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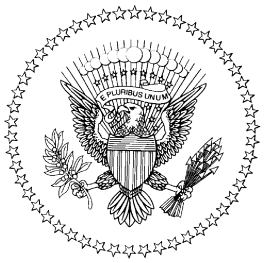
Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents



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Editor's Note: The President was in Milwaukee, WI, on April 6, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, April 6, 2001

The President's Radio Address

March 31, 2001

Good morning. This week the House of Representatives approved my budget plan, and next week the Senate will vote on it, as well.

My budget is shaped by a simple commitment: We can address our country's needs and still be responsible with taxpayers' money; and we can fund our priorities without expanding Government beyond the bounds of responsibility.

Today I want to give you a little more detail about some of my top priorities, the education and health and character of American children. My budget spends additional money on these goals and spends it in effective, creative ways.

We place a new national emphasis on teaching reading with a Reading First program to help all children learn to read by the third grade. Reading First will more than triple the existing funding for Federal reading programs, funding for early intervention and teacher training.

Another program called Early Reading First will put the best reading methods to use in preschool and Head Start Programs. Again, Early Reading First will triple the existing funding for Federal early reading programs.

My budget increases the funding for Head Start, while giving it a clear mission: to prepare our Nation's most disadvantaged children to learn as soon as they enter school.

My budget cares for children's health, as well as for their minds. In 2002, we'll spend well over $25 billion on health coverage for children under Medicaid and related programs. We invest more than a billion dollars, up 12 percent from 2001, in research into childhood diseases at the National Institutes for Health. We fund 1,200 new community health centers over the next 5 years, to bring better care to poor children. Thirty percent of the health care center patients are under 12 years old.

We add 94 million to the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program. In 2002, that program will aid more than 7 million people. The Centers for Disease Control will get a $22 million increase for their childhood immunization program. My budget plan increases Federal spending on childcare by 350 million, to reach a half million additional children.

We provide 200 million extra to provide services for children, services that prevent child abuse and keep families together. And we offer 60 million to help children raised in the foster care system with the cost of college or vocational training.

The values of our children must be a priority of our Nation. So my budget invests in abstinence education and drug treatment. We create a new $67 million program that will make grants to faith-based and community organizations who mentor the children of parents in prison.

This is a long list, but I wanted to make a point: My budget is active and compassionate. Discretionary spending grows by a healthy, responsible 4 percent, enough to meet our needs. We fund goals like education, health, and defense. We reduce debt at a record rate. We set aside a fund for future emergencies. We then have enough money to provide broad tax relief, including relief from the marriage penalty and a doubling of the child tax credit.

Those of us in Washington must always understand the surplus is not the Government's money; the surplus is the people's money.

My budget has the right balance. And I hope you'll encourage your Representatives in Congress to support my budget. And I thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:13 p.m. on March 30 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on March 31.

The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

Statement on the Arrest of Former President Slobodan Milosevic of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

April 1, 2001

I welcome today's arrest of Slobodan Milosevic, the former President of Yugoslavia. His arrest represents an important step in bringing to a close the tragic era of his brutal dictatorship.

Milosevic was responsible for great suffering throughout the Balkan region. He deserves to be tried for his crimes against the Serbian people. He also deserves to be tried for violations of international law. We cannot and must not forget the chilling images of terrified women and children herded onto trains, emaciated prisoners interned behind barbed wire, and mass graves unearthed by U.N. investigators.

Milosevic's arrest should be a first step toward trying him for the crimes against humanity with which he is charged. I am confident that Yugoslavia will continue down the path of cooperation with the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal. I am encouraged by the actions that Belgrade has already taken to work with the Tribunal, including its assistance over the last several weeks in transferring two indictees to The Hague. I call on President Kostunica to continue this cooperation and to see that Milosevic is likewise brought to justice.

The United States appreciates the hard job that Yugoslavia faces in building its new democracy. I assure the Yugoslav Government and people that they can count on the friendship of the United States as they continue down the path of democratic and economic reform. We look forward to the day that Yugoslavia is fully part of a Europe that is whole and free and at peace.

NOTE: In the statement, the President referred to President Vojislav Kostunica, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

Remarks on the United States Navy Aircraft Incident in the South China Sea

April 2, 2001

Late Saturday night in Washington, Sunday morning in China, a United States naval maritime patrol aircraft on a routine surveillance mission in international airspace over the South China Sea collided with one of two Chinese fighters that were shadowing our plane. Both our aircraft and a Chinese aircraft were damaged in the collision. Our aircraft made an emergency landing at an airfield on China's Hainan Island.

We have been in contact with the Chinese Government about this incident since Saturday night. From our own information, we know that the United States naval plane landed safely. Our Embassy in Beijing has been told by the Chinese Government that all 24 crewmembers are safe.

Our priorities are the prompt and safe return of the crew and the return of the aircraft without further damaging or tampering. The first step should be immediate access by our Embassy personnel to our crewmembers. I am troubled by the lack of a timely Chinese response to our request for this access. Our Embassy officials are on the ground and prepared to visit the crew and aircraft as soon as the Chinese Government allows them to do so, and I call on the Chinese Government to grant this access promptly.

Failure of the Chinese Government to react promptly to our request is inconsistent with standard diplomatic practice and with the expressed desire of both our countries for better relations.

Finally, we have offered to provide search and rescue assistance to help the Chinese Government locate its missing aircraft and pilot. Our military stands ready to help.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and an Exchange With Reporters

April 2, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to start off with a statement; the President will make a statement. We'll have two questions from the American press, two questions from the Egyptian press, and then you'll be asked to leave in a prompt fashion. [*Laughter*]

Of course, it is my honor to welcome the President of Egypt here to the Oval Office. I had the honor of meeting the President a couple of years ago. I found him to be an engaging, charming, strong leader then; my opinion hasn't changed after our good, frank discussion today.

We're friends. We will remain friends. And we will work together to bring peace to the Middle East, and we'll work together to try to convince all parties involved to lay down their arms, so there would be less violence. I'm also committed to working with the President on relations—economic relations that will be to the advantage of both our countries.

And so it is my high honor to welcome President Mubarak here to the Oval Office and to the United States.

Mr. President.

President Mubarak. Thank you. I'm so pleased to come here for the first time to meet with my friend President Bush in the Oval Office. He's a friend. I know him some time ago. And I'm very keen to work with him on all issues concerning the Middle East, especially the Middle East problem.

We are working very hard, and we are going to cooperate very hard in the direction of peace because our main concern is peace and stability in the area of the Middle East, which is in the interest of the United States, of Egypt, Jordan, and all countries in the area. We are going to do our best; we are going to cooperate with the main players, with the United States. And I have great hopes that President Bush will do the maximum effort of that so as to reach—lessening the tension and resume negotiations, which is vitally important.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, on China, do you consider the American service personnel hostages? And secondly, is it true that the Chinese have already boarded our Navy spy plane, and how do you react to that?

President Bush. My reaction is, is that the Chinese must promptly allow us to have contact with the 24 air men and women that are there and return our plane to us without any further tampering. I sent a very clear message, and I expect them to heed the message.

Q. Have they boarded the plane, sir?

President Bush. My message stands for itself.

Q. Will you be more involved, sir——

Q. The Middle East situation is deteriorating——

President Bush. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Actually, sir, I had another question, altogether, but the point is——

President Bush. Did Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News] steal your question? That's very inhospitable of you. [*Laughter*]

Middle East Peace Process

Q. The Middle East situation, sir, is deteriorating day by day. The press is speculating the American administration is disengaging itself from the area. Can the Middle East afford this vacuum by the absence of an active American role? And have you formulated a new approach, if any?

And President Mubarak, please comment afterwards.

President Bush. Well, we're very engaged in the Middle East and will remain so. As a matter of fact, the Secretary of State has been involved on the telephone this morning with Prime Minister Sharon. I have had numerous telephone conversations with leaders in the Middle East. I'll continue to be actively engaged at promoting a peaceful resolution of the issue. After all, most of our conversation today was talking about how to bring peace in the Middle East.

I understand that we can facilitate peace. We can't force a peace. And we will use our prestige and influence as best we can to facilitate a peace. Part of it is to build a strong foundation for peace in the Middle East. It's important for us to build strong relationships

with countries such as Egypt and Jordan and other countries in the Middle East who have got a stake in peace. But we will remain very actively engaged, and hopefully, there will be positive results.

It is very important for people to realize that the United States will not set a timetable that meets our specific needs. The only lasting peace is one in which the parties involved come to the table. And the role for strong countries like ourselves and Egypt is to encourage, first, the violence to end and, secondly, for discussions to begin again. And I'm very optimistic and hopeful that we'll be able to achieve that.

Q. Mr. President——

Q. Mr. President, your comments——

Q. A comment from President Mubarak——

President Bush. Hold on. AP man. AP man. Excuse me. Oh, sorry.

President Mubarak. I think the President told you everything about that. He is committed to work for peace. We are not going to impose any solution on the parties. We are going to facilitate the situation so that they can sit together, negotiate, and we will help them to reach a final conclusion for peace, because all of us need stability in the area.

Q. The U.S.-Egypt relation is bigger than just the peace——

President Bush. Of course.

Q. Is that true?

President Bush. Oh, absolutely. The U.S.-Egyptian relation is about economic commerce; it's about cultural exchanges. Absolutely. But one of the key things is that we can use our historic relationship to work together to bring peace in the Middle East. It's an important part of our relationship, but not the only important part.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Mr. President, do you see this accident as a provocation on the part of China or a true accident? And what will it do to U.S.-Chinese relationships, especially your decision on selling arms to Taiwan?

