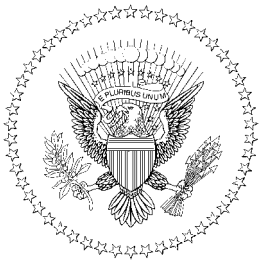
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Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents



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Contents

Addresses and Remarks

See also Appointments and Nominations; Meetings With Foreign Leaders
Financial fight against terror—1741
Florida
Departure for Orlando—1741
Tour of the Operation Paycheck Center in Orlando—1742
Townhall meeting in Orlando—1743
Israel, bombings—1739
Kennedy Center Honors reception—1739
National Christmas Tree, lighting—1760
Maryland, arrival from Camp David—1739
Radio address—1738
Republican National Committee chairman Marc Racicot, meeting—1755
Virginia, ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Norfolk—1762

Appointments and Nominations

Health and Human Services Department, National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute Director, remarks—1759

Communications to Congress

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo, message transmitting report on the national emergencies—1755
Weapons of mass destruction proliferation, message transmitting report on the national emergency—1755

Communications to Federal Agencies

Northern Ireland, memorandum—1766

Executive Orders

Closing of Federal Government Executive Departments and Agencies on Monday, December 24, 2001—1758

Interviews With the News Media

Exchange with reporters in the Oval Office—1756

Letters and Messages

Hanukkah, message—1765

Meetings With Foreign Leaders

Norway, Prime Minister Bondevik—1756

Proclamations

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day—1761
To Implement the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area—1765
World AIDS Day—1737

Statements by the President

House of Representatives action on trade promotion authority legislation—1761
Israel, bombings—1739
Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards—1754
Senate action on the economic security package, urging—1765

Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—1769
Checklist of White House press releases—1769
Digest of other White House announcements—1767
Nominations submitted to the Senate—1768

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Proclamation 7510—World AIDS Day, 2001

November 30, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

This year marks the 20th year that the world has been fighting the disease that we now know as Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). AIDS has inflicted a terrible toll upon the world, taking millions of lives and causing untold grief to the families and friends of its victims. An estimated 40 million people worldwide are living with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which causes AIDS; and more than 8,000 people across the globe die from AIDS every day. Sadly, since its inception, AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 22 million individuals.

This year's World AIDS Day theme is "I Care . . . Do You? Youth and AIDS in the 21st Century." The goal underscoring this year's theme is ensuring greater education and involvement of young people in preventing HIV/AIDS. And it seeks to stress that every individual has both the responsibility and the opportunity to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to assist those suffering from the disease.

In many countries, including the United States, young people and adolescents are at a higher risk for contracting HIV infection. We know from epidemiological data that young people under the age of 25 comprise half of all new HIV infections worldwide. This sobering reality is a clarion call to public health networks around the world to redouble their efforts in providing information to young people about preventing HIV/AIDS, and most importantly, about abstinence and how it can help to prevent the spread of this disease.

The AIDS epidemic has had a devastating impact on diverse communities, and disadvantaged youth have borne the brunt of this devastation. Impoverished conditions and depressed economic circumstances tend to accompany an increased presence of HIV in these communities. We must develop and implement better ways to communicate to youth about abstinence and other effective measures that will help them to avoid the disease and to envision a future filled with possibility.

We must also continue our efforts to develop a vaccine that will protect individuals from becoming infected with HIV. Our children deserve to live in a world free from the fear of HIV/AIDS, and the United States will not weaken in its resolve to lead the world towards that goal.

As we enter the third decade of the AIDS pandemic, our hearts go out to those who have been afflicted with or affected by this deadly disease. We resolve to stand together as a Nation and with the world to fight AIDS on all fronts. We resolve to provide the resources necessary to combat HIV/AIDS. And we resolve to ensure that those suffering with HIV/AIDS receive effective care and treatment, compassionate understanding, and encouraging hope.

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 1, 2001, as World AIDS Day. I invite the Governors of the States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combat HIV/AIDS. I encourage every American to participate in appropriate commemorative programs and ceremonies in workplaces, houses of worship, and other community centers to reach out and protect and

educate our children, and to help comfort all people who are living with HIV and AIDS.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth 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 4, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 5. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

December 1, 2001

Good morning. This week, the official announcement came that our economy has been in recession since March. And unfortunately, to a lot of Americans, that news comes as no surprise. Many have lost jobs or seen their hours cut. Many have seen friends or family laid off.

The long economic expansion that started 10 years ago, in 1991, began to slow last year. Many economists warned me when I took office that a recession was beginning, so we took quick action. We passed the biggest tax cut in a generation, and we imposed some much needed discipline on Federal spending. And by the end of the summer, we could see signs that the economy was responding.

But the terrorist attacks of September the 11th hit our economy hard. They hurt our airlines and hotels and restaurants and undermined consumer and business confidence. Now we need to act boldly to protect America's economic security. There are two immediate priorities for America's recovery: We must bring quick help to those who need it most, and we must restore our economy's growth.

It's the holiday season. It's a time to reach out to Americans who are hurting, to help them put food on the table, and to keep a roof over their heads. I've offered a plan to provide immediate assistance to those who have lost their jobs in the wake of the terrorist attack. My plan extends unemployment compensation by 13 weeks in the States hardest hit by terrorism. My plan helps States offer Medicaid to uninsured workers in need and their families. And my plan offers emergency grants to States to help displaced workers get job training and find new work and continue their health insurance—practical help in a difficult time.

And I'm working with congressional leaders on more ideas to help Americans who have lost their jobs. In the long run, the right answer to unemployment is to create more jobs. I have proposed a package of job creating measures. I've asked Congress for tax relief for low- and moderate-income people to put more money into the hands of consumers and to put people to work making things that consumers want. I have proposed we lower taxes on employers who buy new equipment to expand their business and hire more people.

We should reform our tax laws so that employers don't pay more taxes as their profits shrink. And I propose we speed up the income tax cuts Congress passed in the spring so that people can keep more of their own money to spend or pay their debts.

I asked for this job creation package on October the 5th. The House of Representatives responded swiftly. Yet I'm still waiting for a bill to sign, and more importantly, so are more than 415,000 Americans who have lost their jobs since then.

You know, after September the 11th my administration and the Congress made a conscious decision to show the terrorists we could work together. We had an obligation to show that democracy works. We've done that. And now we need to do it again by helping dislocated workers and spurring economic growth.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:16 a.m. on November 30 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 1. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 30 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Bombings in Israel

December 1, 2001

I was horrified and saddened to learn of the bombings that took place tonight in Jerusalem. I strongly condemn them as acts of murder that no person of conscience can tolerate and no cause can ever justify. On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, to my friend Prime Minister Sharon, and to all the people of Israel. Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must immediately find and arrest those responsible for these hideous murders. They must also act swiftly and decisively against the organizations that support them. Now more than ever, Chairman Arafat and the Palestinian Authority must demonstrate through their actions, and not merely their words, their commitment to fight terror.

Remarks on Arrival From Camp David, Maryland

December 2, 2001

Bombings in Israel

In a couple of minutes I'll have the honor of receiving the Prime Minister from Israel. We obviously changed our schedule because of the horrific acts of murder that took place in his land.

I will tell him that I strongly condemn the acts of murder that killed innocent people in Israel. I will tell him our Nation grieves for those whose lives have been affected by the murderers.

This is a moment where the advocates for peace in the Middle East must rise up and fight terror. Chairman Arafat must do everything in his power to find those who murdered innocent Israelis and bring them to justice.

Clearly, there are some in the world who do not want us to achieve peace in the Middle East. Clearly, there are some that, every chance they have, they will use violence and terror to disrupt any progress that's being made. We must not allow them to succeed. We must not allow terror to destroy the chance of peace in the Middle East.

Now is the time for leaders throughout the world who urge there to be a peace to do something about the terror that prevents peace from happening in the first place.

May God bless the Israeli citizens who lost their lives, and their families.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:26 a.m. on the South Grounds at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the Kennedy Center Honors Reception

December 2, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. Good evening, and welcome to the White House. Laura and I are so pleased to have all of you here for this incredibly happy occasion. We especially welcome the honorees, your families, and your friends.

Every year, the Kennedy Center honors artists like yourselves for lifetime contributions to the American culture. The recipients for 2001 make quite a collection. [*Laughter*] As one newspaper put it in the headline, this year's honorees can carry a tune—and then there's Jack. [*Laughter*] What the writer didn't know is that he actually plays the piano. But of course, that's not why he's here today. You're each here so that America can recognize your great gifts and the ways that you have used them.

Van Cliburn was recently a guest at our ranch in Crawford, Texas, at a dinner for President Vladimir Putin of Russia. He's known many other leaders. In this house on December 1987, he played at a state dinner for the Gorbachevs and had the entire Soviet delegation singing "Moscow Nights." [*Laughter*]

Three decades earlier, Van visited the White House as a guest of President Eisenhower. He was 23 years old and winner of the Gold Medal at the Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow. As a result, the whole world knew his name.

Texas knew him even before, in a place called Kilgore. Harvey L. Cliburn, Jr., first touched the keys at the age of 3 and was

playing in public at the age of 4. Even a prodigy needs an inspiration, and Van Cliburn's was his devoted and talented mother. She became his music teacher, the only one he knew until he went to Juilliard.

She, herself, studied under Arthur Friedheim, who studied under Liszt, who studied under Czerny, who studied with Beethoven. Wilda B. Cliburn lived a good, long life, and in her son's own words, he said, "Mother was always a fierce, wonderful, and loving critic." I know how you feel. [*Laughter*]

He reached the summit early and stayed there. In his lifetime of talent and discipline, Van Cliburn has brought great beauty into the world, and the world is grateful.

Great beauty has also been the gift of Julia Elizabeth Wells, whom we all know as Julie Andrews. The story is told of an important conference of world leaders some years ago. White House Chief of Staff Jim Baker came to the guesthouse where President Ronald Reagan was staying. He assumed the President had been up late, studying his briefing book, but then noticed the book hadn't been touched. And there was a good reason. The President said, "Well, Jim, 'The Sound of Music' was on last night." [*Laughter*] The face and voice of Julie Andrews has that effect on a lot of people.

You're instantly captivated when you meet her and hear her. After seeing "Mary Poppins," a reviewer put it this way: "If she did nothing but stand there smiling for a few hours, she would cast her radiance everywhere. It would be enough, but how that girl can sing and dance. She glides off—it's more than you can bear. Julie, Julie, stay awhile." [*Laughter*]

As a girl of 12, she was actually turned down in her first screen test. A talent scout declared her nonphotogenic. [*Laughter*] He was obviously applying standards unknown to the rest of mankind. [*Laughter*] Not only is Julie Andrews the living definition of photogenic, her range of talent extends from drama to musical to comedy to dance. And the range of her singing voice is four octaves, every note pure and powerful.

We've all sung along with Julie Andrews, and we know she'll sing again. And while we wait, we will treasure the many films and recordings that capture the sound of Julie and bring happy memories to us all. They're the lasting achievements of the truly lovely and gracious lady we honor today.

Luciano Pavarotti also achieved success at an early age, but in another profession. He was an insurance salesman. [*Laughter*] And people found him very persuasive. [*Laughter*] He had other plans, but his boss told him to stick with insurance. To Luciano this man actually said, and I quote, "As a singer, you will undoubtedly die of starvation." [*Laughter*] Pavarotti later said that he got out of sales because all that talking was damaging his voice. [*Laughter*] That voice is now among the most familiar on the planet.

