

Feb. 19 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

State laws and programs to increase safety belt use, motorcycle helmet use, and to discourage drunk and drugged driving.

The report on motor vehicle safety includes the annual reporting requirement in Title I of the Motor Vehicle Information and Cost Savings Act of 1972 (bumper standards).

In the Highway Safety Acts of 1973, 1976, and 1978, the Congress expressed its special interest in certain aspects of traffic safety that are addressed in the volume on highway safety.

I am pleased to inform you that 1989 was a year of significant gains in traffic safety. The traffic fatality rate, the accepted measure of risk on the road, was 2.2 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, the lowest in history and down 33 percent since 1980. Safety belt use is also higher than ever, with 46 percent of Americans buckling up, and drunk driving fatalities have declined significantly.

There is good news for Americans in vir-

tually every critical part of the highway safety picture. The decline in the fatality rate is especially encouraging and means that we are able to drive with less risk, and the dramatic increase in safety belt use and public concern about drunk driving have translated into thousands of lives saved and injuries avoided.

The progress we have made is, of course, no consolation to the relatives and friends of the 45,500 people who, despite the safety advances and greater public awareness, lost their lives in traffic accidents in 1989.

As we continue to pursue highway and motor vehicle safety programs that are most effective in reducing deaths and injuries, we are convinced that significant progress in traffic safety can be achieved through the combined efforts of government, industry, and the public.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
February 19, 1991.

Message to the Senate on the International Labor Organization Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor

February 19, 1991

To the Senate of the United States:

The Convention (No. 105) Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor, adopted by the International Labor Conference at Geneva on June 25, 1957, was transmitted to the Senate by President Kennedy on July 22, 1963, with a view to receiving advice and consent to ratification. Although hearings were held in 1967 by the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Senate has not acted further on the Convention.

Now, 23 years later, I urge the Senate to consider anew this important Convention and to grant its advice and consent to ratification. Given the length of time that has elapsed, I enclose a new report from the Secretary of State concerning the Convention.

The report of the Secretary of State also contains the texts of two proposed understandings. As explained more fully in the

accompanying letter from the Secretary of Labor, the law and practice of the United States fully conform to all obligations contained in the Convention (a copy of the Convention is included as an enclosure to this letter). Ratification of this Convention, therefore, would not require the United States to alter in any way its law or practice in this field. However, to remove the possibility that certain ambiguities might arise after ratification, it is proposed that ratification of the Convention be made subject to these understandings.

Ratification by the United States of selected Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) enhances our ability to take other governments to task for failing to comply with ILO instruments they have ratified. In part for this reason, the Senate has in recent years given its advice and consent to the ratification of ILO Conven-

tions 144, 147, and 160. I accordingly recommend that the Senate also give its advice and consent to the ratification of ILO Con-

vention 105.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
February 19, 1991.

White House Statement on the International Labor Organization Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor *February 19, 1991*

The administration's decision to seek ratification of the ILO Convention Concerning the Abolition of Forced Labor was based upon the substantial efforts of representatives of U.S. business, labor, and government. The personal involvement of former Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole, as Chair of the Committee on the ILO—the prin-

cipal body which coordinates the views of business, labor, and government representatives on ILO matters—brought this 4-year undertaking to fruition. Now, the administration urges the Senate to consider this convention again and to grant its advice and consent to ratification.

Appointment of Robert A. Snow as Deputy Assistant to the President for Communications and Director of Speechwriting *February 19, 1991*

The President today announced his intention to appoint Robert Anthony Snow of Cincinnati, Ohio, to be Deputy Assistant to the President for Communications and Director of Speechwriting at the White House. He would succeed Chriss Winston.

Since 1987, Mr. Snow has served as editorial page editor of the Washington Times. During his tenure, the page has received numerous local, regional, and national awards. Prior to this Mr. Snow served as deputy editorial page editor of the Detroit

News, 1984–1987. He also served as editorial page editor of the Daily Press in Newport News, VA, 1982–1984; and as an editorial writer for the Virginian Pilot, 1981–1982. Mr. Snow began his journalism career as an editorial writer at the Greensboro Record in Greensboro, NC, in 1979.

Mr. Snow graduated from Davidson College (B.A., 1977). He was born June 1, 1955, in Berea, KY. Mr. Snow is married and resides in Alexandria, VA.