President Bush. Well, I made a very clear statement about how I viewed the incident. It is clear that we had a plane flying in international—over international waters that was damaged. It landed, and we expect there to be contact, as soon as possible, with our crewmembers. And we expect that plane to be returned to us.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:14 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks to the National Restaurant Association

April 2, 2001

Well, Denise, thank you very much for your kind introduction and your leadership. I'm honored to be here, and I'm glad you all are here, as well. I'm so pleased with the strong support that my budget and tax relief plan has received from the restaurant folks all across America. It means a lot. A lot of Members of Congress and Members of the United States Senate eat in your establishments, so it's a pretty good place to start the lobbying process. [*Laughter*]

First, I want to describe a little bit about the budget I submitted. It's created some heartburn in Washington because the increase in discretionary spending wasn't as large as some would like to see it.

In the past, during the last fiscal year, the last year that affected this fiscal year, the discretionary spending in our budget went up by 8 percent. Now, that's a lot. It's a lot when you're talking in terms of billions of dollars. It's a lot when you're trying to preserve money for Social Security. It's a lot when you're worried about the state of our economy. It's too much—the increase was way too much. It's almost as if there was a bidding contest to determine who got out of town first.

And so, we came to town with a new attitude that said, we can meet priorities if we control discretionary spending. We can meet priorities; we can pay down debt if we control discretionary spending. We can meet priorities, pay down debt, set aside money for contingency, and send back money to the people who pay the bills if we control discretionary spending.

And so, I submitted a budget to the United States Congress, which passed the House—it's going to be voted on in the Senate—that limits discretionary spending to 4 percent. Now, for some who don't pay attention to all this process, 4 percent sounds like a little bit. But it is—and it is, compared to what happened during the last budget negotiations. But I want to remind you, it's greater than the rate of inflation. It's greater than maybe some of the pay raises that you're giving the folks that work for you. It's a pretty healthy chunk of money. It's a big increase.

Yet, for some, it's not enough in Washington. And what we're trying to do is fashion the debate to say that 4 percent is plenty, particularly since we strongly believe, and I strongly believe, that we need real tax relief. We not only need to have tax relief that gets money into people's pockets quickly; we need long-term tax relief that will send a signal to the entrepreneurial class of America that tax relief is real, it's permanent, you can make your plans based upon a new tax system.

There are some in Washington who would like to see the issue go away by saying, "Here's some immediate money for everybody, and let's hope they forget about long-term relief." My position is clear: For those who want to accelerate tax relief, we're joining right with you. We think it's important to have quick injection of cash into our economy. But in order to make sure the environment for entrepreneurial growth is consistent and strong, we have an opportunity to have long-term tax relief.

And that's what I'd like for you to help me convince Members of Congress to listen to. Because you see, the great American experience is to own your own business, is to own your own home, is to own something. It's that no matter where you're from or who you are or what you're—how you're raised, if you have an idea, you can go out and start a restaurant. And it's your own.

And the role of Government has got to try to create an environment so that people can—that people feel comfortable about investing. There needs to be certainty when it comes to investment. There also needs to be recognition of the role small businesses play in our society. The tax relief plan I submitted cuts taxes on everybody who pays taxes. It affects those at the bottom end of the economic ladder by dropping the bottom rate from 15 percent to 10 percent, increasing the child credit from $500 to $1,000 per child. But it also drops the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent.

See, I recognize that most small businesses—and there are many small mom-and-pop restaurant owners all across America who are not incorporated. They're sole proprietorships. They have Subchapter S corporations, where they pay—where the tax rate they pay is not the corporate tax rate, not the C-rate, but the high individual rates. And so by dropping the top rate from 39.6 to 33 percent, we're saying to people who started their own business, "Well, the environment is going to be better. You'll have more cash flow so you can reinvest in your company. You'll have more cash flow, so you can employ more people."

This Congress must hear, loud and clear, the role of small businesses in our society when it comes to new job creation; 75 percent of the new jobs created in America are created by small-business people. And so tax relief is aimed not only at helping people at the bottom end of the economic ladder, but the tax relief package also is aimed at encouraging and stimulating entrepreneurial growth in America. And that's what Congress must hear.

Now, they'll try to debate the issue all kinds of ways and throw all kinds of smokescreens up. But reality is that a real, meaningful tax relief plan is good for investment in the private sector and job creation.

One of the most interesting moments of the budget debate came when I was in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and a lady stood up and said, now she was a proud mom and proud grandmother, and that she had baked cookies for a long time in her family. And every time she left a plate of cookies on the table, her children, her grandchildren ate them. She's really talking about the budget when she talked about that story. [*Laughter*] And so the fundamental question is not only how do we stimulate economic growth but what happens to the cash flow if it's not returned back to the people or not taken in the first place—let's put it that way.

And I can tell you what's going to happen to it. It's going to be used to increase the size of the Federal Government; that's what's going to happen. And so this is not only a debate about how to stimulate economic growth; it's a debate about who do you trust with the people's money. And it's a fundamental debate, and it's a good debate, and I'm glad it's taking place here in Washington.

See, I would rather trust you with your own money to make the proper investment. Once we meet priorities—and, remember, we pay down $2 trillion of debt in the budget I've submitted; we increase discretionary spending by 4 percent; we've set aside money for contingencies. Once we meet those obligations and priorities, I would rather you have your own money so you can make the investments you think are necessary.

I'd rather working people have their own money so they can decide what to do with their hard-earned dollars, as opposed to the Federal Government making those decisions. And that's the debate, and there's a big philosophical divide.

Oh, some folks up here may not want to see it that way, but it's clear to me that it's a matter of trust. And I'm here in Washington; I readily concede I'm a part of the Federal Government—proudly so. But I trust people with their own money. I would rather have people have—once priorities are met—I'd rather have people have their own cash flow, so they can decide how to save and invest.

I don't think 535 people ought to be making the decisions for people with money that I don't think is necessary to remain here in Washington, DC. And I hope you help me spread that message, because it's an important message for this country. It's a fundamental debate about how wealth is created. It's a fundamental debate about who does our Government trust.

I like our position, because when the people begin to hear outside the filter of Washington, DC, you know, when we get beyond those who decide how words sometimes are translated out there in the hinterlands, once people realize Social Security obligations will be met and the Medicare obligations will be met, once they understand, for example, in the first 4 months of this year, there's $40 billion more coming into our Treasury than anticipated, that even though the economy ground down to growth of one percent in the last quarter, $40 billion more will come into our Treasury than we thought—once people hear the facts, they will realize that tax relief doesn't mean somebody is going to suffer; tax relief is a positive.

For too long in Washington, people had to put tax relief in zero-sum politics. We've got one winner and one loser. If you keep more of your tax money, somebody's going to lose. But that's not reality—that's not reality.

Let me reiterate what I just said: $40 billion more in the first quarter of this year, in spite of the fact—anticipated—in spite of the fact that our economy grew at only one percent. The way I like to put it is, it sounds like somebody is overcharged. [*Laughter*]

And there is another issue that's going to be debated here pretty soon, and that's the death tax. I firmly believe that our Nation must get rid of the death tax. You know, I think of all the folks that I met who are struggling with their own small business, not only trying to fight the battles of cash flow and employment and workers' comp and all the issues that small-business owners deal with—liability—but I'm also thinking about all those who dream about leaving their assets to a child. And what a wonderful thought that is, that somebody's worked all their life to start their own business, so that a son or daughter can run it as part of a family legacy. And yet our Tax Code makes it really hard for that to happen.

There's a lot of small-business owners, a lot of restaurant owners who inherent a restaurant and are unable to pay the cash necessary to accommodate the evaluation and, therefore, are out of business. There's a lot of farmers and ranchers who have to do the same thing, and that's not fair. It's not fair to tax a person's assets twice.

I urge the Congress to listen to the voices of the people who are working all day long to build up their asset base and their business. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from, this affects all Americans in a negative way. And I think we're going to get a positive response out of Congress.

And you can help. You can help by talking to the Congresspeople from your district and the Senators from your States. I truly believe—I believe you can have a great presence here in Washington. I know there's a lot of frustrated folks outside in the country that say, "Well, I can't influence Washington." I disagree. I think you can. I truly think you can.

I think one of the reasons why we've gone as far as we have in the tax relief plan is because a lot of people in America are beginning to hear reality and hear the truth that we've got enough money to meet needs and let people keep their own money. A lot of people are beginning to realize that this is a plan that is fair, an eminently fair plan. If you pay taxes, you ought to get relief.

The idea of Washington, DC—of people in Washington saying, "We're going to have targeted tax cuts"—you know what that says to me? It says, people can decide you win, and you don't win, and that's not good public policy. It seems like, to me, if you pay taxes, you ought to get relief, and I think that's the American way.

I think most Americans understand the role of our Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which small businesses can flourish, in which people can work hard to realize their dream. So we're making great progress.

I remember campaigning during last summer, and people would say, "Well, are you ready to abandon your tax relief plan? It doesn't seem like anybody wants it in America." And I said, "No, I'm not abandoning it. It's the right thing to do. It's the absolute right thing to do." And so now, the debate no longer is, are we going to have tax relief? The debate is, how large will the tax relief package be? And I appreciate your helping getting us to this point.

But we need to work more, because until I sign that bill, I'm going to be relentless on the subject. It is the absolute right thing to do for America. It is the right thing to trust people with their own money. It is the right thing for our economy to accelerate tax relief. It is the right thing to create an environment that is optimistic about the future by having real, meaningful tax reform. It's the right thing to get rid of the death tax. And the American people are hearing it, and they're coming our way.

And a lot of it has to do with leadership such as yourself, who go back to your States and your communities, and says, "Let's pay attention to what's going on in the Nation's Capital. It will affect us—have a direct effect on our livelihoods."