He began in the chorus of his hometown, Modena, Italy, seated alongside the tenor he loved most, his dad, Fernando. He has commanded the stage before live audiences in the hundreds of thousands, leaving his listeners in a state of awe. The largesse of his voice and personality have drawn millions into the universe of classical music.

In a career routinely compared to that of the great Caruso, Luciano Pavarotti has gained the acclaim and affection of the American people. There's no one quite like him. And we'll all remember the day we were in the presence of Maestro Pavarotti.

Our fourth honoree is also worthy of the title "maestro." To look at him, you wouldn't know it, but Quincy Jones is in his sixth decade in the music industry. This one man has done so much, his career defies any attempt at summary. But everyone knows that if something has the name "Quincy Jones" on it, it is going to be good.

Among his many talents is that rare ability to bring out the best in others. Dizzy Gillespie said, "People go to Quincy Jones because he knows what he's doing. He knows the sound you've got in you, and he's got the know-how to get it out."

The man his friends call "Q" was born Quincy Delight Jones, Jr., on the south side of Chicago. He made his own way in the world with few advantages beyond his own talent, ambition, and class. Starting out in the band of Lionel Hampton, he would eventually win the Grammy 26 times—so far. [*Laughter*] Quincy Jones has already received more nominations for the Grammy

than any other artist. He produced one of the best selling singles of all time and the best selling album of all time.

All the hardship he knew early on has turned to good and creative purposes. His successful life is testimony to faith in himself, faith in America, and faith in our Creator. "You can study orchestration," he said. "You can study harmony and theory and everything else, but melodies come straight from God."

For all your marvelous work, America thanks you, Q, and so does W. [*Laughter*]

Jack Nicholson once described himself as the kind of guy who just wants to blend in. [*Laughter*] Well, we always don't get what we wish for. [*Laughter*] If there is one thing the man can't do, it's disappear into the background.

He was not trained as an actor, but he had a feeling it was his calling. As Jack had explained, he became interested in the craft when he noticed all the girls he liked were doing plays. [*Laughter*] Before long, he was working in a studio, sorting the mail. He was on the big screen at age 21 playing a variety of teens and drifters, perfect preparation for the film that made him a star, "Easy Rider." We all remember his other great pictures: "Five Easy Pieces," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Chinatown," "The Shining," "A Few Good Men," "As Good As It Gets."

Everyone has a favorite scene and a favorite line delivered by Jack as only he can do it. Give him a scene in a diner where he just wants a piece of toast—[*laughter*]—and he'll make film history. [*Laughter*] His characters leave mixed emotions, always something to draw you in, always something to put you off.

America cannot resist the mystery, the hint of menace, and of course, that killer smile. He doesn't rehearse, and he makes it look easy. His 11 Oscar nominations put him in a class with Katherine Hepburn, Sir Laurence Olivier. He's one of the handful of actors to win the Oscar 3 times.

We pay him tribute today because John Joseph Nicholson is one of the true greats of this or any other generation of actors.

I hope each of our honorees will enjoy the evening ahead. Perhaps it's a nice change that none of you will be called on to perform. This is an evening for appreciation, for looking back at all you've achieved, and for the part you continue to play in our national life.

Congratulations, and thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:30 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Mikhail Gorbachev of Russia.

Remarks on Departure for Orlando, Florida

December 4, 2001

Financial Fight Against Terror

The President. Good morning. Today we take another important step in the financial fight against terror. From the beginning of this fight I have said our enemies are terrorist networks of global reach, and all who harbor them and support them are our enemies, as well. We began with Al Qaida and the Taliban. We identified some of Al Qaida's financial backers and we moved against their accounts.

In November we advanced further and identified 22 more global terrorist organizations. And now we are moving against their financing, as well. At midnight yesterday the Treasury Department froze the assets and accounts of the Holy Land Foundation in Richardson, Texas, whose money is used to support the Hamas terror organization. Earlier today Federal agents secured the offices and records of the Holy Land Foundation in Texas, California, New Jersey, and Illinois as a part of an ongoing investigation. At the same time, we have blocked the accounts of an Hamas-linked bank, an Hamas-linked holding company based in the West Bank.

The message is this: Those who do business with terror will do no business with the United States or anywhere else the United States can reach.

Hamas is an extremist group that calls for the total destruction of the State of Israel. It is one of the deadliest terrorist organizations in the world today.

Hamas openly claimed responsibility for this past weekend's suicide attacks in Israel that killed 25 innocent people, many of them teenagers, and wounded almost 200 other

people. Hamas is guilty of hundreds of other deaths over the years and just in the past 12 months have killed two Americans. And today we act.

Hamas has obtained much of the money that it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States, money originally raised by the Holy Land Foundation. The Holy Land Foundation is registered with the IRS as a tax-exempt charity based in Richardson. It raised $13 million from people in America last year. The Holy Land Foundation claims that the money it solicits go to care for needy Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is used by Hamas to support schools and indoctrinate children to grow up into suicide bombers. Money raised by the Holy Land Foundation is also used by Hamas to recruit suicide bombers and to support their families.

America has called on other nations to suppress the financing of terror. Today we take further steps to suppress it inside our borders. I am confident that most of the donors to the Holy Land Foundation, and perhaps even some of the individuals who are associated with the Foundation, had no idea how its money was being used. They wanted to relieve suffering in the region of the world that has suffered too much. But the facts are clear, the terrorists benefit from the Holy Land Foundation. And we're not going to allow it. Our action today is another step in the war on terrorism. It's not the final step. There are more terrorist networks of global reach and more front groups who use deceit to support them. The net is closing. Today it just got tighter. And now it's my honor to welcome to the podium the Secretary of the Treasury, Paul O'Neill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks in a Tour of the Operation Paycheck Center in Orlando

December 4, 2001

I, first of all, understand that the attacks on September the 11th affected a lot of people. Not only did we lose a lot of life, not only are Americans worried about future attacks, but a lot of people lost their jobs.

And I'm here at this program to assure the American people and yourselves that our governments, both Federal and State governments, want to help you help yourself. I've just come from a little discussion with people who find themselves in the same position you're in, about how best to use resources to enable them to retrain for jobs that actually exist.

Today we announced a grant for the State of Florida for over $3 million to encourage programs in one-stop centers such as this, so that they're available for people who are looking for new skills. And the other thing that makes it important is, the Federal Government can write checks, but it seems like, to me, it makes sense to empower the local folks to design the programs to meet the needs so that you can train for jobs that actually exist in your neighborhood.

And that's why I'm so proud of my little brother for seizing this initiative to develop a program that will meet your needs and the needs of people that are looking for workers. I want you to know that I'm optimistic about the future of the country. There's no question in my mind we will win the war on terror. There's no question that those who—the evil ones who murdered innocent citizens will be brought to justice.

I believe that we're making—taking everything we possibly can to—I know we're doing everything we can to prevent further attacks. It's going to be important for the economic vitality of our country to prevent future attacks. And we're taking the steps necessary within our Constitution to do just that. If we get any whiff or any sniff that somebody is going to harm an American again, we're acting—just the way you would want us to.

And I believe that we've got in place the framework for economic growth: We've got good fiscal policy; interest rates are low; energy prices are reasonable. But I hope the Congress does pass legislation that will take care of displaced workers for the short term, provide the short-term help necessary for you all—extending unemployment insurance, national emergency grants to help with the health care payments, and then put other stimuluses in place to encourage job creation.

The long-term solution is more jobs, and I believe, acting together, we can do that.

There seems to be a little bit of a logjam in Washington, DC, right now. And I know that Senators from both parties, if they could hear the stories about—and I'm sure they do; I'm sure they listen when they go home. But they need to act. They need to stop fussing and stop talking and get something to my desk that will take care of the workers and provide stimulus to this economy.

I wish you all the best. I'm an optimist. We live in a great country, a resilient country, a country that will rise to the task. And I believe that the effects of 9/11 will—when we do our job, will be mitigated with job increases for you all. I really wish you the best. I hurt, that coming into the holiday season, that you're not working. But I admire your courage for going out to try to improve yourselves so you can find jobs around here.

God bless you all. Thank you for letting me come by to say hello. I wish you all the best.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:26 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida.

Remarks at a Townhall Meeting in Orlando

December 4, 2001

The President. Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you all very much. I'm really happy to visit Florida. The weather is beautiful. There's a lot of interesting things to do here. I recommend people from outside of Florida to come and take a look at Florida. It's a nice place to visit and a great place to live. One reason why is because you've got a great Governor. I'm not very objective. [*Laughter*]

I also—I'm proud to be traveling today with two members of my Cabinet. First, somebody who made a living and raised his family right here in Orange County, and that's Mel Martinez of the Housing—[*applause*]. There's no better person to help promote a significant part of the American Dream, that being homeownership, than somebody who came to our country from a country that doesn't encourage homeownership, somebody whose parents had the foresight to encourage him to be extricated from a tyrannical society, somebody who understood Fidel Castro doesn't trust people to own property. And that's Mel Martinez. We're working together to make sure homeownership becomes a reality for any citizen in America who shares that dream, regardless of where they live or their background.

I'm also traveling today with the Secretary of Labor, Elaine Chao. And there's a lot of Members of the United States Congress who have traveled here: homegrown Congressman Ric Keller; Ander Crenshaw is with us—thank you for coming, Ander; Congressman Mark Foley, I appreciate you; Congressman John Mica.

I recently worked closely with John and other Republicans and Democrats to forge an airport security bill which will allow the Federal Government to supervise the security of our airports, to make sure that those who travel are comfortable with the fact that we're doing everything in our power to make air travel as safe as it can possibly be. Thank you, John, for your leadership on that issue.

Congressman Adam Putnam—I had to check to make sure he was old enough, but Adam, thank you; Congressman Dave Weldon—thank you, Dave, for being here; Congressman Cliff Stearns, from Florida, as well.

And finally, I want to thank the mayor, Glenda Hood, and all those who helped encourage you all to come so that I can answer any questions you may have about what's going on in the country and the world today.

Before I answer a few questions—and I thought it was right. I know a lot of citizens in Florida and around our country may have some questions to the President, and I'm more than happy to answer some. Before I do, I do want to say a few comments.

One of the other reasons I came here is to herald a program called "Operation Paycheck." It's a program that Jeb has put in place to help displaced workers find the training necessary to find work, to help displaced workers around this part of the world, to help those who want to help themselves find the training necessary to allow them to learn new skills to find work again.

There's nothing that hurts me more than to know, as we head into the holiday season,

that some of our citizens and some of their families hurt because they've been laid off as a result of 9/11. And we have a role in the Government—in the State Government, in the Federal Government—to provide immediate help as part of an economic security package, is to provide immediate help. And so one of the things I did was announce a grant for the State of Florida to encourage programs like Operation Paycheck, one-stop centers for people to find help. And today I was pleased to announce that grant on behalf of the Federal Government, but there's more to be done.

You probably read about the fact that we're working with Congress. And I must say, relations with Congress are a heck of a lot better than they have been in the past, because Congressmen and Senators of both parties are interested about what's doing right for the American people.

And part of an economic security package is to make sure that we extend unemployment insurance benefits for those who have been laid off as a result of 9/11 and provide money—monies to help those who have been laid off with things such as child care or health insurance or transportation to a community college, to enable them to learn a new skill. We have a role to play. And I urge the United States Congress to stop talking and to get an economic security bill to my desk.

The House has acted, and for that I'm grateful. And there's always—the Speaker can tell you—there's always a difference of opinion sometimes between the House and the Senate, whether it's at the State or Federal level. But the Senate needs to get a bill, get it reconciled, and get it to my desk, so we can say we're doing the people's business in a way that will make you proud.

