

Week Ending Friday, February 10, 2006

**Remarks Following a Visit to the
School of Science and Engineering in
Dallas, Texas**

February 3, 2006

First of all, it's such an honor to be here at this school. Thank you all for coming. Every good school requires a couple of things: one, a good principal—thank you for doing that—and great teachers and good support. That's a super tie; thanks for being here.

Laura and I are here because we believe it's important to spread AP classes all around the country. This is a unique place. The students here are really impressive people. They have decided to focus on the sciences and math and engineering. And this school helps lift their sights—and one way it does so is to encourage them to take AP.

We want more AP students because we want more engineers and scientists that are able to compete with other students around the world. And so one thing the Government can do is help train 70,000 teachers all around the country so that they can teach students Advanced Placement.

We also want to encourage scientists and chemists and physicists to come into the classrooms all around the country to excite students about the possibilities of science and engineering. And the reason why is, in order for America to be a competitive nation in the years to come, we have got to have a workforce that is strong in engineering and science and physics. You know, some would hope that the competition around the world will go away—it's not going to. And so we have a choice to make: Do we want to retreat, become protectionist, or do we want to seize the moment and shape our future?

And so the American Competitiveness Initiative I've outlined says that America will continue to lead; we'll shape our future; and we'll make sure our kids are well-versed in science and math and engineering.

Again, I want to thank you all for letting us come to your school. It's a fantastic school. It really does brighten my hopes about the future of the country to see you all and see your enthusiasm for the subjects and to listen to your very articulate explanations of the different courses you're studying. Thanks a lot. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center. In his remarks, he referred to Richard White, principal, the School of Science and Engineering. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Proclamation 7979—National
Consumer Protection Week, 2006**

February 3, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

During National Consumer Protection Week, we highlight the importance of consumer education in the ongoing fight against fraud and encourage consumers to make wise decisions.

Each year, nearly 25 million adults are victims of consumer fraud. These crimes damage lives and shake consumer confidence. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other organizations recommend several steps that Americans can take to help protect themselves against fraud. First, consumers should be cautious about giving out personal information such as Social Security and account numbers. Second, they should be aware of the credentials of an organization before making a transaction, especially through the mail, over the phone, or on the Internet. Third, before finalizing a purchase or agreement, the FTC suggests considering