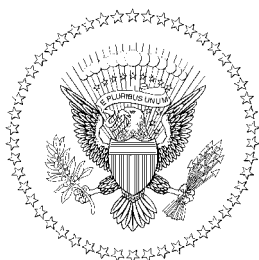


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, December 3, 2001
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Editor’s Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on November 30, 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, November 30, 2001

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Reporting on the Deployment of
United States Military Personnel as
Part of the Kosovo International
Security Force**

November 18, 2001

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of May 18, 2001, I provided information regarding the continued deployment of combat-equipped U.S. military personnel as the U.S. contribution to the NATO-led international security force in Kosovo (KFOR) and to other countries in the region in support of that force. I am providing this supplemental report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that Congress is kept fully informed on continued U.S. contributions in support of peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo.

As noted in previous reports, the U.N. Security Council authorized member states to establish KFOR in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999. The mission of KFOR is to provide a military presence in order to deter renewed hostilities; verify and, if necessary, enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); enforce the terms of the Undertaking on Demilitarization and Transformation of the former Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); provide day-to-day operational direction to the Kosovo Protection Corps; and maintain a safe and secure environment to facilitate the work of the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

Currently, the U.S. contribution to KFOR in Kosovo is approximately 5,500 U.S. military personnel. An additional 500 U.S. military personnel are deployed as the National Support Element in Macedonia, with an occasional presence in Albania and Greece. In the last 6 months, all 19 NATO nations and 19 others, including Russia, have provided military personnel and other support per-

sonnel to KFOR in Kosovo and other countries in the region.

In Kosovo, the U.S. forces are assigned to a sector principally centered upon Gnjilane in the eastern portion of Kosovo. For U.S. KFOR forces, as for KFOR generally, maintaining a safe and secure environment remains the primary military task. United States forces conduct security patrols in urban areas and in the countryside throughout their sector. Approximately 79 percent of KFOR soldiers are dedicated to patrolling, manning checkpoints, and mounting border and boundary patrols. The KFOR forces operate under NATO command and control and rules of engagement.

The UNMIK continues to make progress in establishing the necessary structures for provisional democratic self-government in Kosovo, including through adoption of the Constitutional Framework for Provisional Self-Government, and preparations for Kosovo-wide elections scheduled to occur on November 17, 2001. The KFOR coordinates with and supports UNMIK at most levels, and is represented at the Joint Implementation Commission. Also, KFOR support includes providing a security presence in towns, villages, and the countryside, and organizing checkpoints and patrols in key areas of Kosovo to provide security, protect minorities, resolve disputes, and help instill in the community a feeling of confidence. Finally, KFOR is supporting, within its means and capabilities, the provision of humanitarian relief, public safety and order, and the maintenance of essential civic works resources.

NATO continues formally to review KFOR's mission at 6-month intervals. The most recent 6-month review will be completed this month, and presented to the North Atlantic Council in December 2001. These reviews provide a basis for assessing current force levels, future requirements, force structure, force reductions, and the eventual withdrawal of KFOR. The KFOR

has transferred full responsibility for its public safety and policing responsibilities to the UNMIK international and local police forces in every area except Kosovska Mitrovica, where the responsibility is shared due to security concerns.

The continued deployment of U.S. forces has been undertaken pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I appreciate the continued support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

November 24, 2001

Good morning. Thanksgiving this year comes 72 days after a terrible national shock, an act of evil that caused, and continues to cause, so much suffering. Yet, the evil the terrorists intended has resulted in good they never expected. And this holiday season, Americans have much to be thankful for.

We're thankful for the character of our fellow citizens who are flying flags and donating to charity and comforting those who grieve. Americans have aided the families of victims and the starving children of Afghanistan, half a world away. This country has a good and generous heart.

We're thankful for the decency of the American people who have stood for the American tradition of tolerance and religious liberty, a tradition that has welcomed and protected generations of immigrants from every faith and background.

We are thankful for new heroes, police officers and firefighters and emergency workers, who have renewed our respect for public service and provided lasting lessons in courage.

We're thankful for the men and women of our military, who are defending our lives and liberty with such skill, honor, and success.

We're thankful, this year even more intensely, for our lives and our families and the love of those around us. Americans are remembering what really matters—holding our children more closely, giving them more time.

And we're thankful to God, who turned suffering into strength and grief into grace. Offering thanks in the midst of tragedy is an American tradition, perhaps because in times of testing, our dependence on God is so clear.

The Pilgrims gave thanks even after the many deaths of a bitter winter. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed days of national thanksgiving even during a bloody Civil War. Lincoln asked God to heal the wounds of the Nation and to restore it, as soon as it may be consistent with the divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility. We pray for this goal, and we work for it.

In America, blessings are meant to be shared, and our Thanksgiving is revealed in concern for others. At this season, Laura and I hope you'll find ways to reach out and share your blessings and talents in your own communities: Tutor or mentor a child; volunteer in a hospital; support our troops by becoming active in the USO; comfort those who feel afraid; show your kindness to a Muslim neighbor; help someone in need of shelter or food or words of hope; and continue to pray for America.

We will face difficult times ahead. The fight we have begun will not be quickly or easily finished. Our enemies hide and plot in many nations. They are devious and ruthless. Yet we are confident in the justice of our cause. We will fight for as long as it takes, and we will prevail.

May God grant us patience, resolve, and wisdom in all that is to come. Happy Thanksgiving, and thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:50 a.m. on November 21 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of the address.

**Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony
for Humanitarian Aid Workers
Rescued From Afghanistan and an
Exchange With Reporters**

November 26, 2001

The President. Good morning. I'm so honored to welcome two courageous souls to the Rose Garden to celebrate a story of joy and a story of hope, a story of two women who were rescued, a story about the faith that sustained them and a family that clearly loves them.

Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry decided to go to help people who needed help. Their faith led them to Afghanistan. One woman who knows them best put it this way: They had a calling to serve the poorest of the poor, and Afghanistan is where that calling took them.

And Heather and Dayna's faith in God sustained them throughout their ordeal. It's a wonderful story about prayer, about a faith that can sustain people in good times and in bad times. Their faith was a source of hope that kept them from becoming discouraged.

I talked to them right after their release, their freedom, and I sensed no bitterness in their voice, no fatigue, just joy. It was an uplifting experience for me to talk to these courageous souls.

Theirs is also a story about people who—in our country—who rallied for them. People prayed all around the country. I was particularly struck by the fact that Heather's dad offered to take her place in prison. I was struck by the fact that a country preacher out of central Texas flew to Afghanistan to lend his presence in any way that would help. I know there are a lot of people right outside of Crawford that were praying for these girls' release. And when they were, people all across Baylor University cheered. Something besides football became more important in their lives: life, itself.

This is a story of a military that is committed to achieving certain objectives. In my speech in front of the United States Congress, I said to the Taliban that one of the objectives was to release the humanitarian aid workers that were being detained against their will. We've achieved that objective. And I want to thank our military for rescuing

these girls. And I want to thank those on the ground in Afghanistan who helped with their rescue, as well.

So it's a joyous day to welcome two good souls to the Rose Garden. I'll ask them to say a few comments, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions, if you have any.

[At this point, Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry made brief remarks.]

The President. Good job.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, following up on the talk of the military's role in rescuing these two ladies, can you tell us why you have deployed 1,000 marines, at least 1,000 marines this weekend on the ground, what their mission is? How many more are coming? And how much more risky has their mission become with this advancement of the troops?

The President. Well, first, I'll let the Defense Department explain the mission. Well, first of all, we know the mission. The mission is to bring Al Qaida to justice and to make sure Afghanistan no longer serves as a haven for terrorists. And we've got a military strategy that we're implementing. I'll let the Secretary of Defense, in his daily briefing, go into the operational details as he sees fit.

But this is a dangerous period of time. This is a period of time in which we're now hunting down the people who are responsible for bombing America. I said a long time ago, one of our objectives is to smoke them out and get them running and to bring them to justice. We're smoking them out; they're running; and now we're going to bring them to justice. I also said we'll use whatever means is necessary to achieve that objective. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

The American people must understand that we've got a long way to go in order to achieve our objective in this theater. But we're patient; we're resolved; and we will stay the course until we achieve our objective.

National Economy

Q. Mr. President, what's your reaction, sir, to news that the U.S. economy has been in a recession since March?

The President. My reaction that—since March? Well, I knew that the economy was

not in good shape right after I took office; that's why I urged that we pass a tax relief plan. I remember the debate clearly, about people saying, well, the economy is strong. But it wasn't. It was flagging; it was weakening.