The truth of the matter is, economic security, however, the long-term, depends upon our ability to get our economy cranked up again, so new jobs are being created. We've got to think about how to stimulate job creation. The question that needs to be answered is how to create more jobs, and I've laid out a blueprint to do just that.

I think we ought to—and help people with more money as we head into the Christmas season, by making sure that those who filed but didn't pay taxes get a rebate, just similar to the rebates you all have just recently received. That will help low- and moderate-income Americans. We ought to accelerate the tax cuts that we have in place. More money in people's pockets mean more economic activity.

We ought to reform the corporate income tax system. This current system says that as you lose money, you begin to pay more taxes. That doesn't make any sense if we're worried about job creation. I don't think we ought to be looking back for a decade, but I do think we ought to reform the system as we head forward, to make sense. And finally, I think we ought to provide incentives for corporate America to buy more plant and equipment. That will encourage job creation.

We ought to ask the question in Washington, what's it take to create more jobs, so hardworking Americans can be able to put food on the table? That's what we ought to be asking.

Two other points I want to make before I answer your questions is, there's no question, as well, that in order to make sure our economy recovers and people are able to find work, we've got to do everything we can to prevent the enemy from hitting us again. We've got to be diligent. And so we're following every hint, every lead, every possibility, within the confines of the Constitution. My job is to provide security for the American people. My job is to make sure that we use the assets at our disposal to ferret out those who might hurt America and to bring them to justice.

We can protect our homeland by beefing up law enforcement, by encouraging the FBI to focus on prevention, by working closely with local authorities, and we're doing that. But in the long term, the best way to make sure America is safe is to find those who would commit terror against America, no matter where they run or where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're doing.

For those of you who are the parents or the spouse or the brother or sister of a member of our military who may not be home during the holiday season, first, I want to thank you for your sacrifice but let you know that the cause is just. And I know you're as

proud as I am of how our military is fighting the war on terror.

We rescued humanitarian aid workers. We're slowly but surely demolishing the Government that felt comfortable in housing and abetting and feeding and hiding those who committed murder in America. And slowly but surely we're tightening the net on Usama bin Laden and Al Qaida.

They think they can run, and we'll tire. They think they can hide, and we will tire. But they have sorely misunderstood America. They don't understand our will and our determination. This great land is united to bring freedom to the world. We will bring them to justice, and we will prevail.

And so I'm honored that such a huge crowd would turn out. I want to thank you all for coming. I look forward to answering your questions. I want to thank you for your prayers, thank you for your love for the country. And now, if you've got any questions, I'm here to answer them.

Yes, sir.

Job Training and Unemployment Benefits

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Since the September 11th tragedy, many Americans with college degrees, including myself, have been laid off. What are some of the things you're doing to help people like me, who have been out of work for the past few months?

The President. Well, first of all, there's a lot of money spent from the Federal level to help—to help with reeducation. And one of the programs that I just mentioned is the use of Federal monies to empower State Governments to provide opportunities for reeducation.

I just went by a center today. I sat next to a TWA pilot, highly skilled, college-educated man who got laid off as a pilot. His dream is to go back to a local community college, become reeducated to become a computer programmer. In other words, the idea is to mate those with skills with jobs that actually exist.

The problem with the kind of Federal approach and only Federal approach is, is that we may encourage you to become trained in a job that doesn't exist. And so the real thing is, is there money available for job training? Is there money available from the Federal Government to say to Governor Bush of Florida, "Here is some dough. Set up a system that will actually match people with skills and jobs that exist." There are jobs in Florida, and the fundamental question is, how do we encourage those with skills, to funnel those with skills into those jobs?

Secondly, I do believe we ought to extend the amount of time one can receive unemployment insurance benefits. I think that's important. And I also believe that we need to have what's called national emergency grants, which are basically Federal expenditures to States to allow people to help, for example, make health care payments. And one of the things I worry about and I'm deeply concerned about is, somebody who has had a good health care plan is no longer able to afford health care. And so we ought to help people be able to afford those premiums and those benefits until they're able to get back to work.

The long term, though, is—and I keep repeating it—is, let's stimulate job growth. The best thing for you to be able to find a job is for there to be more jobs available. And I believe—I believe we're on the verge of doing just that.

I mean, we've got great tax policy in place. We cut taxes this year; we've got taxes cut for the next years coming, which will stimulate economic growth. Alan Greenspan has got monetary policy in such a shape that interest rates are low. Energy prices are reasonable. And so, we've got the framework for growth. And by the way, the same entrepreneurial spirit that existed in America prior to September 11th still exists today. They can't take that away from us.

Responsive Government

Q. Mr. President, we appreciate you coming to the community and putting a great spotlight on the tourism industry. For the past 16 years, I own a small transportation company here, 10 of which I operate at the Orlando International Airport. Due to the slowdown in the economy and certainly the events of September 11, I was forced to close my doors, putting 252 employees out of work, not to mention their families and others who support my business. We have taken

advantage of some of the programs you've put into place, such as the SBA disaster loan plan. We've been monitoring that and found out that the application is bogged down in the bureaucracy of the system. What can you do to help us, as small business, speed that process, as our window is closing rapidly on us? Thank you for your answer.

The President. Well, first get your card, and find out why your case is bogged down in bureaucracy. I can't stand bureaucracy. I appreciate the hard-working people who work for the Federal Government. I appreciate people who care enough to work for the Government to make people's—to do their job. I like that. But what I don't like is systems that get so cumbersome that those who are trying to help you don't get the product out.

I put a good man as the head of the SBA, and I believe that he's doing everything he can to make sure that applications don't get stuck in a system, that hardworking Federal employees are able to match their desires to help you with the ability to do so.

So to answer your question, I need to know your case, and I'm going to send a man right out here to ask you. Where's Logan?

Advice to Youth

Q. First of all, I'd like to thank you for being here today, Mr. President Bush. My name is Adam Hallsman, and I'm a seventh grader at Shelley Boone Middle School in Haines City, Florida. I'd like to know what the children and the small—and the young people in America, how can they help the economy?

The President. Listen to your mother. I'm still listening to mine. [*Laughter*]

I'll tell you what you can do; I'll tell you how you can help the economy: Study hard, learn a skill, have ambition, make the right choices in life so that when you get old enough, you're a productive citizen. That's the absolute best thing you can do.

But there are other things you can do. I see women of cover here, and I want to thank you for coming from the Muslim community here in America. Right after the attacks, I went to a mosque to send the signal that the war against terror had nothing to do with the Muslim faith. It has everything to do with evil, evil people. What you can do to help America, beyond the economy, is to remind people that regardless of our religious beliefs, we're all, first and foremost, Americans; that this is a country—[*applause*]

And you know what else you can do? You can find somebody in need and give them a hand. I'm worried about the fact that charitable giving in America has dropped off as a result of 9/11. It didn't drop off because of 9/11; it dropped off because a lot of people gave money to help the victims, which is great. But there's an aftermath to the attacks that we've got to worry about. There are still people in America who hurt. They were hurting before September 11th; they hurt today. And one of the things you can do as a seventh grader, and all of us can do, is remember that and give of time and money to help fellow Americans in need. I can't think of any way better to make sure our country remains strong in the aftermath of the terrorist attack, is to help; is to ask the question, "What can I do"; is to not only honor the values of America but honor the values of a good neighborhood, which is neighbor helping neighbor in need.

Small Business

Q. Good afternoon, Mr. President. First of all, it is an honor to be here with you, and we want to thank you for your godly leadership in serving this country. My name is Irma Yapur. And my question today is in regards also to small business and self-employment. As many Americans are losing their corporate jobs and are going into business for themselves, is the Government planning to provide assistance to the self-employed in small business who do not have the tangible collateral and livelihood to support a loan approval?

The President. Well, we do. We've got an SBA whose job it is to encourage entrepreneurial growth. Evidently, it may be somewhat bound in paperwork, unnecessary paperwork requirements. [*Laughter*] It's good to get out of Washington to get the real story—[*laughter*]—but the job—but that's what the SBA is for. It's to encourage—and you're bogged down in paperwork, as well, I take it? Okay, my man Logan—[*laughter*].

Look, the Government can never guarantee success in the private sector. That's not what happens in a system based upon free enterprise. We can help people, but there are no guarantees about business. We're a risk and reward oriented society. And so the best thing we can do is help you to get your business started. But it's up to you to have a good product; it's up to you to understand the market; and it's up to you to fashion a game plan that will work. And what we can do is help there, and there all kinds of ways to do that.

You're next. Yes, sir.

Tax Rebates

Q. The first one is a thank-you from all of our employees and many people who have worked. When the taxpayer rebates came, for many of them, they said they don't know what they would have done if it hadn't been for those. So very much a sincere thank-you for that.

The President. Thank you very much.

Terrorist Attacks in Israel

Q. The second one is a question. What are we doing right now to assist our allies in Israel during their time of terrorist attacks?

The President. Yes. The question is about Israel. I had the Prime Minister of Israel in my office on Sunday. He was coming Monday but decided to come sooner because of the attacks. And I commiserated with him, because a lot of innocent people had been killed or hurt as a result of terrorist activity.

The terrorist attacks on Israel—first of all, Israel has got no better friend than the United States, as far as I'm concerned. Israel is a democracy. We share a lot of values with Israel. I have a dream; I can't think of anything better than to have a dream for peace for Israel. I think the Israeli people want to have peace.

But we learned in such a vivid way that there are elements in the Middle East that hate the thought of peace and will be willing to use terror to derail any type of peace process. And so the spotlight now flashes on the Middle East in a terrible way, obviously. But it also reminds people around the world that if we want peace, that it's important for those advocates of peace to help rout out terror and to bring it to justice. It is incumbent upon Mr. Arafat now to respond forcefully, to rout out those who killed. It's incumbent upon other friends and allies of ours around the world to help bring those terrorists to justice if we want peace in the Middle East, which I do—which I do. We've got to bring the terrorists to justice.

We cannot let a few—we cannot let a few prevent the many from achieving a dream which is lasting peace in the Middle East. I hope that happens. I hope it happens for the sake of Israel. I hope it happens for the sake of the Palestinians, who suffer because of the lack of job opportunity and killing and war. I hope it happens. But first things first. We must rid the world of terror.

Worker Benefits/Economic Stimulus

Q. Thank you, President Bush. It's great to have you here in the State of Florida. I work at the airport at the Hyatt Hotel. And I'm worried—I have, luckily, kept my job, but now we're getting our hours cut and stuff. And they're trying to do the best that they can, and I'm in jeopardy of losing my benefits. Now, I'm a single mother of three kids, and I can't be without benefits, like health insurance, per se.

The President. Right. Well, I think that one of the things that we need to work on during the next session is how to make sure that the working uninsured have benefits. I proposed a plan through the tax credit system to provide just that—to make sure that you don't lose your benefits if this were to happen.

Of course, the key thing—again, I keep harking back to this—is, we've got to grow our economy, is we've got to put a stimulus—security package—a stimulus package in place that encourages job growth.

Now, the Government did act quickly when it came to your industry. After all, we provided a significant amount of loans and grants for the airline industry to make sure the airplanes, which were directly hit by the attacks, continue to fly. And I hope that the measures we have put in place, financial measures plus the security measures, will

convince the American people to get on airplanes and come down to Florida so that your hotel has got customers.

