

Remarks at Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corporation in Port Washington,
Wisconsin
July 11, 2006

The President. John, thanks for the shoes, and thanks for——

John J. Stollenwerk. You're welcome.

The President. ——employing people.

Mr. Stollenwerk. You're welcome.

The President. We're at one of America's great companies. It's a privately held company that is making a good product. This is a company that has benefited because of the tax cuts. It's a subchapter S company. You've often heard me talk about cutting taxes on individuals benefits small businesses; this is a company that had benefited from the tax cuts. It's also a company that made additional investments because of the tax relief we passed.

And when you make investments, it makes your company more productive. And when you're more productive, it makes you more competitive. And so the tax cuts we passed have helped this company. It made a lot of sense. They've also helped our country. This economy of ours is growing. The unemployment rate is 4.6 percent nationally, and that's good news for workers. People are making more money, and that's good news for workers.

And as a result of a growing economy, we collected more money for the Treasury. I told the American people we would keep spending down and keep progrowth policies in place to help cut the deficit in half by 2009. As a result of the Mid-Session Review, the numbers that came out of the Mid-Session Review, I'm able to tell the American people, we'll cut the deficit in half by 2008. The projected budget deficit over—of over 420 billion is now assumed to be 296 billion. See, what happens is, when you grow the economy by cutting taxes, more tax revenues come into the Treasury, and that's what we're seeing here.

I'm looking forward to working with Congress to make sure that we continue

to hold spending down, to set priorities, and to be wise about how we spend the money. And one of the problems we have in Congress is, sometimes Congressmen and Senators stick unnecessary spending into bills. And I believe the President needs a line-item veto to help make sure that there's fiscal responsibility in Washington, DC.

I'm traveling with Congressman Ryan. He is the sponsor of the House bill, and I appreciate his leadership on this issue. The United States Senate needs to get the line-item veto to the President's desk so that the American people can have confidence in our ability to be wise about how we spend the money. This practice about stuffing stuff into these bills that never gets a hearing or the light of day is just—it's just not right. And one way to bring fiscal sanity to Washington and fiscal discipline to Washington is to give the President the line-item veto.

I'm thrilled to be here at Allen-Edmonds. I'm thrilled with my new shoes. [Laughter] I wish I had them on the Fourth of July. [Laughter]

Mr. Stollenwerk. You're a little late.

The President. But these shoes last a long period of time. I intend to be wearing them for a lot of Fourth of Julys in coming. This is an American-based company making good American products. And I'm proud of what you're doing here, John.

I'll tell you something interesting. So we're working the floor out there, talking to the people who make this company go, and he knows everybody's name. That's a good sign. That's a caring chief executive officer who cares first and foremost about the people here on the floor. And guess what happens when you have somebody like that who takes care of his workers? They make good product. And so I'm

proud to be an Allen-Edmonds customer, and I'm proud to be here at this factory, and thanks for having me.

Mr. Stollenwerk. Thank you.

The President. Yes, sir.

Mr. Stollenwerk. And a paying customer at that.

The President. Oh, yes. [Laughter] Part of the accountability system in Washington. [Laughter] Thank you all.

Q. Do you have a comment on India?

The President. No comments today. Thank you very much. Thank you. Good to see you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:24 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to John J. Stollenwerk, president and chief executive officer, Allen-Edmonds Shoe Corp.

Remarks at a Reception for Gubernatorial Candidate Mark Green in Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 11, 2006

Thanks for coming. Thanks for the introduction. Thanks for supporting the next Governor of Wisconsin, Mark Green.

I know a little something about what it means to be a Governor and a chief executive officer of government. Here is what you need: You need somebody who knows how to set an agenda; you need somebody who knows how to achieve the agenda; you need somebody who can get results without worrying about public opinion polls; you need somebody who stands on principle; you need somebody who shoots straight with the people. And that person is Mark Green.

There is no doubt in my mind he will be a great Governor for Wisconsin. I got to know him; this isn't the first time I've been with him before. I've seen him in action in Washington, DC. He is a highly respected Member of the United States Congress. People trust his word. When he says something, he means it. He is a positive influence in Washington, DC. He can bring people together, which is what you need in this State. He is an honorable, decent man, and I am proud to stand with him as he runs for Governor. I want to thank you all for supporting him.

I know something about running; you cannot win unless your friends step up. And

tonight you have stepped up. And I know Mark is grateful, and so am I, for coming tonight. So, thanks for being here.

You can't run for Governor unless you have a wife who loves you and a family standing with you. And the Green family is a fine, fine family. I want to thank Sue for being here and Rachel and Anna and Alex.

I was also proud to have met Jeremy and Elizabeth Green, the mom and dad. The mom kind of reminded me of my mom—[laughter]—constantly reminding Mark, you know, what to do, how to say it. [Laughter] I said, "Are you listening to her?" He said, "Yes, all the time." I said, "Then you're going to win." Thank you all for being here.

And by the way, Laura sends her love to the Greens. If you really need help coming down the stretch, I suggest you invite Laura to come here to Wisconsin. She'll help you win. She's a great First Lady.

We're having the time of our lives, by the way, and it really helps to—well, I have a 45-second commute. [Laughter] And it helps to commute to a home where there's somebody you respect and love there. And she sends her best. She knows what I know, that you can't win in politics alone. And so for those who have given money,