And so, I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come and make my point and make my case, and more importantly, Denise, I want to thank you and your organization for joining us as we get something positive done on behalf of the people.

I am so optimistic about the tone in Washington; it's beginning to change. The habitual name-calling seems to be subsiding somewhat. Even the President, me, when somebody says some things I don't like, I'm willing to smile. [*Laughter*] And there is a spirit of accomplishment; we're beginning to get something done. And that's so important. It's so important, so that when people look at Washington, they're not disgusted at what they see—what they see, as opposed to this needless partisanship that sends a signal that, all of a sudden, the people don't matter. We need to replace that with a spirit of, at least, respectful disagreement, and I think we're making pretty good progress.

So I'm pleased with the progress we're making. I'm mindful that we've got a lot more work to do, and I want to thank you all for giving me the chance to come and make my case.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in Presidential Hall at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Denise Marie Fugo, chairman, National Restaurant Association.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

April 2, 2001

Trade Policy

The President. It's my honor to host a discussion on trade and its advantages to our country. I want to thank the leaders of the House and the Senate in both parties for

being here. We've got a lot of work to do in order to get trade promotion authority, but I'm confident that we can work together to do so. It's in our Nation's best interest that we trade. It's in the interest of those who provide jobs. It's in the interest of our farmers and ranchers. It's in the interest of small-business owners. And as I was reminded, it's in the interest of those of us who care about our values as to how to spread our values around the world.

This is an issue that is going to require close cooperation between members of the Republican Party and the Democrat Party. But that's achievable because trade is an American issue, and it's an important American issue.

So I look forward to working with the Members. I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for coming. And Ambassador Zoellick, who is the Trade Representative, is working hard on the Hill. And when you all get back from recess, we'll be working with you to see if we can advance the cause.

Thanks for coming.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Any progress on the Chinese, Mr. President?

The President. Nothing more to report.

Q. Is it safe to assume they boarded the plane?

The President. Nothing more to report. Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News], give it a rest, will you? [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:19 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Congressional Hispanic Caucus

April 2, 2001

I thank you all for coming. It's my honor to welcome Chairman Reyes and members of the Hispanic Caucus here. I thank them for coming. It's going to give us a very good chance to get to know each other on a personal basis, as well as to talk about some issues that are of deep concern to the Members of the Congress. And Mr. Chairman, I'm honored to have you here.

One of the things that I know the chairman knows is that I respect the Hispanic culture a lot. When I was a Governor for the State of Texas, I used to remind my fellow Texans that our State was richer as a result of the Hispanic culture. And I look forward to working with the members here on a variety of issues, not the least of which is to make sure the world is more peaceful, more educated, and more prosperous.

So, thank you all for coming. Thank you for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:24 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Silvestre Reyes, chairman, Congressional Hispanic Caucus. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Message on the Observance of National Library Week

April 2, 2001

I am pleased to join my fellow Americans in observing National Library Week.

An educated citizenry provides the foundation for a free and democratic society. Libraries promote the sharing of knowledge, connecting people of all ages with valuable information resources. These dynamic and modern institutions, and the librarians who staff them, add immeasurably to our quality of life.

Libraries serve as important centers for collecting, storing, and organizing information. Each year, more than 100,000 books are published in the United States alone, and the U.S. government publishes as many documents. Even beyond these numbers are incredible volumes of newspapers, magazines, and other copyrighted material.

In public, government, professional, or academic facilities, librarians help individuals use numerous resources to complete the simplest or most complex of research-related tasks. This ability to search for information from the oldest manuscripts to the latest references available demonstrates the enduring versatility of libraries.

During this special observance, I commend librarians for their contributions to education and learning throughout our Nation. I also encourage all Americans to visit their neighborhood library. Laura and I send our best wishes to the staff, volunteers, and patrons of libraries across America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: April 1–7, 2001, was designated National Library Week.

Proclamation 7420—Pan American Day and Pan American Week, 2001

April 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year on Pan American Day and during Pan American Week, the nations of the Americas celebrate the progress we have made toward our collective goal of a hemisphere united in freedom and democracy.

The United States and our neighboring countries in the Western Hemisphere have a long history of cooperation. Simon Bolivar first convened the Congress of Panama in 1826 with the intention of creating an association of states in the hemisphere. In 1890, a Pan American conference established the International Union of American Republics. The Union eventually became the Organization of American States (OAS), which continues to faithfully serve its member states. The OAS charter, in affirming the shared commitment, states that "the true significance of American solidarity and good neighborliness can only mean the consolidation . . . of a system of individual liberty and social justice based on respect for the essential rights of man."

Today, we remain united through mutual interests and the hope for a better future for our people. This month I will join the democratically elected leaders of the hemisphere in Quebec City for the third Summit of the Americas. At this conference, we will build on efforts at previous Summits to promote our shared objectives of representative democracy, free trade, and using the power of free markets to better the lives of the poor. We will also build on our mutual interest in encouraging respect for human rights and improving relations among all the countries of the hemisphere.

Even with our significant progress, however, challenges remain. Cuba is the only country in the hemisphere that will be missing from the Quebec Summit. It is my sincere hope that our neighbor will soon rejoin the fraternity of democracies and that the Cuban people will again know freedom.

During Pan American Week and the Summit of the Americas, we reflect on and renew our common dedication to ensuring that the benefits of development are broadly shared. We also look forward to building even closer relationships among our countries for the sake of future generations. We have a responsibility to leave our children a hemisphere that honors the commitment of our predecessors, strengthening bonds that connect us as nations and as people. We want to make this the Century of the Americas.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 14, 2001, as Pan American Day and April 8 through April 14, 2001, as Pan American Week. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this day and week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 5.

Proclamation 7421—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, 2001

April 2, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From our earliest beginnings as a Nation, America has been blessed with citizens who have been willing to fight and die to preserve our shared ideals. We owe our freedom to men and women who have responded heroically to the call of patriotic duty. In times of peace and war, in times of great conflict, and even in peacetime, they stood tall. Facing the horrors of combat, young Americans placed themselves squarely in harm's way.

Among all these ranks of brave Americans, our living former prisoners of war form a living testament to the courage Americans have shown in defending liberty. During World War II and the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, prisoners endured, in addition to separation from their loved ones, isolation, disease, and torture. More recently, American troops in the Persian Gulf stood bravely in the face of enemy capture and returned home with honor.

The men and women who suffered through the atrocious conditions of internment deserve our utmost gratitude and respect. Their fortitude serves as an example of placing the ideals of freedom and self-government above one's own interests. We also owe a debt of gratitude to their families for weathering agonizing uncertainty while demonstrating support for their loved ones' service to country.

In World War II, patriotic Americans stepped forward without hesitation to carry America's honor into unknown battlefields. Many thousands gave their lives as the ultimate sacrifice, both on the battlefield and in the deadly prison camps of the Pacific and Europe.

We are particularly mindful this month of anniversaries reminding us of the contributions former prisoners of war have made to our freedom. April marks the anniversary of the first return of American POWs from North Korea during Operation Little Switch. These prisoners endured bitter cold and inadequate food, clothing, and medical care in their brave effort to stop the spread of communism.

This April is also the 28th anniversary of the end of Operation Homecoming, in which our Vietnam-era POWs returned to freedom. Americans held prisoner during that war, some for as long as 9 years, were subject to torture and the horrors of isolation. They survived only through their faith, character, and patriotism.

On this date, we remember the sacrifices of those imprisoned while serving America. We remain committed to ensuring that future generations know of their heroism in order to fully appreciate their courage and resolve. Although they returned home safely, their physical and emotional scars remain as a reminder of the high price of liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 9, 2001, as National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. I call upon all the people of the United States to join me in remembering former American prisoners of war who suffered the hardships of enemy captivity. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 5.

Remarks at a Leadership Forum in Wilmington, Delaware

April 3, 2001

The President. Thank you, Mr. Jones. I'm honored to be here. Thank you all.

Claven Jones. Before we all get started here, can I ask you a question?

The President. You can do anything you—it's your building, you can do anything you want. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Jones. What did you think about those Power Hour kids upstairs? Weren't they great?

The President. I loved seeing the Power Hour kids. I know societies can change one person at a time. And while those of us in Government are trying to do the best we can with budgets and taxes, what we can't do is make people love one another. But what we can do is encourage loving people to help. And so I saw the Power Hour as an opportunity for children to improve themselves, but I also saw it as an opportunity for people to give something back in our society.

And so I want to thank you for giving me the chance to come. I want to say a couple of things. First, I'm honored to be traveling with the Delaware delegation, the two United States Senators: Senator Biden and Senator Carper. These are smart, capable people. I just hope they do it the way I think they ought to be doing it. [*Laughter*]

We will find—I will assure you this—we'll find areas where you can agree. I noticed Senator Carper dropped a strong charter school bill—and I was at Maurice's school earlier in the year. And Tom and I come from the Governors ranks; we worked a lot together; there's a lot of areas where we know we can work together to improve public education. And there's going to be some times we don't agree, but my pledge to the American people and the people of Delaware is, when we disagree, it will be done in a way that's respectful, where we can treat each other with respect, where we don't have to have this needless name-calling and finger-pointing to get ahead.

And I respect these two Senators. I may not like every vote. Of course, they may not like every proposal. But I can assure you that we're working hard to change the attitude of Washington, DC, so there is a more respectful attitude and so there can be a more civil debate about where this country ought to go.

And then, of course, I was pleased to see that I got 100 percent support on one of my proposals from the Delaware delegate, and that is Mike Castle. And one thing I love about Mike is that he is a very thoughtful Member who stays focused. And his focus is education, amongst a lot of other things, but his main drive right now is to make sure we get the education bill right.