And that tax relief plan is going to be part of an economic recovery package that will make sense for the long term of the country. We've got low interest rates. We've got reasonable energy prices. We've got good tax policy in place. We've got the framework for economic recovery. I hope Congress moves quickly on an economic stimulus package. The Senate needs to get a bill and get it into conference, so we can resolve differences and I can sign it before Christmas. But I am, obviously, aware that our economy is slow. And we will do everything we can to enhance recovery.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Q. Mr. President, getting back to the earlier question, aside from September 11th, which cannot be forgotten, the war on terrorism has been truly relatively American-casualty free. And in recent years, Americans have been generally casualty-averse in its military operations.

Are you concerned that Americans may suddenly start getting back into that pattern where they're less accepting of American casualties?

The President. Well, first of all, obviously, no President or Commander in Chief hopes anybody loses life in the theater. But it's going to happen. I said this early on, as the campaign began: America must be prepared for loss of life. I believe the American people understand that we've got a mighty struggle on our hands and that there will be sacrifice. After all, some people made the greatest sacrifice possible on September the 11th, and that is those who took the airplane down. They said the Lord's Prayer on the phone to their loved ones; the loved ones heard, "Let's roll"; and they took a plane down so that it might not kill others, such as people working in the White House or at the Capitol.

No, I think the American people understand we're in for a long, long struggle in order to rid the world of terrorism and that

there might be loss of life. I pray that not be the case. But our brave men and women who signed up for the military understand the risk inherent with being in the military.

Major [Major Garrett, Cable News Network].

Q. Mr. President, at Fort Campbell, you said, "Across the world and across the years, we will fight the evil ones, and we will win"——

The President. Yes.

Future Counterterrorism Efforts

Q. ——suggesting very strongly that Afghanistan is only the first step. What would you say about Iraq, as you begin to look at the next steps in the campaign against global terrorism? What message would you like to send to them now?

The President. Well, my message is, is that if you harbor a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you feed a terrorist, you're a terrorist. If you develop weapons of mass destruction that you want to terrorize the world, you'll be held accountable. And I also have said, as I recall, at the White House, we're going to make sure that we accomplish each mission that we tackle. First things first.

Now having said that, we—the coalition has arrested over 300 people. I can't wait to thank my friend President Aznar of Spain for having arrested eight terrorists in Spain. In other words, there is an international drag—international effort to bring people to justice. And over 300 people that have been involved with Al Qaida have been brought to justice. Terrorism is terrorism. In this country, we'll deal with it.

Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Q. Sir, you mentioned President Aznar of Spain. Spain says that they don't want to extradite those people unless they can be tried under our standard court system and not by a military tribunal. Are you concerned with the amount of dissent over your decision to establish military tribunals?

The President. Not the least bit concerned. I made the right decision. A President must have the option of using a military tribunal in times of war. I look forward to explaining to my friend the President of Spain why I made that decision. It makes eminent sense to have the military tribunal

option available. It makes sense for national security purposes. It makes sense for the protection of potential jurors. It makes sense for homeland security. It is the right decision to make, and I will explain that to any leader who asks.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Human Cloning

Q. Mr. President, it seems an important line has been crossed with the attempt to clone a human being by a private laboratory. What's your reaction to that? Do you think there's any way to put this genie back in the bottle?

The President. My reaction, Terry, is that the use of embryos to clone is wrong. We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it. And that's exactly what's taking place. And I have made that position very clear. I haven't changed my mind. And this evidence today that they're trying to achieve that objective, to grow an embryo in order to extract a stem cell, in order for that embryo to die, is bad public policy. Not only that, it's morally wrong, in my opinion.

Yes.

The Vice President

Q. Mr. President, does the current threat justify the Vice President remaining in an undisclosed location? And even though he's not——

The President. I just ate breakfast with him. It's no longer undisclosed. [Laughter] And he looks great. I think my adjective was "swell." He still looks swell.

Q. How long is this separation going to go on? Do you think that——

The President. I had breakfast with him. I mean, I shouldn't say that. Right after I had breakfast, I met with him. I spent the morning with him. As a matter of fact, he was here to welcome these families into the White House.

Q. But do you still consider him, even though he's not as visible and doesn't, in terms of visibility, appear to be playing the same kind of role we saw before September 11th——

The President. No, the Vice President is very much engaged in the administration, and I value his advice. I trust his judgment.

I talk to him every single day. And today I was visiting with him face to face. As I say, he looks swell.

Stretch. [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Iraq

Q. To follow up on Major's question.

The President. What was his question?

Q. Whether Iraq could be the next target of the antiterror campaign.

The President. Oh, okay.

Q. Does Saddam Hussein have to agree to allow weapons inspectors back into Iraq? Is that an unconditional demand of yours?

The President. Saddam Hussein agreed to allow inspectors in his country. And in order to prove to the world he's not developing weapons of mass destruction, he ought to let the inspectors back in.

Yes.

Q. And if he does not do that, sir, what will be the consequence? If he does not do that, what will be the consequences?

The President. That's up for—he'll find out.

Q. Sir, what is your thinking right now about taking the war to Iraq? You suggested that on Wednesday, when you said Afghanistan was just the beginning.

The President. I stand by those words. Afghanistan is still just the beginning. If anybody harbors a terrorist, they're a terrorist. If they fund a terrorist, they're a terrorist. If they house terrorists, they're terrorists. I mean, I can't make it any more clearly to other nations around the world. If they develop weapons of mass destruction that will be used to terrorize nations, they will be held accountable. And as for Mr. Saddam Hussein, he needs to let inspectors back in his country to show us that he is not developing weapons of mass destruction.

Yes, David [David Gregory, NBC News].

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Q. Mr. President, following up on that thought, when you initially made—defined terrorism in your speech before Congress, you did not include the weapons of mass destruction. Are you now extending this to countries like North Korea, other places where we have had evidence over the years

that there's been development of such weapons?

The President. Well, clearly, in terms of North Korea, we want North Korea to allow inspectors in, to determine whether or not they are. We've had that discussion with North Korea. I made it very clear to North Korea that in order for us to have relations with them, that we want to know, are they developing weapons of mass destruction? And they ought to stop proliferating.

So part of the war on terror is to deny terrorist weapons getting—I mean, weapons to be used for means of terror getting in the hands of nations that will use them. And so I'm not quite sure of the——

Q. I'm just asking if you've expanded your definition to countries who don't just harbor terrorists but also develop such weapons.

The President. Have I expanded the definition? I've always had that definition, as far as I'm concerned.

Yes, ma'am.

Pakistan

Q. Mr. President, you've said a number of times you will go to all lengths to get members of Al Qaida. There's now news that Pakistan has airlifted some of its citizens back to Pakistan. Are you concerned that they may be taking members of Al Qaida and will not turn them over?

The President. No, I'm not. We've had good discussions with Pakistan. They understand the objective is to bring Al Qaida to justice, and they've indicated they'll help us do so.

All right, thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ms. Mercer's father, John Mercer; Danny Mulkey, assistant pastor, Antioch Community Church, Waco, TX; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Signing the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

November 26, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2620, the "Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The Act abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives with:

- \$955 million for the Veterans Affairs Duty to Assist initiative to improve performance in claims processing and assist veterans with their claims;
- \$160 million for the National Science Foundation Math and Science Partnerships initiative, which provides funds for States to join with institutions of higher education in strengthening math and science education in grades K–12; and
- \$50 million for the Housing and Urban Development Down Payment Assistance initiative that assists low-income families with the down payment on their first home.

Several additional initiatives I have proposed were worthy of funding but are not part of this bill: the Community Technology Centers and Improving Access programs in HUD, the Silver Scholarships and Veterans Mission for Youth programs under the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the VA/DOD Medical Care Choice initiative.

The Silver Scholarship Program would have provided Silver Scholarships to 10,000 older Americans who volunteer 500 hours of service tutoring and mentoring students in after-school programs. Each \$1,000 scholarship could be deposited in an education savings account for use by seniors' children,

grandchildren, or another child. The Veterans Mission for Youth program would have provided matching grants to community organizations that connect veterans and retired military personnel with America's youth through mentoring, tutoring, after-school, and other programs.

The VA/DoD Medical Care Choice initiative would ensure that all military retirees annually choose either the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs as their health care provider. This would enhance quality and continuity of care and prevent duplication of services and costs.

Several provisions in the Act purport to require congressional approval before executive branch execution of aspects of the bill. My Administration will interpret such provisions to require notification only, since any other interpretation would contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 26, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2620, approved November 26, was assigned Public Law No. 107-73.

Remarks Honoring the United States Nobel Laureates

November 27, 2001

Ambassador, thank you very much. Welcome. Dr. Marburger, thanks for putting this on. We're so honored that so many great Americans have shown up today. Laura and I are thrilled to not only greet you but host a reception after this brief dialog.

I want to welcome all the Nobel laureates, past and present. I want to thank Members of the Congress for being here. I want to thank members of my Cabinet for coming. And I am grateful that family and friends have joined such a distinguished crowd.

As the Ambassador said, for a century now the Nobel Prize has recognized human striving and accomplishment. Since 1901 more than 700 Nobel Prizes have been awarded, and a third of those to Americans.

Standing with me are seven of those who have been selected this year. Among their achievements are pathbreaking discoveries in

physics, helpful insights in the workings of the market economies, and a new treatment for Parkinson's disease. And all of America congratulates them.

Each Nobel laureate here today belongs to an incredibly select group of people. It includes the names of Martin Luther King, Jr.; George C. Marshall; T.S. Eliot; Albert Einstein; Vice President Charles Dawes; and President Theodore Roosevelt, the first American Nobel laureate, whose Peace Prize today occupies a place of honor in the West Wing of the White House.

Tomorrow I'll meet with the newest recipient of that prize, Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Several other Nobel laureates have visited the White House this year: Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Shimon Peres.

These folks come from different regions of the world, but the Nobel Foundation is never limited by region or culture. The standard is a universal one. It is awarded to men and women who have served the highest aspirations of humanity and have done so with success. Many awards recognize excellence; the Nobel Foundation recognizes greatness.

So much of human progress depends on achievements in medicine, physics, chemistry, economics, literature, and peace. The annual selection of the laureates expresses a profound optimism about humanity and our prospects for improvement. This optimism was captured by William Faulkner, when accepting his Nobel Prize a half century ago. "I believe," he said, "that man will not merely endure, he will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone amongst creatures has an inexhaustible voice but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion, sacrifice, and endurance."

Each of you, in your own field of excellence, has carried forward that same belief in human progress. You've achieved greatness through service to others. You have been given great gifts, and you've used them to your fullest.

Our Nation is proud of the work each of you have done. We're proud to count you as fellow citizens. We thank you for bringing credit to our country and great benefit to mankind.

And now, Laura and I would like to invite you all into the foyer for a reception.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:20 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. Jan Eliasson; John H. Marburger III, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy; 2001 Nobel laureates Eric A. Cornell, Wolfgang Ketterle, and Carl E. Wieman (Physics), William S. Knowles (Chemistry), Leland H. Hartwell (Physiology or Medicine), George A. Akerlof, A. Michael Spence, and Joseph E. Stiglitz (Economic Sciences), and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan (Peace); former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, 1993 Nobel Peace laureate; and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel, 1994 Nobel Peace laureate.

Executive Order 13236—Waiver of Dual Compensation Provisions of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1964

November 27, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 292 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act of 1964, as amended (50 U.S.C. 2141), and in order to conform the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System to the Civil Service Retirement and Disability System, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. The Director of Central Intelligence may waive the application of the dual compensation reduction provisions of sections 271 and 273 of the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement Act (50 U.S.C. 2111 and 2113) for an employee serving on a temporary basis, but only if, and for so long as, the authority is necessary due to an emergency involving a direct threat to life or property or other unusual circumstances. Employees who receive both salary and annuity pursuant to this authority may not earn additional retirement benefits during this period of employment. This authority may be delegated as appropriate.

Sec. 2. Nothing contained in this order is intended to create, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or privilege, substantive or

procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 27, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 28, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 29.

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the United Nations

November 28, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome back to the White House our friend Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Today we've had a valuable discussion about how to make sure that the good intentions of America and others around the world are met, and those intentions have to do with feeding people who starve in Afghanistan.

Prior to September the 11th, there was a lot of hunger in that country, primarily because it was run by a government that didn't really care about the human condition. After September the 11th, obviously, the war has aggravated the situation, and as I declared to the American people, our good Government and our great Nation is going to do something about it.

And around the table today are people who are responsible to making sure, as best as they possibly can, food is delivered and medicine is delivered and clothing is delivered to innocent, hurting people of Afghanistan. And the Secretary-General has been so great on this issue, and he's assembled a wonderful team who are here to brief the Secretary of State and myself about the efforts.

The degree of difficulty is high. There's no question we've got a large task ahead of ourselves. We've got ample money, and the United States Government has been a major contributor of that money. We've got the food. The fundamental question is, in an environment that is not very secure, how do we get the food to the people? And that's

what we're working on. And I'm convinced that we can do a very good job of meeting that objective.

So, Mr. General, thanks for coming. It's an honor to have you back. I appreciate you bringing your team with you.

Secretary-General Annan. Thank you very much, Mr. President, for the discussions this morning with my team.

The Afghan people have suffered for quite a long time through a series of wars and, recently, drought. And we've been trying to get food to them, and as the President said, it's not always been easy. Even sometimes when we have the food in the country, we cannot always get it to the needy.

We are now, with the help of the U.S. and other donors, able to get in as much food as we think we will need. But because of the insecurity, we have difficulties reaching the needy and the people, and we are working on that. And I hope the situation will clarify in the not-too-distant future to allow us to reach all those in need.

I think it is important for the public to know the numbers we are dealing with, and here I'm talking about refugees, Afghan refugees in the neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan and Iran, and the internally displaced people. We are talking about 6 million needy people—between 6 million to 7.5 million. We are going to do our best, with the support that we are getting.

And I think, on the political front, if I may say a word, we are meeting the Afghan parties in Bonn. Mr. Brahimi is discussing with them as we sit here. And so far, they're off to a good start. The parties seem to want a broadbased government, and I hope they will be able to settle this—the establishment of the government—before they leave Bonn.

The willingness of the U.S. and other donor countries and the international community is clear, to work with them in rebuilding their society. But we need a partner, and the partner has to be an effective Afghan Government that is cohesive, that is stable, that will work with the donor community to ensure that the resources that are being applied to rehabilitation and reconstruction is used effectively.

The challenge is theirs. They have an historic opportunity to put the past behind them

and form a broadbased government that will be loyal to the Afghan people and respect its international obligations. And if they do that, from all the commitments that I have heard from the President and other leaders, the resources will be there over the period, in a sustained manner, to help rebuild Afghanistan.

So I urge them to seize the moment for the sake of their people and for the sake of their country.

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. General.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:51 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the Secretary-General referred to U.N. Special Representative for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain and an Exchange With Reporters

November 28, 2001

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome a friend of mine and a friend of our country, the President of Spain, to the White House. Jose Maria was on the phone early, right after September the 11th. He assured me that he would cooperate in any way possible in our mutual desire to fight terror. And he has lived up to his word, and for that, I am grateful.

I asked nations to join us in bringing people to justice who are evil, who don't respect the law, and this President responded. Recently, Spain has arrested Al Qaida members and has shared information about those Al Qaida members, and it's incredibly helpful. And for that, Mr. President, the American people are very grateful. And in our meetings today I assured the President that our Nation would help Spain in any way possible to fight terror. And Mr. President, you've got that assurance.

So it's a great honor—*un honor para mi para decir a mi amigo, bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos.*

President Aznar. Dear President Bush, may I thank you for your invitation. It is, indeed, a great honor and tremendous satisfaction for me to visit the White House.

We have very fond memories of the visit that you made to us in Spain last June, and we recall your commitment and your words of support to Spain's fight against terrorism. And several months later, we have managed to see this solidarity; this alliance is a two-way alliance.

Spain supports, has supported, and will support all the United States' efforts to track down, to eradicate, and to eliminate terrorism wherever it may be worldwide. We intend to maintain and, if necessary, strengthen our political commitment, our cooperation in the area of intelligence and security and information-sharing, and if need be, to commit military forces to that battle.

Our battle is a battle for the same ideas, for the same freedoms, for the same society and civilizations, and we will share all those efforts as long as is necessary to combat. The only fate that awaits terrorists is defeat, and the only option for terrorists is going to be brought to justice.

Thank you.

President Bush. *Tenemos hambre, y por eso, solamente cuatro preguntas. Dos de la prensa de la Estados Unidos, dos de la prensa de Espana, por favor.* Four questions, two from the American press, two from Spanish press, because we're hungry; we've got a big meal. [Laughter]

Legislative Agenda

Q. Yes, sir. Do you support suspending the payroll tax as a compromise on the stimulus?

President Bush. The question is, do I support providing a credit on the payroll tax?

Q. Correct.

President Bush. The Domenici idea in the Senate? Here's what I support: I support the Senate coming together and getting a bill moving as quickly as possible, so that we can get it to conference and get the differences resolved. The Senate must pass a stimulus package. The American people expect them to do so; I expect them to do so.

I had a good conversation today with Senator Daschle and Senator Lott on this very subject and urged them to get the business done—get the appropriations bills passed, to get a stimulus package passed, and then go home and enjoy the Christmas vacation. And I hope they do so. There are differences, but

the differences aren't that big. Any good package must be stimulative in effect and, at the same time, take care of displaced workers. There's agreement on that. They just now have got to work out the details, and I hope they're able to do so.

