

hard work and inspiration have produced incredible successes. You have made us all proud. After all, millions of people are in your debt. The American people are grateful for your many achievements, and we look forward to the many achievements yet to come.

May God bless your work, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:08 p.m. at the Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Carl Feldbaum, president, Biotechnology Industry Organization; and Mayor Anthony A. Williams of Washington, DC.

Statement on the Supreme Court Decision on the Michigan Affirmative Action Cases

June 23, 2003

I applaud the Supreme Court for recognizing the value of diversity on our Nation's campuses. Diversity is one of America's greatest strengths. Today's decisions seek a careful balance between the goal of campus diversity and the fundamental principle of equal treatment under the law.

My administration will continue to promote policies that expand educational opportunities for Americans from all racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds. There are innovative and proven ways for colleges and universities to reflect our diversity without using racial quotas. The Court has made clear that colleges and universities must engage in a serious, good faith consideration of workable race-neutral alternatives. I agree that we must look first to these race-neutral approaches to make campuses more welcoming for all students.

Race is a reality in American life. Yet like the Court, I look forward to the day when America will truly be a colorblind society. My administration will continue to work toward this important goal.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Reception in New York City

June 23, 2003

Thank you all very much. It's nice to be back in this great city of New York City. Thank you for your warm hospitality. I'm going to come back. [*Laughter*] And I look forward to having the Republican Convention right here in the great city of New York.

Thank you all so very much for your help in the campaign. You're laying the foundation for what will be a national victory come November of 2004. I'm getting loosened up. [*Laughter*] I'm getting ready. [*Laughter*] But I'm going to need your help. I'm going to need your help not only to lay the foundation at the grassroots, but I need your help to pass our message, our inclusive, positive, hopeful message for all American citizens.

I say I'm ready—the political season will come in its own time. There will be plenty of time for politics. Right now I'm focused on the people's business in Washington, DC. We have a lot on the agenda, and we will continue to work hard to earn the confidence of our fellow citizens by keeping this Nation secure, keeping this Nation strong, keeping this Nation prosperous, and keeping this Nation free.

My only regret tonight is that First Lady Laura Bush didn't come. I know, you drew the—you drew the short straw. [*Laughter*] I'm proud of her. I love her. She is a fabulous First Lady for America.

I want to thank Governor George Pataki for not only being a friend but being a great Governor for the State of New York.

I appreciate so very much that my Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, is with us tonight. I appreciate him coming.

I had a chance to visit with the mayor. I want to thank Michael Bloomberg for the job he's doing on behalf of the citizens of this great city, and I want to thank him for his friendship as well. He probably said he's going out to throw a first pitch out at the minor league park. I know something about throwing out pitches. [*Laughter*] And I would suggest he goes with a fastball, not his slider. [*Laughter*]