And the education bill that we're trying to get out of the House, and eventually the Senate, mirrors much of what you've done here in Delaware under the leadership of then-Governor Carper. And I see members of the legislature here as well. It really says, every child can learn; it's important to trust local people to run the schools; and we must have accountability to determine whether or not every child is learning. And if children are learning, we'll praise the teachers and principals and superintendents. But if not, instead of just moving children through the system as if they don't matter, we address the problems early, before it's too late. Strong accountability systems lead to reforms.

Senator Carper, then-Governor Carper, recognized that. I think I got some credit for recognizing that in the State of Texas. And the whole cornerstone of the reform movement that we're trying to get out of the Senate and the House says that if you receive Federal aid, you, the State, must devise an accountability system to let the folks know whether or not children are learning.

And oh, by the way, let's also have a reading—national reading program that starts teaching children to read early. Let's have after-school programs called 21st Century Programs that not only are run by public school institutions, if that's what the local community wants, but also says, programs—community programs or faith-based programs are just as capable about running programs as anybody else is. And so all the Federal money, as far as I'm concerned, for after-school programs ought to be opened up to every program in the State of Delaware.

And so I'm here to say thanks for what you do. It's good to see—I was going to say old friends, Maurice—friends I've known for a while—not all that old. Maurice runs a great charter school here, as you all know, and he's done a fantastic job.

Mr. Jones—I told him earlier that I wrote a bestseller—actually, I didn't write it; they say—they claimed I wrote it—called "A Charge To Keep," and it's actually about me. So if you're having trouble sleeping at night, you may want to pick it up. [*Laughter*] At any rate—but all the proceeds are going to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters programs and Boys and Girls Clubs of America, because I believe so profoundly—I believe so strongly in mentoring, and I believe so strongly in helping children understand somebody loves them. And Government can't do that, but what Government can do is facilitate programs and allow faith-based programs to access Federal monies so that they can help change hearts.

I don't believe we ought to fund religion, but I do think we ought to fund a person, and that person should be able to choose whether or not to find help at a faith-based program or a secular program.

I view the Boys and Girls Clubs as faith-based programs, by the way, programs based upon the universal concept of loving a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. And for that, I'm grateful. I want to congratulate the board of directors of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware for having such a profound impact. One in seven children in this State are members of the Boys and Girls Clubs, for which I know you all are most proud.

Rather than falling into the legislative tradition of filibustering, I will now end my remarks by thanking you all for your hospitality, and I look forward to hearing from you.

[*The forum began.*]

The President. How old is your charter school?

John Taylor. Our charter school is in its first year.

The President. Great. How's it going?

Mr. Taylor. It is going well. It is going very well.

The President. Did you have many applicants for your charter school?

Mr. Taylor. Yes, we did have quite a few applicants.

The President. And what grades?

Mr. Taylor. We are currently servicing children between kindergarten and fifth grade.

The President. Oh, great. Big jump. Thanks for teaching.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Thank you for encouraging mentoring. You know, the great strength of the country takes place when somebody walks across the street or raises their hand and says, "What can I do to help? What can I do to help somebody in need?" And it's the cumulative kindness of America that really makes our country so different from everyplace else. And it's really important for all of us to understand the power of mentoring and what it means, because really what it means is recognizing that America will be changed one soul at a time.

And I want to thank you for encouraging the Kiwanis to become mentors. And pass the word that the President and the Senators and the Congressmen really do recognize the limitation of Government and recognize the power of love and faith and hope.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. One of the things we've all got to do in our society is to encourage and herald the education entrepreneurs all across the country. And the idea of change and recognizing each student—an accountability system recognizing the talents and needs of each student is an incredible part of reform. And that's what the legislation we're working on in the Senate and the House is going to foster.

And what triggered my thinking is, there's a lot of times where public schools don't change; their systems are inert; they just won't move. And yet, we've got three schools that are new—four—four new ideas, which shows that the State of Delaware has got a system that encourages change when change is needed. And that's the message we're trying to get to Members of the Senate and Congress who don't want change.

One thing—we're going to spend more money, and that's important, but as well, there needs to be a systemic change to not only encourage parental involvement but to recognize that the systems have got to be

geared on a child-by-child basis. And good accountability measures do that.

We were at a—I saw a computer—I'm sorry to get going here, but we saw a computer upstairs that was able to take a child, figure out its level of learning, and the program adjusts immediately to that child, and then another child gets on, the program adjusts to the learning capacities of that particular child. That's what education systems need to evolve toward, individualized learning, as opposed to lumping kids into groups and just kind of shuffling through the system.

And I appreciate what you're doing.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Thanks. Let me say one thing—Lucretia talked about partnerships. Senator Biden reminded me that some of the money in the program here came from Microsoft and AOL—the point being that corporate Delaware or corporate Texas or corporate America can play a major role in making sure that we match assets with needs, particularly in programs that focus on our youth.

And I want to thank corporate Delaware and your company, as well as others who have heard the call that part of making sure that capitalism runs the full gamut is not only to be able to make a good bottom line, which we all hope for, but also to put something back into the system. So if you're calling for people to put more back in the system, I'm calling right with you.

[*The forum continued.*]

The President. Yes, I want you all to hear—it's an interesting thing he just said. He said the tutorials take place in the church. That doesn't mean that—let me start over. It means that we need to focus on the child and not on the process.

How sad would it be if our system said, "You can't have tutorials in churches because of the legal process"? And it's important for our society to keep in mind, every child matters. And we ought to be heralding the Reverend Johnsons of the world, as opposed to trying to thwart the Reverend Johnsons of the world. That's what the whole Faith-Based Initiative in Congress is about.

I appreciate what you do. Keep doing it, like I know you will.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:20 a.m. in the Bears Den Gymnasium at the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club. In his remarks, he referred to Claven Jones, director, H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club; Maurice Pritchett, principal, Bancroft Elementary School; Lucretia Young, director, Warner Street YMCA; and John Taylor, principal, and Rev. Clifford I. Johnson, founder, Marion T. Academy.

Remarks Calling on China To Return the United States Military Crew and Surveillance Aircraft

April 3, 2001

Good afternoon. I want to report to the American people, and especially to the families involved, that I've just talked with Brigadier General Sealock, who earlier today met with our 24 men and women in China.

The general tells me they are in good health; they suffered no injuries; and they have not been mistreated. I know this is a relief to their loved ones and to all Americans.

Our crewmembers expressed their faith in America, and we have faith in them. They send their love to their families. They said they're looking forward to coming home, and we are looking forward to bringing them home.

This is an unusual situation in which an American military aircraft had to make an emergency landing on Chinese soil. Our approach has been to keep this accident from becoming an international incident. We have allowed the Chinese Government time to do the right thing. But now it is time for our service men and women to return home, and it is time for the Chinese Government to return our plane.

This accident has the potential of undermining our hopes for a fruitful and productive relationship between our two countries. To keep that from happening, our service men and women need to come home.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:03 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing. On Sunday, April 1, a U.S. Navy EP–3E Aries II electronic surveillance aircraft made an emergency landing on China's Hainan Island after a mid-air collision with a Chinese F–8 fighter jet over the South China Sea. The 24-member crew (21 men and 3 women), consisting of one Marine, one Air Force and 22 Navy personnel, have been held by the Chinese since the incident. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

April 4, 2001

The House of Representative's action on eliminating the death tax is a victory for fairness and a vote for economic growth. I applaud the spirit of cooperation in both parties that led to today's result.

The death tax lacks common sense and thwarts free enterprise. It is unfair to families who have devoted their lives to building family farms and small businesses. Today's vote is an important step toward restoring fairness in the Tax Code by eliminating the double and triple taxation that results from the death tax.

I look forward to continuing to work with Members of Congress from both parties to enact real and meaningful tax relief for the American people.

Proclamation 7422—National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, 2001

April 4, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Organ and tissue transplantation is one of the most significant advances in medicine. Wonderful success stories give hope to people of all ages, and donors and their families deserve our deepest gratitude. Their extraordinary generosity and foresight have given countless individuals the opportunity to rear a family, hold a job, and pursue fuller and more active lives.

Unfortunately, many people are not able to reap the benefits of remarkable transplant technology. More than 75,000 Americans are on the national organ transplant waiting list, and every 13 minutes, another person will be added to the waiting list. Sadly, each day, 15 of those on the waiting list will die because the need for organs far exceeds the number donated.

The Department of Health and Human Services and health professionals across the country are dedicated to improving these statistics. By becoming organ donors, Americans can join in this important mission to help those suffering from a life- threatening illness caused by the failure of a vital organ. Persons can participate by simply completing and carrying a donor card and informing family and friends of their wish to donate. Such decisions will make a significant difference in the number of available organs for donation.

Many Americans have set a powerful example in this regard, agreeing to become an organ donor and taking a selfless action that may potentially save lives. I encourage other Americans to consider organ donation and to join me in expressing gratitude for those who have already made the gift of life.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 15 through 21, 2001, as National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week. I call upon medical professionals, government agencies, private organizations, and educators to join me in raising awareness of the need for organ donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Executive Order 13206—Termination of Emergency Authority for Certain Export Controls

April 4, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et seq.*) (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. In view of the reauthorization and extension of the Act by Public Law 106–508, Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, which continued the effect of export control regulations under IEEPA, is revoked, and the declaration of economic emergency is rescinded, as provided in this order.

