

that about me. I love peace. I long for peace. But I also understand the nature of this enemy. And I told the American people that sometimes you'll see action and it will look like things are normal, but beneath the surface will lurk this enemy. And that's just the way it is. And I want the American people to live a normal life. It's my job to worry about it. It's your job to go about your business. If you see something strange, of course, let the local authorities know. But it is a—this is a—we're in this for a while. And I fully understand the fatigue that comes with being told information as best as we know it that something might happen, but it's my duty. I've got to be as open with the American people as I can and realistic in my assessment about the realities of the world.

And I will repeat what I said, then I've got to get on the bus and head on out. But I will repeat what I said to Lancaster. Let me say what I said before about this—about the world we live in. We have a capacity to leave behind a better world. I say “we”—my—our generation, those of us who have been given the responsibility of assuming the duties of a civil society. We have a chance—and we will leave behind a better world for future generations of America, by sticking to what we believe, by understanding the great power of liberty

in societies, of believing that credo that all people, regardless of their faith or the color of their skin, have the capacity to self-govern.

You see—let me end on this note. I understand and most Americans understand that liberty and freedom are not America's gift to the world; freedom is the Almighty God's gift to every man and woman in this world. We will defend America—we will defend America. We will be unrelenting in our defense of this country, by finding the enemy before they find us. Listen, we want to whip them in Iraq before we have to face them here at home. We want to—but ultimately, we will prevail, ultimately prevail, because of the great values, the great universal values that this country lives by.

Listen, thanks for coming. Thanks for your help. God bless, and God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, who was found dead in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 19, 2002; senior Al Qaida associate Abu Musab Al Zarqawi; and Pat Roberts, chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Remarks in Pottstown, Pennsylvania *July 9, 2004*

Thank you all very much for coming out to say hello. I'm honored to be here. I'm here to ask for your vote. I'm campaigning because I want America to be a safer place, a stronger place, and a better place.

It's such an honor to be in the great State of Pennsylvania, and it's such an honor to represent the greatest country on

the face of the Earth. Thanks for coming out to say hello. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:41 p.m. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in Lancaster, Pennsylvania July 9, 2004

The President. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for having me. Please be seated, unless, of course, you don't have a seat. [Laughter] What a spectacular drive in here. As you know, we're on a bus, and it's hard to park a bus in a small parking lot, by the way. [Laughter] But we drove through this beautiful countryside and saw thousands of your fellow citizens there. They were so warm and gracious in their hospitality. I'm sorry they're all not here so I can thank them in person. Hopefully, somebody is recording this on a TV camera so they'll hear my thanks. But it is a really—what a special part of the world. And thanks for having me.

I'm here to talk about the fact that I'd like to be reelected President for a reason. You know, I love holding the office. It's—got a nice airplane to fly on and—[laughter]—housing is good. [Laughter] But I want to serve for 4 more years because I want the country to be safer, stronger, and better. I have a reason to ask for your vote.

And I'm going to spend a lot of time in Pennsylvania because I want to carry Pennsylvania this time. It's an important State. And we're going to—and we're going to.

I'm sorry that Laura is not with me. She's a fabulous First Lady, a great wife, and a wonderful mother—of my daughter Jenna, who is traveling with me today, University of Texas grad. How about that—in 4 years. [Laughter] Laura sends her best. She's campaigning herself. She is a—she's come to realize what I know in that you can make a difference in people's lives in so many different ways in the positions that we're honored to hold.

I remember the time she gave the Afghan radio address—radio address, my radio address, and talked about women in Afghanistan. And it was such a comforting

and reassuring voice, I'm sure, for the women there who had been so brutalized by the Taliban, to hear the First Lady speak. But the feedback from the radio address was really good. And she—I remember her coming back upstairs in the White House and saying, "Gosh, they heard me." People heard that somebody in America cares for them, that when we talk about young girls in America and our desire for them to be able to realize their dreams, we also said the same thing about young girls in Afghanistan. And that message resonated. And Laura was the messenger, and it made such a difference to those ladies and women in Afghanistan who heard her voice that it, in return, made a great difference for her. She knows what I know: One, it's a honor to serve our country; and secondly, you have an opportunity to affect people's lives in a positive way. And that's exactly what she's doing.

I want to thank Joe Pitts for introducing me. Joe is a good, strong, solid United States Congressman with a lot of integrity and a lot of decency, and I'm proud to serve with him. I just want to thank you, Joe, very much.

I'm traveling with the United States senior Senator, Arlen Specter. I'm proud to be traveling with him. I hope he wins, and I'd like you to support him. We discarded Santorum somewhere up the road. [Laughter] Actually, he's off to York to greet us there, which is our next stop.

I want to thank very much members of the statehouse who are here, particularly State Senator Noah Wenger. I'm honored you're here, Senator. Thank you for coming. I also want to thank—thanks for being here. State Senator Charlie Dent, who has tossed his hat in the ring for the United States Congress, is traveling today, as is congressional candidate Scott Paterno.