

referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Amy Cofer, homemaker, and her husband, Joe, U.S. Supreme Court police officer; Katie Powers, senior staff accountant, and Shemetra Washington, human resource

administrator, New Technology Management, Inc.; Guy Donaldson, fruit grower, Orrtanna, PA; and Rex Hammock, president, Hammock Publishing.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report Relating to the
Interdiction of Aircraft Engaged in Illicit Drug Trafficking**
February 19, 2004

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

Consistent with the authorities relating to official immunity in the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking, (Public Law 107-108, 22 U.S.C. 2291-4), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. This report includes matters relating to the interdiction of aircraft engaged in illicit drug trafficking.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH

NOTE: Identical 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 February 20.

**Statement on the Recess Appointment of William H. Pryor, Jr., as a United
States Court of Appeals Circuit Judge**
February 20, 2004

Today I exercised my constitutional authority to appoint William H. Pryor, Jr., to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Bill Pryor has served as the attorney general of Alabama since 1997 and has had a distinguished career as a public servant and practicing attorney. His impressive record demonstrates his devotion to the rule of law and to treating all people equally under the law. He has received widespread bipartisan support from those who know him and know his record. I am proud to name this leading American lawyer to the appellate bench.

Attorney General Pryor was nominated more than 10 months ago but still has not received an up-or-down vote in the Senate.

A bipartisan majority of Senators supports his confirmation. If Attorney General Pryor were given a vote on the floor of the Senate, he would be confirmed. But a minority of Democratic Senators has been using unprecedented obstructionist tactics to prevent him and other qualified nominees from receiving up-or-down votes. Their tactics are inconsistent with the Senate's constitutional responsibility and are hurting our judicial system.

As a result of today's recess appointment, Attorney General Pryor will fill a seat on the Eleventh Circuit that has been designated a judicial emergency. He will perform a valuable service on a court that needs more judges to do its work with the efficiency the American people deserve and