

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. on Pauline Street. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA;

and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana.

Remarks During a Visit to the Hands On Gulf Coast Civic Action Center  
in Biloxi, Mississippi  
*April 27, 2006*

*The President.* I've come to the conclusion that I'm at a terrific place, where people are here bound by a common desire to show compassion to their neighbors in need. I really thank you. It's a compassion commune—[laughter]—where people are united by a singular purpose and setting a great example. Everybody—most people I talk to say, “Well, it makes me feel better.” The truth of the matter is, when you

volunteer to serve somebody in need, it does make you feel better.

So for all those in our country who are wondering whether or not they can make a difference in somebody's life, the answer is, all you have to do is look at these people here.

*Audience member.* Volunteer!

*The President.* All right. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m.

Remarks During a Visit to a BP Gas Station in Biloxi  
*April 27, 2006*

Listen, we've got people like this that are working for a living, who are paying higher prices for their gasoline—it's like a tax. And I talked the other day about things we can do. The first thing is to make sure that nobody is getting cheated. One of the roles of the Federal Government is to make sure that you're taken care of.

We need more refining capacity. One of the reasons why you've got high prices is the demand is greater than supply. And when demand is greater than supply, the price goes up. They've got in Pascagoula a really fine refinery. I remember coming over with the Governor, the place was shut down. They got it up and running, and we hope we can put a law in place that will encourage them to expand refining capacity. We've got a problem because we're dependent on oil from overseas. And oil

is the main reason—the price of oil is the main thing that drives the cost of gasoline.

One of the things we've got to do is make these trucks run on ethanol—and batteries that won't require gasoline. That's what the future is going to be.

Congress is debating some other ideas. And one idea is to give me the capacity to raise CAFE standards on automobiles. I encourage them to give me that authority. It's an authority that I'd use for light trucks. And I intend to use it wisely, if Congress would give me that authority.

Again, I want to thank you for letting me come by and say hello. It seems like everybody is getting better down here. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi.

Statement on the Framework Agreement With Canada on Softwood  
Lumber Trade  
*April 27, 2006*

I am pleased that the United States and Canada concluded a framework agreement today to resolve the long-standing dispute on softwood lumber trade. This agreement shows how NAFTA partners can overcome differences and work together. The United States close ties with our good friend and

northern neighbor made this agreement possible. I applaud Prime Minister Harper's leadership in resolving this issue, and I am grateful to the lead negotiators on both sides, Ambassador Susan C. Schwab for the United States and Ambassador Michael Wilson of Canada.

Message to the Congress Transmitting an Executive Order Blocking  
Property of Persons in Connection With the Conflict in Sudan's Darfur  
Region  
*April 27, 2006*

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") blocking the property of persons in connection with the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region. In that order, I have expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, with respect to the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan, to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and circumstances involving Darfur, as described below.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1591 of March 29, 2005, condemned the continued violations of the N'djamena Ceasefire Agreement of April 8, 2004, and the Abuja Humanitarian and Security Protocols of November 9, 2004, by all sides in Darfur, as well as the deterioration of the security situation and the negative impact this has had on humanitarian assistance efforts. I also note that the United Nations Security Council has strongly condemned the continued viola-

tions of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sudan's Darfur region and, in particular, the continuation of violence against civilians and sexual violence against women and girls.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1591 determined that the situation in Darfur constitutes a threat to international peace and security in the region and called on Member States to take certain measures against persons responsible for the continuing conflict. The United Nations Security Council has encouraged all parties to negotiate in good faith at the Abuja talks and to take immediate steps to support a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Darfur, but has continued to express serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Darfur in UNSCR 1651 of December 21, 2005.

Pursuant to IEEPA, the National Emergencies Act, and the United Nations Participation Act (UNPA), I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, and have issued an Executive Order expanding the scope of the