Detained Spanish Nationals

Q. Mr. President, according to The New York Times, 13 Spanish nationals are being held in the United States in relation to the attacks on the Twin Towers. Did you speak about that to President Bush?

President Aznar. No.

Airport and Airline Security

Q. Mr. President, how can you assure the American people safety in the skies, given that your Transportation Secretary now thinks it may be impossible to meet that initial deadline for screening baggage?

President Bush. David [David Gregory, NBC News], we're doing everything we can to meet the deadline. And we're doing everything we can to make sure that the American people feel safe. And one way we're doing it is to have guardsmen at the airports over the Christmas holidays. Another way to do it is to have the planes full of air marshals. And finally, obviously, we need to expedite the ability for us to inspect baggage, and we're doing everything we can to do that.

Military Tribunals/Extradition

Q. Did you discuss the military tribunals with regard to extradition—

President Bush. Military tribunals was the question.

President Aznar. I said at the beginning of this press conference that political cooperation between Spain and the United States is full on this issue. And I just reiterate that and also say that cooperation between the United States and Spain, Spain and the United States, is also full as regards Spain's own terrorism problem. And I think that is the most important point to bear in mind.

You asked about the extradition of the Al Qaida members in Spain. Can I just say that if and when the United States requests that extradition, we will study the issue. Can I also say that the United States is free to organize its own jurisdiction as it sees fit, as a

free and democratic country. Any action taken on the extradition issue will be taken with full respect of Spanish and United States law.

We are also working on this issue at the European Union level, and we do hope to reach agreement on that issue in the very near future.

President Bush. Thank you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. President Aznar spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the Farm Journal Forum November 28, 2001

Well, thank you so very much for that warm welcome. And it is great to be here with the farmers and ranchers and researchers and business leaders who make America the most innovative and most productive farm nation in the world.

I am somewhat nostalgic for our place in Crawford. But I've been a little busy lately. [Laughter] I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak about the future of agriculture and the future of our economy, because they both begin with your work. I want to thank Andy for providing this opportunity for me to come and speak.

And I want to thank our Secretary of Agriculture for doing such a fine job of not only representing farmers and ranchers here at home but doing a fine job of making sure our farmers and ranchers are heard overseas, as well. She and Bob Zoellick went to Doha. I told them, no longer are we going to treat our farmers as trading commodities. Agriculture is the cornerstone of our economy, and our international agreements must reflect that. And so, Madam Secretary, thank you for your hard work in Doha. I appreciate it very much.

The success of agriculture contributes to the strength of this Nation. It is in our national interests, in our national security interests that we have a strong farm economy. And the farmers of America contribute to the values of our Nation and to the generosity of our Nation. As we speak, trucks and planes

are delivering American food to the hungry in Afghanistan. Those rations say, "A gift from the people of the United States." This gift is made possible by the farmers in our country, and I want to thank you for it.

The farmers represent and preserve the values of our Nation: hard work, risktaking, love of the land. I always like to say people who own their own land understand the necessity to be good stewards; every day is Earth Day if you own your own land. The farmers represent love of family and love of our country. And farming is our first industry, the industry that feeds us, that clothes us and, increasingly, provides our energy.

As Andy mentioned, I was the Governor of the State of Texas; it happens to be the second largest agricultural State in the country. I understand how tough it is to make a living on the farm. I understand how much hard work goes into making the land productive. And I understand how valuable an asset land is and how important it is that it stay from one generation to the next. And that's why I'm glad to have signed a law that is sending the death tax on its way to extinction.

Today, our Nation is challenged by a great conflict. We face new threats, and they require a fight on many fronts, both overseas and here at home. After September the 11th, I vowed to the world that we would bring to justice those who killed innocent women and children and men here in America. I also said that any nation that harbored a terrorist, that aided a terrorist, that abetted a terrorist would be held accountable, and that's exactly what's taking place today. Thanks to our military, thanks to friends and allies, we are destroying the Taliban military, and we're destroying the camps that terrorists use to plan attacks on nations such as America.

We're meeting our goals in Afghanistan. After all, our allies now control most of the country. One of the objectives I laid out in front of Congress is that we would rescue those who were held, detained against their will. And so I had the honor last Monday of welcoming two young Baylor graduates to the White House, part of the humanitarian rescue mission that we pulled off successfully.

As I mentioned, we're feeding the hungry and providing medicine and clothes to those

poor, suffering, innocent citizens of Afghanistan. And we're after Al Qaida. The evil ones think they can hide. They think they can run. But they're learning that this is a patient nation, a nation that is determined to smoke them out and to bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do.

I also recognize that we've got a war here on the homefront. And it's important for the American people to know that their Government is doing everything we possibly can to disrupt and deny the enemy, that we take every threat seriously, that we run down every lead, that we're on full alert. The thing I'm most proud of is that the American people will not be intimidated by the evil ones, that they understand that the intent of the Al Qaida murderers was to freeze our Nation in place. But they don't understand America like I do. America is resolved. We are united. And we will not relent until we make sure that those who believe they can harm our Government and our friends are brought to justice, whether it be in Afghanistan or any other place they hide.

I said, when this war first started, that the farther away we get from September the 11th, the more likely it is people will forget that there are evil ones in the world who want to destroy our country, what we stand for. And that may be the case amongst some. But that's not what I've seen in America. This Nation is resolved to do whatever it takes, in whatever theater is necessary, to make sure that civilization itself remains intact, to make sure that our children and our grandchildren can grow up in a world that is free and peaceful. It is the calling of our time, and it's a calling that we accept. And we're going to win. I view this as a fight between good and evil, and good will always prevail.

We also have difficulties here on the homefront because of our economic situation. Statistics recently showed that shortly after I was sworn in as President, our economy was slow and had been slowing for a while. I made the case—and fortunately, Congress listened—that a slow economy required immediate action when it came to tax relief, and they delivered. That's an important part of making sure that we generate growth, is to let people keep more of their

hard-earned money so they can spend it, and not the Government.

And at the same time, in order to address an economic slowdown, we brought sorely needed fiscal discipline to Washington, DC, that we fought for and got a budget that was realistic, that didn't grow way beyond the means of our Government. And by the end of summer, the economy was beginning to stabilize.

Yet the terrorist attack of September the 11th, no question, dealt our economy a serious blow. So while we fight our enemies and states that harbor terrorism and while we defend our homeland and our airways, we must take further action to strengthen our economy. Americans know our economy was targeted for terror—by terror. And they're asking us to fight back, and we must.

These are incredibly tough times for some of our fellow Americans. Some have lost their jobs. Some have had their hours curtailed. Many have seen their savings shrink, and small businesses are struggling just to stay in business. We're facing tough times, but if we act quickly, I'm confident we can grow our economy.

On October the 5th, 7 weeks ago, I asked Congress to send me an economic stimulus package, and I outlined the principles that should guide the plan. First, any plan must help displaced workers. Any plan must recognize that folks have been severely hurt by the attack on September the 11th, and we must help them.

Secondly, the plan should speed up the individual income tax cuts Congress approved last May. The sooner rates come down, the faster our economy will rise. The plan should provide tax relief for low- and moderate-income workers to help them through these tough times. The plan should allow companies and entrepreneurs to deduct the cost of new investments more quickly, to encourage businesses to grow and to create job opportunities for Americans. And the plan should reform the corporate income tax to do away with the alternative minimum tax, a tax that pushes tax rates up at exactly the moment when corporate America's profits are going down.

The House of Representatives acted on a stimulus bill, but it seems to be stuck in the

Senate. It is important for the Senate not to look for ways to spend new money but to look for ways to create new jobs. And so I ask the Senate leadership to work out their differences and pass an economic stimulus plan, so they can get it in conference and get a bill to my desk as quickly as possible. The American people expect it, and I expect it.

This country is waiting for action. And in the time that we have been waiting, more than 415,000 workers have lost their jobs. Further delay could put more Americans and more families at risk. So let's move. Let's get the job done.

I also want to improve our homeland security and our economy by having a national energy plan. I want to thank the Farm Journal Forum for emphasizing the importance of ethanol and biofuels. These fuels are gentle on the environment. They are fuels that can be renewed year after year and fuels that can expand our farm economy. These fuels are made right here in America, so they can't be threatened by any foreign power. Ethanol and biofuels are fuels of the future for this country.

Since the beginning of my administration, I have strongly supported ethanol and biofuels. And the energy plan I sent to Congress back in the spring supports biofuels. The House passed an energy plan. Now it's time for the Senate to act and pass an energy plan. It's in our national security interests to do so. I look forward to signing a national energy bill.

I'm also ready to sign trade promotion authority, to open up markets for American industry and American farmers. This authority sends an unmistakable signal to our trading partners that the Congress and the administration are united on trade. The House will soon vote on trade promotion authority. I hope you'll join me in pressing for its passage and, in the process, helping to restore U.S. leadership in support of free trade.

U.S. leadership matters. We recently helped bring China into the World Trade Organization, and that is good for American farmers. It is in our interests, in our agricultural interests to help feed China.

We helped start a new world trade round in Doha. Our negotiators came back from

Doha with excellent news for American farmers. American farmers too often lose markets or suffer low prices because of unfair export subsidies. The Doha Declaration calls for reducing export subsidies and, ultimately, phasing them out. For too long, the agricultural market has been rigged against farmers who play fair. Doha shows the way toward a more level playing field. That's good news for the world's hungry; it's good news for the world's most productive food producers, the American farmers.

We've got a good stimulus bill, a sound energy plan, and it's important to have a good farm bill, too. A good farm bill should keep the safety net under our food producers, without misleading our farmers into overproducing crops that are already in oversupply by increasing loan rates. A good farm bill should help farmers help themselves with farm savings accounts. These accounts would help farmers set aside money in good years to sustain them in hard times. A good farm bill should promote responsible stewardship of America's farms and ranchers by promoting conservation on working lands. A good farm bill should honor our trade obligations, as we expect our competitors to honor their obligations. And a good farm bill should be generous but affordable. It should honor the budget limits that Congress has agreed to live by.

You know, we've learned a lot about our country since September the 11th. We've learned that our people are strong, that our military is very good at what it does, and that our country's heart has never been more generous and good. And we have much to mourn and much to rebuild, but much to be grateful for.

Just a few days ago we gave thanks for God's bounty to America. But we should never forget that it takes the hard toil on the land to turn that bounty into the food we eat and that we share with the world's hungry our bounty. We should never forget who does that toil. It's the American farmer and the American rancher.

May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:32 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the JW Marriott. In his remarks, he referred to Andrew Webber, president

and chief executive officer, Farm Journal; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry.

Statement on the Commissioning of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium

November 28, 2001

I congratulate Russia, Kazakhstan, and Oman, and their consortium partners for the commissioning of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC). U.S. firms, notably ChevronTexaco and ExxonMobil, have played leading roles in this project. These facilities represent the culmination of years of effort. They are examples to the world that the United States, Russia, and Kazakhstan are cooperating to build prosperity and stability in this part of the world.

The CPC highlights the important progress by countries in the Caspian region in building a transparent and stable environment for international trade and investment. The CPC project also advances my administration's National Energy Policy by developing a network of multiple Caspian pipelines that also includes the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Supsa, and Baku-Novorossiysk oil pipelines and the Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline. These projects will help diversify U.S. energy supply and enhance our energy security, while supporting global economic growth.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Prevent the Elimination of Certain Legislatively Mandated Executive Branch Reports

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 1042, an Act to prevent the scheduled elimination of certain legislatively mandated executive branch reports. This legislation restores 29 statutory reporting requirements that expired last year, pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995. I sign this legislation in deference to the Congress' determination that the reports are necessary to fulfilling its oversight responsibilities. But I remain concerned that many of the existing

statutory reporting requirements impose an excessive burden on executive branch agencies. In particular, I am concerned that some of the reports reinstated by H.R. 1042 are either obsolete or duplicative of other reporting requirements. My Administration will continue to work with the Congress to reduce the burden created by unnecessary statutory reporting requirements through the elimination of these unnecessary requirements, while respecting the oversight responsibilities of the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1042, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-74.

Statement on Signing the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act

November 28, 2001

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 1552, which will ensure that the growth of the Internet is not slowed by additional taxation.

The Internet is an innovative force that enables such applications as distance learning and precision farming. Government must do its part to make access to these services affordable. It should not raise costs through additional taxation.

Extending the moratorium is particularly important during this crucial holiday shopping season. Online spending is estimated to account for over 15 percent of total holiday purchases this year. H.R. 1522 will keep access to e-commerce services affordable. This law will be a big help to those Americans who shop from home because they are unable to travel to stores and malls.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 1552, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-75.

**Statement on Signing the
Agriculture, Rural Development,
Food and Drug Administration, and
Related Agencies Appropriations
Act, 2002**

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2330, the "Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The Act abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion. It provides for several important programs with significant national benefits by:

- fully funding the current participation rate for the key nutrition program for women, infants, and children;
- supporting Department of Agriculture (USDA) food safety activities, including providing 7,600 meat and poultry inspectors; and
- redirecting USDA research to provide new emphasis in key areas such as biotechnology, the development of new agricultural products, and improved protection against emerging exotic plant and animal diseases, as well as crop and animal pests.

A number of provisions contained in the bill purport to restrict executive branch execution of programs that are funded in the bill. Where such provisions contradict the Supreme Court ruling in *INS v. Chadha*, their intent will be interpreted as advisory only.

I appreciate that the Congress has worked expeditiously during this difficult and trying time in our Nation's history to consider the FY 2002 appropriations bills. Through a renewed sense of bipartisanship, the Congress and my Administration must work together to ensure the timely enactment of the remaining bills.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2330, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-76.

**Statement on Signing the
Departments of Commerce, Justice,
and State, the Judiciary, and Related
Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002**

November 28, 2001

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2500, the "Department of Commerce, Justice, State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002."

I appreciate the bipartisan effort that has gone into producing this Act. The bill abides by the agreed upon aggregate funding level for Fiscal Year 2002 of \$686 billion and supports several of my Administration's key initiatives including:

- \$100 million to support a backlog elimination initiative to achieve a universal 6-month processing standard for all immigration applications;
- 570 additional Immigration and Naturalization Service agents to protect our Northern and Southern borders;
- \$50 million grant program in the Office of Justice Programs to aid counties along the Southwestern border with their costs of detaining and prosecuting drug cases referred to them by Federal law enforcement agents;
- \$50 million for drug courts, which provide a supervised treatment alternative to prison sentences for non-violent drug possession offenders, to enable Federal assistance to over 120 new or existing drug court programs. To date, over 57,000 offenders have completed drug court programs, and their recidivism rate is much lower than that of comparable offenders;
- \$15 million for grants to create community-based task forces for reducing youth violence and to assist State and local prosecution of firearms offenses, and \$9 million for the U.S. Attorneys to hire dedicated prosecutors who will appropriately prosecute juvenile gun offenders and those who supply them with guns;
- \$20 million to assist State and local law enforcement agencies with the costs associated with methamphetamine laboratory clean-up; and

- \$5 million for a faith-based prison pre-release pilot project to reduce the rate at which ex-offenders are returned to prison through intensive counseling and family and community transition instruction.

In addition, at this critical time, when we are mounting a world-wide effort to defeat terrorism, I appreciate that this bill provides significant new funding for our Federal law enforcement agencies in the Department of Justice, our diplomatic operations overseas, and for enhanced embassy security.

I note that Section 612 of the bill sets forth certain requirements regarding the organization of the Department of Justice's efforts to combat terrorism. This provision raises separation of powers concerns by improperly and unnecessarily impinging upon my authority as President to direct the actions of the Executive Branch and its employees. I therefore will construe the provision to avoid constitutional difficulties and preserve the separation of powers required by the Constitution.

Section 626 would require the President to submit a legislative proposal to establish a program for the compensation of victims of international terrorism. I will apply this provision consistent with my constitutional responsibilities. In addition, subsection (c) of that section purports to remove Iran's immunity from suit in a case brought by the 1979 Tehran hostages in the District Court for the District of Columbia. To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, the Executive Branch will act, and encourage the courts to act, with regard to Subsection 626(c) of the bill in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under the Algiers Accords that achieved the release of U.S. hostages in 1981.

Section 630 prohibits the use of appropriated funds for cooperation with, or assistance or other support to, the International Criminal Court (ICC) or its Preparatory Commission. While section 630 clearly reflects that Congress agrees with my Administration that it is not in the interests of the United States to become a party to the ICC treaty, I must note that this provision must be applied consistent with my constitutional authority in the area of foreign affairs, which,

among other things, will enable me to take actions to protect U.S. nationals from the purported jurisdiction of the treaty.

In addition, several other provisions of the bill unconstitutionally constrain my authority regarding the conduct of diplomacy and my authority as Commander-in-Chief. I will apply these provisions consistent with my constitutional responsibilities.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

NOTE: H.R. 2500, approved November 28, was assigned Public Law No. 107-77.

Executive Order 13237—Creation of the President's Council on Bioethics *November 28, 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 as follows:

Section 1. Establishment. There is established the President's Council on Bioethics (the "Council").

Sec. 2. Mission.