Education

Q. Mr. President, I'm an educator for the Orange County Public School System. And, first of all, I'd like to thank you very much for your ethics and integrity, because that's what we're all about in education.

The President. Thank you.

Q. I'd like to share that I am very appreciative of the focus that you and the First Lady have brought to your administration on reading instruction. And we were very happy when that took place. And we can also appreciate the fact that since 9/11, your energy and your focus has been diverted to issues that are to protect our country, and we thank you very much for that. But the reality is that 9/11 has also impacted education. We are about to experience one of the biggest cuts that we have experienced in many years here in Florida, and we're very concerned about our children and about our teachers and their future, as well. And I would just like to hear from you where you are today with education, in terms of your focus and energy.

The President. You bet. Thank you very much. I appreciate that question. Education needs to be the number one priority of any State. I'm convinced it's the number one priority of this Governor here. I believe that there needs to be a clear role for local people, State people, and a limited role for the Federal Government, because I do not believe one size fits all when it comes to educating children.

Now, having said that, I do believe that the Federal Government has got responsibilities for providing funds for disadvantaged and for beefing up reading programs around the country. So one of the things that we're going to do is to work with Jeb and other States on enhancing reading programs. There's no question about it, that if a child can't read, all the rest of the subjects are basically irrelevant. Reading is the absolute gateway to knowledge, and therefore what needs to be done is a comprehensive national reading agenda.

To answer your question, it's about to happen when the Congress passes the education reform bill and the education bill, the funding mechanism necessary for education. But education is a priority not only here, but as my good wife reminded everybody on the radio, it's got to be a priority around the world. There is no excuse for the Taliban Government to have treated women and young girls the way they have and not educated people.

Education is a domestic priority. No question about it, it's a domestic priority. And we're increasing education spending at the Federal Government to help local districts. But we also have got to remind people around the world, if we want peace in the world, other nations must do a better job of treating people with respect by making sure that they are educated, as well.

Speaking about education, you go to school, don't you? Let's hear your question.

President's Visit

Q. Hi. My name is Ashley. I just wanted to—I don't have a comment, but I have a question. Actually, I don't have a question; I have a comment.

The President. Okay. [*Laughter*]

Q. You've been doing a good job for the United States. Can you shake my hand?

The President. Yes. I will in a minute. Oh, you want to do it right now? I'll do better; I'll give you a kiss. You're a sweet girl. Thank you.

Q. Thank you very much for coming to Florida. We love you.

The President. Thanks.

Local Economies/International Trade

Q. And God bless you. This area is so dependent on tourism. Since 9/11, as you know, everyone knows it's so bad. Is there anything that the Government is doing to attract other industry into our area and to other areas that are so dependent on this?

The President. I think—I would actually get Governor Bush to answer that question. [*Laughter*] I'm afraid to share the mike with him; he might never give it up, though. [*Laughter*] Absolutely, there is a diversification program. There is. And Jeb is wise enough to understand that this part of the world needs to be diversified. And tourism will always be an integral part of the central

Florida economy, but there is a lot of interesting diversification going on here.

Now, the Federal Government's role is not to tell States how to diversify their economies; the Federal Government's role is to provide an overall picture for economic vitality and growth. Our job is to think about how best to grow the entire national economy and let States figure out and local districts and communities figure out how to diversify.

One of the interesting battles we've got going in Congress is trade. We need to be able to trade freely, it seems like to me, in the world. We've got the best farmers in the world in the United States—the best farmers. It seems like it makes sense to open up other people's markets so we can sell our products around the world.

Now, that is the place where the Federal Government, it seems like to me, has got to address job growth and diversification through large national issues. I'm sure the Congress—these Congressmen understand the value of free trade. I look forward to working with them when it comes to trade promotion authority, if it ever makes it to my desk. But it requires wise Governors and local officials to understand the opportunities through diversification. And I believe you've got a good Governor. I keep hating to tout the guy too much, because they'll think I'm not very objective, but I'm not. [*Laughter*]

Yes, ma'am.

Health Insurance

Q. Hi. President Bush, we'd like to thank you for coming here today. And just to help you out with her question about—I wanted to tap our Governor on about, because we do have a program for people that—I'm self-employed, and I don't make a lot of money, but we do have a program in this State for people like ourselves, who we can buy insurance through the State for our children, in case you lose your job. So I wanted to tap our Governor on that——

The President. It's the CHIPS program.

Q. No, it's Florida Healthy Kids here.

The President. Same thing.

Q. Right. [*Laughter*] She said she don't qualify, but if you lost your job, you would.

The President. All right.

Yes, sir.

Travel Industry/Military Tribunals

Q. First of all, thank you. Second of all, I work in a Hard Rock Hotel here in Orlando, and we love to have people come through our doors, just as every hotel and every theme park here does. My question is for the Federal Government, not just for Orlando but for everywhere, what is being done to encourage travel? I've seen a few commercials, not just within the country, but abroad. We're a great place to come——

The President. Well, there's a marketing plan. One of the things—if you noticed how I started off my talk here—I've got a rather large microphone these days, and I've been encouraging people to travel. I think the best thing we can do in America to—first of all, you can't make people do what they don't want to do. I mean, if they're not interested in traveling, they're not going to travel.

On the other hand, if they're worried about security on airplanes, we can do something about that. That's why we've rallied guard troops all across the country in airports. Until we have the new security plan in place, we're putting guards in place. And we've sped up the training and placement of air marshals on airplanes. I want the American people to know that if you want to travel and if that's your desire, if you're planning to do this in your budget and you've been thinking about it, air travel is getting safer and safer and safer. And that's the best thing the Federal Government can do.

Now, we can—we're not going to, you know, pick one part of the region over another. I don't think that's the role of the Federal Government. But—and therefore, that's why Jeb and other States, my old State of Texas, for example, is trying to encourage, always trying to compete for people who want to travel to come to our respective States. But the Federal Government can help by making sure things are more secure and people feel safe. That's really our fundamental responsibility right now, is the safety of the American people.

I know a lot of people have got some concerns about how safe we can make the country, and if we're doing—are we doing things within the Constitution. I want to talk about a couple of things to put your mind at ease.

I'll ask myself a question: Why are you having the opportunity to have a military tribunal?

Now, I want you to remember that we are at war. The United States of America is under attack. And at war, the President needs to have the capacity to protect the national security interests and the safety of the American people. And so I asked, what are all my options as your Commander in Chief? What are the options to protect America? What do I need to know about what might occur to make sure that I can come in front of the folks in Orlando, Florida, and say we're doing everything in our power, or we have every option in our power to keep you safe?

Well, one of those scenarios is military tribunals. No one has been tried in a military tribunal; except I, by Executive order, provided myself with the option of having a military tribunal, which will be used for—no American citizen will go to a military tribunal. They would only be used for those who aren't American citizens.

And let me give you one example of why it may be necessary, why it may be necessary to use such a tribunal. What happens if, in the course of this war, that we apprehend or capture an enemy and we want to bring him to justice? In the course of bringing him to justice, what if the information necessary to bring him to justice would compromise our capacity to keep America safe?

In a court of law, there would be all kinds of questions that might compromise our ability to gather incredibly important intelligence to prevent the next attack from happening to America. It seems like to me that the President of the United States ought to have the option to protect the national security interests of the country and, therefore, protect America from further attack.

You've probably read about the interviews that are taking place. There are countries that we're certain of where people who come from those countries are likely to commit a terrorist act against America. And they're here on our soil—certain citizens from those countries, on our soil. We're a free country. They're here because we're a great country. And we've got liberties that we'll protect. But we're asking those who are here as guests, enjoying our freedom, to voluntarily participate in helping us understand how best to protect the country.

Nobody is being forced into an interview. People are being—"Why don't you help us? Why don't those of you who are guests in our country help us make the land more secure? It's in your interests, and it's certainly in our interests. If you know somebody or know something, help us."

We're in the business now of gathering as much information as we possibly can gather, and we're acting on that information. People are detained in America under material witness claims. It's against the law, by the way, to publish the name of those people before they get up in front of a grand jury. We've got people that we've pulled aside because of who they may or may not know, and it turns out they violated their immigration status. It turns out, as we're looking for leads, we've found people who have actually committed other crime.

All of them in America are entitled to a lawyer. All of them in America are entitled to make phone calls. We're the freest society in the world. That's what America is all about. And at the same time, we're doing what's necessary to protect the people at home.

Airline Industry/Hospitality Industry

Q. How are you doing, Mr. President?

The President. Pretty darn good. [*Laughter*]

Q. Thanks for coming to Florida and talking to us. You've given billions of dollars to the airline industry, to try to help get them stimulated and get them going. Are you going to do any kind of grants or any type of benefits for the hospitality industry, as we're struggling to get by?

The President. Well, part of the key is, is that the first industry deeply affected after 9/11 was the airline industry. And without an airline industry there is no hospitality—oh, there may be a hospitality industry, certainly not as vibrant a hospitality industry as we would like.

It is the first major industry affected. And so our strategy was to make sure that we provide the industry that actually affects hospitality directly the means necessary to stay in business. To me, that seemed like the most

important initial leg of a strategy. And in the meantime, we're trying to help those workers who have been affected within the hospitality industry.

I am hopeful that as a result of a airline stimulus package, or airline security package, as well as a safety package and an economic stimulus package, this economy will come back; people will have the money necessary to travel; people will feel safe to travel; and the hospitality industry to recover.

But to answer your question directly, no, the answer is that the first step, and we think the primary step, needed to be what we've already done.

Yes, ma'am.

Q. Mr. President, what about tax incentives——

The President. Tax incentives for travel? That hasn't made it to my radar screen yet. [*Laughter*]

Yes, sir.

Youth, Education, and the Faith-Based Initiative

Q. [*Inaudible*]—and my wife and my mother-in-law and friends, they're in the tourism industry. Yes, my family has been very well affected by 9/11. But I have a question about the youth. Is there anything that you or your brother, Governor Bush, can do to give the youth the drive and will to look for a better future? Because it seems like a lot of them don't—it seems as if they don't have anything to lose, so they don't have anything to drive for.

The President. I can think of a couple of things. One is to remind moms and dads of America that no matter what you're doing during the day job, your most important job you'll ever have is to love your children, is to tell your children you love them.

Secondly—it goes to this lady's point right here—is to make sure that every child in America is well-educated, starting with every child learning to read. There's nothing like an education to provide hope for people. Part of the reason why people are discouraged is because they lose hope. They say, "Well, this society isn't meant for me." A hopeful society is an educated society. And so we've got to make sure we get it right, we have an education—a focus on education, understanding that education is the gateway to such great freedom and opportunity.

And finally, one of my initiatives that I'm most proud of, that passed the House of Representatives and I think will have a significant impact in America, is to rally one of the great strengths of our country, and that is the faith-based initiatives and faith-based programs which exist all across the country.

I want to talk about one. I want to talk about a couple. First of all, governments shouldn't worry about faith. We ought to welcome faith. We ought to understand that—we ought to welcome those programs that exist because somebody will say, "What can I do? What can I do to help a neighbor in need? What can I do?"

And it's not a particular faith I'm talking about. I'm talking about the Muslim faith; I'm talking about Judaism; and I'm talking about Christianity. No, the faith doesn't have a lock on a certain religion. I'm talking about people who have heard a call. And there all kinds of programs all around America based upon faith. And many of them have asked the question, what can I do to surround a child with love? What can I do to make sure that a child has got—somebody has got their arm them saying, "Somebody loves you"?

