

deliberate; we'll be thoughtful; we will consult with our friends and allies. But when I said "axis of evil," I meant it.

I believe that out of this incredible evil that has been done to our country will come great good, though. I do. When the United States remains firm and strong and determined, we can achieve peace in parts of the world where people never thought peace could happen.

Oh, I know the Middle East is—looks like there will never be peace, but I can assure you we're not giving up. We're not going to let murderers disrupt a march to peace. My heart breaks for those who were celebrating Passover in the hotel, when a coldblooded killer came in and destroyed innocent life, to derail the attempts of peaceful-loving people for coming together.

But they're not going to stop us as a nation for longing for peace and working for peace. And the best way to achieve the peace is to be strong and steadfast against terror. I see a peaceful world. I do. The rest of the world watches us very carefully. I like to say, if the United States blinks, they'll go to sleep. We're not going to blink.

I also believe at home we can achieve incredible good too. People often say, "Well, what can I do to help in the war against terror?" My answer is, love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. If you want to fight evil, do some good. I look around the room and see a lot of my friends who I know have been doing good for a long, long number of years here in Texas. And I want to thank you for that. But it's important you keep doing it. It's important you give of your time and your money to help people in need.

This Nation is based upon some great principles: our love for freedom, our love for democracy. But our real strength is the hearts and souls of the American people. We're a tough nation; we're a courageous nation. But we're also a compassionate nation. And in order to fight terror, in order to stand squarely in the face of evil, we must help people in need. Just walking across the street to see a shut-in and saying, "I care about you," is part of fighting evil. Mentoring a child, telling your own child you love him every single day, going to a church or a synagogue or a mosque and developing a program to help

feed the hungry or clothe those who need clothes and help, that's all part of not only defining our Nation, but fighting against evil.

And that's why I'm such an optimistic soul, because not only do I know that we've got what it takes to achieve the peace, we've got the determination, the will, and the strength to have a more peaceful world. I know we've got the heart and compassion to show the world the true definition of our Nation. And it's happened. It's the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which show the world the true worth of the greatest country on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for helping John Cornyn. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:15 p.m. in the Landmark Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. William P. Clements, Jr., of Texas and his wife, Rita; Greg Abbott, candidate for Texas Attorney General; Justice Wallace Jefferson, Texas Supreme Court; Chief Justice Michael Schneider, Texas First Court of Appeals; Jeb Hensarling, candidate for Texas House of Representatives; Charles R. Matthews, commissioner, Texas Railroad Commission; Tom Craddick, Texas State Representative; and nominee for U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Statement on the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group

March 29, 2002

I am pleased with the progress being made by the Klamath River Basin Federal Working Group in addressing the problems facing the people of this region. Under the leadership of Secretary Norton, the working group is providing water to farmers who depend on it for a living, while taking careful steps to protect and enhance the health of fish populations in the Klamath River Basin. The working group is undertaking new environmental restoration projects in the area and has initiated a dialog with native tribes about long-term solutions to the natural resource and native rights issues in the basin.

The times are still difficult for many in the region, and much work remains to be done. It is essential that the citizens of Oregon and California in the Klamath River Basin—

whether farmer, rancher, tribe member, fisherman or environmental activist—embrace compromise and seek understanding. The working group's rapid progress, combined with the efforts of Senator Gordon Smith and Representative Greg Walden, give me great hope for a lasting solution to the challenges of the Klamath River Basin.

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.

March 23

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled from Monterrey, Mexico, to Lima, Peru, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President met with U.S. Embassy personnel. Later, in the Presidential Palace, he met with Presidents Alejandro Toledo of Peru, Andres Pastrana of Colombia, and Jorge Fernando Quiroga Ramirez of Bolivia, and Vice President Pedro Pinto Rubianes of Ecuador to discuss the Andean Trade Preferences Act and other regional issues.

March 24

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a luncheon meeting at the Casa Presidencial with Prime Minister Said Musa of Belize and Presidents Francisco Flores Perez of El Salvador, Alfonso Portillo of Guatemala, Ricardo Madura of Honduras, Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua, Miguel Angel Rodriguez of Costa Rica, and Mireya Elisa Moscoso of Panama to discuss trade and other regional issues. Later, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

March 25

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings and met with the National Se-

curity Council. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen of Denmark to discuss cooperation against terrorism, issues related to NATO, and the Prime Minister's role as incoming President of the European Union. Later, also in the Oval Office, he met with leaders of the Lubavitch Jewish community to sign a ceremonial copy of Proclamation 7534—Education and Sharing Day, U.S.A., 2002, and commemorate the 100th birthday of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, a Lubavitch leader who died in 1994.

March 26

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings.

In the afternoon, the President met with Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation: Frank B. Strickland, Michael McKay, Thomas A. Fuentes, Lillian R. BeVier, and Robert J. Dieter.

March 27

In the morning, the President traveled to Greenville, SC. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Chairman Hamid Karzai of the Afghan Interim Authority to express his condolences concerning the earthquakes that struck northern Afghanistan on March 25–26.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Atlanta, GA. In the evening, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

March 28

In the morning, the President traveled to Dallas, TX. In the afternoon, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charlotte A. Lane to be a member of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Carolyn Y. Peoples to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bruce R. James to be the Public Printer.