

religion. I'm talking about all religions under the Almighty God.

And we should not fear those kind of programs: programs where someone's addiction may be more likely cured because of faith; programs that are willing to go into the prison systems—you know, programs that say, "Well, stamping license plates is okay, but it may not change somebody's life for the better"; programs in which they surround a child with love because of faith and provide a blueprint based upon—a future based upon love for a child. That's what we ought to recognize happens.

Listen, some of the greatest welfare programs in America are on the street corners of inner-city America in a house of worship. Some of the best places where lost souls find hope are in our synagogues. Mosques provide great hope for people who wonder whether America is meant for them. And our Government must recognize the power of these programs. These programs don't have giant bureaucracies and endless rules in which they become entangled. They keep their focus on their mission. They don't keep hours. [Laughter] They're open when needed.

There's been some anticrime programs based upon faith, like Brother Rivers, out of Boston, Massachusetts, who has done a fantastic job.

And so this act recognizes that part of the mosaic of aid and comfort in America comes from the faith community and that we shouldn't fear faith, we ought to welcome it in our society. I urge that the "CARE Act" get passed out of the Senate by Memorial Day.

I want to thank the neighborhood healers who are here. One of the things I brag about is the entrepreneurial spirit in America. But people have got to understand, the entrepreneurial spirit just doesn't pertain to starting a business. Our entrepreneurial spirit also pertains to helping people. And one of the great joys of being a candidate and eventually President is the opportunity to see these little programs that start up because somebody has heard a call. I mean, it's an unbelievable part of the fabric of our Nation. Somebody has heard the—said, "I think I'm going to take my energy and my talent into a neighborhood

where nobody else has dared walk," and have changed people's lives.

And it is amazing what happens, amazing what happens when you start off—Brother Lusk here started off with—I don't even think—well, it might have been a building; it looked like a building. [Laughter] But now he's got this magnificent place in inner-city Philadelphia, because he had a vision and a dream to make something happen.

But it is the effect—and why I feel so strongly about this mission that we're all on is because when that one soul who decides to do something changes a heart, it is likely that heart that's been changed is willing to change another heart. And it's that effect that will have an incredibly profound effect on all of us.

In order to fight evil, we must do good. It is the gathering momentum of millions of acts of kindness and compassion which define the true face of America, that shows what this country is truly made out of. On the one hand, we are strong and tough militarily, but on the other hand, that is—we are a nation that is compassionate and decent and caring. And no evil, no terrorist can extinguish that light.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, who introduced the President; Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington; Rev. Eugene Rivers, pastor, Azusa Christian Community, and cofounder, Boston Ten Point Coalition; and Rev. Herbert Lusk II, pastor, Greater Exodus Baptist Church, and founder/president, People for People, Inc. The President also referred to S. 1924, the proposed "Charity Aid, Recovery, and Empowerment Act of 2002" and H.R. 7, the proposed "Community Solutions Act of 2001."

### **Statement on Senate Action on Election Reform Legislation**

*April 11, 2002*

I commend the Senate for passing an election reform bill and bringing us a step closer to enacting legislation this year. I look forward to working with conferees to make sure

the reforms reflect the principles outlined by the bipartisan Ford/Carter Commission that respect the primacy of State and local governments and envision a limited but responsible role for the Federal Government.

### **Statement on House of Representatives Action on Pension Reform Legislation**

*April 11, 2002*

Employees need more information about their pension plans and more control over them. I commend Chairman Thomas, Chairman Boehner, and Congressman Portman, and the bipartisan majority in the House for passing pension reform legislation that accomplishes these objectives. The reforms will give employees better access to investment advice, additional notice of blackouts, and increased ability to diversify. Importantly, the reforms adhere to the principle that what is right for executives is also right for workers. I look forward to Senate action on this critical issue.

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### **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

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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.

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#### ***April 6***

In the afternoon, from the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel concerning the situation in the Middle East.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner at the Bush Ranch for Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom, his wife, Cherie, their daughter, Kathryn, and Mrs. Blair's mother, Gale Booth.

#### ***April 7***

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

#### ***April 8***

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. Later, he traveled to Knoxville, TN.

In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rudolf Schuster of the Slovak Republic to the White House on June 7.

#### ***April 9***

In the morning, the President traveled to Bridgeport, CT, and later to Greenwich, CT. In the afternoon, he returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will meet with King Mohamed VI of Morocco at the White House on April 23 to discuss developments in the Middle East and other key bilateral issues.

The President announced his intention to nominate Stuart D. Rick to be a member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation: Herbert Monroe Allison, Jr., Robert Leamon Bryant, Chung Wook Kim, Tuan Joseph Pham, Frank Jao, and Marilyn Castor Mashon Pattillo.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: George M. Kraw and Judith F. Mazo (Employee Representatives), and Mary Ann Melody Larson McDonald (Public Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Judson C. Ball, Bray Bruce Barnes, William Dewayne Dunlap, Ann Hundley Hoover, Linda Nordstrom, Wilbur O. Powers, Noel Quinones, Juan F. Woodroffe, and T. Caroline D. Wyly.

The President announced his intention to designate Terry Bathen as Acting Inspector