There's a lot of children who have no love in their life. Imagine what it would be like growing up in America, how tough it would be if your mom or your dad were in prison. How tough is that? The degree of difficulty for success is incredibly hard for a person. And we've got a program that we hope to get out of Congress—the House passed it; get it out of the Senate—that says, we want to fund, make monies available for mentoring programs, faith-based or not, but mentoring programs, the sole purpose of which will be to take a son or a daughter of a person in prison and encourage some loving soul to say, "I love you. America is meant for you. This country belongs to you. Get educated and go after it with all your heart and all your soul."

So there's a lot that can be done in society. You know, Government—Government must not fear these programs that exist in neighborhoods all around the country, based upon faith. We must not fear. We must fear Government embracing religion. We fear a state

religion; that's not what we're for. We don't want for one government or religion. Government will never say, "This is the religion." We're a free society for religion. But Government can embrace programs started because of faith and religion and encourage those programs to foster in neighborhoods all across America. I'm passionate on the subject because I understand the power of faith in people's lives, and I understand what it can mean.

Energy Policy

Q. Mr. President, early in your administration there was a lot of discussion of drilling for oil in Alaska and the Gulf. Now that prices are low at the pump, what are you doing to ensure that?

The President. Yes—well, I'm trying to get an energy plan out of Congress. [*Laughter*] The House of Representatives—the House of Representatives passed a good energy bill. It is stuck in the Senate. And I believe it is in our national interests to have an energy plan, to have a strategy to get us less dependent on foreign sources of crude oil.

Part of that energy plan means that we've got to enhance conservation. We've got to encourage technologies that will enable us to conserve better, and we can do that with the proper incentives. And this plan of ours that passed the House has got incentives to encourage conservation. And we're making great strides in our society, by the way, of conserving. We're doing a much better job, and we can do an even better job.

Part of it also recognizes that we need more supply. And there are several places we can find supply. One is, I believe that the nuclear industry is safe enough now to encourage more nuclear power in America. I believe that is necessary. I also strongly believe that we can explore for natural gas in Alaska without damaging the environment. And I believe that's necessary, to do that.

You know, when the vote came up in the House, a lot of people came forward to work on behalf of the vote because they understood not only did it mean energy security, it also meant jobs. I was pleased to report that the Teamsters, for example, led by Jimmy Hoffa, Jr., was out campaigning for—or lobbying or working for this bill, because it meant jobs.

But I've got great faith in the technology and the ability of our country, if given proper incentive, to become less dependent and more wise about how we develop our energy sources; I truly do. But we need a bill, and we need to get it out of the Senate. Energy prices are low, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't worry about our future. Because if the economies of the world come back, we might be in a tight again, in which case we're going to be wondering where was the energy policy that the President was arguing for back in the year 2001.

Yes, ma'am.

Families and American Values

Q. Hi, Mr. President.

The President. I'm not nervous as you are. [*Laughter*]

Q. I wrote it out, because I thought I would be nervous, and I'm here with my sister, Maggie, and my family, and——

The President. Good. Hi, Maggie. [*Laughter*]

Q. And I'm Caitlin. Our family wants to help out our country, and we think that making families strong will make our country strong. My parents believe that eating meals together will do that. Is it something that you did when you were a kid, and that you and Mrs. Bush believe in?

The President. I did eat with my family, so long as my mother wasn't cooking. [*Laughter*] Wait a minute. Just kidding, Mom. [*Laughter*] She was one of the great fast food cooks of all time. [*Laughter*] Just kidding, Mom. We ate a lot together. We did. And I think it's important to do that. That's a very interesting question.

You know, we live in a society that's a busy society. We live in a society where it's so easy to forget the fundamentals. But one of the really positive things that has come out of the evil of 9/11 was that people are beginning to ask, what's important—what's important?

I think you've touched on something really important, and that's family. And the idea of a mom and dad prioritizing family is all about not only enhancing the quality of life of their children but, collectively, making America so

much stronger and so much better after the evils.

There has been—this is an unbelievably great country we live in. The values of America are so strong; the people are so real and so good. And 9/11 has brought out, in many instances, the best in America. Part of that is the individual—the decisions individual families make about setting new priorities in their lives. A lot of it has to do with helping people in need.

I'll never forget the story of people in a Midwestern city, when they heard me on TV talk about how distressed I was that women of cover would not leave their homes for fear of some other American treating them harshly, and then Jewish citizens and Christians alike getting on the phone and saying, "We want to help you. We want to take you to the neighborhood store. This isn't the America we know."

No, the country—this country is a fabulous country. They thought they hurt us, the evil ones. They have made us stronger, more real, and a better land.

Role of Religious Leaders

Q. Mr. President, we thank you for coming, on behalf of the clergy of Orlando. We're going to be having a summit this next week, 12/12 summit, and I'm a pastor. And we want to know what we can do—we're praying for strategies of how we can assist you in our Government and assist our communities.

The President. First thing you can do is make sure people of all faiths are represented at your prayer session. It sends such a strong signal—it reminds people of the greatness of America. The evil people we fight, they don't believe in religious freedom. They want it their way or no way, and if you're not their way, they'll treat you harshly. That's why, by the way, when we liberated cities throughout Afghanistan, people lined the roads and cheered out of joy and happiness.

Secondly, you need to pray for the good Lord to protect America, provide a shield over our country, to prevent us from harm.

September 11

Q. Hi, Mr. President. I want to say, they haven't won. I got in my car today, and I'm in the same building with you, speaking to you. They have not won.

The President. Thank you very much.

Q. And would you say hello to my son Jordan and my daughter Patricia.

The President. Jordan and who?

Q. Patricia.

The President. Hi, Patricia. How are you? How old is Patricia?

Q. Five, and Jordan is in third grade. And Jordan has a question, if I could give him the microphone.

The President. You bet. Your mother is relaying the mike to you, Jordan.

Q. One thing, Mr. President, is that you have no idea how much you've done for this country. And another thing is that, how did you feel when you heard about the terrorist attack?

The President. Thank you, Jordan. Well, Jordan, you're not going to believe what State I was in when I heard about the terrorist attack. I was in Florida. And my Chief of Staff, Andy Card—actually, I was in a classroom talking about a reading program that works. I was sitting outside the classroom waiting to go in, and I saw an airplane hit the tower; the TV was obviously on. And I used to fly, myself, and I said, "Well, there's one terrible pilot." I said, "It must have been a horrible accident." But I was whisked off there. I didn't have much time to think about it. And I was sitting in the classroom, and Andy Card, my Chief of Staff, who is sitting over here, walked in and said, "A second plane has hit the tower. America is under attack."

And Jordan, I wasn't sure what to think at first. You know, I grew up in a period of time where the idea of America being under attack never entered my mind—just like your daddy's and mother's mind, probably. And I started thinking hard in that very brief period of time about what it meant to be under attack. I knew that when I got all of the facts that we were under attack, there would be hell to pay for attacking America.

I tried to get as many facts as I could, Jordan, to make sure I knew, as I was making decisions, that I knew exactly what I was basing my decisions on. I've got a fabulous team.

A President can't possibly be President without a good team. It starts with having a great wife, by the way.

And so, I got on the phone from Air Force One, asking to find out the facts. You've got to understand, Jordan, during this period of time, there were all kinds of rumors floating around. Some of them were erroneous. Obviously—for example, there was a news report saying that the State Department had been attacked. I needed to know what the facts were. But I knew I needed to act. I knew that if the Nation's under attack, the role of the Commander in Chief is to respond forcefully to prevent other attacks from happening. And so, I've talked to the Secretary of Defense; one of the first acts I did was to put our military on alert.

An interesting thing happened shortly thereafter. Condoleezza Rice, who was not with me but was with the Vice President because they were in the White House compound, called me on Air Force One after that and said that she had gotten a call from Russia, from Vladimir Putin, who understood why we were putting our troops on alert and therefore wasn't going to respond. That was an important phone call, because when I was coming up, and a lot of other older-looking people here who were coming up with me—[*laughter*]—that would never have happened in the past. An alert by the United States would have caused Russia to go on alert, which would have created a complicated situation. But that wasn't the case.

By the way, we're heading into a new era. One of the positive things that comes out of the evil was, we're reassessing relationships in order to make the world more peaceful. I believe it's important for us to have positive relations with our former enemy and to rethink the defenses of the United States of America.

At any rate, I knew I had a job to do. And I was quoted in the press the other day as saying I haven't regretted one thing I've decided. And that's the truth. Every decision I made, I stand by. And I'm proud of the decisions I've made.

Support for the Muslim Community

Q. Mr. President, peace and blessings be unto you. I'm representing the Muslim community of Orlando. And I would really like to thank you for being such a great role model, practicing what this country believes in, the higher ideals that this country believes in, your support to the Muslim community in combating racism. I am an educator; I'm a mother, and I have a strong faith. Thank you so much for holding these values high and trying to wipe the stereotypes that the Taliban has been represented of Muslim women. I am an educator, educating Muslim children in this Orlando city. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. God bless. Thank you.

Listen, I've got a job to do. [*Laughter*] I've got to get back to my temporary home. By the way, my address is in Washington; my home is going to be back in Texas one of these days. But I am—I have got to go back. I wish I could stay and answer questions all night, but I've got—I'll be right there, ma'am. He's fine. I've got to get back and go to work.

I can't tell you what an honor it is to have been here. I want to thank you all for your great questions and for your incredibly warm reception. It's a huge honor to be the greatest—to be the President of the greatest country in the world.

God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. In his remarks, the President referred to President Fidel Castro of Cuba; Mayor Glenda E. Hood of Orlando; Governor Jeb Bush of Florida; Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization; Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; James P. Hoffa, Jr., general president, International Brotherhood of Teamsters; and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Statement on the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards

December 4, 2001

I am honored to bestow the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Baldrige Award on businesses and schools which have

set a standard for quality. These winners remind us that excellence in all organizations strengthens our Nation.

I am especially pleased that this year's awards include the first Baldrige education winners. They illustrate that the quality of education for children can be improved with innovative programs. These organizations demonstrate that improving the quality of education for all children is everyone's business.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

December 4, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 4, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 5.

Message to the Congress on the National Emergencies With Respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Kosovo

December 4, 2001

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a combined 6-month periodic report on the national emergencies declared with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in Executive Order 12808 on May 30, 1992, and Kosovo in Executive Order 13088 on June 9, 1998.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 4, 2001.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 5.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Republican National Committee Chairman Marc Racicot

December 5, 2001

The President. I had the honor of, first, thanking Jim Gilmore for his service to the Republican Party. I asked Jim to take on an assignment. He did it, and he did it well. And for that, I'm grateful. We talked about a week ago, and he said he wanted to spend more time with his family, and he wanted to prepare for his transition out of public service as Governor of Virginia. The people of the Commonwealth of Virginia know what I know, that he's an honorable public servant who served our State and our party well.

And to take Jim's place, I've asked my friend Marc Racicot, the former Governor of Montana, to become the chairman of the RNC. He's agreed, for which I'm grateful. Marc has got a history of success. He knows how to build grassroots organizations. He's going to reach out to members of the labor unions and the minorities, just like Jim Gilmore did, to continue to take our positive, optimistic message to people that—in all kinds of neighborhoods around the country. He has got a fine history of winning races, and he'll translate that into practice come next fall, in the 2002 races. And I'm really, really pleased Marc has agreed to take on this assignment.

I also want to welcome Ann Wagner here, the vice chairman of the party, to the Oval Office.

I wish you all the best, Marc. Thanks for taking on the job, and I look forward to working with you.

