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like in Washington State. I am more concerned about somebody finding a job than I am about numbers on paper. But having said that, I want to repeat that we've got a plan to reduce the deficit in half in 5 years.

Final question, Bennett of the Houston Chronicle. I've known him for a long time. For those of you who don't know him, he's a fine lad. [*Laughter*]

Report on the February 1 Space Shuttle Columbia Accident

Q. And it's sort of a Texas-related question. Mr. President, next week there's going to be a report issued on the Space Shuttle *Columbia* that's expected to be highly critical of NASA. Do you support the resumption of manned space flights? Do you think the program should be better funded and restructured? Where do you see the future?

The President. Let me first—I've been a strong supporter of NASA. I want to look at the report before I comment. You may have seen the report; I haven't, in which case I want to look at it. I do believe that a space program is important for a country that is trying to stay on the leading edge of technological change. But let me look and first see what the report says, how critical it is, what it says, what it means. And I'll answer—try to answer that very question after I've had a chance to enrich my knowledge about a pending report.

Thank you all.

Birthday of Jennifer Loven

Q. It's her birthday.

The President. Today is your birthday?

Q. No. [*Laughter*]

Q. Yes, it is.

The President. You shouldn't be so shy in front of national cameras. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'd rather it not be a topic, thank you. [*Laughter*]

The President. Would you like for your compadres to break out in a ''Happy Birthday'' here on TV?

Q. They've already done that, thank you.

The President. They have? Should we have the business community sing? [*Laughter*] Happy birthday.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:50 p.m. at Boeing Field-King County International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and former Iraqi Ba'ath Party official Ali Hassan al-Majid (known as ''Chemical Ali''). A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on the Designation of Hamas Leadership and European Funding Sources Under Executive Order 13224

August 22, 2003

At my direction, the Treasury Department has moved today to block and freeze the assets of six top Hamas leaders and five nongovernmental organizations that I am advised provide financial support to Hamas. By claiming responsibility for the despicable act of terror on August 19, Hamas has reaffirmed that it is a terrorist organization committed to violence against Israelis and to undermining progress toward peace between Israel and the Palestinian people.

I call upon all nations supportive of peace in the Middle East to recognize Hamas as a terrorist organization and to take all appropriate actions to deny it support.

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 16

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

August 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to discuss the recent power blackout in portions of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States and Canada.

August 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil to express his condolences concerning the death of Brazilian citizen Sergio Vieira de Mello, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Iraq, who died in the August 18 terrorist bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the Baghdad terrorist attack.

August 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel to discuss the August 18 terrorist attack in Jerusalem. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President participated in a video conference call with the National Security Council, including Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq, and Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command.

August 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Portland, OR.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Redmond, OR, where he participated in a briefing on the Bear Butte and Booth fires in Deschutes National Forest. Later, aboard Marine One, he took an aerial tour of the forest fires.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Bend, OR.

The President announced his intention to nominate Hugh Douglas Barclay to be Ambassador to El Salvador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael David Gallagher to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lydia Irene Beebe; William Wilson III; and Joseph Thomas Yew, Jr., as members of the Board of Directors of the Presidio Trust.

The President announced his intention to appoint Carl Michael Morgan, Jr., and Deborah Doris Wetsit as members of the President's Board of Advisors on Tribal Colleges and Universities.

August 22

In the morning, the President traveled to Burbank, WA. En route, aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing. Following his arrival, he participated in a briefing and tour of Ice Harbor Lock and Dam. Later, he traveled to Seattle, WA.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Bush-Cheney luncheon at a private residence. Later, he returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The President announced his intention to nominate Gordon England to be Secretary of the Navy.

The President announced the recess appointments of Charlotte A. Lane and Daniel Pearson as members of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of A. Paul Anderson as a Federal Maritime Commissioner.

The President announced the recess appointment of Daniel Pipes as a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The President announced the recess appointment of John Paul Woodley, Jr., as Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

The President announced the recess appointments of David W. Fleming, Jay Phillip Greene, and John Richard Petrocik as members of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

The President announced the recess appointment of Juanita Alicia Vasquez-Gardner as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

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