

you on it. You spend. I propose. Together, we're responsible. And this is going to be a challenging year for making sure we spend the people's money wisely, and I sent up an initiative to do just that. It cuts the deficit—the plan cuts the deficit in half over the next 5 years. And we look forward to working with you to make sure we meet that important goal, so that we can say to the American people, "We've set priorities. We understand whose money we spend, and we're going to cut this deficit in half through wise policy."

And finally at home, it's important for us to kind of play to the strength of the country, to remember the true strength of America. It's not our military—and by the way, we'll keep the military strong—and it's not the size of our wallets, although we want to make sure our wallets all across the country are healthy. The strength of the country is the hearts and souls of the American people. That's where we find our true strength. See, we understand the proper relationship between Government and the people. It's the people's Government we represent.

And as well, we shouldn't be afraid to empower those organizations that are serving our fellow citizens in an incredibly important and efficient way. They're serving because of love, first and foremost. They're following their hearts to mentor a child or to feed the hungry or to help the addicted. Congress understands—I know the leadership does, and I know you do as well—the true strength of America is the American people. We must listen to them. We will trust their judgments, and we must empower them to love their neighbors just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

Oh, '04 is going to be an unusual year for us all. It's an election year, and the people are probably saying, "Well, they're going to play politics with our time." That's not my attitude, and I know it's not the leadership's attitude. Working together, like we have done over 3 years, working together to accomplish important things for the people, we can show the cynics and the critics that we're capable of doing the people's business, election year or not.

And I look forward to working with you. I appreciate your friendship. I'm proud to be serving with such a fine group of people

during historic times. And there's no doubt in my mind, we're making a significant difference for this country's security, prosperity, and freedom.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m. at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Senators Mitch McConnell, Rick Santorum, and Jon Kyl; Representatives Tom DeLay, Bill Blunt, Deborah Pryce, William M. Thomas, and Heather Wilson; comedian Dennis Miller; and 10-year-old Timmy Kelly, who sang the national anthem.

### **Statement on Representative Jennifer Dunn's Decision Not To Seek Reelection**

*January 31, 2004*

Jennifer Dunn is a good friend and an outstanding public servant. For more than a decade, she has delivered results for the people of Washington State. She has championed sound policies that encourage economic growth and create jobs. She has led the way in providing tax relief for the American people; promoting the advancement of small and women-owned businesses; helping America's children, including by sponsoring the Amber Alert bill; and protecting the environment. She is a superb legislator and a strong leader who has stood for the best of Washington State's values and who has improved the lives of its people.

Laura and I are grateful for Jennifer's friendship, and we extend our best wishes to her, her husband, Keith, and her two sons.

### **Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters**

*February 2, 2004*

**The President.** I want to thank the members of my Cabinet for their service to our country. I'm proud of the team I've put together to serve our citizens. These are good, honorable people who have come to Washington, DC, to put the Nation's interests above their self-interest.