Q. You haven't changed your mind?

The President. I'll talk to you later.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James S. Gilmore III of Virginia, former chairman, Republican National Committee. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway and an Exchange With Reporters

December 5, 2001

President Bush. I'm going to make a statement; the Prime Minister will make a statement. We'll be glad to answer a couple of questions apiece.

First, I want to welcome our friend to the White House. The Prime Minister has been a strong supporter in the war against terror, and for that, Mr. Prime Minister, we are very grateful.

Early on in this war, Norway stood strong against terror. I don't know if many Americans understand, but one of the key parts of the war against terror is to cut off the financing to the terrorists. And Norway, thanks to the Prime Minister and his team, shut down Al Barakaat, which we did shortly thereafter. Thanks to the information we received from you, we made a major strike against cutting off funding for Al Qaida and the murderers.

And Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for that. I'm so glad you're here. I look forward to a really good discussion about how we can combine together.

I want to say a couple of other things. First, I, along with all the rest of America, grieve for the loss of life in Afghanistan. Three of our soldiers were killed by an inadvertent bomb, and our prayers and sympathies go to the families. And I want the families to know that they died for a noble and just cause, that the fight against terror is noble and it's just, and they defend freedom. And for that, we're grateful.

On a more encouraging note, there has been great progress in Bonn. Our Government is pleased with the progress being made, that the interim government is being formed—to include women. It's a major change for that part of the world and a positive change. It's encouraging to show, Mr. Prime Minister, that not only making progress on the military front, we're making progress on the political front, as well. This interim government, as well, has pledged to fight terror, and for that, we're grateful.

And finally, next Tuesday our Nation will play the national anthem at 8:34 a.m. eastern standard time. We will do so, and we're encouraging other nations to play their anthems and/or appropriate tunes at about the same time or an appropriate time, to send this clear signal to the terrorists. They want us to be silent. They want us to shirk from our duties. They want us to forget what took place on September the 11th. We will not do so. The United States will not do so, and our friends and allies will not do so. We won't forget what took place.

And we will bring them to justice. We'll bring them to justice in Afghanistan, and we'll bring them to justice wherever they try to hide. Civilization is at stake. And the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of the United States stand united in protecting freedom and civilization.

Mr. Prime Minister, welcome to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I want to express my—how grateful I am that you received me here, so few weeks after I once more took office as Prime Minister of Norway. And I also want to express my condolences to the soldiers you lost in Afghanistan. And I want to express my sympathy and solidarity with the American people. We stand firmly by you in fighting terrorism. And as you are aware of, we have also contributed—we have offered contributions to the military operations in Afghanistan, and we will talk more about that. And I think it's also so important to discuss the more long-term fight against terrorism.

I also will welcome the positive outcome of the meeting in Bonn, which I think we've paved the way for a political solution for Afghanistan, hopefully also for the women in the country, and also for reconstruction assistance and humanitarian aid. For Norway also will play a key role as the chair of the Afghanistan Support Group, from the 1st of January next year.

So I want to end up by saying that the United States is the most important ally for Norway.

President Bush. Thank you.

Prime Minister Bondevik. We share many common fundamental values. And now we will stand together, fighting terrorism for humanity.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Thank you.

President Bush. We'll take a couple of questions.

Q. Mr. President, has the PLO, sir——

Q. Mr. President——

President Bush. I'll go with Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press], and then Bill [Bill Plante, CBS News].

Q. Excuse me?

President Bush. You're first.

Q. Thank you, sir.

President Bush. Unless it's a tough question, in which case you won't go at all. [*Laughter*]

Q. Oh, then let's go to Mr. Plante, then. [*Laughter*] No. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Go ahead.

Palestine Liberation Organization

Q. Has the PLO been harboring terrorists? If so, should they be treated like the Taliban?

President Bush. The PLO, Ron, needs to stand up and rout out those killers, those murderers who are preventing us from getting a peace process in place. My Nation is committed to peace in the Middle East. Norway is committed to peace in the Middle East. But there are obviously folks who want to use the weapon of terror to derail peace. And Mr. Arafat must show leadership and bring those to justice who would use murder as a weapon to derail peace and to destroy innocent life. He must show leadership. Now is his time. And other nations around the world that are interested in peace must encourage Mr. Arafat, must insist that Mr. Arafat use everything in his power to prevent further terrorist attacks in Israel.

Q. And if not?

Q. Mr. President, may I? From Norwegian Broadcasting.

President Bush. Please, yes.

Military Tribunals

Q. A lot of people in Europe and also in Norway, sir, are very worried about the military tribunals that you're proposing. Many people are saying that when you want to save democracy, then this might be part of the way undermining democracy itself.

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that question, and I want the people of the world to understand that our great Nation will never forgo the values that have made us unique; that we believe in democracy and rule of law and the Constitution.

But we're under attack. Every morning I wake up and read the threat assessments. The evil ones still intend to harm America. And if it's in our national security interests to bring people to justice, I will use a military tribunal. And I may give you one example of why I would use one. We haven't used one yet; it's simply an option.

If we capture an Al Qaida representative, if we capture a murderer, and in order to convict that murderer it would require us giving means of how we knew he was guilty that would jeopardize the security of the United States, he'll be tried in a military tribunal. In other words, this is an ongoing conflict. There are still real threats. And I, in order to get a conviction of a murderer, will not jeopardize the people of the United States. I will not show our secrets. I will not tip our hand. I will not let the world at large, particularly our enemy, understand how we put a case together if it's going to jeopardize and compromise national security secrets of the United States of America.

My job is to protect the United States people from further attack. And that's exactly what I'm going to do and, at the same time, bring Al Qaida to justice.

Future Action Against Terrorists

Q. Mr. President, you said yesterday that you might use U.S. troops elsewhere. Where, and under what circumstances?

President Bush. Bill, I am going to work with our friends and allies to rout terror wherever it exists. But one of the things I will not do is signal to the enemy where we might strike next. I will not tip our hand in any way, shape, or form.

But I will tell you this: Those who want to commit terror against the United States or our friends and allies must beware that they will be hunted down. And those nations which harbor a terrorist or feed a terrorist or hide a terrorist or clothe a terrorist better be aware of the United States and our friends, because they will be brought to justice. Now is a time for the free world to stand up and defend the freedoms that these evil ones hate.

Norway's Role in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what kind of role do you see for Norway in the Middle East?

President Bush. Well, that's going to be up to the Prime Minister. And we haven't had this discussion yet. I do know he's committed to peace, and for that I am most grateful. I look forward to getting his advice and counsel.

I think he would share with me the same sentiment, that it's going to be very difficult to have any kind of peace in the Middle East so long as terror runs loose, so long as there are people—individuals who feel like they can kill and murder to prevent us from getting to any kind of peace process. There is a plan in place, called the Mitchell process. But evidently, there are terrorists who can't stand the thought of peace, and they must be brought to justice.

Prime Minister Bondevik. Yes, let me add, I fully agree with the President. And I will also inform him now, during our talk, that I today had a telephone conversation with Chairman Arafat and with Prime Minister Sharon before I came here. So I have fresh messages to the President from them. And I urged Arafat to do his utmost to stop the terror, to arrest the people behind the terror. It's time for him now to show leadership. I also urged Prime Minister Sharon to avoid further escalation of violence, because I am afraid that this will bring us into a terrible situation which can end up in a war.

Now they have stopped the bombing of Palestinian targets for the last 26 hours. I hope that this ceasefire will continue and that there will be a possibility after some time to again establish contacts between the parties in the Middle East, because the alternative is so bad, to all of us.

September 11 Commemoration

President Bush. Let me make one correction, if you don't mind. The anthem will be played at 8:46 a.m., here on the White House grounds. And we're asking other nations to play their anthems or respective tunes. I wanted to correct the time, so that as we prepare this reminder about the evil and as we stand fast against terror, that we've got the correct time that we're going to do so.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority. The President also referred to the Mitchell report, the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee, issued April 30. Prime Minister Bondevik referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Executive Order 13238—Closing of Federal Government Executive Departments and Agencies on Monday, December 24, 2001

December 5, 2001

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. All executive branch departments and agencies of the Federal Government shall be closed and their employees excused from duty on Monday, December 24, 2001, the day before Christmas Day, except as provided in section 2 below.

Sec. 2. The heads of executive branch departments and agencies may determine that certain offices and installations of their organizations, or parts thereof, must remain open and that certain employees must report for duty on December 24, 2001, for reasons of national security or defense or other public reasons.

Sec. 3. Monday, December 24, 2001, shall be considered as falling within the scope of Executive Order 11582 of February 11, 1971, and of 5 U.S.C. 5546 and 6103(b) and other similar statutes insofar as they relate to the

pay and leave of employees of the United States.

George W. Bush

The White House,
December 5, 2001.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:08 a.m., December 7, 2001]

NOTE: This Executive order was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 6, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Andrew von Eschenbach as the Director of the National Cancer Institute

December 6, 2001

Thank you all very much, and welcome to the White House. Today our Nation is at a war to defend our way of life. But we've been engaged in a war to defend our quality of life for many decades. The war on cancer has been a top priority of medical and research communities, and it's a top priority of this administration.

As we stand on the brink of amazing breakthroughs in cancer research, breakthroughs that will lead to new cancer therapies and hopefully to cancer cures, I'm pleased to introduce the man who will lead the National Cancer Institute in its war on cancer, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach.

I want to welcome Andy's family. Thank you all for coming. I want to thank my friend Tommy Thompson for doing such a fine job as the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Another member of my Cabinet is here, the Director of Homeland Security, Governor Tom Ridge. Thank you for coming, Tom. And I've got to recognize my parents' old Congressman, Bill Archer from Houston. Thank you for coming, Bill. Tell them hello back home.

Thirty years ago, this month, President Richard Nixon signed into law legislation authorizing the Director of the National Cancer Institute to develop an expanded, intensified, and coordinated cancer research program. The Cancer Progress Report of 2001 was released earlier this week, and it contains good news. We've made substantial progress in the war on cancer over the past three decades. Advances in science to prevent, detect, and treat cancer have directly contributed to an overall reduction in both new cancer cases and cancer death rates.

The National Cancer Institute has provided the funding and the expertise to make money of these advances possible—many of these advances possible. The NCI has funded billions of dollars in research, exploring hundreds of methods to combat cancer. We know that early detection often makes the difference between life and death. So NCI-funded scientists are exploring effective methods to detect the first signs of cancer. We know that more focused cancer treatments can make cancer therapy less painful. So NCI-funded scientists are actively investigating drugs that may stop tumor growth by preventing new blood vessels from reaching the tumor.

We still have a long way to go. Despite our victories, each day 3,400 Americans are diagnosed with some form of cancer, and more than 1,500 die from the disease. Almost every American family has been touched by cancer. But each new discovery brings hope. And the Government can bolster that hope by funding vital medical research and by attracting talented people to conduct the research.

Andy von Eschenbach is one of America's finest medical researchers. He got his start in the medical field right here in Washington, DC, where he attended Georgetown University Medical School. He's been a member of the faculty at the University of Texas, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, since 1977.

Andy is the director of M.D. Anderson's prostate cancer research program. He is a professor of urology, a consulting professor of cancer biology, and a surgeon. He understands that basic research is the foundation to any success in eliminating cancer and that research breakthroughs must be translated into effective treatments for patients.

Andy also understands personally the importance of our war on cancer. He is a two-time cancer survivor, all too familiar with cancer's frightening effects. He will bring to

his new position not only expertise and talent and dedication but compassion for the millions of cancer patients and their families who are struggling with this disease.