Sec. 2. The revocation of Executive Order 12924 shall not affect any violation of any rules, regulations, orders, licenses, or other forms of administrative action under that order that occurred during the period the order was in effect. All rules and regulations issued or continued in effect under the authority of IEEPA and Executive Order 12924, including those codified at 15 C.F.R. 730–74 (2000), and all orders, regulations, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant thereto, remain in full force and effect, as if issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant to and as authorized by the Act or by other appropriate authority until amended or revoked by the proper authority. Nothing in this order shall affect the continued applicability of the provision for the administration of the Act and delegations of authority set forth in Executive Order 12002 of July 7, 1977, Executive Order 12214 of May 2, 1980, Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, as amended, Executive Order 12981 of December 5, 1995, as amended, and Executive Order 13026 of November 15, 1996.

Sec. 3. All rules, regulations, orders, licenses, and other forms of administrative action issued, taken, or continued in effect pursuant to the authority of IEEPA and Executive Order 12924 relating to the administration of section 38(e) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(e)) shall remain in full force and effect until amended or revoked under proper authority.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 4, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on World Intellectual Property Rights

April 4, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

As required by the second proviso of the text of the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the World Intellectual Property Organization Copyright Treaty and the World Intellectual Property Organization Performances and Phonograms Treaty, passed by the Senate on October 21, 1998, I transmit herewith the second report on the status of the ratification of those treaties and related matters.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at the American Society of Newspaper Editors Convention

April 5, 2001

The President. My fellow Texan—[*laughter*]—by way of other States. [*Laughter*] It's good to see you again, Rich; thank you. I've had a great relationship with Rich in Austin, Texas. He occasionally opined in ways I didn't care for, but I always knew he was honest and open. He had his priorities straight: his country and his family. It's good to see members of his family here. I see you lowered your standards by inviting others from the Austin-American Statesman here to Washington today—[*laughter*]—particularly Herman. [*Laughter*]

At any rate, it's my honor to be here. It turns out every President since Warren Harding has spoken to this group. I found that interesting. Harding came here because he was a newspaperman himself. The rest of us just wanted to pander. [*Laughter*]

Of course, with a lot of attention you get as the President, you often occasionally get criticism, and I understand that. You know, I admit, I take it pretty well; after all, I was in baseball. But I wish some of the stories had come out differently.

And so, in the spirit of constructive criticism, I thought I'd make some suggestions to you as to some of the headlines I'd like to see in the future: "Cheney Cloned"—[*laughter*]—"President Has Nothing To Do at All Now." [*Laughter*] "2 Million Overlooked Ballots Suggest Bush Won California." [*Laughter*] "Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga Stumped By Name of U.S. President." [*Laughter*] "Gephardt Says Bush Tax Plan 'Just Makes Sense'." [*Laughter*] And finally: "Sammy Sosa Returns to the Rangers"—[*laughter*]—"Says: 'I Want To Go Home'." [*Laughter*]

But I'm really not here to tell you your business. It's your job to tell everyone how to run theirs—[*laughter*]—and you do a pretty good job at it. Few American figures are more legendary than the hard-bitten but idealistic news editor. And I'm aware of that. After all, I've sat through what seems like hundreds of editorial boards. But I think of people like Benjamin Franklin or Horace Greeley or Meg Greenfield, who we all dearly miss.

As you know, we've had a serious of votes recently on a proposed budget. And that's what I'd like to talk about today. Sometimes the Washington filter makes it hard for me to get my message directly to people. And since I view you as people—[*laughter*]—I'd like to go directly to you.

The House passed a budget last week. Tomorrow we'll hear the final say on the Senate budget. The House and I agree: We need commonsense policies to safeguard Social Security and accelerate economic growth. And I hope the Senate joins us.

I've written a budget based upon my vision of an active and responsible Government. Now, I recognize Government has got important work to do; yet, active Government must also be focused and effective. Education is my top priority, and frankly, it ought to be your top priority, as well. After all, an industry which depends on the ability of people to read needs to be involved in education. Children who fail to master reading are going to be left behind in America, and we had better do something about it.

I know Rich Oppel has heard me talk a lot about waging a war on illiteracy. It was a focus of mine when I was the Governor of Texas. It will be a focus of mine as President, and that focus also will be the focus of the First Lady, as well.

My budget reflects the commitment to education. It increases—it has an 11 percent increase in the Department of Education. We triple funding for reading programs. We have got a big focus on early childhood development.

In my budget, we double the Medicare budget by the year 2011. We introduced a new prescription drug program. We finish the job of doubling medical research at the National Institutes of Health by 2003. Basic research gets big increases, as well.

My budget pays for ambitious new programs to mobilize faith-based and community groups, which fight poverty and addiction. We expand the Women's, Infants', and Children's nutrition program by $94 million this year—next year—the Federal contribution to drug treatment by 100 million, Head

Start by 125 million, and programs to fight child abuse and neglect by $267 million.

We propose to put 900 million into the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the biggest conservation budget in U.S. history. Over 5 years, we'll devote 4.9 billion to repair and improve our national parks—again, the biggest increase in park upkeep in our Nation's history. We provide housing vouchers to 34,000 additional low income families and assist 130,000 others with the downpayment on their first home. We support 1,200 new and expanded community health centers to double the number of patients served in those important institutions.

It's an ambitious agenda, and it doesn't come cheap. The total budget is 1.96 trillion in the year 2002. You know, when you hear all the litany of things we're spending money on, some people are beginning to wonder whatever happened to all the penny-pinching Republicans.

But I don't think this budget's too big for the critics, nor do I think it's too small. As I'm sure you can guess, I think it's just about right. We've prepared a budget with great care. I understand to budget is to choose, so I made choices. We identified priorities: education and health care, research, military pay, conservation, community and faith-based organizations. I gave those priorities the funding they needed, while keeping overall discretionary spending at a responsible rate of 4 percent growth. The result is a budget that keeps our national commitment to Social Security and Medicare, and increases the Federal budget by $100 billion from 2001 to 2002. A $100-billion increase in spending ought to be sufficient.

Let me give you some idea of just how much money 100 billion is. When you adjust for inflation, it is more than all we spent on the Marshall plan—the 5 years' worth of spending on the Marshall plan—100 billion is more than that. It's enough money to run our Government and meet our priorities. The House understood that, and the Senate needs to hear that, as well.

Secondly, the percentage increases in spending of the past few years cannot be sustained. In fiscal 2001, Congress appropriated 8 percent more in discretionary spending than it did in 2000. At 8 percent increase, Federal appropriations will double in 9 years. Eight percent spending increases will burn through the surplus. My budget allows for 4 percent. And that's more than inflation, by the way, and that's more than the average increase in wages in the past few years. And my attitude is, if the taxpayer can get by on a 4 percent increase, so should the Federal Government.

And finally, we need significant tax relief—I mean, significant tax relief—and we need it now. A Democratic Congress passed the Kennedy tax cut, even though there was a deficit, because the country needed it. A Republican Senate and Democrat House passed Ronald Reagan's tax relief, even though there was a deficit, because the country needed it. Our country needs tax relief now, and we have a surplus. I don't think there's any excuse for providing real, meaningful tax relief. We only used about one surplus dollar out of four.

My tax relief plan is smaller than President Kennedy's or President Reagan's, but it's just as urgently needed. I sent Congress a reasonable budget. It gives the Federal Government over 100 billion to spend on important priorities. It pays down debt at a record pace. It leaves room for tax relief. It will help restore economic growth. It's a budget in line with the values of the American people, as you know, from trying to cover it.

The budget process is a long and winding one. An observer of Washington legislative processes once said, "It's never over until it's over, and it's never over." It's especially true of how we pass our budgets. No one vote is decisive. There will be a vote today. There will be one tomorrow. I urge the Senators when they cast the vote tomorrow to remember, there's a lot of people in our country who are beginning to hurt, a lot of folks who are paying higher energy bills, a lot of people have got consumer debt. I urge the Senators to prioritize. But always remember that the surplus is not the Federal Government's money. The surplus is the people's money. And once we meet priorities, we ought to share it with the people. It's not only the right thing to do for our economy; it's the right choice to make, to trust people with their own money.

The debate about the economic approach has been a vigorous one, and it should be. I think it's healthy for our country to debate these issues. People of different parties, and as I have discovered, some of my own party, think we ought to spend more than I think we ought to do and have smaller tax relief.

But so far, it seems like everybody has shown good will and good intentions, and for that, I'm grateful. Since I took office, a little more than 10 weeks ago, I've personally met with a lot of Members of the United States Congress. I was surprised to realize the other day that I've met with more than 278, and I hope a lot more come down to the White House.

You know, I haven't convinced them all, and they haven't convinced me. But we've been able to make our points without making enemies. And it's a good start to changing the tone here in Washington, DC, and that's what's needed, a more civil discourse.

I understand civility doesn't make good copy. I understand it doesn't make good copy to say, so-and-so may not agree, but they respect each other. It's much easier to print the mean word or the pointed attack. And your reporters are just doing their job.

But the truth of the matter is, all of us can work to make America a little more civil, can herald a civil discourse. It's important. Ours is the greatest democracy in the world. Ours is the greatest country in the world. And those of us who are responsible for shaping the dialog must always remember that it's—people are watching. The more civil we can be in Washington, the more civil we can be in our newspapers, the more likely it is democracy will continue to flourish.

Thank you for what you do. I sometimes wish I could shape it a little differently, but I appreciate free press, just like you appreciate free speech. And that's just what I've given you today, a free speech. [*Laughter*]

I'll be glad to answer any questions you have.

[*At this point, the question-and-answer session began.*]

Appointments to the Judiciary

Q. I was wondering if, in the spirit of civility and conciliation you were talking about, whether you think that when it comes to appointing members to the Federal bench, and especially if there are vacancies to the Supreme Court, that you should try, before appointments are made, to engage in a bipartisan conversation with Democrats in the United States Senate who have already indicated that they might be taking a very hard line if they believe you're sending up nominees that are philosophically extreme? Or do you feel that you are like any other President and should operate on the principle of: You propose, and let them dispose?