(a) The Council shall advise the President on bioethical issues that may emerge as a consequence of advances in biomedical science and technology. In connection with its advisory role, the mission of the Council includes the following functions:

- (1) to undertake fundamental inquiry into the human and moral significance of developments in biomedical and behavioral science and technology;
- (2) to explore specific ethical and policy questions related to these developments;
- (3) to provide a forum for a national discussion of bioethical issues;
- (4) to facilitate a greater understanding of bioethical issues; and
- (5) to explore possibilities for useful international collaboration on bioethical issues.

(b) In support of its mission, the Council may study ethical issues connected with specific technological activities, such as embryo

and stem cell research, assisted reproduction, cloning, uses of knowledge and techniques derived from human genetics or the neurosciences, and end of life issues. The Council may also study broader ethical and social issues not tied to a specific technology, such as questions regarding the protection of human subjects in research, the appropriate uses of biomedical technologies, the moral implications of biomedical technologies, and the consequences of limiting scientific research.

(c) The Council shall strive to develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of the issues that it considers. In pursuit of this goal, the Council shall be guided by the need to articulate fully the complex and often competing moral positions on any given issue, rather than by an overriding concern to find consensus. The Council may therefore choose to proceed by offering a variety of views on a particular issue, rather than attempt to reach a single consensus position.

(d) The Council shall not be responsible for the review and approval of specific projects or for devising and overseeing regulations for specific government agencies.

(e) In support of its mission, the Council may accept suggestions of issues for consideration from the heads of other Government agencies and other sources, as it deems appropriate.

(f) In establishing priorities for its activities, the Council shall consider the urgency and gravity of the particular issue; the need for policy guidance and public education on the particular issue; the connection of the bioethical issue to the goal of Federal advancement of science and technology; and the existence of another entity available to deliberate appropriately on the bioethical issue.

Sec. 3. Membership.

(a) The Council shall be composed of not more than 18 members appointed by the President from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. The Council shall include members drawn from the fields of science and medicine, law and government, philosophy and theology, and other areas of the humanities and social sciences.

(b) The President shall designate a member of the Council to serve as Chairperson.

(c) The term of office of a member shall be 2 years, and members shall be eligible for reappointment. Members may continue to serve after the expiration of their terms until the President appoints a successor. A member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of such vacancy.

Sec. 4. Administration.

(a) Upon the request of the Chairperson, the heads of executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, provide the Council with information it needs for purposes of carrying out its functions.

(b) The Council may conduct inquiries, hold hearings, and establish subcommittees, as necessary.

(c) The Council is authorized to conduct analyses and develop reports or other materials.

(d) Members of the Council may be compensated to the extent permitted by Federal law for their work on the Council. Members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701–5707), to the extent funds are available.

(e) To the extent permitted by law, and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Health and Human Services shall provide the Council with administrative support and with such funds as may be necessary for the performance of the Council's functions.

(f) The Council shall have a staff headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Chairperson. To the extent permitted by law, office space, analytical support, and additional staff support for the Council shall be provided by the Department of Health and Human Services or other executive branch departments and agencies as directed by the President.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) Insofar as the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), may apply to the Council, any functions of the

President under that Act, except that of reporting to the Congress, shall be performed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in accordance with the guidelines that have been issued by the Administrator of General Services.

(b) The Council shall terminate 2 years from the date of this order unless extended by the President prior to that date.

(c) This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and it is not intended to create any right, benefit, trust, or responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 28, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
10:19 a.m., November 29, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 30.

Remarks to the United States Attorneys Conference

November 29, 2001

Well, John, thank you very much for those kind words. And I appreciate your strong leadership. It is a principled leadership; it is a steady leadership; and it is a leadership that is good for America.

I guess we call you General. *[Laughter]* That means you all are in the Army. *[Laughter]* And I am glad you are.

I also want to thank Larry Thompson for his good work. Thank you for being here, Larry. And where's Al Gonzales, who is my—Al led the effort to scour the country for the best to serve as U.S. attorneys, and I appreciate his hard work. And I suspect you new U.S. attorneys appreciate his hard work, as well. *[Laughter]*

But Al has been my lawyer for a long time and was a lawyer for the State of Texas and was a judge for the State of Texas. And he is a pretty special guy, and I'm glad he's here in Washington with me. And I'm glad you all are here, as well. Thank you for coming. I want to welcome you here.

I want to welcome the new U.S. attorneys. I want to congratulate you. I must tell you that we set a high standard, and you met it. And for that, I hope you're proud. And I am grateful that you are willing to serve the country, particularly at this time.

I know you know this, but I want to remind you that you have got a significant commitment to the security and safety of the American people. We all do. That's our job, and it's a job we will keep.

The security and safety of our people was threatened before September the 11th. In many neighborhoods, there's too much gun violence in America. Despite all the progress against crime, teenagers—almost as many teenagers die from gunshot wounds as from all natural causes combined. And that's not right, and we are going to do something about it.

We must help people reclaim their neighborhoods and their streets. We must help those who want to live in a comfortable environment feel safe. That's one of our primary jobs. And so I proposed a program called Project Safe Neighborhoods. And you have a clear charge to fight gun violence in America.

U.S. Attorneys will work with State and local authorities in an all-out campaign, in a focused and vigorous effort to cut gun crime. By September of this year—of next year, 2002, we hope to have 200 new attorneys hired to prosecute crimes committed with a gun, 200 new attorneys to help you stay focused on an important mission, which is the safety of our citizens.

Investigators will have the best training and the latest technology available. We want to enhance the technology so we can find those, track those, communicate better with each other to bring people to justice who commit a crime with a gun.

We'll improve data-sharing and criminal recordkeeping to ensure that people who shouldn't have guns don't get them. We've got to prevent those people who want to use guns to hurt our fellow citizens from getting them in the first place.

And finally, we want to make sure that the Federal Government works more closely with communities and community-based programs and faith-based groups to steer our

children away from guns before they take a life or lose their own. In other words, on the one hand, I want you to be tough, and on the other hand, I want you to rally the compassionate, loving souls in neighborhoods who can teach children lessons from right, from wrong.

This is an important calling. The methods work in those cities where they've—we tried a program that I just outlined; they work. Statistics show it, and now we've got to make sure it exists all across the country.

This is an important charge for you. It's one of your top priorities, because it's one of mine. We have got to send this message—and I mean a clear message, an unambiguous message—that if you illegally carry or use a gun, there is one consequence in America: arrest and jail. The best way to make sure our neighborhoods are safe is to enforce the laws on the books, and to the best of our ability, we will give you more tools to do that.

The safety and security of America also faces a new threat, and that is the threat of terror. It is the calling of our time to rid the world of terror. And it is the calling of our time to protect the American people.

You know, it's interesting—I can't imagine what a speech like this would have been like prior to September the 11th, but I doubt I would have ever said, "You are now on the frontline of war." And that's where you are. And make no mistake about it, we've got a war here just like we've got a war abroad. And we have a huge responsibility, and that's to defend America while protecting our great liberties. And I'm confident you can do the job; otherwise, you wouldn't be sitting here.

Our enemies are resourceful, and they are incredibly ruthless. They hide, and they plot, and they target freedom. They can't stand what America stands for. It must bother them greatly to know we're such a free and wonderful place, a place where all religions can flourish, a place where women are free, a place where children can be educated. It must grate on them greatly, but that's what we're going to keep doing, because that's what America is about.

And we owe it to the American people. We owe it to our citizens, to the families, to be relentless and methodical in tracking down terrorists and bringing each and every

one of them to justice. That's our calling. It's the calling of the 21st century, and it's a calling that we will not tire for. It's a calling that we will keep in our minds, and you must keep it in your minds, because I can assure you I'm going to keep it in mine.

The Government and the people are determined. And I have been able to travel our country some, and I know you can—if you were to report back to me, you would tell me you've seen the same determination and the same patience and the same unity to achieve this objective. I like to remind people that the evil ones have roused a mighty nation, and they will pay a serious price.

Abroad, our military and our alliance is making good progress—good, steady, significant progress. We're disrupting their cashflows. We're finding their bankers, and we're shutting them down.

And it's not just America. There are a lot of other countries who have participated with us, and that's heartening. We've got great intelligence-sharing now, around the world. I've been able to say to a lot of leaders, face to face, "You tell us when they're coming, and if we find out something about you, we'll let you know, too." And that's important. It's important to know as much information as possible about the enemy. It's important to try to figure out where they hide and their intentions. It helps to have a vast coalition willing to share that kind of information.

And we're bringing a lot of terrorists to justice around the world, as well. I think we've arrested over 300—we, the coalition, has arrested over 350 Al Qaida members and terrorists. I was able to thank President Aznar of Spain this week, for arresting eight—eight terrorists, eight people who hate freedom are now in jail, where they should be. And hopefully, they'll give us some information that we will share with other coalition members, to keep us all safe.

