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the courage and conviction to stand up for the hope that we've all had in him and his Government to bring peace and prosperity to the Middle East. And we're very grateful for your position on that.

President Bush. Have you got a final question?

Iraq

Q Mr. President, you seem to—the two of you seem to disagree on Iraq. Are you going to discuss those disagreements? And could you maybe elucidate on those disagreements?

President Bush. Well, I appreciate that, John [John Cochran, ABC News]. The policy of my Government, our Government, of this administration, is regime change—for a reason. Saddam Hussein is a man who poisons his own people, who threatens his neighbors, who develops weapons of mass destruction. And I will assure His Majesty, like I have in the past, we're looking at all options, the use of all tools. I'm a patient man, but I haven't changed my opinion since the last time he was in the Oval Office. And one of the things we will do is consult with our friends, but he just needs to know how I feel. He knows how I feel, I have had the opportunity and the honor of explaining that to him before. And he'll find out I haven't changed my mind.

King Abdullah. All I'd like to say is that, again, what I've found from day one with the President is, he understands the bigger picture and that at the end of the day, peace and stability for the Middle East has been at the forefront of his mind. And so we have many areas where we find common base to be able to move the region forward.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:20 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Senate Leaders

August 1, 2002

[*The conversation is joined in progress.*]

Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

The President. Chairman Baucus, and Grassley——

Senator Charles E. Grassley. We're here.

The President. And I understand Trent Lott is there as well.

Senator Trent Lott. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Well, thank you three very much for your leadership. I want to congratulate you all for achieving an historic—historic moment in our Nation, because what you all have done is, you've made it much more likely somebody is going to be able to find work, and some farmer is going to be able to sell his product, and some nation is going to be able to trade with us, which will help lift them out of poverty.

I want to congratulate you very much for your fine work, on your bipartisan effort. Max and Chuck worked well together, and I'm just calling to congratulate you and thank you, for a grateful nation.

Senator Lott. Mr. President, this is Trent. I want to thank you for your leadership. You came to town saying this is something we needed to do; we needed to give this authority back to our President. And because you continued to push for it and emphasize what it will mean to American families and workers and farmers and ranchers and business men and women, we got it done.

And I want to say that I certainly agree when you give credit to Chairman Baucus and to Senator Grassley. They were very persistent. They worked with our House colleagues—Bill Thomas obviously did a great job. And your representatives here, Secretary Evans and Ambassador Zoellick, they were there, many times at all hours. Sometimes we were trying to bait them, but they did a great job. [*Laughter*] And I think this is a great moment for our country. And we can get back into promoting trade worldwide.

The President. Well, we really can. Thanks for saying that, Trent. I appreciate—it's a team effort, and the House gets a lot of credit, and Max and Bill Thomas stayed up late one night and got it done.

Senator Max Baucus. That's right, Mr. President, though I must say it was more than one night, regrettably. [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, that's why they've got August breaks.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, you're our leader here. You got us going, and we all deeply appreciate that. I think this legislation is going to help restore American trade prestige worldwide, something we desperately needed. It also will help give the economy a boost. And third, it will help protect American workers displaced by trade and help build that consensus, for that is so needed for strong, aggressive trade legislation to open markets overseas for America.

I want to thank you so much for your strong, bipartisan approach to this. And I might say, Mr. President, we've now given you the authority, so we're kind of expecting you to kind of help negotiate these really good, strong trade agreements.

The President. Well, I——

Senator Baucus. And when you do, we're going to be there backing you up to help to make them as strong as they can be.

The President. Thanks, Max. I accept it. You've got Zoellick sitting right there—of course, he's going to be our point man on trade. And he now—he's got his running shoes on. He's going to hit the ground running to bring us some good trade agreements. And I appreciate that very much.

Senator Baucus. Mr. President, I'll give you time to think about this, but do you have a nickname for this trade bill?

The President. Not yet. [*Laughter*]

Senator Baucus. I'm sure you will a little later on.

The President. Not yet, Maxie.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

Senator Lott. This is a jobs bill, isn't it?

The President. It's a jobs bill.

Senator Baucus. Okay.

The President. It sure is. How's Senator Grassley doing? Are you there, Senator?

Senator Grassley. Yes. Well, for sure, this is going to put America in the middle of all of the free trade agreements now that are being negotiated. And the United States won't be left out, as we have been so much of the 190 that have been approved. But most importantly, I appreciate your recognition—and I know you know it, but I'm glad you said it, as well—the bipartisanship that you have to have to get anything done in the United States Senate. And that tradition is no stronger on any issue than on trade.

And working with Senator Baucus to make this happen has been a real privilege, and working with you as well. So thanks to both of you for your leadership.

The President. Well, thank you all very much. I'm proud of you. I look forward to signing the bill soon. And I look forward to bringing some trade agreements back to the Congress that will help workers and farmers and ranchers.

So, good work. You did your jobs. Go on home and take a break now.

Senator Grassley. You bet.

Senator Baucus. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you all. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:05 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on Senate Action on Trade Promotion Authority Legislation

August 1, 2002

The Senate's bipartisan passage of trade promotion authority completes an accomplishment that has eluded Congress since 1994 and is a major victory on behalf of working Americans. With TPA, we will open markets to create high-paying jobs and provide new opportunities for America's farmers and workers. I thank the House and Senate for passing TPA so that we can work together to advance America's free trade agenda. With this important tool, we will promote prosperity in the United States, progress in our hemisphere, and freedom throughout the world.

Statement on Senate Action on Defense Appropriations Legislation

August 1, 2002

I applaud the Senate for answering my call to quickly pass the Defense appropriations bill. With our Nation at war, it is imperative that we address the important priority of ensuring that our troops have the resources they need. I urge the House and Senate to resolve their differences promptly and send a bill to my desk in early September.