

from the State of Washington, and Congressman Sam Johnson from the State of Texas. Thank you all for coming. I appreciate you guys being here.

Now, Sam is an old fighter pilot—well, not an old fighter pilot—[*laughter*—was a great fighter pilot—[*laughter*—who one time dead-sticked a Cessna onto the Dallas—the Dallas Tollway at night. [*Laughter*] That's how he got to be elected to the Congress. [*Laughter*]

Jim Roche is with us, the Secretary of the Air Force. Thank you for coming, Mr. Secretary. The Acting Superintendent of the Air Force, General Weida, is with us as well. I'm glad you're here. I want to thank you all for coming as well, the folks that—not only the players but the folks that make sure the players get the helmet and the water and the tape on their ankles and the people who support Air Force football.

The academies are really important for a lot of reasons. Obviously, what you learn on the football field is even more important since we're still at war. And it's the qualities of—that you learn on the football field that will serve our Nation in good stead after you graduate. Some of your fellow football players saw war in Iraq. And as a result of their bravery and their skill, the country is now more secure; the United States people are more secure; the world is going to be more peaceful; and the Iraqi people are now free from the clutches of an incredibly brutal dictatorship. What you—the character you displayed in your drive to be the best will serve our Nation well, because we're still at war. We learned that lesson in Saudi Arabia the other day. An Al Qaida—a group we think is Al Qaida killed innocent life just for the sake of killing them.

And we'll do everything we can to protect our homeland. We'll do the best we can with the Transportation Security Agency. We'll do a better job on the borders. But the surest way to protect our homeland is to find these killers and bring them to justice, which is what the United States of America is going to do. The skills you have learned on the football field and at the Air Force Academy are going to be necessary skills to protect the American people from the true threats of the 21st century.

So I'm proud to welcome you all here as football stars and champions, but I'm more proud to be able to reassure our fellow Americans that people of high caliber and high quality and high skill will serve in our Nation's defense during a dangerous time, which will allow me to boldly predict the United States of America will win the war on terror.

And so it was an honor to bring a—you call it a six-pack when you win 6 years in a row? [*Laughter*] Six-peat. A great coach and a great American. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Fisher DeBerry, head football coach, and Brig. Gen. Johnny A. Weida, USAF, commandant of cadets and commander, 34th Training Wing, U.S. Air Force Academy.

Remarks on Departure for Camp David, Maryland, and an Exchange With Reporters

May 16, 2003

Senate Action on the President's Agenda

The President. We had a good day yesterday in the United States Senate as the Senate passed a bill that will make it more likely people looking for work will find a job. I'm pleased with the progress. I look forward to working with House and Senate leadership to reconcile any differences they have and get a bill to my desk as soon as possible. I'm optimistic about our economy and its future. I'm even more optimistic now that the Senate has acted.

I'm also so pleased that the Senate passed a bill to help ease the suffering on the African Continent as well as in some Caribbean nations. We've got a HIV/AIDS initiative that will help—say to the world that the United States is a compassionate country; we care deeply about the suffering that takes place in the world.

Again, I want to thank the Senate for—as well as the House—for passing a good piece of legislation. It looks like that bill can get done pretty quickly, and I'll be able to sign it and take it to Europe with me as a symbol of the great depth of compassion that our country holds for those who suffer.

I'll ask—answer a few. Tom [Tom Raum, Associated Press].

Tax Cut Legislation

Q. Mr. President, can you live with a tax cut like the one the Senate passed that goes away after 3 years?

The President. Here's the thing about the tax cut. The tax cut must be strong and robust so people will be able to find work. That's what I'm focused on. I'm interested in jobs and job creation. And the more bold the tax relief package, the more likely it is a fellow American will be able to find work.

Saudi Arabia/Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, in terms of combating terrorism at home, do you think the Saudis have gotten the message this time around?

The President. Well, Saudi Arabia is our friend, John [John Roberts, CBS News], and we're working closely with them to track down the killers of American citizens and British citizens and citizens from Saudi Arabia as well as other countries.

The best way to defend the homeland, the best way to secure the future of the American people is to find the killers before they strike us. And that's exactly what we're doing now inside of Saudi Arabia.

Obviously, we mourn the loss of life. It is a—it is certainly a wake-up call to many that the war on terror continues, that we've still got a big task to protect the American people and others who love freedom from the designs of—and the will of these purveyors of hate. And we'll find them. We'll bring them to justice.

Q. But sir, is the message coming from this administration to the Saudis that you've got a problem, you have to deal with it—

The President. The message—

Q. —and you have to wake up to the fact that you have to deal with it?

The President. Yes, here's the message. The message is the war on terror goes on, that there are killers on the loose—obviously, killers on the loose inside of Saudi Arabia in this example. And we want to work with them and find them, find those killers and bring them to justice. And we are still in a—it's dangerous in the world. And it's dangerous inside Saudi Arabia, and it's dan-

gerous so long as Al Qaida continues to operate.

And so we'll chase them down. We're doing everything we can to secure the homeland. The best way to secure the homeland is to work with countries like Saudi Arabia and to find the killers and get them before they get us. And that's what this country will do.

Woodward [Bob Woodward, Washington Post].

Q. Sir.

The President. How are you?

Q. Very well.

The President. Yes, Mark [Mark Knoller, CBS Radio].

2004 Election

Q. Mr. President, you filed with the FEC today. How does it feel to be a candidate? And how do you assess your chances?

The President. The American people will decide whether or not I deserve a second term. In the meantime, I am focusing my attention today on finding—helping people find work. And that's where I'm going to be for a while. I want this economy to be robust and strong so that our fellow Americans who are looking for a job can find a job.

We've also got a lot of work to do on the security front. As John clearly pointed out, we've got an issue. We're dealing with countries from around the world to make sure that they know that the war on terror continues. No one should be complacent in the 21st century, the early stages of the 21st century, so long as Al Qaida moves. I've told the country that we've brought to justice about half of the Al Qaida network—operatives, key operatives. And so the other half still lives. And we'll find them, one at a time.

Listen, have a great weekend. Thank you all.

You're looking good, John, from the war zone.

Q. Thank you, sir. I call it the Iraq-kins Diet. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Implement the Jobs-and-Growth Package

May 16, 2003

I commend the Senate for its bipartisan passage of a jobs-and-growth package that includes all of the components of my original plan. By including a measure to completely abolish the double taxation of dividends, the Senate has demonstrated that they are committed to creating as many jobs as possible for American workers. The Senate bill also speeds income tax rate cuts for individuals and families, increases the child credit, provides marriage penalty relief, and increases expensing for small businesses.

Jobs are on the line, and I look forward to working with the full Congress to pass a robust economic growth plan. I call on Congress to resolve their differences quickly so that I can sign a bill that will help create jobs, boost take-home pay, and spur economic growth.

Statement on Senate Action on Legislation To Implement the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

May 16, 2003

With today's vote in the United States Senate, Congress has given the hope of life to millions of people in countries most afflicted by AIDS. This historic legislation will enable us to provide critical treatment and care for millions who suffer and greatly expand successful prevention programs to help those at risk.

I look forward to this legislation reaching my desk as soon as possible so we can begin to turn the tide in the fight against AIDS.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 16, 2003

On May 20, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13047, certifying to the Congress under section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related

Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), that the Government of Burma has committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, thereby invoking the prohibition on new investment in Burma by United States persons contained in that section. The President also declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*

Because actions and policies of the Government of Burma continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 20, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond May 20, 2003. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Burma. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 16, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:06 p.m., May 16, 2003]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 16, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency