

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:32 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Fred S. Zeidman, Chairman, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; Sara J. Bloomfield, director, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; Nobel Prize winner and author Elie Wiesel; President

Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit of Sudan; United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Darfur Jan Eliasson; and African Union Special Envoy for the Darfur Talks and Chief Mediator Salim Ahmed Salim.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders *April 18, 2007*

All of us around the table care deeply about what happened at Virginia Tech. And I know I can speak for all of us here that we send our prayers to the families of the victims, and we send our prayers to the friends of the victims. And we also send our deep concerns to the Virginia Tech community.

This fine educational institution is going through a lot of trauma and pain, and all of us here care deeply about their lives, and they just need to know it. They need to know people grieve for them.

I also want to thank the leaders from Congress for coming down. I'm looking forward to what will be a—one, I suspect,

of many conversations on this war in Iraq and other major foreign policy issues.

We're going to have a very good discussion. People have strong opinions around the table, and I'm looking forward to listening to them. I've got my own opinion, which I'm more than willing to share. The whole objective is to figure out how best to get our troops funded, get the money they need to do the job that I've asked them to do.

And so, again, I want to thank you all for coming. I'm looking forward to our discussions.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:30 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on Partial-Birth Abortion *April 18, 2007*

I am pleased that the Supreme Court upheld a law that prohibits the abhorrent procedure of partial-birth abortion. Today's decision affirms that the Constitution does not stand in the way of the people's representatives enacting laws reflecting the compassion and humanity of America. The partial-birth abortion ban, which an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed and I signed into law, represents

a commitment to building a culture of life in America.

The Supreme Court's decision is an affirmation of the progress we have made over the past 6 years in protecting human dignity and upholding the sanctity of life. We will continue to work for the day when every child is welcomed in life and protected in law.

Remarks at Tippecanoe High School and a Question-and-Answer Session in Tipp City, Ohio

April 19, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Sit down. Thanks for coming. I'm honored you're here. Steve, thank you for the invitation. It's a real pleasure to be with you. What I thought I would do is share some thoughts with you about a couple of subjects, primarily Iraq, and then I'd like to answer some of your questions, on any topic that you'd like to ask me about.

Before I do, I do want to thank Steve and the chamber of commerce for giving me a chance to dialog with you and, hopefully, giving the students here at this high school a chance to hear from the President firsthand. I know there are students who will be listening. My mission is to not only share with you what's on my mind and why I have made some of the decisions I have made, but another mission is to convince you that serving the public—that public service is worthwhile, that you can go into politics or you can feed the hungry or you can serve in the military, and it's a fulfilling part of a person's life and a necessary part, in my judgment, of a country that is a complete country.

So I want to thank the high school folks. I want to thank Chuck Wray, the principal, for greeting me. I appreciated you letting me come to this center of learning. I particularly want to thank the teachers for teaching. There is no more noble profession than to be a teacher, and I'm honored to be in your midst.

I want to thank the mayor, George Lovett—George L. [*Laughter*] Thank you, George—George W. [*Laughter*]

I'm traveling today with the leader in the House for the Republican Party, John Boehner. John is a—[*applause*—I've found him to be a good, solid, honest person. I know he is providing strong leadership in the House of Representatives. And I

know he cares a lot about this district. I've seen John work issues. I've heard him speak in depth about what he believes. And I appreciate his leadership, and I appreciate him joining me today.

I'm—I wish I was traveling here with Laura. The best thing about my family is my wife. She is a great First Lady. I know that sounds not very objective, but that's how I feel. And she's also patient. Putting up with me requires a lot of patience. But she sends her best. She's in New Orleans today.

And I will tell you, one reason—this may sound counterintuitive, but a good marriage is really good after serving together in Washington, DC. It's been an amazing experience to be a husband and then a dad as President of the United States. And I emphasize: That is the priority for me as the President. It's my faith, my family, and my country. And I am pleased to report that our family is doing great, particularly since my wife is such a fantastic person. And she sends her very best.

Let me say something about Virginia Tech, and I want to first thank Steve for the moment of silence. You know, it's a—there is—the President spends time at disasters. It's—part of the job of the Presidency is to help people heal from hurt. And the amazing thing is, though, when you go down to a scene like Virginia Tech, you can't help but be buoyed by the spirit, that out of the tragedy comes a certain sense of resolve.

One of the things I try to assure the families and the students and the faculty of that fine university was that there are a lot of people around our country who are praying for them. It's interesting: Here in Tipp City, the first thing that happened was a moment of silence, a moment of prayer. To provide—at least my prayer was: