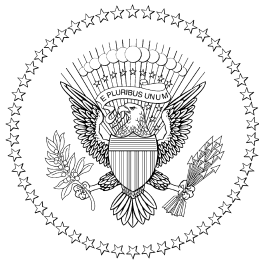


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, May 22, 2006
Volume 42—Number 20
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Editor's Note: The President was in Highland Heights, KY, on May 19, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, May 19, 2006

**Proclamation 8016—National
Defense Transportation Day and
National Transportation Week, 2006**

May 12, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

On National Defense Transportation Day and during National Transportation Week, we thank all those who contribute to a sound transportation infrastructure that keeps our country moving, advances our economic growth, and strengthens our national defense.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower recognized the importance of having the world's most efficient and reliable transportation system. In a message to the Congress, he wrote of "a vast system of inter-connected highways criss-crossing the Country and joining at our national borders with friendly neighbors to the north and south." Fifty years after he signed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, the Interstate Highway System is a vital part of America's transportation infrastructure.

My Administration remains committed to providing the American people with the best possible transportation system. In August 2005, I signed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, to upgrade our Nation's network of roads, bridges, and mass transit systems, introduce new safety standards, and fund needed road improvements that will ease traffic congestion in communities across our country. My Administration is also increasing research in advanced transportation technologies that will improve our environment, help us end our reliance on foreign sources of energy, and strengthen our economic and national security.

Modern transportation also enables our Armed Forces to quickly deploy troops, move crucial supplies and equipment, and assist

with emergency situations. Whether on land, over water, or in the air, our citizens rely on the safety and efficiency of our transportation systems to arrive at work, deliver goods and services, and travel with family and friends. America is grateful to the dedicated transportation professionals and military service members for their tireless efforts to make America's transportation network the best in the world.

To recognize the men and women who work in the transportation industry and who contribute to our Nation's well being and defense, the Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 19, 2006, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 14 through May 20, 2006, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to learn how our modern transportation system contributes to the security of our citizens and the prosperity of our country and to celebrate these observances with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8017—National Safe Boating Week, 2006

May 12, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

By providing an opportunity to experience our Nation's scenic waterways, recreational boating is one of our country's most popular activities. During National Safe Boating Week, we underscore the importance of taking safety precautions before going out on the water and encourage all Americans to make responsible decisions while boating.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the enactment of the Federal Boat Safety Act, which has helped reduce the number of recreational boating deaths in our country. Yet despite significant progress, recreational boating accidents still occur and, tragically, the majority of them are preventable. Operator inattention and inexperience, careless and reckless navigation, and excessive speed are the leading contributing factors of all reported accidents. An estimated 70 percent of reported boating fatalities in 2004 occurred on boats where the operator had not received safety instruction, and of those victims who drowned, nearly 90 percent were not wearing life jackets.

America's boat owners and operators play a large role in helping ensure passenger safety. The United States Coast Guard initiative "You're in Command" serves to educate boaters about how to enjoy our Nation's waters safely and responsibly. For more information about being safe while on the water, boaters can visit uscgboating.org and safeboatingcampaign.com. By taking simple precautions such as wearing a life jacket, taking a boating safety course, getting a Vessel Safety Check, and never boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, we can continue to save lives and reduce the number of accidents and injuries that occur each year.

In recognition of the importance of safe boating practices, the Congress, by joint resolution approved June 4, 1958 (36 U.S.C. 131), as amended, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim annually

the 7-day period prior to Memorial Day weekend as "National Safe Boating Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 20 through May 26, 2006, as National Safe Boating Week. I encourage the Governors of the 50 States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to join in observing this week. I also urge all Americans to learn more about safe boating practices and always engage in proper and responsible conduct while on the water.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 8018—Death of G. V. Sonny Montgomery

May 12, 2006

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

As a mark of respect for the memory of G. V. Sonny Montgomery, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, that on the day of his interment, the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff at the White House and upon all public buildings and grounds, at all military posts and naval stations, and on all naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions until sunset on such day. I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for

the same period at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 16, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 17. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Executive Order 13403—
Amendments to Executive Orders
11030, 13279, 13339, 13381, and
13389, and Revocation of Executive
Order 13011**

May 12, 2006

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Executive Order 11030 of June 19, 1962, as amended, is further amended;

(a) in subsection 1(f):

(i) by striking “typewritten” and inserting “prepared”;

(ii) by striking “8 x 13” and inserting “8.5 x 14”; and

(iii) by striking “1 1/2” and inserting “1”;

(b) in subsection 2(a), by striking “, with seven copies thereof,”;

(c) by striking subsections 2(c) and 2(d) and relettering subsection “2(e)” as “2(c)”;

(d) in section 5, by striking “Section 12 of the Federal Register Act” and inserting in lieu thereof “section 1511 of title 44, United States Code”; and

(e) in section 6, by striking “Section 5(a) of the Federal Register Act” and inserting in lieu thereof “subsection 1505(a) of title 44, United States Code”.

Sec. 2. Section 1(e) of Executive Order 13279 of December 12, 2002, is amended to read as follows: “(e) ‘Specified agency

heads’ mean the Attorney General, the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Veterans Affairs, the Administrators of the Agency for International Development and the Small Business Administration, and the head of any other department or agency in the executive branch in which the President creates a Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.”

Sec. 3. Section 9 of Executive Order 13339 of May 13, 2004, is amended by deleting “2 years from the date of this order, unless renewed by the President” and inserting in lieu thereof “May 13, 2007, unless extended beyond that date by the President”.

Sec. 4. Section 6(b) of Executive Order 13381 of June 27, 2005, is amended by striking “Unless extended by the President, this order shall expire” and inserting in lieu thereof “The provisions of this order (other than subsection 5(b) and the amendment made thereby) shall, unless extended by the President, expire”.

Sec. 5. Section 3 of Executive Order 13389 of November 1, 2005, is amended:

(a) by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end of subsection (a);

(b) by striking “; and” at the end of subsection 3(b) and inserting a period in lieu thereof; and

(c) by striking subsection (c).

Sec. 6. Executive Order 13011 of July 16, 1996 (Federal Information Technology), is revoked.

Sec. 7. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 12, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:10 p.m., May 15, 2006]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on May 16. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address*May 13, 2006*

Good morning. This week I nominated General Mike Hayden to be the next Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The work of the CIA is essential to the security of the American people. The enemies who struck our Nation on September the 11th, 2001, intend to attack us again. And to defeat them, we must have the best possible intelligence. In Mike Hayden, the men and women of the CIA will have a strong leader who will support them as they work to disrupt terrorist attacks, penetrate closed societies, and gain information that is vital to protecting our Nation.

General Hayden is supremely qualified to lead the CIA. For the last year, he's been our Nation's first Deputy Director of National Intelligence and has played a critical role in our efforts to reform America's intelligence capabilities to meet the threats of a new century. He has more than 20 years of experience in the intelligence field. He served for 6 years as Director of the National Security Agency and has a track record of success in leading and transforming that large intelligence agency. He also has held senior positions at the Pentagon and the National Security Council, and he served behind the Iron Curtain in our Embassy in Bulgaria during the cold war.

Mike knows our intelligence community from the ground up. He's been both a producer and a consumer of intelligence and has overseen both human and technical intelligence activities, as well as the all-source analysis derived from those activities. Mike was unanimously confirmed by the Senate last year for his current post, and this week, members of both parties have praised his nomination. I urge the Senate to confirm him promptly as the next Director of the CIA.

During General Hayden's tenure at the NSA, he helped establish and run one of our most vital intelligence efforts in the war on terror—the terrorist surveillance program. As the 9/11 Commission and others have noted, our Government failed to connect the dots in the years before the attacks of September the 11th. We now know that two of the hijackers in the United States made

phone calls to Al Qaida operatives overseas, but we did not know about their plans until it was too late.

So to prevent another attack, I authorized the National Security Agency—consistent with the Constitution and laws—to intercept international communications in which one party has known links to Al Qaida and related terrorist groups. This terrorist surveillance program makes it more likely that killers like the 9/11 hijackers will be identified and located in time. It has helped prevent possible terrorist attacks in the United States and abroad, and it remains essential to the security of America. If there are people inside our country who are talking with Al Qaida, we want to know about it. We will not sit back and wait to be attacked again.