And as we speak, we're enforcing the doctrine that makes it plain that not only do we seek the terrorists, but we also hold governments that harbor them and feed them and house them and hide them accountable for their behavior, as well.

Afghanistan is the first overseas front in this war against terror. And I'm pleased to report the military is performing really well.

In a short period of time, most of the country now is in the hands of our allies and friends. We've rescued the humanitarian aid workers. We've destroyed the Taliban military. They're in total confusion. The Government that used to hate women and not educate its children and disrupt humanitarian supplies and destroy religious symbols of other religions is now in rout.

And we've got Al Qaida on the run, too. Now, they think they can hide, but they can't hide for long. And they think they can run, but they can't run forever, because we will patiently, diligently, pursue them until they are brought to justice.

And on the homefront, terrorist violence must be prevented and must be defeated, and it will be, with vigilance, aggressive investigation, and certain punishment. Already, we've committed significant new resources to homeland security. We've improved our ability to detect and stop terrorist activity, but we've still got a lot of work to do.

I'm pleased to report the culture of the FBI is changing; the people you'll be working with in the field is changing. Now, one in four employees of the FBI are directly involved with the efforts to track down every lead and to disrupt the evil ones. And our new investigations are moving forward. And as we do so, our laws are being enforced fairly and in full.

We'll hear from material witnesses. We'll give them a chance to participate in the war against terror by telling us what they know. We will apply the immigration laws. We're interviewing people on a voluntary basis. We're saying, "Welcome to America. You have come to our country; why don't you help make us safe? Why don't you share information with us? Why don't you help us protect innocent people, women and children and men? Why don't you help us value life? As you enjoy the freedoms of our country, help us protect those freedoms."

But there is no doubt about our intentions, and there shouldn't be. Those who plot terror and those who help them will be held accountable in America. That's what we're going to do. Protecting the innocent against violence is a solemn duty of this country. It is our most important responsibility now. And all of us in this room accept that respon-

sibility. And we will tell the American people plainly, we will fulfill that responsibility.

To meet that obligation, a wartime reorganization is underway at the Justice Department. More investigators will go to frontlines. The Federal Government will work more closely with State and local authorities, and so will you. Agents will receive better training and new technology to help track and capture terrorists or those who support them. And these changes are essential, and I want to thank the Attorney General and Director Mueller for beginning this transformation.

I have also reserved the option of trial by military commission for foreign terrorists who wage war against our country. Non-citizens, non-U.S. citizens who plan and/or commit mass murder are more than criminal suspects. They are unlawful combatants who seek to destroy our country and our way of life. And if I determine that it is in the national security interest of our great land to try by military commission those who make war on America, then we will do so. We will act with fairness, and we will deliver justice, which is far more than the terrorists ever grant to their innocent victims.

Ours is a great land, and we'll always value freedom. We're an open society. But we're at war. The enemy has declared war on us. And we must not let foreign enemies use the forums of liberty to destroy liberty, itself. Foreign terrorists and agents must never again be allowed to use our freedoms against us.

Many of you will play a crucial part in our victory against terrorism, and make no mistake, we're going to win the war. Decisions important to millions of Americans will be made in your offices. Your work in the cause of justice will help ensure the security of this Nation. And as you join this fight, you will honor the Constitution. You will not only protect our people, but you will uphold our values.

Every Federal prosecutor has the unique privilege of standing up in a court and telling the judge that you are there on behalf of the United States. In a time of war, these words are even more deeply felt, are even more significant.

Yours is a great trust and one of the great professions. Today you carry not only the

confidence and respect of the American people, but you carry our deep gratitude, as well. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who introduced the President; and President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the War on Terrorism and Defense Appropriations Legislation

November 29, 2001

The House of Representatives yesterday took a bold step to ensure that we fully fund the war on terrorism. I commend the passage of the Defense Appropriation and the commitment it embodies to ensure that, even in war times, we be careful stewards of the taxpayers' money. We will fully support our troops in the field, provide the funds necessary to recover from the September 11th attacks, and spend whatever is necessary to defend our homeland. The agreement I reached with Congress in October provides sufficient funds to accomplish these goals at this time. I, therefore, urge the Senate to pass the Defense Appropriation without adding unwise spending that is not currently necessary.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Insurance Industry Terrorist Claims Legislation

November 29, 2001

I commend the House for taking an important step toward ensuring the continued availability of insurance for terrorist-related acts and for ensuring that victims of terrorism don't also become subjects of unfair lawsuits. Access to affordable insurance is necessary for a stable and productive economy where builders continue to build and investors continue to invest. It is time for the Senate to focus on this important issue.

Remarks at a Viewing of "Mark Twain Tonight"

November 29, 2001

Well, thank you all very much, and good evening. Tonight we'll see an extraordinary performer celebrating an extraordinary American life. And it is my honor to welcome you all here.

I particularly want to welcome Dixie Carter. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I want to thank the Members of the Congress who are here. I want to say to the students, thank you for coming, and thank you for taking interest in American literature. I want to thank your teachers, as well, and all the scholars who have studied the life and work of Mark Twain.

It's also my honor to introduce our host this evening. This performance helps mark the beginning of a series titled "A White House Salute to American Authors." Promoting American writers is one of Laura's, our First Lady's, projects as well as an enduring commitment in all her life.

All America has seen her love of learning and her love of literature. All of America has seen her grace and concern for children in a difficult time for our Nation. Our country is blessed by her calm and compassion, and I am blessed by her encouragement and her love.

Laura Bush.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7 p.m. at Ford's Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to entertainer Dixie Carter. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.

Proclamation 7507—National Diabetes Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During the past century, we have made significant progress in our fight against disease. Through public health campaigns and aggressive research, we have eliminated polio

in the United States, reduced the harm of influenza outbreaks, and developed revolutionary new medications that provide relief and healing from many chronic and acute illnesses. However, effective treatments and cures to numerous other illnesses remain elusive and demand our continued attention and resources. One of the most prevalent and difficult of these is diabetes, which currently afflicts more than 16 million Americans.

Diabetes can cause blindness, renal disease, severe nerve damage, heart disease, strokes, and even death. This year approximately 800,000 men, women, and children in the United States will develop diabetes, and health officials estimate that it will be a contributing factor in almost 200,000 deaths. The total economic cost for providing medical treatment for diabetes patients and for disability and deaths related to the disease is approximately \$100 billion a year. More troubling are statistics indicating that more than 5 million Americans are unaware of their diabetic condition, seriously jeopardizing their long-term health and well-being. An additional 10 million citizens are at high-risk of developing type 2 diabetes due largely to physical inactivity, obesity, and poor diet.

Recent scientific findings demonstrate that modest, consistent exercise and a healthy diet can curtail the risk of type 2 diabetes in individuals by nearly 60 percent. This information provides great hope in our efforts to reduce the incidence of diabetes and creates a renewed sense of urgency to ensure that all Americans are aware of practical steps that can be taken to reduce their risk for diabetes.

My Administration is strongly committed to fighting diabetes both by working in cooperation with dedicated staff and volunteers of private organizations to develop strong public education programs and by increased Federal funding for medical research. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have established the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) to help familiarize Americans with the risks of diabetes and what can be done to minimize its complica-

tions. The NDEP will also offer practical information about preventing the cardiovascular complications of diabetes through the campaign, "Be Smart About Your Heart: The ABCs of Diabetes." Medical research is providing exciting advances in our prevention and treatment strategies for diabetes, and my fiscal year 2002 budget reflects a significant increase in funding to continue the valuable diabetes research programs at the NIH.

I am confident that our Nation's health care professionals, nurses, scientists, educators, and volunteers will continue to provide quality care to those who currently suffer from diabetes, and, through their work, we will one day find a cure for this terrible disease. On the observance of National Diabetes Month, we honor those who are working diligently to advance our knowledge and understanding of diabetes. We also recognize the value of educating ourselves about health risks and the importance of healthy lifestyle habits.

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 November 2001 as National Diabetes Month. I call on all Americans to increase their awareness of the risk factors and symptoms related to diabetes and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7508—National Hospice Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each year, approximately 700,000 terminally ill patients and their families rely on the invaluable end-of-life care provided by the 3,100 hospice programs located in the United States. Hospice care allows a terminally ill individual to receive professional medical services, pain management therapy, and emotional and spiritual support, without having to enter a hospital. This focus on the patient's quality of life during his or her last illness can make the best of the most challenging of situations.

Hospices create a compassionate atmosphere where patients will be able to die with dignity, preferably in their home environment, surrounded and supported by loved ones, familiar friends, and committed caregivers. Professional and compassionate hospice staff and volunteers, including physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, and clergy, provide comprehensive care and attend to the particular needs and wishes of each patient. Family members and friends also receive counseling and bereavement care that help them cope with the impending loss of their loved one.

