

Letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives Transmitting a Request for Funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service

March 4, 2003

Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed request for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). The request is needed to liquidate legitimate prior-year obligations for eligible participants in the AmeriCorps program, to complete the implementation of a comprehensive corrective action plan developed by CNCS to strengthen financial management, and to provide flexibility to support more than 50,000 AmeriCorps members in FY 2003. This request will not increase my FY 2004 request.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on Telecommunications Payments to Cuba

March 5, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), I transmit herewith a semiannual report prepared by my Administration detailing payments made to Cuba by United States persons as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 5, 2003.

Statement on the Senate Filibuster To Block a Vote on the Nomination of Miguel Estrada

March 6, 2003

Miguel Estrada is a well-qualified nominee to the U.S. Court of Appeals who has been waiting nearly 2 years for an up or down vote in the United States Senate. The decision today by 44 Senators to continue to filibuster and block a vote on this nomination is a disgrace.

The Senate has a responsibility to exercise its constitutional advice and consent function and hold an up or down vote on a judicial nominee within a reasonable time. Some Senators who once insisted that every appeals court nominee deserves a timely vote have now abandoned that principle for partisan politics. Their tactics are an injustice and unfair to the good man I have nominated and unfaithful to the Senate's own obligations.

These Senators are holding Miguel Estrada to a double standard. I will stand by Miguel Estrada's side until he is sworn in as a judge. I call on the Senate Democratic leadership to stop playing politics and permit a vote on Miguel Estrada's nomination. Let each Senator vote as he or she thinks best, but give the man a vote.

The President's News Conference

March 6, 2003

The President. Good evening. I'm pleased to take your questions tonight and to discuss with the American people the serious matters facing our country and the world.

This has been an important week on two fronts on our war against terror. First, thanks to the hard work of American and Pakistani officials, we captured the mastermind of the September the 11th attacks against our Nation. Khalid Sheik Mohammed conceived and planned the hijackings and directed the actions of the hijackers. We believe his capture will further disrupt the terror network and their planning for additional attacks.

Second, we have arrived at an important moment in confronting the threat posed to our Nation and to peace by Saddam Hussein