This week, new claims have been made about other ways we are tracking down Al Qaida—prevent attacks on America. It is important for Americans to understand that our activities strictly target Al Qaida and its known affiliates. Al Qaida is our enemy, and we want to know their plans. The intelligence activities I have authorized are lawful and have been briefed to appropriate Members of Congress, both Republican and Democrat. The privacy of all Americans is fiercely protected in all our activities. The Government does not listen to domestic phone calls without court approval. We are not trolling through the personal lives of millions of innocent Americans. Our efforts are focused on links to Al Qaida terrorists and its affiliates who want to harm the American people.

Americans expect their Government to do everything in its power under our laws and Constitution to protect them and their civil liberties. That is exactly what we are doing. And so far, we have been successful in preventing another attack on our soil. The men and women of the CIA are working around the clock to make our Nation more secure. I am confident that General Hayden will strengthen the CIA and integrate its vital work with our other intelligence agencies, so we can defeat the terrorists of the 21st century.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on May 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House

for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 13. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 12 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Death of Eusebio Penalver Mazorra

May 13, 2006

Eusebio Penalver Mazorra was a Cuban patriot who spent 28 years in Castro's prisons. His resistance to tyranny is a testament to the moral courage of all Cubans who desire to see freedom return to their beautiful island nation. Laura joins me in sending our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Remarks During a Presentation of White House Trees With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

May 14, 2006

President Bush. Well, first of all, Ambassador, thanks for having us, and happy birthday.

Ambassador Dennis Richardson. Thank you very much.

President Bush. How old are you?

Ambassador Richardson. Well—

President Bush. Don't say, then. [*Laughter*] It's wonderful to be here with our dear friends, the Howards. I think it is interesting that we're planting two trees, and this is a symbol of our enduring friendship. And I can't thank you enough, John, for your strong support for the liberty agenda, deep desire for the world to be a peaceful place. I really enjoy working with you for the common good. Thanks for having us.

Prime Minister Howard. Thank you. Well, George, you and Laura, not only for the offices that you hold but also for the people you are, are very welcome on this piece of Australian soil in Washington. I indicated to the President a moment ago that it was here on this lawn that I addressed a news conference on the 12th of September, 2001, when I said that Australia would stand side by side with the United States in responding

to the new threat of terrorism. And that resolve is as strong now as it was on the 12th of September, 2001.

These trees are a wonderful symbol of that friendship. This residence has a lot of history. It was, of course, the very first residence occupied by an Australian envoy to other than a then dominion or Commonwealth country. And when the then Prime Minister R.G. Menzies announced it, he said that having an ambassador—a representative or envoy to America represented the first time we were sending one to what he called a foreign country.

There has certainly been nothing foreign in the relationship between our two countries since then, and it's great to have you and Laura with us, and it's a wonderful symbol. The Ambassador has got to look after the trees—[*laughter*—and to keep his two rottweilers away from them. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:45 p.m. at the Australian Ambassador's Residence. Participating in the event was Australia's Ambassador to the U.S. Dennis Richardson.

Proclamation 8015—Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Responsible for Policies or Actions That Threaten the Transition to Democracy in Belarus

May 12, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

In light of the importance to the United States of fostering democratic institutions in Belarus in order to help the Belarusian people achieve their aspirations for democracy and to help complete the transformation to a Europe whole, free, and at peace and given the suppression of human rights and democracy in Belarus, the fraud perpetrated during the recent Belarusian presidential campaign and election, the detention of peaceful protesters in Belarus, the persistent acts of corruption by Belarusian government officials in the performance of public functions, and the continued failure of Alyaksandr Lukashenka,

Belarusian government officials, and others to support the rule of law, human rights commitments, and other principles of high priority to the United States, I have determined that it is in the interest of the United States to take all available measures to restrict the international travel and to suspend the entry into the United States, as immigrants or non-immigrants, of members of the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and others detailed below who formulate, implement, participate in, or benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, and corruption, that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Belarus.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided for in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of the following persons is hereby suspended:

(a) Members of the government of Alyaksandr Lukashenka and other persons who formulate, implement, participate in, or benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, or corruption, that undermine or injure democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Belarus;

(b) Persons who through their business dealings with Belarusian government officials derive significant financial benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, or corruption, that un-

impede the transition to democracy in Belarus; and

(c) The spouses of persons described in paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of such person would not be contrary to the interest of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish under section 5 of this proclamation.