Individuals and groups in the private and public sectors are working together to strengthen and expand hospice programs and to promote their services as a positive alternative for terminally ill patients. Today, hospice care is a full partner in our Nation's health care system, furthering our efforts to provide medical services in more compassionate and cost-effective ways. More important, providing high-quality hospice care reaffirms our belief in the essential dignity of every person, regardless of age, health, or social status, and that every stage of human life deserves to be treated with the utmost respect and care. My Administration remains committed to supporting health care programs like hospice that encourage quality medical care and frequent doctor-patient interaction.

With the observance of National Hospice Month, we recognize those who serve in our Nation's hospices, often as caregivers in the homes of hospice patients. Caring for a terminally ill patient can be emotionally painful, physically exhausting, and financially difficult. I call on all Americans to honor the professionals and volunteers who dedicate their lives to aiding the terminally ill through hospices. And we should use this observance as an opportunity to encourage and help those who take on the challenge of caring for a terminally ill patient in their home or in a hospice facility.

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 November 2001 as National Hospice Month. I encourage Americans to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice service and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Proclamation 7509—National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, 2001

November 29, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Each December we turn our attention to the problem of drunk driving by observing National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. Though the holidays bring

joy in celebrations with family and friends, they also bring a tragic increase in the incidence of impaired driving. This season, I ask each American to avoid driving while they are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to help stop others from driving in an impaired condition, and to increase community awareness about these issues.

Despite many efforts by States, communities, and citizen groups to stop drunk and drugged driving, many Americans mistakenly continue to view impaired driving as acceptable conduct. After years of gradual improvement, fatalities in alcohol-related crashes rose by 4 percent from 1999 to 2000. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that last year alcohol was involved in 40 percent of fatal crashes and in 8 percent of all crashes.

Every person should reaffirm his or her personal responsibility to drive free of the influence of alcohol or drugs and to prevent others from driving under the influence of them. We must promote practices such as designating a sober driver, stopping impaired family members and friends from getting behind the wheel, reporting impaired drivers to law enforcement officials, and teaching our young people safe, alcohol- and drug-free driving behavior.

We should also promote coordinated public policies and citizen campaigns against drunk and drugged driving in our communities. One example is the Department of Transportation's *You Drink & Drive, You Lose* campaign. This national coalition of community and law enforcement organizations will increase public awareness of the hazards of impaired driving. Their message warns of the criminal penalties for impaired driving, including imprisonment and the loss of license, vehicle, time from work, and money in fines and court costs.

As we celebrate the joyous holiday season, we can help save lives by preventing impaired driving. In order to ensure the safety of our roads for all travelers, we must continue to fight drunk and drugged driving throughout the year.

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 December 2001 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month. I call upon State and community leaders to join the *National Holiday Lifesavers Mobilization*, sponsored by the *You Drink & Drive, You Lose* campaign, on December 21–23, 2001. I also urge all Americans to remember the hazards of impaired driving and to become involved in fighting this dangerous problem.

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

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., December 3, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 4.

Statement on Congressional Action on Mexican Motor Carrier Legislation

November 30, 2001

The compromise reached by the House and Senate appropriators on Mexican trucking is an important victory for safety and free trade. We must promote the highest level of safety and security on American highways while meeting our commitments to our friends to the South. The compromise reached by the conferees will achieve these twin objectives by permitting our border to be opened in a timely manner and ensuring that all United States safety standards will be applied to every truck and bus operating on our highways.

**Statement on Resignation of
Governor James S. Gilmore III of
Virginia as Republican National
Committee Chairman**

November 30, 2001

Jim Gilmore is a close friend and valuable ally. He answered my call to lead the Republican Party through a challenging and dynamic election. He has done so with fervor and conviction. He has advanced our principles of limited but active government and promoted compassionate priorities that strengthen American families, keep Americans safe, and encourage individual responsibility.

There are few who embody public service the way that Jim Gilmore does, serving as Governor of Virginia, chairman of a national commission on terrorism, and leader of the national Republican Party all in the same year.

There is no greater priority on this Earth than one's family, and I respect and understand the decision Governor Gilmore has made. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors and will continue to seek his wise counsel as a friend and confidante.

**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.

November 25

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

November 26

In the morning, the President met with his National Security Council.

November 27

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with King Abdullah II of Jordan concerning cooperation against ter-

rorism, events in Afghanistan, and Middle East peace efforts. Later, he met with his Homeland Security Council, and he also met with former Senator John C. Danforth, U.S. Special Envoy for Peace to the Sudan, to discuss human rights in the Sudan.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with the presidents of the International, U.S., and Salt Lake City Olympic Committees to discuss the 2002 Winter Olympics opening February 8, 2002, in Salt Lake City. Later, he met in the Oval Office with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The President announced his intention to nominate Steven Joseph Chabot to be U.S. Representative to the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to nominate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega to be U.S. Representative to the 56th Session of the UN General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen Hammerman, Floyd H. Flake, and William Harry Berdine as members of the White House Commission on Excellence in Special Education.

The President announced his intention to designate Daniel R. Mulville as Acting Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

November 28

The President declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico and ordered Federal aid to supplement Commonwealth and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides on November 7 and continuing.

November 29

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia concerning the Governor's decision to resign as Republican National Committee chairman.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Philadelphia, PA, on December 1 to attend the Army-Navy football game at Veterans Stadium.

The President announced his intention to nominate Naomi Churchill Earp to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and, upon confirmation, to designate her as Vice Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jacques Joseph Grandmaison to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to appoint Don A. Christensen as a member of the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission.

November 30

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia on December 6.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will participate in the Pageant of Peace on the Ellipse during the evening of December 6.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tony Hammond to be a Commissioner of the Postal Rate Commission.

The President announced his intention to designate George A. Omas as Chairman of the Postal Rate Commission.

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 November 27

Steven Joseph Chabot,
of Ohio, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Naomi Churchill Earp,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2005, vice Reginald Earl Jones, term expired.

Eni F.H. Faleomavaega,
of American Samoa, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Fifty-sixth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld,
of Maryland, to be Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, vice Jan M. Chaiken, resigned.

Michael Hammond,
of Texas, to be Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts for a term of 4 years, vice William James Ivey, resigned.

Donna Jean Hrinak,
of Virginia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federative Republic of Brazil.

JoAnn Johnson,
of Iowa, to be a member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2007, vice Yolanda Townsend Wheat, term expired.

Sean O'Keefe,
of New York, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, vice Daniel S. Goldin, resigned.

Francis Joseph Ricciardone, Jr.,
of New Hampshire, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Palau.

Frederick W. Schieck,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Harriet C. Babbitt, resigned.

Diane Leneghan Tomb,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, vice Jean Nolan, resigned.

Roger P. Winter, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, vice Hugh Q. Parmer, resigned.

Submitted November 28

Francis L. Cramer III, of New Hampshire, to be a judge of the U.S. Tax Court for a term expiring 15 years after he takes office, vice Julian L. Jacobs, term expired.

Kenneth P. Moorefield, of Florida, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Career Minister, to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Submitted November 29

Jeanette J. Clark, 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 George W. Mitchell, deceased.

J. Joseph Grandmaison, of New Hampshire, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2005, vice Rita M. Rodriguez.

Submitted November 30

Scott A. Abdallah, of South Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Karen Elizabeth Schreier, resigned.

Thomas P. Colantuono, of New Hampshire, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of 4 years, vice Paul Michael Gagnon, resigned.

Harry E. Cummins III, of Arkansas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas for the term of 4 years, vice Paula Jean Casey, resigned.

Diane M. Ruebling, of California, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2002, vice Melvin E. Clark, Jr., term expired.

Michael Taylor Shelby, of Texas, to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of 4 years, vice Mervyn M. Mosbacher, Jr., resigned.

C. William Swank, of Ohio, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2002, vice Robert Mays Lyford.

**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 November 26

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 27

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 28

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2924

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Puerto Rico

Statement by the Press Secretary on Vice President Cheney's appointment of Jennifer Millerwise as Deputy Assistant for Communications and Press Secretary to the Vice President

Released November 29

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Announcement of nomination for a judge of the U.S. Tax Court

Released November 30

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact Sheet: World AIDS Day Observance

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota

Announcement of nomination for U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved November 20

H.R. 768 / Public Law 107-72
Need-Based Educational Aid Act of 2001

Approved November 26

H.R. 2620 / Public Law 107-73
Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

Approved November 28

H.R. 1042 / Public Law 107-74
To prevent the elimination of certain reports

H.R. 1552 / Public Law 107-75
Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act

H.R. 2330 / Public Law 107-76
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2500 / Public Law 107-77
Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002

H.R. 2924 / Public Law 107-78
To provide authority to the Federal Power Marketing Administration to reduce vandalism and destruction of property, and for other purposes