

These are the largest increases ever proposed. In addition, I created the Commission on Excellence and Special Education, to recommend policies to improve the educational performance of students with disabilities. The Commission provided excellent recommendations in its recent report. And I look forward to working with Congress, and I hope Congress will closely examine those findings when it considers the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

You know, when my father signed the ADA into law in 1990, he said, "We must not and will not rest until every man and woman with a dream has the means to achieve it." Today we renew that commit-

ment, and we continue to work for an America where individuals are celebrated for their abilities, not judged by their disabilities.

Again, I want to welcome you all here. I want to thank those who were pioneers in this landmark legislation for being here to celebrate this anniversary. I am now pleased to sign a proclamation in honor of the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act. Thank you for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:47 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. The proclamation is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Exchange With Reporters Following a Meeting With the House Republican Conference

July 26, 2002

Legislative Agenda

Q. How are you doing, Mr. President?

Q. Would you talk for a moment, please, sir?

Q. Mr. President, what did you tell the conference today?

The President. You know, it's been an amazing week. A lot has gotten done here in the Congress, and I want to thank both the Republicans and Democrats. I think—I know the American people expect their elected Representatives to work together to get some things done, get the homeland security bill. We're even going to get trade promotion authority, which will be good for jobs and American workers. We've got a corporate responsibility bill. It's a good piece of legislation, overwhelmingly supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

The American people saw last week that this administration and the Justice Department will track down those—prosecute those CEOs who break the law. We're

making good progress here. I want to thank the Members of the House; I talked to them about how pleased I am with the progress we're making.

Q. What about prescription drugs on the Senate side, sir?

The President. Well, we'll see what comes out. [*Inaudible*—prescription drugs and Medicare. I've said that since I became the President, and we'll see what happens.

Right now I'm focused on the trade vote. We're going to get a free trade agreement, which is very important for jobs and workers, very important for our farmers and ranchers, and it's very important for our economy. We're going to get a good homeland security bill. And as you know, we've got a good corporate responsibility in a bipartisan bill.

So a lot has taken place here, and I'm real proud of the Members of both parties.

NOTE: The exchange began at 4:35 p.m. at the Capitol. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Legislation To Create a Department of Homeland Security *July 26, 2002*

I commend the House of Representatives for acting quickly to pass landmark legislation to create a Homeland Security Department. This legislation represents the most extensive reorganization of the Federal Government since the 1940s. Our Nation needs a new department with the overriding mission of protecting the American people from the threats of terrorism.

This bill includes the major components of my proposal—providing for intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection, strengthening our borders, improving the use of science and technology to counter

weapons of mass destruction, and enhancing our preparedness and response capabilities.

The House bill also provides the Secretary of Homeland Security managerial flexibility needed to build and maintain a department capable of responding rapidly to the terrorist threats of the 21st century.

The House has shown a strong commitment to improving the security of the American people, and I urge the Senators to do the same before they leave for the August recess.

The President's Radio Address *July 27, 2002*

Good morning. This week, the Federal Government took decisive action against corporate fraud and abuse. The Justice Department arrested several executives who used a public company as a personal loan agency, while hiding their actions from investors and employees. Additional investigations coordinated by our Corporate Fraud Task Force are underway across the country. It should be clear to every shareholder, investor, and employee in America that this administration will investigate, arrest, and prosecute corporate executives who break the law.

During the last several months, I've called on Congress to pass strong reforms to hold corporate officers accountable for

their actions. This week, Members of Congress responded to that call. The House and the Senate passed bipartisan reforms, increasing the penalties for corporate wrongdoers and creating tougher standards for corporate auditors, so that investors and employees can trust the accounting statements of their public companies. This legislation will help reassure Americans that our economic system is sound and fair. I thank the Congress for their hard work, and I look forward to signing the bill next week.

Members of the United States Senate have one more week before they head home for August recess. I urge them to take up several important issues. The Senate should pass trade promotion authority,