

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.