

Remarks Following a Meeting With Congressional Leaders May 22, 2003

The President. I just had a great meeting with Members of the House and Senate. The Vice President and I came up to congratulate the Speaker and the leader on a season of accomplishment. We've got an obligation to help those who suffer. America's a great, strong country. We're also a compassionate country.

And I thank the Members of the House and Senate for passing an AIDS bill that will help the people of Africa, a really good piece of legislation, a great piece of work by the Speaker and the leader and other Members.

I also came to congratulate them on the soon-to-be passage of an economic jobs-and-growth bill. This is a Congress which is able to identify problems facing the American people and get things done. These are can-do people, and I'm real proud of the work they've done.

I look forward to signing the economic recovery bill soon. The principle of the bill is pretty simple, that we believe the more money people have in their pockets, the

more likely it is somebody is going to be able to find work in America. In other words, the more money somebody has, it means somebody is more likely to demand a good or a service, which means somebody will produce a good or a service, which means somebody is likely to find work.

This bill I'm going to sign is good for American workers. It is good for American families. It is good for American investors, and it's good for American entrepreneurs and small-business owners. These two bodies are fixing to go on a well-deserved break. And when they come back, we're going to work together on reforming of Medicare.

Q. Mr. President?

The President. And furthermore—[laughter]—thank you for your time. [Laughter] Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:34 a.m. outside the House Chamber at the Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of Joshua Bolten To Be Director of the Office of Management and Budget May 22, 2003

The President. Good morning. The Office of Management and Budget is one of the most important agencies in our Government. This agency has a central responsibility for implementing the full range of this administration's agenda, from growing the economy and creating jobs to ensuring a strong national defense and a secure homeland. I depend on the OMB Director to keep a watchful eye on the taxpayers' money, to reform the operations of our Government, to make them better man-

aged, more accountable, and driven by results.

I also depend on the Director to provide honest and thorough information on the state of our budget and to offer sound advice as we carry out our national priorities. For this essential position, today I nominate one of my closest and most trusted advisers, Joshua Bolten.

For more than 4 years, first in Austin and now in Washington, I have counted

on Josh for his knowledge, his clear thinking, and his sound judgment. From his work in the private sector and practice of law in the investment banking world, Josh has a broad perspective on commerce and international economy. From his experience in both the executive branch and on Capitol Hill, Josh Bolten understands the workings of the Federal Government as well as anybody in this city. And most important, from his tenure as my Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, Josh knows the philosophy and priorities of my administration.

Josh Bolten is brilliant. He is tireless. He remains calm in any storm. He is a man of complete integrity. No member of my staff has served with greater skill or earned greater respect amongst his colleagues than Josh Bolten. I'm honored that he's agreed to join my Cabinet.

When confirmed by the Senate, Josh will take over from a superb public servant,

Mitch Daniels. Mitch has watched over the budget with a sharp eye and the common sense of a strong executive. He's insisted on good management of the people's money. He's done his job with great energy and consistent good humor. I have a feeling that Mitch's days in the public service are not over. I want to thank Mitch for serving our country so very well.

And now I'm pleased to introduce my choice as the next Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Josh Bolten.

[At this point, Director-designate Bolten made brief remarks.]

The President. Thank you all. Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:58 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director-designate Bolten.

Statement on the Earthquake in Algeria

May 22, 2003

On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to the people of Algeria for the terrible losses caused by yesterday's earthquake. I was deeply saddened to learn of the hundreds of deaths, the many inju-

ries, and the major damage in towns east of Algiers and in the capital city. Our prayers are for the victims, their families, and the entire Algerian nation. The United States stands ready to help.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Unemployment Insurance Extension Legislation

May 22, 2003

I commend the House of Representatives for passing an unemployment insurance extension that will continue important additional assistance for American workers as our economy recovers. Combined with action on the jobs-and-growth package, Congress has taken important steps to help

America's unemployed workers. I also urge Congress to pass legislation to create the innovative Re-employment Accounts I proposed to give certain unemployed individuals additional benefits and incentives to find work. I look forward to signing these measures into law.