Several principles will guide the National Cancer Institute. The Institute will fund and conduct aggressive basic research in order to understand the fundamental nature of cancer. NCI researchers and clinicians will collaborate with other Federal health agencies to translate advances in research into new tools to fight cancer. NCI will work cooperatively with other Government agencies and with private organizations to expand research opportunities. Researchers and practitioners will not only strive to eliminate and cure cancer but to help cancer survivors lead richer and fuller lives. And the Institute will conduct research to help close the prevention and treatment gap for minorities, who are disproportionately affected by cancer.

Our war against cancer is a war waged on behalf of all Americans of every background. We now have technologies and research opportunities unthinkable just years ago, which make the defeat of cancer a realistic hope. With the right leadership, the dreams of three decades of research, and the hopes of every person and every family struggling with cancer, we may reach our goal within the new decade. And we've chosen a great man to lead the cause.

Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Dr. von Eschenbach.

Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree

December 6, 2001

Be seated, please—except for you all. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you very much and welcome you all to this year's Christmas Pageant of Peace. During this time of conflict and challenge, we once again celebrate the season of hope and the season of joy. We give thanks to our Nation and to our families and to our friends.

The First Lady and I are so honored to be here. I want to thank Peter Nostrand and the committee for putting this together, and I particularly want to thank the entertainment committee—the person in charge of getting these fantastic entertainers to come tonight. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I want to thank all the employees and sponsors who put on this magnificent event. I want to thank Fran Mainella, the Director of the National Park Service, and all the Park Service employees who have worked hard to put this event on.

I want to thank Santa Claus for being here tonight. [*Laughter*] I've been looking for you, Santa. [*Laughter*]

In a moment, we will light the National Christmas Tree, a tradition Americans have been celebrating since 1923. The history of this event has included some memorable moments, including 60 years ago, less than 3 weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, when Prime Minister Winston Churchill made an appearance with President Franklin Roosevelt to light the tree.

Now once again, we celebrate Christmas in a time of testing, with American troops far from home. This season finds our country with losses to mourn and great tasks to complete. In all those tasks, it is worth recalling the words from a beautiful Christmas hymn. In the third verse of "Oh Holy Night" we sing, "His law is love, and His gospel is peace. Chains ye shall break, for the slave is our brother. And in His name all oppression shall cease."

America seeks peace and believes in justice. We fight only when necessary. We fight so that oppression may cease, and even in the midst of war, we pray for peace on Earth and good will to men.

This is a time of the year for families and friends to gather together, not simply to celebrate the season but to renew the bonds of love and affection that give fulfillment to our lives. And this is a year we will not forget those who lost loved ones in the attacks on September the 11th and on the battlefield. They will remain in our prayers.

It is now my honor to invite Leon Patterson and Faith Elseth and Laura to join me up here as we light the National Christmas

Tree. Leon and Faith's fathers, Major Clifford Patterson and Lt. Commander Robert Elseth, served in the United States military. Both of these good men were lost in the attack on the Pentagon.

Leon and Faith, we thank you for helping us celebrate Christmas. You remind us of the comfort of Christmas, that hope never fails and love never ends.

And now, would you please help Laura light up our beautiful tree.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:55 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to Peter F. Nostrand, chairman, Christmas Pageant of Peace, and television weatherman Doug Hill, who played Santa Claus.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

December 6, 2001

I commend the House of Representatives for passing legislation that will restore our Nation's authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for America's farmers, workers, families, and consumers.

Trade promotion authority is a key part of our trade agenda. It will help us pursue and complete trade agreements, including the global trade negotiations launched last month in Doha, Qatar. By promoting open trade, we expand export markets and create high-paying jobs for Americans, while providing opportunities for other nations as a result of free trade.

Now that the House has acted, I urge the Senate to move quickly to send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign.

Proclamation 7511—National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2001

December 5, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On the morning of December 7, 1941, America was attacked without warning at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the air and naval forces of Imperial Japan. More than 2,400 people perished and another 1,100 were wounded, triggering our entry into World War II.

Today, we honor those killed 60 years ago and those who survived to fight on other fronts in the four succeeding years of world war. We also remember the millions of brave Americans who answered our country's call to the battlefield, to the factory, and to the farm, remembering Pearl Harbor by their deeds, their devotion to duty, and their willingness to fight for freedom. The attack at Pearl Harbor fired the American spirit with a determination that freedom would not fall to tyranny; and the United States and its allies fought to victory, preserving a world in which democracy could grow. The tragedy of December 7, 1941, remains seared upon our collective national memory, a recollection that serves not just as a symbol of American military valor and American resolve, but also as a reminder of the presence of evil in the world and the need to remain ever vigilant against it.

Now, another date will forever stand alongside December 7—September 11, 2001. On that day, our people and our way of life again were brutally and suddenly attacked, though not by a complex military maneuver, but by the surreptitious wiles of evil terrorists who took cruel and heartless advantage of the freedoms guaranteed by our Nation. Their target was not chiefly our military, but innocent civilians. We fight now to defend freedom, secure civilization, and ensure the survival of our American way of life.

As we fight to defend what we believe is right, we remember the sacrifice of those who have gone before us—not only the heroes of Pearl Harbor but all the men and women of the greatest of generations who

defeated tyranny. We are grateful for their service, and honor it by pledging to do our best to secure for our children, our grandchildren, and all of posterity the continuing blessings of liberty.

The Congress, by Public Law 103–308, as amended, has designated December 7, 2001, as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day."

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 7, 2001, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this solemn occasion with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff this and every December 7 in honor of those who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of December, 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, 8:51 a.m., December 7, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 7, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on December 10.

Remarks at a Ceremony Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor in Norfolk, Virginia

December 7, 2001

Well, thank you all very much. I'm grateful for this warm welcome on the deck of the "Big E." America is proud of this fine carrier, and we're really proud of her crew. You're serving at a crucial moment for the cause of peace and freedom, and your country thanks you.

This is a fitting place to mark one of the most fateful days in American history. On December the 7th, 1941, the enemy attacked. Today is an anniversary of a tragedy for the United States Navy. Yet, out of that tragedy, America built the strongest Navy in the world. And there is no better symbol of that strength than the U.S.S. *Enterprise.*

What happened at Pearl Harbor was the start of a long and terrible war for America. Yet, out of that surprise attack grew a steadfast resolve that made America freedom's defender. And that mission—our great calling—continues to this hour, as the brave men and women of our military fight the forces of terror in Afghanistan and around the world.

We are joined this afternoon by some distinguished guests. The Governor of this great Commonwealth is with us, Jim Gilmore. Members of the congressional delegation from Virginia are here with us, and I want to thank them for coming as well. I want to thank my friend Tony Principi, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who is here, a Naval Academy grad who served our country with bravery and distinction during the Vietnam era.

I want to thank Gordon England, the Secretary of the Navy, who is doing such a fine job representing the Navy in the Pentagon. I want to thank Admiral Natter, the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. I always like a good Southern accent up here on the East Coast. [*Laughter*] I thank Sandy Winnefeld, the Commanding Officer of the U.S.S. *Enterprise.* And I want to thank the crew of this fine ship and all your families who are here as well. And I thank General Kernan for being here as well.

We are especially honored to share this anniversary with 25 living witnesses to Pearl Harbor on December the 7th, 1941. Thank you all for being here. They saw the attack and knew its victims by name. They can recall the last moments of peace, the first moments of war, and the faces of lost friends, forever young in memory. These veterans represent the noble history and traditions of the United States military. And I ask the Navy of today to please join me in honoring these fine men from the military of yesterday.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was plotted in secret, waged without mercy, taking the lives of 2,403 Americans. The shock and chaos came on a quiet Sunday morning. There were acts of great heroism amongst those who survived and those who did not. Nine who fell that day had Navy ships named after them. In 2 hours' time, for bravery above and beyond the call of duty, 15 men earned the Medal of Honor, and 10 of them did not live to wear it.

Young sailors refused to abandon ship, even as waters washed over the decks. They chose instead to stay and try to save their friends. A mess steward carried his commander to safety and then manned a machine gun for the first time in his life. Two pilots ran through heavy fire to get into their P–40 fighters. They proceeded to chase and shoot down four enemy aircraft.

Those were among the scenes of December the 7th. On December the 8th, as the details became known, the Nation's grief turned to resolution. During 4 years of war, no one doubted the rightness of our cause; no one wavered in the quest of victory. As a result of the efforts and sacrifice of the veterans who are with us today and millions like them, the world was saved from tyranny.

Many of you in today's Navy are the children and grandchildren of the generation that fought and won the Second World War. Now your calling has come. Each one of you is commissioned by history to face freedom's enemies.

When the *Enterprise* sailed out of Norfolk last April, we were a nation at peace. All of that changed on the morning of September the 11th. You were among the first to fight in the first war of the 21st century. You were ready. You performed with skill and honor. And you have made your Nation proud.

On board this ship when you returned to port 4 weeks ago was a young man named Ruben Rodriguez. Two days later, Petty Officer Rodriguez lost his life in a plane crash. His wife and his family are in our thoughts and prayers. One of the last things this sailor did was to visit Ground Zero in New York City. He saw what the terrorists did to America, and he said to a friend, "That's why I fought."

And that's why we're all fighting. We're fighting to protect ourselves and our children from violence and fear. We're fighting for the security of our people and the success of liberty. We're fighting against men without conscience but full of ambition—to remake the world in their own brutal images. For all the reasons, we're fighting to win. And win we will.

There is a great divide in our time, not between religions or cultures but between civilization and barbarism. People of all cultures wish to live in safety and dignity. The hope of justice and mercy and better lives are common to all humanity. Our enemies reject these values, and by doing so, they set themselves not against the West but against the entire world.

Our war against terror is not a war against one terrorist leader or one terrorist group. Terrorism is a movement, an ideology that respects no boundary of nationality or decency. The terrorists despise creative societies and individual choice, and thus they bear a special hatred for America. They desire to concentrate power in the hands of a few and to force every life into grim and joyless conformity. They celebrate death, making a mission of murder and a sacrament of suicide. Yet for some reason—for some reason—only young followers are ushered down this deadly path to paradise, while terrorist leaders run into caves to save their own hides.

We've seen their kind before. The terrorists are the heirs to fascism. They have the same will to power, the same disdain for the individual, the same mad global ambitions. And they will be dealt with in just the same way. Like all fascists, the terrorists cannot be appeased. They must be defeated. This struggle will not end in a truce or a treaty. It will end in victory for the United States, our friends, and for the cause of freedom.

The *Enterprise* has been part of this campaign. And when we need you again, I know you'll be ready. Our enemies doubt this. They believe that free societies are weak societies. But we're going to prove them wrong. Just as we were 60 years ago, in a time of war, this great Nation will be patient; we'll be determined; and we will be relentless in the pursuit of freedom.

This is becoming clear to Al Qaida terrorists and the Taliban. Not long ago, that regime controlled most of Afghanistan. Today, they control not much more than a few caves. [*Laughter*] Not long ago, Al Qaida's leader dismissed America as a paper tiger. That was before the tiger roared. Throughout history, other armies have sought to conquer Afghanistan, and they failed. Our military was sent to liberate Afghanistan, and you are succeeding.

We're a long way from finished in Afghanistan. Much difficult and dangerous work is yet to come. Many terrorists are still hiding in heavily fortified bunkers in very rugged territory. They are said to be prepared for a long stay underground. [*Laughter*] But they are in for a sudden change of plans—[*laughter*]—because one by one, we're going to find them. And piece by piece, we'll tear their terrorist network apart.