The President. The latter. We're going to pick the most qualified people we can find, people that share my philosophy about strict constructionism on the Court. I'll be mindful of confirmation. I don't particularly want a big fight in the Senate. And so we'll be putting out—we'll be gathering intelligence as to whether or not a person can be confirmed or not. I may decide to send somebody up that will create a tough fight. I don't know. I haven't gotten there yet.

But of course, I pick somebody, I want them to get confirmed. And so we'll be mindful of that. Obviously, I've made a lot of other—another decision about whether or not we ought to have screening agencies or screening groups, people to screen our people, and I decided not to do that. We'll get a lot of opinions, and not one opinion is more important than another, as far as my administration is concerned. And so we'll pick the people, and the Senate can hopefully confirm them.

China and the U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Q. Do you believe it's appropriate for the Chinese to be questioning our airmen that have been downed? And also, what do you believe the Chinese have put at risk with their actions?

The President. I appreciate you bringing up the subject. I want to make this clear. First, I regret that a Chinese pilot is missing, and I regret one of their airplanes is lost. And our prayers go out to the pilot, his family. Our prayers are also with our own service men and women. And they need to come home.

The message to the Chinese is, we should not let this incident destabilize relations. Our

relationship with China is very important, but they need to realize that it's time for our people to be home. We're working all diplomatic channels to affect our priority. There's discussions going on. And we'll continue to do so. My mission is to bring the people home.

And as to whether or not we'll have good relations, my intention is to make sure we do have good relations. But the Chinese have got to act, and I hope they do so quickly.

Yes.

Q. Following up on that, are there any circumstances in which you would offer an apology to the Chinese? And secondly, are you having any second thoughts about your decision to go to China later this year?

The President. I have no further comments on the subject. That won't count as a question. [*Laughter*]

First Amendment Freedoms

Q. Sir, as you know, at the heart of this newspaper organization is its passion for preserving and enhancing the Nation's access to information. Would you take this moment to articulate your own view of first amendment freedoms, and give us a sense of the fundamental message that you will send to your administration as it makes decisions on whether to open or close access to Government information?

The President. Yes. [*Laughter*] There needs to be balance when it comes to freedom of information laws. There's some things that when I discuss in the privacy of the Oval Office or national security matters that just should not be in the national arena.

On the other hand, my administration will cooperate fully with freedom of information requests if it doesn't jeopardize national security, for example. The interesting problem I have, or for me, as the President, is what's personal and what's not personal. Frankly, I haven't been on the job long enough to have been—to have had to make those choices.

I'll give you one area, though, where I'm very cautious, and that's about e-mailing. I used to be an avid e-mailer, and I e-mailed to my daughters or e-mailed to my father, for example. And I don't want those e-mails to be in public—in the public domain. So I don't e-mail any more, out of concern for freedom of information laws but also concern for my privacy.

But we'll cooperate with the press, unless we think it's a matter of national security or something that's entirely private.

China-U.S. Trade Relations

Q. I hope you will respond to this question. It's on the Asia subject, but general.

The President. I might. I'm not sure yet. [*Laughter*]

Q. In my region, we have strong economic interests in Asia as an export market. Would you please comment on the balance that you think should be struck between our strategic interests and our economic interests in Asia, including China?

The President. I believe that China ought to be a trading partner of ours. I think it's in our economic interests to open up the Chinese markets to U.S. products—to U.S. agricultural products. I not only believe it's in our economic interest, I believe it's in our interest to promote U.S. values. And I believe the marketplace promotes the values. When people get a taste of freedom in the marketplace, they tend to demand other freedoms in their societies. And so, I'm an advocate of China's entering into the WTO, and I'm hopeful that the current situation ends quickly and our people come home.

China is a strategic partner—a strategic competitor. But that doesn't mean we can't find areas in which we can partner, and the economy's a place where we can partner. And we've got some differences with China, long-term differences—spreading of weapons of mass destruction is an issue that we need to work with the Chinese on, as well as other nations in that part of the world.

Human rights is an issue, but I believe trade will encourage more freedom, particularly when it comes to individual liberties. The marketplace is—the marketplace unleashes the opportunity for people to make choices, and so I continue to push for trade with China, and——

Airline Travel

Q. All of us here flew in for this conference. Most of us had delays of one type or another. Earlier this week——

The President. Most of you—sorry?

Q. ——had delays at airports. Earlier this week, there was a report issued which was critical of the airline industries and the mounting problems with service and people getting around the country.

I guess my question, coming from northwest Indiana, where the debate is whether to have a third Chicago airport or not, what's your administration going to try and do to solve this ongoing problem?

The President. Well, one thing we need to do is expand the number of runways all around America. And as you know, there's a lot of environmental regulations, some of them meaningful, some of them not, that prohibit the expansion of runways. And step one is to increase accessibility, which will then make it easier to increase competition.

As to your question about whether or not there ought to be a third airport in the Illinois area—I mean Chicago area, I haven't made up my mind yet.

Q. I'm getting the signal from your——

The President. Getting the hook? Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the the J.W. Marriott hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Richard A. Oppel, president, American Society of Newspaper Editors, who introduced the President; and Ken Herman, reporter, Austin American-Statesman and Cox Newspapers.

Remarks at the U.S. Conference of Mayors National Summit on Investment in the New American City

April 5, 2001

Brent, thank you very much for those kind words. Mayor Morial, it's good to see you, sir. Mayor Menino of the great city of Boston, I'm sure you're thrilled with the Nomo no-hitter. [*Laughter*] I am pleased to see my friend, the mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee; we went to college together. Mayor Ashe, it's good to see you, sir. Tom, thank you very much—Tom Cochran, who's worked hard for the mayors association. Mayor Archer of the great city of Detroit is here with us. Pat McCrory, it's good to see the mayor of Charlotte.

I can't forget to say hello to my Mayor, the Mayor of Washington, DC, Mayor Williams. I tell you, he is a—one of my first lunches was with the Mayor, and I'm impressed. And I know the mayors who know him are impressed, as well. So Mayor, thank you. There's a couple of potholes out back that I'd like to talk to you about. [*Laughter*] I say that because I've always said the mayors have one of the toughest jobs in America. After all, you are closest to the people. You have to walk your neighborhoods and listen to the people who you know say, "Well, Mr. Mayor, it's good to see you; how about my road?" [*Laughter*] But Mayor, you're doing a great job.

I've got members of my team who are here. Cabinet Secretary Mel Martinez. Mel, thank you, sir. Ruben Barrales, who is running my Intergovernmental Relations Office. Thank you, Ruben. If Ruben doesn't return your phone call, we've got an issue. [*Laughter*] He'll return them. And finally, John DiIulio, who is running the Faith-Based Office. And John, I appreciate your being here, as well. And Roy Bernardi—where's Roy? Hey, Roy, good to see you. Thanks. Roy is the mayor of Syracuse, and he's coming here to work in the administration.

I respect your work. You all are practical folks who solve problems, and I'm honored that you're here. And thanks for bringing such good weather, too. I think it's the most beautiful day we've had since I've been the President of the United States, and the Rose Garden is a spectacular place to welcome you. And it's my honor to do so.

Our cities are the testing ground for the American Dream. They're places where young people go to begin their careers. They're places where new immigrants arrive to look for work and a better life. They're places where people of every background seek to fulfill the promise of our country.

When we look at our cities, we see our highest aspirations, our incredible diversity, our greatest achievements, and our most pressing challenges. Across America, in cities large and small, a generation of bold and reforming mayors have restored safety to

streets and restored prosperity to our Nation's downtowns, and for that, our country is grateful.

The continued renewal of our cities requires five commitments: better education, broader homeownership, faster economic growth, easier environmental cleanup, and stronger communities and charities. All of these goals are reflected in the budget, which the Congress is now debating.

Education gets the biggest percentage increase of any Department in the budget that I submitted. My budget triples spending on school reading programs in year one. We triple spending on preschool reading programs in year one. Education reform costs money, and this administration is willing to spend it. But money alone does not produce reform, and that's why my plan emphasizes results and accountability. Results matter to children; they matter to parents; and they should matter to mayors. And I know they do.

Parents leave cities when they mistrust public schools. Parents stay when they have confidence in the public school system. And a sure way for a school to gain parents' confidence is to show them proven results on a yearly test. We don't test to punish children; we test to help them. In the same way, we don't test to punish urban schools, we test to renew them. Our budget helps to bring high standards to every low income school in America. It focuses on early childhood programs. It increases spending for Head Start, but it also encourages and invites innovation so that no child is left behind.

Second, my budget promotes homeownership. We want to give as many Americans as possible a stake in their neighborhood and a concern for its future. Yet, the sad fact is 48 percent of Hispanic- and African-American families—only 48 percent own their own homes. And we must do better in our country. My administration has proposed a renewing-the-dream tax credit to encourage investors to develop housing for low income families. This tax credit will help build 100,000 new homes in low income areas.

We also add to a new initiative called the American Dream downpayment fund, to help low income people with their downpayment on a home of their own. We're putting $1 billion into the American Dream fund over the next 5 years, and our goal is to make owners of 650,000 low income families. We'll bring the dignity and independence of homeownership to more and more Americans.

Third, my budget is a growth budget for small business. It is the dynamism of the entrepreneurs, many of them immigrants, that have powered the revival of American cities. But entrepreneurs in urban America, like entrepreneurs all over America, are generally unincorporated businesses. They're generally Subchapter S's or sole proprietorships and, therefore, pay taxes at the highest marginal rate.

