

September the 11th. But the creation of the Homeland Security Department, coupled with the modernization of communications between State and local and Federal officials, really enabled the system to work well. And now we've got to figure out how to make the electricity system have the redundancy necessary so that if there is an outage like there has been throughout our history, that it doesn't affect as many people as it did in the past.

Q. Sir, are you worried, though, that power still isn't restored to so many millions of people and may not be through the weekend?

The President. Well, I think, you know—listen, everybody is working hard to get it restored as quickly as possible. I think it's going to take a while to get 100 of the power up and running. And that's why it's important for our citizens who have got electricity in the Northeast and the Midwest would be wise about how they use the electricity. They must conserve, because the more conservation there is now, the more likely it is their neighbor is going to end up having electricity in a quicker fashion.

Q. In recent weeks, you have mentioned several times the need to pass your comprehensive energy plan. Is there anything in there that would have helped or mitigated this?

The President. Well, I think part of the plan recognizes that the grid needs to be modernized, the delivery systems need to be modernized. And obviously something like this isn't going to happen overnight. But it is—it begins to address the problem, that this particular incident has made abundantly clear to the American people that we've got an antiquated system, and now we've got to figure out what went wrong and how to address it. And I'm confident we will.

Q. You said yesterday that while you've made some offers of Federal assistance, the States and locals didn't really seem to need much help; they had it under control. Is that still the situation?

The President. Actually, as I understand it, as of this morning, at about 5:30 a.m. Pacific Coast time, there was a request for a generator by New York City from the Department of Defense, which we're now working on delivering.

Look, for example, Tommy Thompson started calling around to hospitals and asking, did everybody get what they need? And Tom Ridge was calling, which made it clear—abundantly clear—that where we had assets that could help, we're more than willing to help. This is a national problem, and the Federal Government has got a responsibility to help local and State officials. As far as I know, the one specific request to date was this generator.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:35 a.m. at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

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.

August 9

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a barbecue for Bush-Cheney '04, Inc., fund-raisers at a neighboring ranch in Crawford.

August 11

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings aboard Air Force One en route to Tucson, AZ. Upon his arrival in Tucson, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Deborah Toland. Later, he traveled to Coronado National Forest. En route, he took an aerial tour of areas damaged by wildfire near Summerhaven, AZ.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Denver, CO, where he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Phoung Nguyen.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

August 12

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals to represent the United States at the inauguration of President Nicanor Duarte Frutos of Paraguay on August 15: Anthony J. Principi (delegation leader), John F. Keane, and Robert L. Peeler.

August 13

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings, during which he had a video conference call to discuss the capture of Al Qaida terrorist Nurjaman Riduan Isamuddin (known as Hambali).

Later in the morning, the President met with members of his economic team.

The President announced his intention to appoint Duane H. Laible as a member of the Arctic Research Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Sandra O. Sieber as a member of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

The President announced his intention to appoint Peter Field as Federal Commissioner and Alternate Federal Commissioner of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) Basin Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles J. Chaput, Khaled Abou El Fadl, and Richard D. Land as members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom.

August 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, CA.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with U.S. military personnel. During lunch, he was informed by White House Deputy Chief of Staff Joseph W. Hagin of the power

blackout in portions of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States and Canada. Later, he received updates on the blackout from Deputy Hagin and Deputy National Security Adviser Steve Hadley.

Later in the afternoon, the President participated in an interview with Armed Forces Radio and Television journalists. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge to discuss the blackout. He also received updates on the blackout from Deputies Hagin and Hadley and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to San Diego, CA.

In the evening, the President traveled to Newport Beach, CA.

August 15

In the morning, the President had intelligence and national security briefings. He then had a telephone conversation with Secretary of the Treasury John Snow to discuss the status of the stock markets during the blackout. Later, he traveled to Thousand Oaks, CA, where he toured the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and made remarks on the National Park System.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Irvine, CA, where he had telephone conversations from the Hyatt Regency Irvine with Governors George E. Pataki of New York, John G. Rowland of Connecticut, Jennifer Granholm of Michigan, and Bob Taft of Ohio and Mayor Michael Bloomberg of New York City to discuss the blackouts.

In the afternoon, the President made remarks at a Bush-Cheney 2004 luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Irvine. Later, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada to discuss the blackout.

During the day, the President received updates on the blackout from Deputies Hagin and Hadley and other officials.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 11

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Fact sheet: President Bush Promotes Healthy Forests

Announcement of nomination for Environmental Protection Agency Administrator

Released August 12

Transcript of a press gaggle by Deputy Press Secretary Claire Buchan

Released August 13

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Washington

Released August 14

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released August 15

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary on the joint Canada-U.S. task force on the recent power outage in North America

Statement by the Press Secretary on the appointment of Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Strategic Planning at the National Security Council

Statement by the Press Secretary on Libya's letter to the U.N. Security Council stating it accepts responsibility for the actions of its officials in the 1988 Pan Am 103 bombing

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1018 and H.R. 1761 on August 14

Fact sheet: Strengthening and Caring for America's National Parks

Announcement of nomination for U.S. District Judge for the District of New Jersey

Acts Approved by the President

Approved August 8 *

H.R. 2859 / Public Law 108-69
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2003

Approved August 14

H.R. 1018 / Public Law 108-70
To designate the building located at 1 Federal Plaza in New York, New York, as the "James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building"

H.R. 1761 / Public Law 108-71
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9350 East Corporate Hill Drive in Wichita, Kansas, as the "Garner E. Shriver Post Office Building"

* This Public Law was not received in time for inclusion in the appropriate issue.