As we fight the terrorists, we are also helping the people they have persecuted. We have brought tons of food and medicine to the Afghan people. They will need more help as winter comes, and we'll provide it. Most of all, that country needs a just and stable government. America is working with all concerned parties to help form such a government. After years of oppression, the Afghan people, including women, deserve a government that protects the rights and dignity of all its people. America is pleased by the Afghan progress in creating an interim government, and we're encouraged by the inclusion of women in positions of authority.

And the war on terror continues beyond Afghanistan, with the closing of bank accounts and the arrests of known terrorists. We've put the terrorists and the nations in the world on notice: We will not rest until we stop all terrorists of global reach. And for every nation that harbors or supports terrorists, there will be a day of reckoning.

A few days from now, I will go to a great American institution, the Citadel, to describe the new capabilities and technologies we will need to wage this broad war on terrorism for years to come. We will need the intelligence to find the enemy where he dwells and the means to strike swiftly across the world. We must have a military organized for decisive and total victory. And to you, the men and women of our military, I make this pledge: You will have every resource, every weapon, every tool you need to win the long battle that lies ahead.

This war came oh so suddenly, but it has brought out the best in our Nation. We have learned a lot about ourselves and about our friends in the world. Nations stand with us, because this is civilization's fight. Today we take special pride that one of our former enemies is now among America's finest friends: We're grateful to our ally, Japan, and to its good people. Today, our two Navies are working side by side in the fight against terror.

The bitterness of 60 years ago has passed away. The struggles of our war in the Pacific now belong to history. For Americans who fought it and suffered its losses, what remains is the lasting honor of service in a great cause and the memory of ones who fell.

Today at Pearl Harbor, veterans are gathering to pay tribute to the young men they remember who never escaped the sunken ships. And over the years, some Pearl Harbor veterans have made a last request. They asked that their ashes be brought down and placed inside the U.S.S. *Arizona.* After the long lives given them, they wanted to rest besides the best men they ever knew. Such loyalty and love remain the greatest strength of the United States Navy.

And the might of our Navy is needed again. When America looks at you, the young men and women who defend us today, we're very grateful. On behalf of the people of the United States, I thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and your courage.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:57 p.m. on the flight deck of the U.S.S. *Enterprise.* In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Robert J. Natter, USN, Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Capt. James A. Winnefeld, USN, Commanding Officer, U.S.S. *Enterprise;* and Gen. William F. Kernan, USA, Commander, Joint Forces Command.

Statement Urging Senate Action on the Economic Security Package

December 7, 2001

Today's unemployment numbers are troubling, and they underscore that we must act to ensure America's economic security. The most important thing we can do for unemployed workers and those who are concerned about their jobs is to get the economy growing. The Senate has not acted on the economic security package I proposed in October, and since then, over three-quarters of a million Americans have lost their jobs. Today's important economic warning demonstrates that American workers have already waited too long, so I urge the Senate to take immediate action to help workers and our economy.

Message on the Observance of Hanukkah, 2001

December 7, 2001

Laura and I send our warmest greetings to all those celebrating Hanukkah, the festival of lights.

The celebration of Hanukkah is inspired by the story of the miracle of the lamp: how a ration of oil sufficient only for one day burned for eight. It is a holiday of hope that encourages trust in God's providence and God's purposes, even when we are threatened by darkness and destruction.

Hanukkah commemorates the reconsecration of the ancient temple in Jerusalem by the Maccabees and their followers, after it had been desecrated. Hanukkah celebrates the liberation of the ancient kingdom of Israel from foreign occupation. It teaches us that freedom must sometimes be fought for—a message that continues to resonate today.

We join all people of Jewish faith in thanking God who has "sustained us and enabled us to reach this season." May the candles of Hanukkah light our memories of those lost on September 11. And may this be a season of joy for us all.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7512—To Implement the Agreement Between the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area

December 7, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. On October 24, 2000, the United States of America and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan entered into an Agreement on the Establishment of a Free Trade Area (the "JFTA").

2. Section 101 of the United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act (the "JFTA Act") (Public Law 107–43, 115 Stat. 243) (19 U.S.C. 2112 Note) authorizes the President to proclaim such modifications or continuation of any duty, such continuation of duty-free or excise treatment, or such additional duties, as the President determines to be necessary or appropriate to carry out Article 2.1 of the JFTA and the schedule of duty reductions with respect to Jordan set out in Annex 2.1 of the JFTA.

3. Section 102 of the JFTA Act provides certain rules for determining whether an article is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan, or is a new or different article of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufactured in Jordan and thus is eligible for the tariff and certain other treatment contemplated under the JFTA ("products of Jordan"). I have determined that it is necessary to include these rules of origin, together with particular rules applicable to certain other goods, in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

4. Section 604 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2483) authorizes the President to embody in the HTS the substance of relevant provisions of that Act, of other Acts affecting import treatment, and of actions taken thereunder.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 101 and 102 of the JFTA Act and 604 of the 1974 Act, do proclaim that:

(1) In order to—

(a) provide generally for the preferential tariff treatment being accorded under the JFTA and to set forth rules for determining whether goods imported into the customs territory of the United States are eligible for preferential treatment under the JFTA, and

(b) provide tariff-rate quotas with respect to certain products of Jordan and to make technical and conforming changes in specified HTS provisions for purposes of the JFTA, the HTS is modified as set forth in Annex I to this proclamation.

(2) In order to implement the initial stage of duty elimination provided for in the JFTA and to provide for future staged reductions in duties for products of Jordan for purposes of the JFTA, the HTS is modified as provided in Annex II to this proclamation, effective on the date specified in such Annex for each HTS provision and on any subsequent dates set forth for such provisions in Annex II columns.

(3) All provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are hereby superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

(4) (a) The amendments to the HTS made by paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) of this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the dates indicated in Annexes I and II to this proclamation.

(b) Except as provided in subparagraph (a), this proclamation shall be effective with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after December 17, 2001.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of December, 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, 8:51 a.m., December 10, 2001]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on December 13.

Memorandum on Northern Ireland

December 7, 2001

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification Related to Northern Ireland Under Section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001

Pursuant to section 405 of the Admiral James W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001, as enacted in Public Law 106–113, I hereby certify that: (i) training or exchange programs conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or other Federal law enforcement agencies for the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) or PSNI members are necessary to improve the professionalism of policing in Northern Ireland and advance the peace process in Northern Ireland; (ii) such programs will include in the curriculum a significant human rights component; (iii) vetting procedures have been established in the Departments of State and Justice, and any other appropriate Federal agency, to ensure that training or exchange programs do not include PSNI members who there are substantial grounds for believing have committed or condoned violations of internationally recognized human rights, including any role in the murder of Patrick Finucane or Rosemary Nelson or other violence or serious threat of violence against defense attorneys in Northern Ireland; and (iv) the Governments of the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland are committed to assisting in the full implementation of the recommendations contained in the Patten Commission report issued September 9, 1999.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this certification to the appropriate congressional committees and to publish it in the *Federal Register.*

George W. Bush

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.

December 1

In the morning, the President traveled from Camp David, MD, to Philadelphia, PA, to attend the Army-Navy football game at Veterans Stadium. Before the game, he met with both teams in their locker rooms and participated in the opening coin toss. He watched the first half of the game from the Navy's side of the field and the second half from the Army's. In the afternoon, he returned to Camp David, MD.

December 2

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned from Camp David, MD, to the White House.

December 3

In the morning, the President met in the Situation Room with his National Security Council. He also met with Federal Bureau of Investigation officials.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board Alan Greenspan to discuss the economy.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a holiday ball at the White House for Members of Congress.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael D. Brown to be Deputy Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The President announced his intention to nominate Ruth Lewis Griffin to be a Commissioner of the International Joint Commission for the United States and Canada.

December 4

In the morning, the President traveled to Orlando, FL. While en route aboard Air Force One, he met with Representative Mark Foley and Adam Putnam of Florida concerning trade promotion authority. In the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate James R. Mahoney to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities: Adair Wakefield Margo, who, upon appointment, will serve as Chair; Rebecca Smith Beach; Deborrah Kaye Allen; William Edward Strickland; Jeannette Naylor Cope; Phillip Roman; Alice Clement Carrington; Dixie Carter; Lionel Chetwynd; William Paul McCormick; Emilio Estefan; James Farmer; Jaime Fonalledas; Ralph Henry Kirshbaum; John Mason; Raymond D. Nasher; Emily Malino Scheuer; Mercedes B. Paz-Slimp; Caren Prothro; Cindy Lynn Sites; Elizabeth Myerberg Dubin; Laurie Ann Green Firestone; Roxane Gatling Gilmore; Ralph McInerny; and Burton John McMurtry. The White House stated that First Lady Laura Bush is the honorary Chair of the Committee and announced that the President appointed Henry Moran as Executive Director of the Committee.

December 5

In the morning, the President was informed of the deaths of two American soldiers in a friendly-fire incident during U.S. military operations near Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Later in the morning, the President had breakfast with congressional leaders to discuss continuing budget resolutions and other budget appropriations, education, and fast-track trade authority. He also met separately with officials from the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He also met with his National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Congressional Republicans, and later with Congressional Democrats, concerning fast-track trade authority.

The President announced his nomination of Grant S. Green to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathie L. Olsen to be Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter N. Kirsanow as a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

December 6

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt concerning the situation in the Middle East. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met in the Oval Office with President Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia to discuss counterterrorism and counternarcotics efforts and trade relations.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Medal of Valor Review Board: Kermit Steven Young, Edward Cardinal Egan, and Thomas Kendall McEachin.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by an earthquake on October 13.

The White House announced that the President will travel to New Windsor, MD, on December 8, for the departure of the first shipment of relief packages purchased with funds from America's Fund for Afghan Children.

December 7

Early in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss cooperation in the war on terrorism. Also in the morning, he had briefings and convened a meeting of the National Security Council. Later, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal al Saud of Saudi Arabia in the Oval Office to discuss cooperation in the war on terrorism.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Norfolk, VA, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alberto Faustino Trevino to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Policy Development and Research.

The President announced his intention to nominate W. Roy Grizzard to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Disability Employment Policy.

The President announced his intention to nominate Victoria Lipnic to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employment Standards Administration.

The President declared a major disaster in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on November 24 and continuing.

The President declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on November 24–25.

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 December 4

Samuel E. Ebbesen,
of the Virgin Islands, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 2003, vice George Darden.

Grant S. Green, Jr.,
of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources (new position).

James R. Mahoney,
of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, vice Elwood Holstein, Jr.

Paul A. Quander, Jr.,
of the District of Columbia, to be Director of the District of Columbia Offender Supervision, Defender, and Courts Services Agency for a term of 6 years (new position).

Submitted December 5

Randal Quarles,
of Utah, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury, vice Edwin M. Truman, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

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

Released December 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Transcript of a statement by Director of Homeland Security Tom Ridge on homeland security

Released December 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: Shutting Down the Terrorist Financial Network

Fact sheet: President Promotes Economic Security & Worker Assistance

Released December 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Fact sheet: The World Will Always Remember September 11

Released December 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to the Territory of Guam

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of the Director of the National Cancer Institute at the Department of Health and Human Services

Released December 7

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 76

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

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

Announcement that Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge will lead a delegation to Ottawa, Canada, on December 11 to discuss border security

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 7

H.J. Res. 76 / Public Law 107–79
Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes