

to ensuring the safety of our communities. He was a great friend and an honorable and loyal man.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

The President's Radio Address *January 11, 2003*

Good morning. As a new Congress convenes, we must take steps to speed up the economic recovery and to strengthen public confidence in the integrity of American corporations. This week in Chicago, I announced my growth-and-jobs plan, specific proposals to help workers, employers, and investors across America.

For unemployed Americans whose benefits expired on December 28th, I asked Congress to act to extend those benefits. Congress did so quickly, and I signed the extension of unemployment benefits into law this week.

For Americans who face the greatest difficulty finding work, I propose special re-employment accounts. These accounts will provide up to \$3,000 to help pay for training, moving expenses, or other costs of finding a job.

For all income-tax payers, I propose speeding up the tax cuts already approved by Congress, because Americans need that relief today. Instead of gradually reducing the marriage penalty between now and 2009, we should do it now. Instead of waiting until 2008 to move more taxpayers from the 15-percent bracket to the 10-percent bracket, we should make that change now. Instead of slowly raising the child credit to \$1,000 by 2010, we should raise it now. When these changes are made, 92 million Americans will keep an average of \$1,083 more of their own money.

And for America's 84 million investors and those who will become investors, I propose eliminating the double taxation on stock dividends. Double taxation is unfair and bad for our economy. It falls especially

hard on seniors, many of whom rely on dividends for a steady source of income in their retirement. Abolishing double taxation of dividends will leave nearly 35 million Americans with more of their own money to spend and invest, which will promote savings and return as much as \$20 billion this year to the private economy.

Overall, my tax cut proposals will add nearly \$59 billion to the economy in 2003 alone.

Our Government is also acting to restore investor confidence in the integrity and honesty of corporate America. In response to the abuses of some corporations, we passed serious reforms, and we will vigorously enforce them. Our Corporate Fraud Task Force has obtained convictions or guilty pleas in over 50 cases. More than 160 defendants have been charged with criminal or civil wrongdoing. And 130 new corporate fraud investigations have been launched.

In my budget for the coming year, I will also propose major increases in funding for the prosecutors of corporate crime. My 2004 budget funding for the Securities and Exchange Commission will be 73 percent higher than 2002 levels. This will allow the agency to hire hundreds of new accountants, lawyers, and examiners.

I'm also requesting an extra \$25 million for the Department of Justice to expand the corporate fraud investigations. This will allow the Department to create 118 new positions in the FBI, including 56 agents. In addition, 94 new people will be hired to serve in the U.S. attorneys' offices and legal divisions across the Nation.

The SEC and Justice Department are the referees of corporate conduct. Under my budget, they will have every resource they need to enforce the laws that punish fraud and protect investors.

I ask the Congress to support these enforcement measures and to pass my growth-and-jobs plan as soon as possible. Our country has made great progress in restoring investor confidence and putting the recession behind us. We cannot be satisfied, however, until every corporate wrongdoer is held to account, and every

part of our economy is strong, and every person who wants to work can find a job.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:45 a.m. on January 10 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on January 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Modifying Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences To Include Afghanistan *January 10, 2003*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am writing to inform you of my intent to add Afghanistan to the list of beneficiary developing countries and to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). I have carefully considered the criteria identified in sections 501 and 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP beneficiary developing country and least-developed beneficiary developing country benefits to Afghanistan.

This notice is submitted in accordance with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 13. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter. The related proclamation of January 10 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on United States Individuals Involved in the Antinarcotics Campaign in Colombia *January 13, 2003*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act,

2001, Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration that provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment