

corporation, called the Millennium Challenge Corporation, designed to support innovative strategies and to ensure accountability for measurable results. The Corporation will be supervised by a Board of Directors chaired by the Secretary of State and composed of other Cabinet-level officials. The Corporation will be led by a Chief Executive Officer appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. This proposal provides the Corporation with flexible authorities to optimize program implementation, contracting, and personnel selection while pursuing innovative strategies.

The Millennium Challenge Account initiative recognizes the need for country ownership, financial oversight, and accountability for results to ensure effective assistance. We cannot accept permanent poverty in a world of progress. The MCA will provide people in developing nations the tools they need to seize the opportunities of the global economy. I urge the prompt and favorable consideration of this legislation.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
February 5, 2003.

Remarks at the National Prayer Breakfast February 6, 2003

Thank you all for that warm welcome. Great introduction—[laughter]—especially since you mentioned Laura. [Laughter] I want to thank the Speaker and Leader Pelosi. Ray, I want to thank you very much for being the chairman of the National Prayer Breakfast. I was wondering why the Grace Singers from Peoria managed to get here—[laughter]—but I'm sure glad they did. Thank you all for coming. It might have been the best decision you made, Mr. Chairman. [Laughter]

I want to welcome Michael W. Smith and his wife here. Michael W. is going to have dinner at the White House tonight. We look forward to seeing you both. They've been great friends of Laura and me and my family. It is a treat to have him here, to lend his God-given talents to this important breakfast.

I appreciate the fact that Tenet and Myers will be up here at the head table. It is fitting that in the midst of tough times, that these two leaders are sharing with Scripture and prayer with the country. I appreciate all the Members of Congress

here. I pray for your wisdom on a daily basis. [Laughter]

I want to thank all the members of my Cabinet who are here. I really appreciate leaders from around the globe who have come to share in prayer with us today. It reminds me that the Almighty God is a God to everybody, every person.

I really am so honored that Dr. Condoleezza Rice is going to share some comments with you. I know this, that the Reverend John W. Rice, Jr., would be incredibly proud of his wise and gracious daughter.

It is fitting that we have a National Prayer Breakfast. It is the right thing to do, because this is a nation of prayer. I know from firsthand knowledge that this is a nation of prayer. See, I work the ropelines a lot, and I hear all kinds of things on the ropelines. But the thing I hear the most, the comment I hear the most from our fellow citizens, regardless of their political party or philosophy, is, "Mr. President, I pray for you and your family, and so does my family." That's what I hear. I turn to them without hesitation and say, "It is

the greatest gift you can give anybody, is to pray on their behalf.”

I especially feel that because I believe in prayer. I pray. I pray for strength. I pray for guidance. I pray for forgiveness, and I pray to offer my thanks for a kind and generous Almighty God.

As Dick mentioned, we mourn the loss of seven brave souls. We learned a lot about them over the last couple of days. And Laura and I learned a lot about their families in Houston, because we met with them. My impressions of the meeting was that there was—that Almighty God was present in their hearts. There was such incredible strength in the room of those who were grieving that it was overwhelming, to be with those who just lost their husband or wife or dad or mom and to feel the presence of the Almighty. I attribute it to the fact that they, themselves, are in prayer. And our country prays for their strength, and we must continue to pray for those who suffer and those who grieve.

This is a testing time for our country. At this hour we have troops that are assembling in the Middle East. There’s oppressive regimes that seek terrible weapons. We face an ongoing threat of terror. One thing is for certain: We didn’t ask for these challenges, but we will meet them. I say that with certainty, because this Nation has strong foundations that won’t be shaken.

As America passes through this decisive period, there are things we can count on. We can be confident in the character of the American people. The months since September the 11th, 2001, have not brought fear and fatigue or rash anger. Instead we’ve witnessed courage and resolve and calm purpose. We’ve seen that a new generation of Americans is strong and steadfast in the face of danger, and our confidence will not be shaken.

We can be confident in America’s cause in the world. Our Nation is dedicated to the equal and undeniable worth of every person. We don’t own the ideals of freedom and human dignity, and sometimes we

haven’t always lived up to them. But we do stand for those ideals, and we will defend them.

We believe, as Franklin Roosevelt said, that men and women born to freedom in the image of God will not forever suffer the oppressor’s sword. We are confident that people in every part of the world wish for freedom, not tyranny, prefer peace to terror and violence. And our confidence will not be shaken.

We can also be confident in the ways of providence, even when they are far from our understanding. Events aren’t moved by blind change and chance. Behind all of life and all of history, there’s a dedication and purpose, set by the hand of a just and faithful God. And that hope will never be shaken.

In this hour of our country’s history, we stand in the need of prayer. We pray for the families that have known recent loss. We pray for the men and women who serve around the world to defend our freedom. We pray for their families. We pray for wisdom to know and do what is right. And we pray for God’s peace in the affairs of men.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:11 a.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi; Representative Ray LaHood of Illinois; entertainer Michael W. Smith and his wife, Deborah; Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet; Gen. Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Rev. John W. Rice, Jr., father of National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice; and Vice President Dick Cheney. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks on Energy Independence February 6, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome. I'm glad you're here, and I'm glad I'm here. The technology that we have just seen—and I hope you take a look at—is going to be seen on the roads of America. And it's important for our country to understand that by being bold and innovative, we can change the way we do business here in America. We can change our dependence upon foreign sources of energy. We can help with the quality of the air. We can make a fundamental difference for the future of our children.

But what we do today can make a tremendous difference for the future of this country. How we invest taxpayers' monies today can help change the world. And that's what we're here to discuss.

I want to thank my Secretary of Energy, Spence Abraham, for doing a fine job, for being willing to help us think beyond the normal by leading an important Department, a Department that's going to help America maintain a technological advantage when it comes to energy and devices that require energy.

I also want to thank Christie Todd Whitman for being a really, really good Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. And I want to thank all of the employees from both the Energy Department and the EPA who are here today. Thank you for your service to the country. I appreciate so very much Members of the United States Senate who are here, Pete Domenici from New Mexico and Byron Dorgan from North Dakota. Thank you all for your interest in this project. I look forward to working with both distinguished Members of the Senate to get this initiative through.

And I want to thank the folks who have brought your technologies here for me to see. I wish I had more time to spend, but in the brief tour I took, it is—we're on

the cutting edge of change that is going to dramatically change this country for the better. And it's exciting to see the products that you're producing. More importantly, it's exciting to meet the entrepreneurs who are willing to take the risks necessary to produce those products.

I also want to thank the students who are here, the science and technology students who are here—our future scientists, those who are going to take what appears to be dramatic innovation today and improve on it in the coming years. And so thanks for your interest, and thanks for caring about your country. Keep studying hard. Don't watch too much TV. *[Laughter]* Read a lot.

We've got some responsibilities in our Nation. We've got a responsibility to our environment. That's why I've sent up to the United States Congress a Clear Skies Initiative. It's an initiative that I take very seriously. It's an initiative that we worked closely with Christie Todd and Spence on to develop, that makes sense for our country. It's an initiative that will reduce air pollution from powerplants by 70 percent by the year 2018. It's an initiative that seriously addresses sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and mercury. It's an initiative which must get a hearing in the United States Congress. It's an initiative I expect to pass this year.

I laid out a comprehensive energy plan last year. It got—there was a lot of debate about it, a lot of discussion. It didn't pass the Congress. I expect it to pass this year. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Chairman. It's a plan that will encourage conservation. It's a plan that will increase production at home in an environmentally sensitive way. It is a plan which will modernize our electricity delivery systems. It is a plan which is needed. It is a plan needed for economic security. It is a plan