the FBI have improved their communications and cooperation. These agencies are now quicker to share intelligence with each other. And we've enhanced an overseas coordination as well. When you read in the newspapers that a European country has hauled in parts of a poison network, it's important to understand that the reason they were able to do so is because we shared intelligence, that we're cooperating, that this vast network of freedom-loving countries is intact and real. And the message is, either you're with us or with the terrorists, and it still stands.

The increased cooperation of the CIA and FBI counterterrorism operations has proven to be one of the greatest advantages in this war on terror. Under the leadership of Bob Mueller, the FBI has been transforming itself since September the 11th. It has no greater priority than preventing terrorist attacks against America.

The Bureau has assigned more than 1,800 agents to counterterrorism. That's a 40-percent increase than prior to September the 11th. In other words, this agency now understands that we're at war and the first responsibility of an incredibly important agency, the FBI, is to prevent the enemy from hitting us and hurting us. The agents that are out working in the field are gathering an evaluation—evaluating information all the time, which helps us deal with any terrorist threat.

We're also strengthening the counterterrorism efforts by forming partnerships across all levels of the government. It's important for our fellow citizens to know that there is great cooperation between the Fed-

eral Government and the State government and the local governments. We form what's called joint terrorism task forces throughout our country, which bring together dedicated officials at all levels of government.

Not only is the cooperation better between the CIA and the FBI, not only is the cooperation better between intelligence-gathering services all around the world, but our cooperation at the Federal, State, and local level is unprecedented. And it needs to be, because we fight a ruthless enemy.

The FBI is expanding the terrorist identification system so that 18,000 State and local law enforcement agencies will be better able to identify known or suspected terrorists in near real-time. Local police officers will be able to access Federal terrorism information from their squad cars. In other words, a guy in Crawford pulls somebody over, he's able to call up whether or not the person is on a terrorist list, whether or not the person is a suspect. All across our country we'll be able to tie our terrorist information to local information banks so that the frontline of defeating terror becomes activated and real, and those are the local law enforcement officials. We expect them to be a part of our effort; we must give them the tools necessary so they can do their job.

We will continue to work with Congress to make sure that the budgets reflect the new reality of the 21st century. That's why I requested \$500 million for additional money for training preparedness equipment, technical assistance for State and local law enforcement.

The Terrorist Threat Integration Center marks another crucial advance in meeting the threats of this time. This joint effort across many Departments of our Government will integrate and analyze all terrorist threat information, collected domestically and abroad, in a single location. And that's an important advance. The goal is to develop a comprehensive picture of terrorist activity. When the center is fully operational, it will fully house a database of known and suspected terrorists that officials across the country will be able to access and act upon.

I'm pleased that Bob—George Tenet and Bob Mueller will take the next important steps in assembling their counterterrorism

resources, both operational and analytical, and locate them in a single facility with the Terrorist Threat Integration Center. The new Department of Homeland Security will be a full partner in this center. The Department will act to identify and reduce our vulnerabilities to terrorism and coordinate with the FBI to ensure the threat information is quickly disseminated. All of these efforts will formalize a new spirit of cooperation that began 15 months ago.

The American people need to know that we're collecting a lot of information and we're going to share it in a way that enables us to do our jobs that you expect us to do, that we're going to use the best information technologies available to not only make sure information flows freely at the Federal level but flows from this databank of information to local law enforcement officials. It will enable us to make sure that we do everything we can to win the war on terror at home, just like we're going to do everything we can by unleashing one of the greatest militaries—the greatest military ever assembled abroad.

We've got fabulous men and women in uniform who are on the hunt. The finest, bravest soldiers ever known to mankind are helping us track them down, one by one. And if we have to send them into Iraq to make sure that that regime is disarmed, we'll use every ounce of our ingenuity and technology to protect innocent life of the Iraqi people, at the same time, achieve an objective of achieving world peace.

One of the things this country stands for is freedom. That's what we believe. For years the freedom of our people were really never in doubt because no one ever thought that the terrorists or anybody could come and hurt America. But that changed. As a matter of fact, the more threatened we are here at home, the more we love freedom. The more there's a chance that somebody might think they can take it away from us, the more stubborn we are in our demand for freedom universally.

As I said in my State of the Union, liberty is not America's gift to the world; it is God's gift to each and every human being. So as we pursue peace, we also pursue liberty. We care about those who suffer under the hands of a dictator in Iraq. We care deeply about

those who dissent and then are tortured, about those who express an opinion other than what the dictator thinks and are raped and mutilated. The condition of the Iraqi citizen is on our mind and in our hearts. As we work to secure the peace, we'll always hold those values of freedom dear to our heart.

There's no question in my mind that the challenges we face will be overcome, because our Nation is full of decent and honorable and strong people, many of whom are in this room. Thank you for caring about your country. May God bless your work. And may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. in the Bonaparte Auditorium at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Charles H. Ramsey, chief of police, Washington, DC; Charles A. Moose, chief of police, Montgomery County, MD; James Pasco, executive director, Fraternal Order of Police; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism

February 14, 2003

Today I am pleased to issue the National Strategy for Combating Terrorism. This strategy outlines the effort our Nation is making to win the war against global terror. The strategy complements important elements of the National Security Strategy, as well as our National Strategies for: Homeland Security, to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction, to Secure Cyberspace, for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Key Assets, and the National Drug Control Strategy. Together these efforts establish critical goals for strengthening America's security against the threats of the 21st century.

The United States' strategy for combating terrorism focuses on taking the fight to the terrorists themselves. We are using all elements of our national power and international influence to attack terror networks; reduce their ability to communicate and coordinate their plans; isolate them from potential allies and from each other; and identify

and disrupt their plots before they attack. Our country works closely with every nation committed to this fight, and we will continue to help our allies and friends improve their ability to fight terror.

The war against global terror will be hard and long. Today, terror cells exist on nearly every continent and in dozens of countries, including our own. Victory will depend on the courage, strength, and fortitude of America's people and our partners around the world. It will be measured through the steady, patient work of dismantling terror networks and bringing terrorists to justice, oftentimes one by one. Our Nation is unalterably committed to protecting our citizens, routing terror wherever it exists, and building a safer, better world of greater opportunity and freedom for all peoples. We will not rest until we succeed.

NOTE: This statement was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 14 but was embargoed for release until 4 p.m.

Statement on the National Strategy To Secure Cyberspace and the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets

February 14, 2003

The National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace and the National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets will help us protect America from those who would do us harm, whether through physical destruction or by attacking our infrastructures through cyberspace.

These strategies recognize that the majority of our critical assets and infrastructures, such as those in the banking, telecommunications, energy, and transportation sectors, are privately owned and operated. The strategies outline Federal efforts and State and local roles in securing the Nation's critical infrastructures and identify opportunities for partnership with the private sector. The Department of Homeland Security will take the lead in accomplishing many of the objectives of these strategies. Other departments and agencies also have important roles to play.

I encourage everyone, government at all levels, industry, and private citizens to continue to work together to make our Nation secure.

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 8

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 9

In the morning, the President traveled to White Sulphur Springs, WV, and in the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

February 10

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to thank him for his support for efforts to disarm the Iraqi regime.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Nashville, TN, where, upon arrival, he met with volunteer Sherry Jean Williams. Later, at the Opryland Hotel, he participated in a roundtable discussion on his Faith-Based Initiative with participants of the Campus for Human Development program.

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

The President announced his intention to nominate Reno L. Harnish to be Ambassador to Azerbaijan.

February 11

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines to discuss President Arroyo's April 2 state visit, cooperation against terror, the situation in Iraq, and proposed legislation in the Philippines to combat money-laundering. He also had

separate telephone conversations with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of Angola to discuss the situation in Iraq, and Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the situation in Iraq and military support for Turkey as a member of NATO.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with Senate Republicans to discuss economic initiatives. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Lucio Gutierrez Borbua of Ecuador to discuss support for democracy in Ecuador, counternarcotics efforts, and trade.

During the day, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received the annual reports of the Boy Scouts of America.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars: Fernando Augusto Mateo, Charlotte Mohr, Robert Dolph Ray, and Renee Russell.

February 12

In the morning, in the Oval Office, the President met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle to discuss the war on terrorism, the situation in Iraq, and proposed fiscal year 2003 budget legislation. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Alexandria, VA, where he participated in a roundtable discussion with small investors at the Charles Schwab Corporation.

The President announced his intention to designate Shannon Davis Henderson as Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation: Patricia Clarey, Dinkerrai Desai, Arturo Duran, Jane Gardner, and Patricia McDonauld.

February 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. Later, he traveled to Jacksonville, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with Senior Chief Arden Battle, USN, who is active in local volunteer efforts.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with troops aboard the U.S.S. *Philippine Sea* at Naval Station Mayport. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will be joined by President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia in participating in the White House Forum on American History, Civics and Service on February 17.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Paul Kagame of Rwanda to the White House on March 4.

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

February 14

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Siim Kallas of Estonia to discuss the situation in Iraq. He also had a telephone conversation with President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan to discuss the war on terror and the situations in South Asia and Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Yasar Yakis and Minister of State Ali Babacan of Turkey.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney. Later, he traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted February 11

Lino Gutierrez,
of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Argentina.

Reno L. Harnish,
of California, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Jeffrey Lunstead,
of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Maldives.

Jeffrey Shane,
of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy (new position).

John W. Snow,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Governor of the International Monetary Fund for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the African Development Bank for a term of 5 years; U.S. Governor of the Asian Development Bank; U.S. Governor of the African Development Fund; U.S. Governor of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, vice Paul Henry O'Neill, resigned.

Gregory A. White,
of Ohio, to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of 4 years, vice Emily Margaret Sweeney, term expired.

Withdrawn February 11

Jeffrey Shane,
of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Deputy Secretary of Transportation, vice Stephen D. Van Beek, resigned, which was sent to the Senate on January 9, 2003.

Submitted February 12

Consuelo Maria Callahan,
of California, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, vice Ferdinand F. Fernandez, retired.

Steven M. Coloton,
of Iowa, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice David R. Hansen, retired.

Harry A. Haines,
of Montana, to be a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term of 15 years, vice Renato Beghe, retiring.

Submitted February 14

Ellen G. Engleman,
of Indiana, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expire on December 31, 2007, vice John Arthur Hammerschmidt, term expired.

Ellen G. Engleman,
of Indiana, to be Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term of 2 years, vice Marion Blakey, resigned.

Lawrence B. Hagel,
of Virginia, to be a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term prescribed by law, vice Ronald M. Holdaway, retired.

Heather M. Hodges,
of Ohio, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova.

Charles E. McQueary,
of North Carolina, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

**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 10

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released February 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released February 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Text of a letter to the President endorsing his economic growth and jobs proposal signed by a group of over 200 economists

Timeline: Iraq's Compliance? 1996 All Over Again

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Tax Court

Released February 13

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga To Visit Washington

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With Rwandan President Paul Kagame

Statement by the Press Secretary: United States Expresses Concern Over Developments in Bolivia

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 16

Released February 14

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Strengthening Intelligence To Better Protect America

Announcement of nomination for a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved February 13

H.R. 16 / Public Law 108-6
To authorize salary adjustments for Justices and judges of the United States for fiscal year 2003