

keep traveling the country reminding people of the obligation that we have in Washington, DC, to bring folks together and to fix this problem, so that people will say, when it's all said and done, "They came, they went, and they did their job."

Listen, I want to thank you all for coming. I hope you found this conversation interesting, informative. It is—I believe it's necessary. And I want to thank our panelists who did a fantastic job of sharing with us what's on your mind. There's a lot of people like you out there that are asking the question, "What are you going to do about it?" And I'm ready to lead on the issue.

May God bless you all. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. at Montgomery County Community College. In his remarks, he referred to James R. Mathews, chairman, Board of Commissioners, Montgomery County, PA; President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine; and Janet Norwood, mother of Sgt. Byron Norwood, USMC, who was killed in Iraq on November 13, 2004, and Iraqi citizen and political activist Safia Taleb al-Suhail, both of whom were guests of the First Lady at the President's State of the Union Address on February 2.

### **Statement on Senate Action on Class-Action Lawsuit Reform Legislation**

*February 10, 2005*

Our country depends on a fair legal system that protects people who have been harmed without encouraging junk lawsuits that undermine confidence in our courts while hurting our economy, costing jobs, and threatening small businesses. The class-action bill is a strong step forward in our efforts to reform the litigation system and keep America the best place in the world to do business. I applaud the strong bipartisan majority in the Senate for passing this bill, and I call on the House to act promptly so that I can sign it into law.

### **Memorandum on Waiving Prohibition on Use of Fiscal Year 2005 Economic Support Funds With Respect to Jordan**

*February 10, 2005*

Presidential Determination No. 2005–20

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Waiving Prohibition on Use of Fiscal Year 2005 Economic Support Funds with Respect to Jordan

Consistent with the authority vested in me by section 574 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2005 (the "Act"), Division D of Public Law 108–447, I hereby:

- Determine that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive, for a period of 6 months from the date of this determination, the prohibition of section 574(a) of the Act with respect to Jordan; and
- Waive the prohibition with respect to this country for that period.

You are authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress, and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 11.

### **Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for Michael O. Leavitt as Secretary of Health and Human Services**

*February 11, 2005*

**The President.** Good morning. I'm proud to visit this fine Department and to congratulate my friend Michael Leavitt on becoming America's 20th Secretary of Health and Human Services. Congratulations.

**Secretary Leavitt.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** I know this is a particularly special day for Mike—after all, it's his 54th birthday. [Laughter] And it's always a