

planning, the central organizing principle of a single department.

The organization of such a vast enterprise has been difficult and complicated. Nevertheless, there is noticeable and substantial and measurable progress. And I appreciate all the hard-working folks for putting together an institute, part of our Government, all aiming to protect the American people.

And so, Secretary, thank you for the invitation. I appreciate the hard work of the people of this Department. I oftentimes say to the American people that you can go

about your business; you can run your enterprises; you can send your children to school knowing full well that there are thousands of our fellow citizens who work every day, 24 hours, to help you by protecting this homeland. And this is where it all starts. And I thank you for your hard work.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:20 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of National Security Leaders *February 8, 2007*

I am pleased that the Senate, with strong bipartisan support, has confirmed several key members of my national security team. America will benefit from the leadership of Mike McConnell as Director of National Intelligence, General George Casey as Chief of Staff of the United States Army, and Admiral William Fallon as commander of U.S. Central Command.

Mike McConnell is an experienced and proven leader who will continue implementing historic reforms of America's intelligence community designed to ensure we

receive timely, accurate information on threats to our country. General Casey's extensive knowledge of our military challenges and capabilities will enable him to lead our soldiers in successful pursuit of their mission. Admiral Fallon is an innovative thinker who will skillfully guide our military commanders as we confront our enemies in the war on terror.

I look forward to working with each of these strong leaders in combating terrorism and protecting the American people.

The President's Radio Address *February 10, 2007*

Good morning. Last Saturday, I addressed the annual retreat of Democrats from the House of Representatives. I thanked the Members of the new majority for their service in Congress, and we discussed our responsibility to work together on a wide range of issues, from fighting the global war on terror to making health

care more affordable to balancing the Federal budget.

One area with great potential for bipartisan cooperation is energy policy. The need for action is clear. Our Nation's reliance on oil leaves us vulnerable to hostile regimes and terrorists, who could damage our economy by disrupting the global oil supply. A spike in oil prices anywhere in the