

move quickly this year out of both the Senate and the House, get it to conference quickly, and get it to my desk quickly, to show the American people that both parties are willing to work together to solve problems. We have a problem with class-action lawsuits. It is a problem that we all recognize, and it's a problem we intend to fix.

And I want to thank the Members for coming. I'm honored you are here, and I look forward to working with you. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Extension of the Russia-United States Mutual Fisheries Agreement *January 6, 2005*

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation extending the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1999, with annex, as extended (the "Mutual Fisheries Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was affected by an exchange

of notes in Moscow on March 3, 2003, and January 30, 2004, extends the Mutual Fisheries Agreement to December 31, 2008.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Russian Federation, I urge the Congress to give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
January 6, 2005.

Remarks on the Appointment of Connie Mack as Chairman and John B. Breaux as Vice Chairman of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform and an Exchange With Reporters *January 7, 2005*

The President. I want to thank the Secretary of the Treasury, John Snow, for being here today. I also want to thank my friend Senator—Senators Connie Mack and John Breaux for agreeing to head a group of citizens who will be exploring ways to simplify the Tax Code. I believe this is an essential task for our country. It's a task that will treat our taxpayers more fairly. A simple code will make it easier on the

taxpayers. But it's an important task in order to make sure the economic growth we are seeing in the United States continues forward.

Today we had a very positive set of numbers to—come out to show that more and more Americans are finding work; 159,000 new jobs were added in December, and that doesn't include the revisions from previous months. And that's positive news. And