

in Amsterdam, Secretary Spence Abraham is meeting with petroleum producers from around the world on actions they can take to help the U.S. and global economy. Also, we have reformed Federal regulations to allow badly needed improvements and expansion of the Nation's petroleum refineries, so that more gasoline can get to the market quickly.

But our Nation must address fundamental energy challenges that have built over time. I have increased fuel economy standards for SUVs, vans, and pickups. And 3 years ago, I submitted to Congress a national energy strategy that would address our long-term energy needs. It called for tax incentives for fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles, more exploration in places like Alaska, and greater use of ethanol, a reliable source of energy produced on our farms.

This national strategy would help make our country less dependent on foreign

sources of energy. Yet, these measures have been repeatedly blocked by Members of the Senate, and American consumers are paying the price. Three years is long enough. I urge the Congress to end the delays and pass comprehensive energy legislation.

With the right policies, we will maintain the strong forward momentum of the American economy, which is creating thousands of new jobs for American workers.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 11:50 a.m. on May 21 at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 22. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 21 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Remarks Honoring the 2003 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Detroit Shock

May 24, 2004

*The President.* Thank you all for coming. Welcome to the Rose Garden, and congratulations to the 2003 WNBA championship team from Detroit. That's who we're here to honor. It's good to welcome the coach. [*Laughter*] I don't know if 20 years ago they would have thought of you as a coach.

*William Laimbeer, Jr.* I know. I know. [*Laughter*]

*The President.* But he made a pretty darn good one, didn't he? I'm real proud of your leadership.

I want to thank Tom Wilson for being here; Val Ackerman, here as well. I want to thank the players and the coaches for coming.

This is an historic season for the Shock. After all, you went from worst to first. Isn't that right?

*Team member.* Yes, that's right. [*Laughter*]

*The President.* And interestingly enough, in winning the championship, you drew the largest crowd in league history, which says something about the talent and the flair and the charisma of the players. I think one of the things that good teams do is, they decide to be a team. They come together and say, "We're going to win as a team." And that's what this team did. There was tremendous discipline, hard work, and good leadership. And I'm proud of the fact, and I know the women on this team are, that you were Coach of the Year in the WNBA.

I said they came together as a team, but they had great talent. Ruth Riley was the WNBA Finals MVP. The Rookie of the Year was Cheryl Ford, and a member of the 2004 Olympic team was Swin Cash. This is a team with talent but learned to blend the talent for a greater whole.

They tell me that they changed the road there by the stadium to Three Championship Drive. Is that right?

*Team member.* Yes, that's right.

*The President.* It must be pretty intimidating for a team to pull up on Three Championship Drive to play.

I also appreciate most of all the fact that many of the players on this team are involved with helping others. I know there is a strong commitment to literacy on the team. These women understand that a child cannot succeed in America unless they can read, and I appreciate you taking your championship status and converting it into something really important in our society, besides winning basketball games.

Swin Cash and Ruth Riley have come to the National Book Festival. I know because my wife was the founder of it, and she was most appreciative. I appreciate so

much the Steps to Success program, which gives the players a chance to speak to children about nutrition and exercise and self-image. In other words, these players are mentors as well as good players. They've achieved an interesting status, a championship status, and now they convert it to helping somebody change their life or somebody to be loved.

I appreciate so very much the McKeesport, Pennsylvania, effort. Coach, when you had the whole team there to distribute 20 tons of food, I mean, it's a really fine example of what a champion means.

And so today it's my honor to welcome to the Rose Garden true champs—great athletes and really fine people. Congratulations. I'm glad you're here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to William Laimbeer, Jr., head coach, and Ruth Riley, Cheryl Ford, and Swin Cash, players, Detroit Shock; Tom Wilson, president and chief executive officer, Palace Sports & Entertainment; and Val Ackerman, president, Women's National Basketball Association.

## Remarks at the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania May 24, 2004

Thank you all. Thank you, and good evening. I'm honored to visit the Army War College. Generations of officers have come here to study the strategies and history of warfare. I've come here tonight to report to all Americans and to the Iraqi people on the strategy our Nation is pursuing in Iraq and the specific steps we're taking to achieve our goals.

The actions of our enemies over the last few weeks have been brutal, calculating, and instructive. We've seen a car bombing take the life of a 61-year-old Iraqi named Izz al-Din Salim, who was serving as Presi-

dent of the Governing Council. This crime shows our enemy's intention to prevent Iraqi self-government, even if that means killing a lifelong Iraqi patriot and a faithful Muslim. Mr. Salim was assassinated by terrorists seeking the return of tyranny and the death of democracy.

We've also seen images of a young American facing decapitation. This vile display shows a contempt for all the rules of warfare and all the bounds of civilized behavior. It reveals a fanaticism that was not caused by any action of ours and would not be appeased by any concession. We