

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Appropriations Legislation

May 24, 2002

The House did a great service today for our men and women in uniform fighting the war against terror, for homeland security, and for fiscal discipline. The House also showed our enemies that America is united and determined to fight and win this war on our terms.

A combination of recession and the need to spend what it takes to win the war have put the Federal budget into deficit. As we do what is necessary to prevail in the war and protect our homeland, the Congress must restrain other Government spending so we can return to a balanced budget soon.

The House has shown that a responsible budget can be enacted, and the Senate should follow suit. I expect the Senate to only spend on what is necessary to fight the war and for our immediate emergency needs. With our Nation now at war, now is not the time for unnecessary spending on lower priority items.

The House bill is a successful model for budget and spending bills: Fund our most basic priorities without increasing the deficit or undermining our efforts to return to a balanced budget. I am especially grateful to Speaker Hastert and Chairman Young for their leadership, and to all the Members of Congress who voted for this package.

Statement on Proposed Citizen Service Legislation

May 24, 2002

I commend House Select Education Subcommittee Chairman Peter Hoekstra and Ranking Member Tim Roemer for their bipartisan leadership in introducing H.R. 4854, the “Citizen Service Act of 2002.” In January, I called upon all Americans to dedicate at least 2 years—the equivalent of 4,000 hours—over the course of their lives in service to others, and I laid out policies for fostering service all across the country and around the world. Increasing opportunities for all Americans to participate in meaningful service activities is a priority of this administration, and the bipartisan sponsors and co-sponsors of the

“Citizen Service Act of 2002” are leading that effort in the House of Representatives.

Programs such as Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps offer Americans a variety of ways to help meet important community needs through service. Through their hard work on the “Citizen Service Act of 2002,” Chairman Hoekstra and Congressman Roemer are helping to strengthen and improve these programs based on the principles and reforms I outlined earlier this year. I also look forward to working with the Senate and to signing the “Citizen Service Act of 2002” this legislative session.

The President's Radio Address *May 25, 2002*

Good morning. As you hear this, I am in St. Petersburg, Russia, in the middle of a 7-day trip to Europe. I've come to Europe to reaffirm our close ties with important allies, to talk about the next stages of the war on terror, and to open a new chapter in our relationship with Russia.

In this last century, the conflicts of Europe led to war and suffering for America. Today, Europe is growing in unity and peace, and that benefits our country. The nations of the European Union have made strong contributions to the war on terror. And the volume of our annual trade and investment relationship is nearly \$2 trillion, helping workers, consumers, and families on both continents.

Germany, which I visited earlier this week, has emerged from a troubled history to become a force for good. German police and intelligence officials are helping in the war on terror. In Afghanistan, German troops have served and died beside our own. Speaking in Berlin, I thanked the German people for their support and sacrifice and talked about the challenges that still lie ahead.

Here in Russia, President Putin and I are putting the old rivalries of our Nation firmly behind us with a new treaty that reduces our nuclear arsenals to their lowest levels in decades. After years of planning for war, Russia and the United States are building a friendship based on shared interests, fighting terrorism, and expanding our trade relationship. After centuries of isolation and suspicion, Russia is finding its place in the family of Europe, and that is truly historic.

The partnership of America and Russia will continue to grow based on the founda-

tion of freedom and the values—the democratic values we hold dear. Free nations are more peaceful nations, and the spread of liberty strengthens America.

On the rest of my trip, I'll travel to Paris and then to Normandy, France, for Memorial Day, to honor the soldiers who in 1944 gave their lives so that America, France, and all of Europe could one day live in peace and freedom. I will visit Rome for a summit that will forge new ties between the NATO Alliance and Russia. I'll meet with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, whose message of peace and social justice is particularly urgent at this time.

In two World Wars, the New World came to the rescue of the Old, and America became a European power. Now this continent is closer to being whole, free, and at peace than anytime in its history. We must finish this job, inviting a new Russia to be our full partner. And together, we must face the challenges of the world beyond Europe and America, terrorism, poverty, and evil regimes seeking terrible weapons. Europe and America share common dangers and common values. We have the opportunity and the duty to build a world that is safer and better.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. on May 24 at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Moscow, Russia, for domestic broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 24 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.