

squarely in the face of evil. And it's happening, and I'm so proud of the way the American people have responded. Many in this room have as well, and I want to thank you for that.

I do believe that America understands there's a new responsibility, that this is a new era, that, on the one hand, we've got to be diligent and alert, and on the other hand, we can make a difference in people's lives. After all, it was Flight 93 that set a new tone for America. People on an airline thought they were going on a business trip or thought they were going home. They heard the Nation's Capital was under attack. They got on their telephones. They told their wives they loved them. They said a prayer, and they sacrificed their life to save somebody else's.

To me, that's one of the most defining events of September 11th and on. It shows me what a great nation we have. It reminds me of the character of the American people. And that's why we're so unique, not

because of our Government but because of our people.

Thank you for coming to Washington, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Elizabeth Lisboa-Farrow, chair, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Counsel to the President Alberto R. Gonzales; Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Interim Authority of Afghanistan; General Secretary Kim Chong-il of North Korea; and President Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103-382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89-10); and section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, whose provisions expired April 30, 2001.

Statement on Proposed Legislation To Provide Protections Against Genetic Discrimination

March 6, 2002

I applaud Senators Snowe, Frist, and Jeffords for introducing their bill today to prohibit discrimination in health insurance and employment based solely on an individual's genetic predisposition to a future disease. The bill provides strong protections against genetic discrimination that are fair, reasonable, and consistent with existing laws. I look forward to working with Con-

gress in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation to assure Americans the privacy of their genetic information will be protected and never used to deny health coverage or jobs.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 1995, the proposed "Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act of 2002."

Remarks at the Presentation of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

March 7, 2002

Thank you, Secretary Evans, and thank you all very much. It's an honor to be back here. It's a pleasure to see so many students here today. I understand some of you took a tour of the White House. You must have behaved well, because I didn't hear the dogs barking. [*Laughter*] I hope you enjoyed being there as much as Laura and I enjoy being there. It's a fabulous place, the White House is. I'm so glad you were able to see it.

I'm also pleased to be back to congratulate the award winners of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. I'm really pleased that school districts have been added. I want to commend the Baldrige Committee for including education. Secretary Rod Paige is here. Both of us believe so strongly that no child should be left behind. Both of us know the potential of the public school systems in America, and we want to thank and congratulate the school districts here that have set the highest of high standards not only at the secondary level but also at the high level of education.

I was privileged to know Malcolm Baldrige. He was one of America's most distinguished Secretaries of Commerce, and what a fine and honorable man he was. The award that bears his name reflects the virtues that he brought to public service and how he lived in his private life, a commitment to excellence, shrewd judgment and sound judgment, principled leadership, integrity, and a sense of responsibility.

Today's honorees have met a rigorous test—and such a worthy example for others. And I know Malcolm would have approved of the winners.

It's a great honor to be with Midge Baldrige again—you're looking pretty darn good these days—[*laughter*]—and Letitia Baldrige as well. I know we've got some Members of the United States Congress

here. I think Bill Jenkins from Tennessee is here. I know Connie Morella is here. Thank you for coming, Connie. I also appreciate Nancy Murkowski, the wife of Frank Murkowski. Nancy is committed to quality education in the State of Alaska, and I know you're as proud as I am for the winners who are here. And I always want to thank the U.S. Army Band for providing such wonderful music.

I appreciate the fact that prior winners of the Baldrige Award are here. I think it's important for you to stay involved in the process. As you heard, some of the recipients also appreciate of you being here. And I want to welcome five more organizations to your ranks, the school districts, the University of Wisconsin-Stout, as well as the fine symbols of entrepreneurial spirit in America, Pal's Sudden Service of Tennessee, and of course, Clarke American Checks, represented by some rowdy Texans.

This is a high, high honor. I know you all understand what a big deal this is, having gone through the process. It is an important award, and I congratulate you all so very much. The award goes to organizations rather than any single individual, and that's important to note. As we've seen today, success happens in an atmosphere of teamwork, common values, and trust.

An organization needs a good idea and a good product or a good service. It certainly needs a good strategic plan. But more than anything, it needs good people, men and women of integrity who understand their duties to each other and to the public interest.

And this is true throughout our entire economy. The free enterprise system draws upon the best in people, creativity, ingenuity, energy, a desire to make life better