

Statement on the Resignation of Spencer Abraham as Secretary of Energy
November 15, 2004

Spence Abraham has been a valued member of the Cabinet and a strong and steady leader of the Department of Energy. He helped develop our National Energy Policy to reduce our country's reliance on foreign sources of energy and to provide reliable, affordable, and environmentally sound energy for America's future. He launched new technological research initiatives that will lead to the next generation of pollution-free automobiles and clean coal powerplants. In the war on terror, Spence Abraham played a pivotal role in keeping

the most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous people through his work on nuclear nonproliferation.

I am very grateful for Spence's service and thank him for his sacrifice and hard work for America. I wish him and Jane all the best.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Abraham's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of Ann M. Veneman as Secretary of Agriculture
November 15, 2004

Ann Veneman has been a strong advocate for America's farm and ranch families. As Secretary of Agriculture, she has been a valuable member of my Cabinet, working to ensure that we promote economic opportunities for farmers and ranchers, ensure a safe and wholesome food supply, and sell American farm products all around the world.

I commend Ann for her efforts to enact and implement a responsible farm bill with strong conservation provisions. I greatly appreciate Ann's leadership in ensuring that we responded quickly and effectively to protect the American food supply following

the discovery of BSE in the United States and following September 11th. She has helped ensure commonsense forest management and skillfully implemented the Healthy Forests Initiative. She has played a key role in opening markets and in ensuring a level playing field for America's farm products.

Ann has served our country with distinction and integrity. I appreciate her fine work and wish her well.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also made available Secretary Veneman's letter of resignation.

Statement on the Resignation of Edward W. Gillespie as Chairman of the
Republican National Committee
November 15, 2004

Ed Gillespie has done an outstanding job as chairman of the Republican National Committee. He helped bring many new people to our cause by sharing our vision of a safer world and more hopeful America. His successful efforts in outreach, registration, and voter turnout will be an enduring legacy on which to build a long-lasting governing coalition.

Republicans now hold the Presidency, majorities in both Houses of Congress, and

the majority of governorships and State legislatures. That's due to a lot of hard work by many people, and one of the most important contributions has been the personal commitment, creativity, and leadership of Ed Gillespie these past years.

I thank Ed for his exceptional service and friendship and wish him and Cathy all the best.

Remarks on the Nomination of Condoleezza Rice To Be Secretary of State
and the Appointment of Stephen J. Hadley as National Security Adviser
November 16, 2004

The President. Good afternoon. I'm pleased to announce my nomination of Dr. Condoleezza Rice to be America's Secretary of State. Condi Rice is already known to all Americans and to much of the world.

During the last 4 years, I've relied on her counsel, benefited from her great experience, and appreciated her sound and steady judgment. And now I'm honored that she has agreed to serve in my Cabinet. The Secretary of State is America's face to the world. And in Dr. Rice, the world will see the strength, the grace, and the decency of our country.

Both Condi and I have been proud to serve with our friend Secretary of State Colin Powell. He has been one of the most effective and admired diplomats in America's history. Secretary Powell has helped to rally the world in a global war. He's helped to resolve dangerous regional conflicts. He's helped to confront the desperate challenges of hunger, poverty, and disease. He has been tireless and selfless and prin-

cipled, and our entire Nation is grateful for his lifetime of service.

I'm also grateful that Steve Hadley has agreed to become my new National Security Adviser. Steve served Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Bush before me, and he has done a superb job as Dr. Rice's deputy during these past 4 years. Steve is a man of wisdom and good judgment. He has earned my trust, and I look forward to his continued vital service on my national security team.

When confirmed by the Senate, Condoleezza Rice will take office at a critical time for our country. We're a nation at war. We're leading a large coalition against a determined enemy. We're putting in place new structures and institutions to confront outlaw regimes, to oppose proliferation of dangerous weapons and materials, and to break up terror networks.

The United States has undertaken a great calling of history to aid the forces of reform and freedom in the broader Middle East