

danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. And we've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We'll all need these qualities for the work ahead. I'm here to ask for your help and ask for your vote because we have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. I'm here because I believe we have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of America. I'm here to ask for your help so we can make this country safer and stronger and better. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we

know that for our great land, the best days lie ahead.

Thanks for coming. May God bless. God bless our great country. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:54 a.m. at the Grand River Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Terry Duggan of DuBuque, IA; country music entertainer Michael Martin Murphy; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady, who introduced the President.

Remarks in Lancaster, Wisconsin May 7, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thank you all for coming out. Come on, Laura. As you can see, I'm traveling with the A team of the Bush family. We're really glad to be here in Wisconsin, and I want to thank you all for coming out to say hello.

We're on a bus trip because I'm out asking for the vote. I'm here to tell the people of this State I'd like to be your President for 4 more years. And one of the best reasons why is to keep Laura as the First Lady for 4 years.

I'm not really here to politic you too much, but I do want you to know that I've got a plan to win this war on terror, and I've got a plan to spread freedom and peace. That's what I want to do. We're going to have to be tough in the years coming, and we've got to be compassionate too. This economy of ours is getting better. I hope the people in this part of the State are working. I know the farm economy is strong, and that's good for America. It's good for this part of Wisconsin.

I've got a plan to keep us going, so people can find work and realize their dreams. We got some good news today. They

added—we added 288,000 new jobs last month. That's a good sign. Part of it has to do with making sure you get to keep more of your own money. That stimulus plan is working.

And finally, my job is to tap into the compassion of America. Let me tell you where the strength of the country is. The strength of the country is in the hearts and souls of our citizens, like the people living right here in Lancaster. That's the strength of this country, and for those of you who are—those of you who are loving your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself, I'm here to thank you for that; thanking you for mentoring children; thanking you for feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the homeless; thank you for hearing that universal call—that universal call to help change this country one heart and one soul at a time. My job is to rally the spirit of this great country, and that's what I'm—that's what I'm doing, traveling your great State.

I'm proud you're here, Mr. Mayor. Thanks for coming. Come on up here, Mr. Mayor. I always like to give the mayors

advice. My advice is: Fill the potholes. [Laughter] Thanks for coming, Mayor.

[At this point, Mayor Jerry Wehrle of Lancaster made brief remarks and presented the President with a key to the city.]

The President. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thanks for coming.

Again, thank you all for coming out to say hello. We're kind of heading down the

road, but before I leave I do want to say I ask for God's blessings on you, and may God continue to bless our country.

Thank you. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:28 p.m. at the Grant County Courthouse Square. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

May 7, 2004

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I better take off my jacket. Listen, thank you all for coming. They told me we were coming—please sit down. It may take a while. [Laughter] They told me I was coming to Cabela's, and I said, "All right, fine. I'm looking for some power worms." [Laughter] I like to be in hunting and fishing country.

I thought what I'd do is share some thoughts with you, I'd talk to some of the citizens of this part of the world about what life has been like as a small-business owner or a family trying to raise their children and then, if we've got time, answer some questions. And then we've got to get on the bus and head up the road.

First, I want you to know I'm asking for your vote. I'm here to—it may seem like a little early to start. It may seem like the election is pretty far away. But if you really want to win, like I want to win, you can't start too soon. And I want you to know that my purpose after this is to let you know I have a reason for running. I know where I want to lead the country. And we've got a job to do together to make this country safer and stronger and better. We've got a mission together.

Probably the best reason to put me back in there is so that Laura has got 4 more

years as the First Lady. We were both raised in Midland, Texas, which is a relatively small west Texas town. And when I met her later on in life—we actually went to San Jacinto Junior High together in the seventh grade—and then when I saw her afterward, after we'd both gone to college and did some things, she wasn't particularly fond of politics or politicians. [Laughter] Fortunately, she said yes when I asked her to marry me, and now she is a fabulous First Lady of our country.

She has come to realize what I know, that in this office that we both occupy, President and First Lady, that we can make an enormous difference in people's lives, that we can help people help themselves. It's such an honor to be the President of such a great country. It really is, and I'm so proud that Laura is standing by my side with such calm and dignity and love.

I really appreciate the Cabelas for being here. You'll hear me talk about the entrepreneurial spirit, and, Ms. Cabela, you are a true entrepreneur. You had a dream. You counted on good people to help you realize that dream, and you built one of the great companies in America. And we're proud to be here at the Cabela site in this part of Wisconsin.