As you know, I've submitted a plan that reduces all rates on all taxpayers. And it's important for those in the United States Senate to understand that when you drop the top rate, you encourage growth in inner cities by encouraging entrepreneurial spirit to flourish. A drop of the top rate really says to the urban enterprise, the small-business person in urban America, you'll have more money to reinvest so you can employ more people.

And then there's the issue of burdensome inheritance taxes. As Robert Johnson of Black Entertainment Television argues, the death tax and double taxation weighs heavily on minorities who are only beginning to accumulate wealth. The Senate needs to hear that message. The Senate needs to leave enough money in the proposed budget to not only reduce all marginal rates but to eliminate the death tax, so that people who build up assets are able to transfer them from one generation to the next, regardless of a person's race.

Fourth, we must reform the laws that slow the cleanup of the Nation's brownfields. As many as 450,000 industrial sites have been abandoned. New users have been scared away by the threat of Superfund regulation and litigation. It is time for new thinking. We will set high environmental standards, and we will protect redevelopers who meet those standards from Federal liability. We must cut the redtape that clogs the brownfield cleanup revolving loan fund. And we'll permanently extend the brownfield cleanup tax incentive that is scheduled to expire this year. On the brownfields of yesterday, we will build the green industries of tomorrow.

And finally, my budget aids community and faith-based groups that help our cities take on the worst of our social problems. So I'm so pleased that John DiIulio is here, who's spearheading this effort. We support local efforts to fight illiteracy and teen pregnancy and drug addiction. We promote mentoring programs, especially for the large number of children with a parent in prison.

This summer I look forward to going to Philadelphia to join Mayor John Street as he shows the Nation the compassionate work his city's faith-based and community organizations are doing. These organizations have a message of hope for all American cities, and my budget has a message of hope for them. We will support the caring acts of caring people and not turn them away because they are inspired by the Bible or the Koran.

These are some of my priorities, and we fund them. We repay all the available public debt in my budget. We establish a contingency fund for future needs, and then we reduce taxes to accelerate our economy's slowing growth. We reduce taxes, because we understand many in your cities are struggling to get ahead. We must reduce taxes in order to help pay for the high energy bills that many are now suffering. And we must always remember that the Federal surplus is not the Government's money. The Federal surplus is the people's money.

This is a budget that is reasonable, balanced, and sound. It's a budget that is good for America's cities, which means it's a budget that's good for America.

Thank you all for coming, and God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:18 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor H. Brent Coles of Boise, ID, president, Mayor Marc H. Morial of New Orleans, LA, vice president, Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston, MA, advisory board chair, and J. Thomas Cochran, executive director, U.S. Conference of Mayors; Mayor Victor H. Ashe of Knoxville, TN; Mayor Dennis W. Archer of Detroit, MI; Mayor Patrick McCrory of Charlotte, NC; Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC; Hideo Nomo, pitcher, Boston Red Sox; and Robert L. Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer, BET Holdings, Inc.

Executive Order 13207—Further Amendment to Executive Order 10000, Regulations Governing Additional Compensation and Credit Granted Certain Employees of the Federal Government Serving Outside the United States

April 5, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 10000, as amended, is further amended as follows:

Section 1. Section 201 is amended:

(a) by striking "(a)" and

(b) by striking " and (b) the words 'section 207 of the Act' have the meaning set forth in section 101 hereof."

Sec. 2. Section 205 is amended by striking "(a)" and by striking subsection (b).

Sec. 3. Section 210 is amended:

(a) by striking ", but at least annually," and

(b) by striking "if program or methodology revisions would substantially reduce an established differential or allowance rate, then".

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 5, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 6, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Remarks on Presenting the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards in Crystal City, Virginia

April 6, 2001

Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for that kind introduction, and thank you for agreeing to serve your country once again. My friend Don Evans couldn't make it, but we have a pretty darn good replacement with Norm Mineta.

Dr. Wood, thank you very much, sir, for your leadership. You may wonder why Dr. Wood has got such white hair. My mother's

on his board. [*Laughter*] And if she were here, she would say she has white hair because of me. [*Laughter*]

I'm thrilled to see the Baldrige family. Thank you all for being here, and thank you for staying with this award. They tell me you never miss, Midge, and that's important.

I want to congratulate the winners who are here, the CEO's, the leaders, the employees, the rowdy Texans. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the audience whistled and cheered.*]

I rest my case. [*Laughter*] It's an honor to be here.

U.S. Navy Aircraft Incident

Before I begin, I would like to update you on the situation in China. Earlier this morning I talked with General Sealock who, once again, visited with our crew for about an hour today and reports that they are doing just fine. They are housed in officers' quarters, and they are being treated well. We're proud of these young men and women who are upholding the high standards of our Armed Forces. We know this is a difficult time for their families, and I thank them for their patriotism and their patience. We're working hard to bring them home through intensive discussions with the Chinese Government, and we think we're making progress.

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

And now, to the business at hand. It's an honor to be here, to be a part of an award ceremony that has stood the test of time. And the reason why is that it's based on principles, such as high standards, quality, and excellence.

The philosophy of Malcolm Baldrige and the Baldrige Awards make clear that everyone in an organization has a voice, a philosophy which trusts everyone with responsibility. Quality comes from giving people the tools and training their jobs require, the authority they need to do their work the way they think is best, the dignity that comes with knowing that their views matter. To do good work, we need great workers and great companies, such as those represented here, treat great workers with respect and fairness.

The Baldrige way is good business. The hypothetical Baldrige Index, a stock market index composed of the shares of those Baldrige winners that are publicly traded, has outperformed the S&P 500 for 7 years in a row. As the example of Los Alamos National Bank shows, caring for our communities is a form of quality, as well. And that quality will be rewarded with customer satisfaction and customer loyalty.

The Baldrige quality message is coming to health care and to education. Health care and education were added as categories in 1999. I realize there are no winners yet, but 25 organizations applied in '99 and 19 more in the year 2000. I look forward to presenting the first Baldrige Award in these categories soon.

We thank the Baldrige Foundation, the examiners, the judges, the foundation members, all the volunteers who work so hard. And thank you for your devotion to the highest ideals of American business.

These efforts do justice to the memory of an extraordinary man, Malcolm Baldrige, one of this country's outstanding public servants. He served as Commerce Secretary at a time when many doubted that American goods could compete in world markets. He dedicated himself to proving the doubters wrong. He succeeded, and America is stronger thanks to him and the award established to honor him.

Thank you for having me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:52 p.m. at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Transportation and former Secretary of Commerce Norman Y. Mineta; Michael Wood, president, Foundation for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, Inc.; Margaret "Midge" Baldrige, widow of Malcolm Baldrige; and Brig. Gen. Neal Sealock, USA, U.S. Embassy Defense Attache in Beijing.

Remarks on Presenting the Horatio Alger Awards

April 6, 2001

Thank you very much. Welcome to the White House.

Wayne, thank you very much for your kind remarks. It is a real honor for me to be here

to congratulate the 105 national scholars, to thank the universities who are going to match the scholarship money that you all have raised, and to thank the award recipients and congratulate you for the example you've set for America.

Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation

Before I begin, I want to say I've got a little news I'd like to report. I'm really pleased to report that the United States Senate just moments ago passed a budget that funds our Nation's priorities and allows for over $1.2 trillion of meaningful, real tax relief for the American people.

The House has already passed $1.6 trillion of tax relief. Now the House and Senate will work to find common ground between these two budget plans, and the result will be the largest tax relief in decades. The fact that both Houses of Congress have committed to provide significant relief is good for the American people, and it's good for our economy.

When the House and Senate complete their work, they will have paved the way so the American people can receive an across-the-board income tax reduction, a doubling of the child credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and the elimination of the death tax. This budget also wisely increases spending on education, funds priorities like Medicare and Social Security, and pays down a record amount of debt. I applaud today's action and congratulate the Republicans and Democrats who helped make it happen.

Horatio Alger Awards

And I'd like to congratulate this year's recipients. All of you have amazing stories of adversities overcome and great goals attained: The son of a Polish immigrant who started out in his father's burlap bag business and is now the chairman and CEO of two major corporations; a man who, in his youth, helped support his family, right here in the Washington area, and then went on to become the founder of America Online; a young woman who mortgaged the family house for money to start her business and now runs a major construction company; a managing partner of a baseball team—and I know how much he suffers—[*laughter*]—two well-respected leaders from my home State of Texas; a successful son of a preacher, now chairman and CEO of Lanier Worldwide, Inc—one of you began work at age 8 to help your mother sustain the family because of illness of your father; and he is here proudly as the chairman and CEO of Fannie Mae—and finally, the CEO and president of Burger King, who experienced tough times but overcame them with dignity.

I am privileged to be here with you all. And one is not able to be here, a man I'm proud to call an ally, a fellow who, before I came, I can tell you, he voted right—[*laughter*]—and that's Senator Chuck Hagel. This is an award that all of you deserve, and we're sure honored to have you here in the White House.

It's also good to see Mrs. Ruth Peale here with us. Doctor and Mrs. Peale, I think you've been here several times before, and it is my honor to welcome you again.

It's fitting that all of you should gather in the people's house. This is the right place to honor the recipients of this award and perhaps a future president.

There are quite a few Horatio Alger stories among the folks who have lived here: A small Missouri farmer who never graduated from college and spent his best years working on the farm, who would eventually lead America as it became a world power, Harry S Truman; or a poor boy from Iowa, orphaned at age 9, who as a man would save millions in Europe from starvation after two World Wars, President Herbert Hoover; a child of the frontier who would become a land surveyor, a store clerk, a lawyer, a legislator, and one day helped to free slaves and save the Union, Abraham Lincoln.

