

Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops and Their Families at
Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii
September 8, 2007

The President. I appreciate the Governor of this beautiful State, Admiral Keating, his wife, for their hospitality. The Secretary and I have just landed. We've come from Australia; we're on our way to DC. And I decided that it was best to stop and say hello to some of our wounded soldiers and sailors and marines.

Every time I have an opportunity to meet people who have sacrificed on behalf of the security of the country, I'm amazed at their spirit and their resolve. One of the things I look for is to make sure that these troops and their families are getting the best possible treatment. If they've got any complaints, I'm available for them to air them out.

And what I heard was encouraging; that people feel like they're getting the best possible care. And that makes me feel good. I told them, when I was in the room, that I came back from Iraq encouraged by what I saw. No question, there's still hard work to do, but my resolve is as strong as it's ever been. I believe we're doing the right thing there for the security of the country and for the peace of the world.

General David Petraeus will be reporting to the Congress, along with Ambassador Crocker, on Monday and Tuesday. I will then talk about a way forward after their report. I ask the Members of Congress just to sit back and listen to what we all have to say before they reach the conclusions that they're going to reach. But one thing is for certain: Now is the time to do the hard work in order to make sure that we can have a peaceful world, now is the time to deny the radicals and extremists a safe haven, and now is the time to advance democracy in the heart of the Middle East. I believe that's the calling of our time, and I believe we'll succeed. And I know it's necessary we do.

Anyway, thank you all for your hospitality.

Admiral Timothy J. Keating. Yes, sir.

The President. Admiral said he cooked some lunch for us today. I'm looking forward to having it.

Adm. Keating. Caught the fish and then cooked the lunch.

The President. Governor, proud to be with you.

Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

The First Lady

Q. Did you change any minds, Mr. President, with your trip?

Q. How is Mrs. Bush?

The President. She's doing great, thank you. I talked to Laura, talked to her twice. I talked to her right before she went in for the surgery, in Australia, and then talked to her twice on the airplane. Her spirits are good. They feel like the surgery was a success. She's now back at the White House. I told her I'm looking forward to having breakfast with her. I told her I'd be home soon. And I'm just grateful that the doctors did a good job, and I thank God for the fact that it came out well.

Q. Is she going to be released by the time you get home, sir?

The President. Yes, she's at the White House now.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:16 p.m. at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and his wife Wanda Lee; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for James A. Nussle as Director of
the Office of Management and Budget
September 10, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. I thank you for joining us as I welcome the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Jim Nussle. I congratulate Jim. I thank him for agreeing to serve.

Public service is a family commitment. And I want to thank Karen, Sarah, and Mark and all the members of Jim's family for supporting him as he takes on this important duty.

I appreciate the Vice President being here to swear in the newest member of the Cabinet. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet for joining us. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here. I know Jim appreciates it.

I appreciate Paul Ryan, a Member of the House of Congress—a Member of Congress from Wisconsin and the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. He's here because he understands that the man I picked to run the OMB knows what he's doing.

The Director of OMB is one of the most important jobs in Government. It's a vital assignment. I picked a man who knows how to count—[laughter]—and knows how to work with Congress to get the job done.

This Agency oversees the broad range of operations essential to the day-to-day operations of the Federal Government. It requires a leader who believes in the people, who cares about the people of the United States. Jim is such a person. It also requires a leader who knows how to keep taxes low, because that's what we intend to do.

When it came time to search for a new OMB Director, it wasn't hard to find in Jim Nussle the kind of person I was looking for: somebody who can get a tough job done, and somebody who has a solid record of fiscal restraint. For 6 years, Jim served as chairman of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives. He accom-

plished his tasks with a lot of skill. He was able to work with people from both parties and with the administration, I might add, handling the tough job. He understands that the Federal dollars don't come out of thin air. In other words, when we spend money up here, we're spending the people's money. He understands every dollar spent in Washington is a dollar that cannot be used by a small-business owner or a farmer or the families trying to save for their children's future.

It's our responsibility to ensure that we run our Government wisely and to spend the people's money wisely. Jim Nussle understands that. He also understands that cutting taxes has helped our economy grow. We've overcome some tough times in America. When you lower taxes in the face of a recession or uncertainty, it enables people to have more money to spend, save, or invest. And the tax cuts that we passed have worked. The economy is—grew at over 3 percent the last quarter. Our national unemployment rate is 4.6 percent. Inflation's low. The best way to make sure our growth continues is not to raise the taxes on the people.

And so we've submitted a budget that keeps taxes low and will enable us to achieve balance by 2012. And Jim Nussle understands this is a realistic budget. And I look forward to working with him to get our budgets passed through the United States Congress. I understand it's going to be tough work, Jim, because people up there want to raise taxes. We can't let them do so, for the sake of our families, for the sake of economic vitality.

I appreciate very much the fact that he knows what I know, that the OMB has got some highly professional, hard-working people who are serving the country. And I thank the good folks who work at the