

I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Public Law No. 89–10).

Memorandum on the Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment (SHARE) Initiative

January 9, 2004

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: The Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment (SHARE) Initiative

The cost of Federal workplace injuries, when measured by workers' compensation losses, is more than \$2 billion and 2 million lost production days annually. In fiscal year 2003, the Federal workforce of almost 2.7 million filed more than 168,000 injury claims. Behind these numbers lie pain and suffering by workers and their families. Clearly, Government agencies should strive to do more to improve workplace safety and health and reduce the costs of injury to workers and taxpayers. Many workplace injuries are preventable.

Therefore, I am establishing SHARE: Safety, Health, and Return-to-Employment Initiative, a safe workplace initiative for fiscal years 2004–2006. The initiative's four goals cover the most important elements of a strong safety and health management program: lower workplace injury and illness case rates, lower lost-time injury and illness case rates, timely reporting of injuries and illnesses, and fewer lost days resulting from work injuries and illnesses. The Secretary of Labor will lead the SHARE Initiative and will measure the performance of each department and agency against the goals. I direct all executive branch departments and agencies to participate in SHARE for this 3-year period.

Each department and agency will collaborate with the Department of Labor to establish challenging annual goals based on its current performance in the four areas. The Department of Labor will measure and track agency performance, and will report to me annually on each agency's progress towards meeting its goals. The Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Office of Workers' Compensation

Programs will also work with Federal departments and agencies to develop new workplace strategies to improve safety and health at high injury rate sites, assist them in improving the timeliness of reporting claims through electronic and other means, and guide them in providing suitable work and tools for injured and disabled employees.

Federal supervisors and managers must focus management tools and resources on eliminating unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. Federal employees should be encouraged to perform their jobs safely, effectively, and alertly to remain injury-free. Dedication to ensuring our Government workforce family is safe and healthy preserves the resources of Government and helps promote the delivery of Government services to the American people.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

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.

January 3

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

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

January 5

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan to congratulate the Afghan Government on the adoption of a constitution and to discuss the war on terror and the Kandahar-Kabul highway. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President-elect Oscar Berger of Guatemala to congratulate him on his electoral victory and to discuss Guatemala-U.S. relations.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to St. Louis, MO, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Jeff Tank. Later, in the library of Pierre Laclede Elementary School, he visited with fourth graders.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation from the Oval Office with NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe to congratulate NASA on the successful landing of the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit on Mars.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrew B. Maner as Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security.

January 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon at the historic Evermay house in northwest Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to appoint Linda Mysliwy Conlin as a member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The President announced his intention to appoint Charles Johnson as Chief Financial Officer of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen L. Johnson as Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced his intention to appoint Gerard Schwartz as a member of the National Council on the Arts.

January 8

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia to congratulate him on Colombia's recent successes against narcoterrorism and to discuss the Special Summit of the Americas to be held January

12-13 in Monterrey, Mexico. He then had a telephone conversation with President Lucio Gutierrez Borbua of Ecuador to discuss cooperation against terrorism and the upcoming summit.

Later in the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Knoxville, TN, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Nathaniel Foster. Later, at West View Elementary School, he visited with schoolchildren.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Palm Beach Gardens, FL, where, upon arrival at Palm Beach International Airport, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Gordon Stanley.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

January 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and later met with the National Security Council. Later, he met with U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad to discuss progress in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, at DAR Constitution Hall, the President made remarks to Federal agency leadership and Senior Executive Service employees.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to the White House for a meeting on January 14, and that President and Mrs. Bush will host a dinner for President and Mrs. Aznar later that evening.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland to the White House on January 26.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to the White House on January 28.

The President announced his appointment of Matthew Kirk as Deputy Assistant for Legislative Affairs-Senate.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mark Anthony Carter, John Gilbert Cruz, and Grace Flores-Hughes as members

of the Federal Service Impasses Panel at the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

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 January 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released January 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released January 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: Fair and Secure Immigration Reform

Released January 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: President Celebrates 2nd Anniversary of No Child Left Behind Act

Released January 9

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice on the President's upcoming visit to Mexico

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit of President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Erdogan of Turkey to Washington

Fact sheet: America's Economy on the Path to Recovery

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.