

which will give me a stronger hand in negotiating foreign trade agreements. Trade agreements create good jobs and economic growth, because they open new markets to America's farmers and ranchers and manufacturers. I urge the Senate to get a final bill to my desk so I can immediately take action that will create jobs and strengthen the economy.

The Senate should pass the defense appropriations bill, which includes the largest increases in defense spending since the Reagan years. Our military needs to plan for a long war on terror and prepare for all the missions that lie ahead. The House passed its defense appropriations bill in June. Now the Senate must make the defense of our country a top priority.

The Senate should not go home before approving a new Department of Homeland Security. This Department will coordinate our Nation's response to grave national threats, to anticipate our enemies, analyze our vulnerabilities, and act forcefully to address them. And the Senate must give the Department of Homeland Security all of

the authority and flexibility it needs to protect the American people.

And the Senate should protect the retirement security of American workers. In April, the House passed pension reforms based on my proposals, to give workers more timely information and greater control over their own retirement funds as well as access to professional investment advice. America's retirement security is too important to fall victim to political game playing, and the Senate must act now.

By taking action on these issues, the Senate can advance our national priorities of defending freedom, protecting our homeland, and strengthening our economy. The Senate now has one week left to make progress for the American people, and I urge them to seize the opportunity.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:45 p.m. on July 26 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 27. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on Congressional Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation *July 27, 2002*

For nearly 10 years, America has lacked trade promotion authority and the ability to fully take advantage of trade opportunities. I commend the House and Senate conferees for their leadership in reaching a landmark agreement on TPA, which will open markets, expand opportunity, and cre-

ate jobs for American workers and farmers. The House has shown a commitment to getting something done on behalf of the American people, and I urge the Senate to vote on this good bill before the Senate goes home for the August recess.