

can make a living off the land. And they're more likely to be able to do so with more markets open. And I mean a trade promotion authority bill, too, that's not laden down with all kinds of excuses not to trade. I want a bill that doesn't have these codicils on it that frighten people from trading with us. I like to remind people that if you're a poor nation, it's going to be hard to treat your people well, and if you're a poor nation, it's going to be hard to have good environmental policy. And trade is the best way to eliminate poverty. Therefore, our trade agreements ought to be free from codicils which prevent us from freely trading.

And so I want to thank you for coming to the White House to give me an opportunity to urge you to work with these five Senators and three Congressmen, to work hard to get this trade promotion authority moving. The power to be—well, most of the power that be—sits right here. And these Members can use your help, as can we.

This call to arms for trade promotion authority is not a hollow call. This is important. It's not only important for this President; it's important for future Presidents because the world is a fantastic opportunity for us. And it's an opportunity we have got to seize if we expect to have prosperity in one of the most vital sectors in our Nation, and that's prosperity on our farms and ranches—a place not only where people will hopefully be able to make a good living but a place where people nurture the great values of America, faith and family.

It's my honor to be here, to have you here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate so very much your giving us a chance to call you into action. I'm honored to be up here with your leaders, and I do want to thank the Members of the Senate and the House for being here, as well.

God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:28 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Haiti *June 18, 2001*

Dear _____ :

Pursuant to section 559(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000, I hereby transmit to you the final semiannual report concerning the status of Haiti's progress.

The report contains eight subsections that provide information required by section 559(b) of the Act. These subsections address:

- Governmental Institutions Envisioned in the 1987 Haitian Constitution;
- Privatization of Haiti's Major Public Entities;

- Efforts to Re-sign the Lapsed Bilateral Repatriation Agreement, and Cooperation in Halting Illegal Migration;
- Investigation and Prosecution of Extrajudicial and Political Killings, and Cooperation with the United States in Such Investigations;
- Removal and Maintenance of Separation of Human Rights Violators from Haitian Public Security Entities or Units;
- Ratification of the 1997 Maritime Counter-Narcotics Agreement;
- Development of Haiti's Domestic Capacity to Conduct Free, Fair, Democratic, and Administratively Sound Elections; and

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- Demonstrated Commitment of Haiti's Minister of Justice to the Professionalism of the Judiciary, and Progress Toward Judicial Branch Independence.
- Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Jesse Helms,

ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Ted Stevens, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Henry J. Hyde, chairman, and Tom Lantos, ranking member, House Committee on International Relations; and C.W. Bill Young, chairman, and David R. Obey, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations.

Remarks to Employees of the Computer/Electronic Accommodations
Program Technology Evaluation Center in Arlington, Virginia
June 19, 2001

Thank you all. Thanks. Be seated. Please be seated. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your hospitality and your leadership. Senator Jeffords, Congressmen Green, Horn, and Langevin, thank you all for coming. It's good to see you all. These four Members of the United States Congress have had a piece—a hand in the strategy that I'm about to talk about, and I thank them for their leadership.

Dinah, thank you very much. It's always a joy to be around somebody who loves what she's doing—an enthusiastic soul, and someone who is making people's lives better. And I really appreciate you having me here. I want to thank David Chu for his work, and I want to thank Rhett Dawson, as well, who is the president of the Information Technology and Industry Council.

My fellow Americans, when the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed in 1990, our Nation made a promise: We will no longer underestimate the abilities of Americans with disabilities. We will treat Americans with disabilities as people to be respected, rather than problems to be confronted.

Our Nation has made progress in both attitude and law. Navigating through buildings and buses is far easier than it was just a decade ago. Now, the growth of new

technologies creates new hopes and new obstacles.

The Internet brings a world of information into a computer screen, which has enriched the lives of many with disabilities. Yet, technology creates challenges of its own. The brilliant graphics that add life to many Web pages can make it difficult for a visually impaired person to get the information he or she needs from a Web site. Video technology is turning many computers into television sets. Yet, without closed captioning, many see a picture and no words. And complex keyboard commands make it difficult for a person with impaired motor skills to tap a computer's full potential. As a result, computer usage and Internet access for people with disabilities is half that of people without disabilities.

Researchers here at the Department of Defense and at other agencies throughout the Federal Government and in the private sector are developing solutions to these problems. I have just had the opportunity to tour the Department's assistive technology center, and I saw technologies that are helping people with disabilities enjoy the full range of opportunities made possible by the technology boom. Software allows hearing-impaired people to communicate with their coworkers by computer.