

Office of Management and Budget. I thank you for your service to the country. And I'm looking forward to you getting to know Jim Nussle. He, like me, will appreciate what you're doing for the United States.

And so, Jim, I congratulate you on assuming this important position. I appreciate

your family supporting you. And now I ask the Vice President to swear you in.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Nussle.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders *September 11, 2007*

I thank the leadership of the Congress for joining us here to discuss the testimonies delivered by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. For some, this isn't the first moment they've been in the White House today, and I want to thank the leaders for joining Laura and me and the Vice President and his wife Lynne as we commemorated the—a day that really helped—or it did define our Nation, which is 9/11/2001. We also had a church service earlier, and I thank particularly the Speaker and the leader for being there as well.

Secondly, all of us around this table are saddened by the loss of Congressman Paul Gillmor. Congressman Blunt has just come from his memorial service. All of us offer our prayers to the Gillmor family during this difficult time.

And finally, I've asked the leadership to come and share their thoughts about Iraq.

As I mentioned, we've had a series of hearings where our commander on the ground and Ambassador in Iraq have talked about a way forward. I think it's very important before I make up my mind that I consult with the leaders of the House and the Senate. I thank the Members for coming and giving me their honest appraisal of whether they think we can find common ground or not and how they think we ought to proceed.

So thank you for coming; appreciate you being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Statement on the Death of Prime Minister John Compton of Saint Lucia *September 11, 2007*

Laura and I offer our condolences to the people of Saint Lucia on the death of Prime Minister John Compton. The father of Saint Lucia's independence, Sir John was

an elder statesman of the Caribbean. We will miss his vision and leadership, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.