

openness in our country. And I will, I hope, do something to make Government trustworthy in the eyes of the American people in the days and weeks, months, and years to come. That's a pretty good place to start.

Thank you very much. All right.

[At this point, the President signed Executive Order 13489, *Presidential Records*; Executive Order 13490, *Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Personnel*; and memoranda on the *Freedom of Information Act*, a *pay freeze for senior White House staff*, and *transparency and open Government*.]

Thank you. Lisa, our schedule now? The swearing-in is going to be taking place, and the Vice President is going to be carrying that out? Okay.

Before the Vice President does that, let me just say how proud I am of all of you. This is an extraordinary collection of talent, and you inspire great confidence in me. I think the more the American people get to know you, the more you will inspire great confidence in the

American people. All of you have made extraordinary sacrifices to be here. Many of you have brought your families here; they're making extraordinary sacrifices.

But what a moment we're in. What an opportunity we have to change this country. And for those of us who have been in public life before, these kinds of moments come around just every so often. The American people are really counting on us now. Let's make sure we take advantage of it. I know you will. So thank you for your commitment.

Joe, do you want to administer the oath?

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:18 p.m. in the Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General-designate Eric H. Holder, Jr.; White House Counsel Gregory B. Craig; and White House Staff Secretary Lisa Brown. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Vice President Joe Biden. The related Executive orders and memorandum are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on a Meeting on the Situation in Iraq January 21, 2009

This afternoon I met with our Ambassador to Iraq, the commander in Iraq, and the overall theater commander in the region in order to get a full update on the situation in Iraq. Key members of my Cabinet and senior national security officials also participated in this meeting.

The meeting was productive, and I very much appreciated receiving assessments from these experienced and dedicated individuals. During the discussion, I asked the military leadership to engage in additional planning

necessary to execute a responsible military drawdown from Iraq.

In the coming days and weeks, I will also visit the Department of Defense to consult with the Joint Chiefs on these issues, and we will undertake a full review of the situation in Afghanistan in order to develop a comprehensive policy for the entire region.

NOTE: The statement referred to Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Forces—Iraq; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Retired Military Officers January 22, 2009

The President. This first Executive order that we are signing: “By the authority vested in

me as President of the—President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of