

May 9 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2003

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting Supplemental Budget Requests

May 9, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments to the Administration's FY 2004 budget submission for the Departments of Agriculture, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, the Interior, Justice, Labor, and Transportation; the Office of Personnel Management; and the Farm Credit Administration. I also ask the Congress to consider the enclosed proposals for the Department of the Interior and the Social Security Administration.

This transmittal also contains FY 2004 budget amendments for the Legislative Branch. Appropriations requests of the Legislative Branch are historically transmitted without change.

Further, in accordance with provisions of Public Law 108-11, the FY 2003 Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropria-

tions Act, I hereby request and make available \$280.0 million for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) of the Department of Homeland Security. Consistent with the Act, TSA would utilize these resources solely for expenses incurred to hire, train, and deploy initial passenger screeners.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

The President's Radio Address

May 10, 2003

Good morning. This week with a vote in the House of Representatives, Congress took a positive step towards passage of my jobs-and-growth proposal. The plan I submitted would create more than a million jobs by the end of next year through immediate tax relief for American families and businesses.

Since I sent my plan to Congress in January, the need for action on the economy has become even more urgent. The unemployment rate last month reached 6 percent, as many employers continue to hold back on the kinds of investments that lead to new jobs. The bill that passed the House of Representatives this week includes all the elements of my plan: cuts in income-tax rates this year; reduction of the mar-

riage penalty; an increase in the child credit from \$600 to \$1,000; an increase in the expensing provision for small-business investment in new equipment; and action to reduce the double taxation of dividend income.

These reforms would bring immediate help throughout our economy. They would leave more money in the hands of families who need it to make purchases and to pay the bills. And this tax relief would give employers greater incentives and resources to invest in new equipment. The result will be more jobs, and that is our goal.

We are also making progress on passing tax relief in the Senate. The Senate Finance Committee has approved legislation

that includes important aspects of my proposal. I urge the Senate to complete its work next week so the House and Senate can work out their different versions and get a tax relief bill to my desk as soon as possible.

This week's progress demonstrates that both Houses of Congress and both political parties agree that tax relief will help this economy. Now the discussion is about how much tax relief the American people need and deserve. We need at least \$550 billion in tax relief over the next decade, big enough to make a real difference in the paychecks of American workers, big enough to help entrepreneurs create more jobs, and big enough to give our economy the boost it needs.

This past week, I met a small-business owner named Luke Brindley. Luke and his family started their Virginia business less than 2 years ago with 5 employees, and now they're up to 25. Here's what Luke says: "Any break we get encourages us to hire more people and buy more equipment."

Next week, I will travel to New Mexico, Nebraska, and Indiana to address the Nation's hard-working small-business owners, families, and investors. My message to them will be simple: The surest way to grow this economy and create jobs is to leave more money in the hands of the people who earn it.

I urge every citizen to participate in this important debate and to make your voice heard. Explain to your local representative or your Senators what tax relief would mean to your family and your business, and please tell the members of Congress why our economy needs that relief now.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:02 a.m. on May 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 10. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 9 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters in Santa Fe, New Mexico *May 11, 2003*

President's Golf Game/President's Schedule

Q. How's the game?

The President. I need a lot of work.

Q. Better than yesterday?

The President. Equally as feeble—equally as feeble.

It's been a fabulous weekend here in Santa Fe. I'm now ready to get back to work. Got some travel to do tomorrow; be talking to the country about the need for an economic stimulus package. And then we're going to go see, Tuesday afternoon,

we're going to go to see some of the tornado sites. And it will give me a chance to tell the people who've suffered great loss how much a lot of the Nation prays for them and how we're concerned about them. But it's been a fabulous experience here in a wonderful part of the world. The hospitality by the people here has been just great. I really appreciate it.

Happy Mother's Day, everybody.

NOTE: The exchange began at 5:45 p.m. at the golf course at Las Campanas.