The Horatio Alger Association is dedicated to really one of the basic truths about this country, and I hope this home remains dedicated to the same truth. In America, we believe in the possibilities of every person. It doesn't matter how you start out in life; what really matters is how you live your life. That has always been our creed. It has always given hope to those who dream of a better life. And that hope has always been the source of our Nation's greatness.

At the Horatio Alger Association, you also understand how much the dream depends on education. And for that, all of us should be grateful. You promote literacy and early reading. You provide millions of dollars in scholarships based upon need and talent. You understand that the hope for a better life often begins in the classroom.

A good education can be the first real break a person gets in life. A young person might have big dreams for the future, but if he or she can't read, then the highest of hopes probably won't carry them very far.

We have a duty to every child in America to give them the best possible start in life, to make every school a place of learning and of discipline and of character. We take this responsibility seriously in our country, as we should.

But lately, we've been falling well short of our professed goals. Just today we learned the latest results from the National Assessment of Education Progress, known as the NAEP, which measures reading skills amongst our fourth graders. Unfortunately, the test reveals no progress at all amongst children in need of help. And it shows a further widening of the gap between the highest and lowest performing students. The highest scores are higher; the lowest scores are lower. Good students are scoring better; struggling students are struggling more. This is not acceptable.

The NAEP provides an important service. It shows us where the need is greatest amongst our students. And these results point out, once again, the need for a strong emphasis on early reading. The budget I submitted to Congress would accomplish this with a Reading First Program and reformed Title I Programs. My budget gives the highest priority to education with an 11.5 percent increase in overall funding. It triples the current spending on reading and early detection of children facing reading difficulties.

The House and Senate are working closely to pass a budget with this kind of focus. I applaud them for their efforts. It's important that we work together, because reading is what really turns children into students. It is the most basic of all basics. That was true in the 19th century, when Horatio Alger lived, and it's just as true for children today. His stories call to mind an era very distant from ours, and they were just stories, but they had a point, and they showed young readers the way.

Such stories are still being written in America, in every town and city, every day, and in real life. Today we recognize 10 such lives, the example they set and the promise they hold for others to follow. And it is my honor to honor them.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:03 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H. Wayne Huizenga, member, Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans, who introduced the President; and Ruth Stafford Peale, founder, Guideposts magazine, and widow of Norman Vincent Peale. The President also referred to Title I of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (Public Law No. 103–382), which amended Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Statement on Senate Action on Federal Budget Legislation

April 6, 2001

I want to say I've got a little news I'd like to report. I'm really pleased to report that the United States Senate just moments ago passed a budget that funds our Nation's priorities and allows for over $1.2 trillion on meaningful, real tax relief for the American people.

The House has already passed $1.6 trillion of tax relief. Now the House and Senate will work to find common ground between these two budget plans, and the result will be the largest tax relief in decades. The fact that both Houses of Congress have committed to provide significant relief is good for the American people, and it's good for the economy.

When the House and Senate complete their work, they will have paved the way so the American people can receive an across-the-board income tax reduction, a doubling of the child credit, relief from the marriage penalty, and the elimination of the death tax. This budget also wisely increases spending on education, funds priorities like Medicare

and Social Security, and pays down a record amount of debt.

I applaud today's action and congratulate the Republicans and Democrats who helped make it happen.

Message on the Observance of Passover

April 6, 2001

I am pleased to send warm greetings to Jews around the world celebrating the Passover holiday, beginning at sundown on April 7. As you gather with family and friends, eat traditional foods, and sing joyous songs, you follow in the footsteps of your forefathers in remembering the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt nearly 3,500 years ago.

During this season of renewal, the Passover holiday commemorates the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery. Through the years, Jewish sages have taught that the lesson of freedom found in the miracle of Passover has two important aspects. The first is the escape from physical bondage and the regaining of dignity and equality by the individual and by a people. Equally important is spiritual liberation from selfish desires and destructive habits.

The flight from slavery led quickly to Mount Sinai and the Holy One's gift of the Commandments to Moses and the Israelites. They were then fully free to follow the Creator's laws in striving to perfect their own lives and the world in which they lived. The connection between freedom from bondage and the gift of the Commandments enhances Passover's abiding influence, not only as a Jewish holiday, but also as an inspiration to all mankind.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a joyous and memorable holiday observance.

George W. Bush

Executive Order 13208—Amendment to Executive Order 13202, Preservation of Open Competition and Government Neutrality Towards Government Contractors' Labor Relations on Federal and Federally Funded Construction Projects

April 6, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, 40 U.S.C. 471 *et seq*., and in order to (1) promote and ensure open competition on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (2) maintain Government neutrality towards Government contractors' labor relations on Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects; (3) reduce construction costs to the Federal Government and to the tax payers; (4) expand job opportunities, especially for small and disadvantaged businesses; (5) prevent discrimination against Government contractors or their employees based upon labor affiliation or lack thereof; and (6) prevent the inefficiency that may result from the disruption of a previously established contractual relationship in particular cases; thereby promoting the economical, nondiscriminatory, and efficient administration and completion of Federal and federally funded or assisted construction projects, it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 13202 of February 17, 2001, is amended by adding to section 5 of that order the following new subsection:

(c) The head of an executive agency, upon application of an awarding authority, a recipient of grants or financial assistance, a party to a cooperative agreement, or a construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing, may exempt a particular project from the requirements of any or all of the provisions of sections 1 and 3 of this order, if the agency head finds: (i) that

the awarding authority, recipient of grants or financial assistance, party to a cooperative agreement, or construction manager acting on behalf of the foregoing had issued or was a party to, as of the date of this order, bid specifications, project agreements, agreements with one or more labor organizations, or other controlling documents with respect to that particular project, which contained any of the requirements or prohibitions set forth in sections 1(a) or (b) of this order; and (ii) that one or more construction contracts subject to such requirements or prohibitions had been awarded as of the date of this order.

George W. Bush

The White House,
April 6, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., April 10, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 11.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 1

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC.

April 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Wilmington, DE, where he toured the H. Fletcher Brown Boys and Girls Club. In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Angela Antonelli to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Brian Jones to be General Counsel at the Department of Education.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce P. Mehlman to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bill Hawks to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

The President announced his intention to nominate James R. Moseley to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thomas L. Sansonetti to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate Patricia Lynn Scarlett to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management, and Budget.

The President announced his intention to nominate Allan Rutter to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration.

The President announced the designation of Jonathon Chase as Acting Director of the Community Relations Service.

The President announced the designation of Kevin D. Rooney as Acting Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization.

The President announced the designation of Kathryn Turman as Acting Director of the Office for Victims of Crime.

April 4

In the morning, the President had separate telephone calls with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Robert D. McCallum, Jr., to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division.

The President announced his intention to nominate Paul V. Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Sue Cobb to be Ambassador to Jamaica.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anthony H. Gioia to be Ambassador to Malta.

April 5

The President announced his intention to nominate Joseph J. Jen to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mary Kirtley Waters to be Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Congressional Relations.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jeffrey R. Holmstead to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Air and Radiation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eileen J. O'Connor to be Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Poland in June.

April 6

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Crystal City, VA, and later, he returned to Washington, DC. Later, the President traveled to Milwaukee, WI, where, in the evening, he attended the Milwaukee Brewers vs. Cincinnati Reds baseball game and threw out the first pitch. The President then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas Jay Feith to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kevin J. Martin to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen Q. Abernathy to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Copps to be a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate A. Elizabeth Jones to be Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs.

The President announced his intention to nominate Thelma J. Askey to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Craig Stapleton to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jim Nicholson to be Ambassador to the Holy See.

The White House announced that the President will visit the Organization of American States on April 17 and meet with Secretary General Cesar Gaviria and the members of the Permanent Council.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 3

Stephen Goldsmith,
of Indiana, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2005, vice Victor H. Ashe, term expired.

Richard Nathan Haass,
of Maryland, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of Service as Director, Policy Planning Staff, Department of State.

James Andrew Kelly,
of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (East Asian and Pacific Affairs), vice Stanley O. Roth.

Donna R. McLean,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Peter J. Basso, Jr., resigned.

Submitted April 4

Erik Patrick Christian,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Eugene N. Hamilton, term expired.

Paula J. Dobriansky,
of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Global Affairs), vice Frank E. Loy.

Theodore William Kassinger,
of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, vice James A. Dorskind.

Sean B. O'Hallaren,
of Oregon, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation, vice Michael J. Frazier, resigned.

Stephen A. Perry,
of Ohio, to be Administrator of General Services, vice David J. Barram, resigned.

Maurice A. Ross,
of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of 15 years, vice Henry F. Greene, term expired.

Chris Spear,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Edward B. Montgomery.

John B. Taylor,
of California, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Timothy F. Geithner.

Submitted April 5

Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Political-Military Affairs), vice Eric D. Newsom.

Victoria Clarke,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, vice Kenneth H. Bacon.

Kristine Ann Iverson,
of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Geri D. Palast.

Submitted April 6

Wade F. Horn,
of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, Department of Health and Human Services, vice Olivia A. Golden, resigned.

Scott Whitaker,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Richard J. Tarplin, resigned.

Thelma J. Askey,
of Tennessee, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency, vice J. Joseph Grandmaison.

Maria Cino,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, vice Marjory E. Searing.

Charles A. James, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, vice Joel I. Klein, resigned.

Piyush Jindal,
of Louisiana, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, vice Margaret Ann Hamburg, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released April 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released April 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on tax cut legislation

Announcement of nominations for Associate Judges for the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Released April 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary: President To Visit Poland

Released April 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on the amendment to an Executive order relating to project labor agreements

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.