Sec. 4. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility for implementing this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 6. This proclamation is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of State determines that it is no longer necessary and should be terminated, either in whole or in part. Any such termination by the Secretary of State shall be published in the *Federal Register*.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 12:10 p.m., May 15, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on May 16.

**Memorandum on Certification on
Rescission of Libya's Designation as
a State Sponsor of Terrorism**

May 12, 2006

Presidential Determination No. 2006-14

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Certification on Rescission of
Libya's Designation as a State Sponsor of
Terrorism

Pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and consistent with section 6(j)(4)(B) of the Export Administration Act of 1979, Public Law 96-72, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)), and as continued in effect by Executive Order 13222 of August 17, 2001, I hereby certify, with respect to the rescission of the determination of December 29, 1979, regarding Libya, that:

- (i) the Government of Libya has not provided any support for international terrorism during the preceding 6-month period, and
- (ii) the Government of Libya has provided assurances that it will not support acts of international terrorism in the future.

This certification shall also satisfy the provisions of section 620A(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Public Law 87-195, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2371(c)), and section 40(f)(1)(B) of the Arms Export Control Act, Public Law 90-629, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2780(f)).

You are authorized and directed to report this certification and the attached memorandum justifying the rescission to the Congress and to arrange for their publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15. An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Memorandum on Assignment of
Functions Relating to the Report to
the Congress on Implementation of
Humanitarian Assistance Code of
Conduct**

May 12, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Functions Relating to
the Report to the Congress on
Implementation of Humanitarian Assistance
Code of Conduct

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, the functions of the President under section 2110(c) of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005 (title II of Public Law 109-13) (22 U.S.C. 2370b), are assigned to the Secretary of State.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 15.

**Remarks at the Peace Officers'
Memorial Service**

May 15, 2006

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you for the warm welcome, and thank you for the privilege of being able to join you today.

Every year on this day, our Nation flies flags at half-staff in grateful memory of the officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. I emphasize the word "grateful," because we're a grateful nation for those who are willing to serve and to protect us all.

Once again, we added names to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial. And once again, we are here to pay our most sincere respects to those whose names have been added.

I appreciate Chuck Canterbury's offer for me to come and speak—I really do, and I want to thank his service to the country by

serving as president of the National Fraternal Order of the Police. I want to thank the members of my Cabinet who are here. I appreciate very much the Members of the United States Congress who have joined us, particularly Senator Frist and Senator Leahy. I want to thank Aliza Clark for her speech. I want to thank Ken Ford. I appreciate Vince Gill; he gave the best speech of the day. What a fantastic talent, and thank you for coming, Vince, to help heal the grief.

Family members of the fallen officers, you're welcome here to the Nation's Capital. We're really honored you're here. I wish there was some way I could heal the hurt in your heart. I wish there was a way that we could help dry up the tears. I guess the best way I can help is to say, we love you, and we thank you for the sacrifice of your loved ones. And as we thank you for the sacrifice of your loved ones, we've got to thank those law enforcement officers who are trying to help you deal with your grief.

The really interesting thing about the law enforcement community is, there's such a strong bond between those who serve on the frontlines of fighting crime. They sit by your side here in this important event; they hold your hand; they put their arm around you; they're the brothers and sisters who are trying to help you overcome the pain you're going through. I want to thank those who wear the Nation's uniform, who are helping our families who are here deal with the grief, and I thank those who wear the Nation's uniform for working hard to make America a peaceful place for those of us who live here.

I know full well, as do all Americans, that in every community, whether it be a big community or a small community, there's a law enforcement officer on the job watching over the neighborhoods, ready for the next call. Each day in our country, more than 850,000 men and women go to work not knowing what the challenges might bring. Yet each day, they're committed to answering those challenges with courage and decisiveness.

One of those who answered the call was Harvey County, Kansas, Deputy Sheriff Kurt Ford. Though Kurt Ford had left the law enforcement in 2001, his heart really never left it. There's something about the law enforcement officer who is so committed to the job

that his or her heart never leaves the job. He returned to service after the terrorist attacks on September the 11th.

In April, he and a team responded to a domestic violence call early on a Saturday morning. When they arrived at the scene, Officer Ford was shot. It turns out, Officer Ford had run toward danger to protect the vulnerable. And today we honor courage of people like Officer Ford.

The call came during the routine parts of the day, as it did to the Columbia, Missouri, Officer Molly Thomas-Bowden. When she was at a traffic stop, Officer Bowden was shot several times. Molly was married to a fellow police officer. She was known to all for her love of horses and her faithful and gentle spirit. Our Nation honors the service of people like Molly for her willingness to serve in making America a better place.

You know, the call can come when it's least expected, as it did for Officer Larry Cox of Chillicothe, Ohio. A 19-year-old veteran of the police force, Officer Cox was off-duty when he stepped up to help fellow officers in pursuit of a suspect. He wasn't even on duty, and yet he knew deep in his soul he needed to help fellow officers in need. And he was shot and killed.

Like many here who wear the uniform, Officer Cox worked with youngsters in the community in which they live. He was a DARE officer. One of the fifth graders he worked with said, "We feel like you're our best friend; we'll always remember you." "You're with God right now," is what the guy went on to say.

These officers are among the names of those we added. Every one represents an extraordinary person. Every one took an oath and carried a badge and committed his or her life to keeping the peace and protecting others. Every one has brought honor to our Nation. And together they live in our national memory as Americans whose courage and commitment has shown the true meaning of heroism.

And so this afternoon, on behalf of all Americans, I offer the respect of a grateful nation and pledge that their courage and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. on the West Grounds at the United States Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Clark, president, National Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; Kenneth W. Ford, national chaplain, National Fraternal Order of Police; and entertainer Vince Gill.

Address to the Nation on Immigration Reform

May 15, 2006

Good evening. I've asked for a few minutes of your time to discuss a matter of national importance, the reform of America's immigration system.

The issue of immigration stirs intense emotions, and in recent weeks, Americans have seen those emotions on display. On the streets of major cities, crowds have rallied in support of those in our country illegally. At our southern border, others have organized to stop illegal immigrants from coming in. Across the country, Americans are trying to reconcile these contrasting images. And in Washington, the debate over immigration reform has reached a time of decision. Tonight I will make it clear where I stand and where I want to lead our country on this vital issue.

We must begin by recognizing the problems with our immigration system. For decades, the United States has not been in complete control of its borders. As a result, many who want to work in our economy have been able to sneak across our border, and millions have stayed.

Once here, illegal immigrants live in the shadows of our society. Many use forged documents to get jobs, and that makes it difficult for employers to verify that the workers they hire are legal. Illegal immigration puts pressure on public schools and hospitals; it strains State and local budgets and brings crime to our communities. These are real problems. Yet we must remember that the vast majority of illegal immigrants are decent people who work hard, support their families, practice their faith, and lead responsible lives. They are a part of American life, but they are beyond the reach and protection of American law.

We're a nation of laws, and we must enforce our laws. We're also a nation of immi-

grants, and we must uphold that tradition, which has strengthened our country in so many ways. These are not contradictory goals. America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society at the same time. We will fix the problems created by illegal immigration, and we will deliver a system that is secure, orderly, and fair. So I support comprehensive immigration reform that will accomplish five clear objectives.

First, the United States must secure its borders. This is a basic responsibility of a sovereign nation. It is also an urgent requirement of our national security. Our objective is straightforward: The border should be open to trade and lawful immigration, and shut to illegal immigrants as well as criminals, drug dealers, and terrorists.

I was a Governor of a State that has a 1,200-mile border with Mexico. So I know how difficult it is to enforce the border and how important it is. Since I became President, we've increased funding for border security by 66 percent and expanded the Border Patrol from about 9,000 to 12,000 agents. The men and women of our Border Patrol are doing a fine job in difficult circumstances, and over the past 5 years, they have apprehended and sent home about 6 million people entering America illegally.

Despite this progress, we do not yet have full control of the border, and I am determined to change that. Tonight I'm calling on Congress to provide funding for dramatic improvements in manpower and technology at the border. By the end of 2008, we'll increase the number of Border Patrol officers by an additional 6,000. When these new agents are deployed, we'll have more than doubled the size of the Border Patrol during my Presidency.

At the same time, we're launching the most technologically advanced border security initiative in American history. We will construct high-tech fences in urban corridors and build new patrol roads and barriers in rural areas. We'll employ motion sensors, infrared cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles to prevent illegal crossings. America has the best technology in the world, and we will ensure that the Border Patrol has the technology they need to do their job and secure our border.

Training thousands of new Border Patrol agents and bringing the most advanced technology to the border will take time. Yet the need to secure our border is urgent. So I'm announcing several immediate steps to strengthen border enforcement during this period of transition.

One way to help during this transition is to use the National Guard. So in coordination with Governors, up to 6,000 Guard members will be deployed to our southern border. The Border Patrol will remain in the lead. The Guard will assist the Border Patrol by operating surveillance systems, analyzing intelligence, installing fences and vehicle barriers, building patrol roads, and providing training. Guard units will not be involved in direct law enforcement activities; that duty will be done by the Border Patrol. This initial commitment of Guard members would last for a period of one year. After that, the number of Guard forces will be reduced as new Border Patrol agents and new technologies come on line. It is important for Americans to know that we have enough Guard forces to win the war on terror, to respond to natural disasters, and to help secure our border.

The United States is not going to militarize the southern border. Mexico is our neighbor and our friend. We will continue to work cooperatively to improve security on both sides of the border, to confront common problems like drug trafficking and crime, and to reduce illegal immigration.

Another way to help during this period of transition is through State and local law enforcement in our border communities. So we'll increase Federal funding for State and local authorities assisting the Border Patrol on targeted enforcement missions. We will give State and local authorities the specialized training they need to help Federal officers apprehend and detain illegal immigrants. State and local law enforcement officials are an important part of our border security, and they need to be a part of our strategy to secure our borders.

The steps I've outlined will improve our ability to catch people entering our country illegally. At the same time, we must ensure that every illegal immigrant we catch crossing our southern border is returned home. More than 85 percent of the illegal immigrants we

catch crossing the southern border are Mexicans, and most are sent back home within 24 hours. But when we catch illegal immigrants from another country, it is not as easy to send them back home. For many years, the Government did not have enough space in our detention facilities to hold them while the legal process unfolded. So most were released back into our society and asked to return for a court date. When the date arrived, the vast majority did not show up. This practice, called catch-and-release, is unacceptable, and we will end it.

We're taking several important steps to meet this goal. We've expanded the number of beds in our detention facilities, and we will continue to add more. We've expedited the legal process to cut the average deportation time. And we're making it clear to foreign governments that they must accept back their citizens who violate our immigration laws. As a result of these actions, we've ended catch-and-release for illegal immigrants from some countries. And I will ask Congress for additional funding and legal authority so we can end catch-and-release at the southern border once and for all. When people know that they'll be caught and sent home if they enter our country illegally, they will be less likely to try to sneak in.

Second, to secure our border, we must create a temporary-worker program. The reality is that there are many people on the other side of our border who will do anything to come to America to work and build a better life. They walk across miles of desert in the summer heat or hide in the back of 18-wheelers to reach our country. This creates enormous pressure on our border that walls and patrols alone will not stop. To secure the border effectively, we must reduce the numbers of people trying to sneak across.

Therefore, I support a temporary-worker program that would create a legal path for foreign workers to enter our country in an orderly way for a limited period of time. This program would match willing foreign workers with willing American employers for jobs Americans are not doing. Every worker who applies for the program would be required to pass criminal background checks. And temporary workers must return to their home country at the conclusion of their stay.

A temporary-worker program would meet the needs of our economy, and it would give honest immigrants a way to provide for their families while respecting the law. A temporary-worker program would reduce the appeal of human smugglers and make it less likely that people would risk their lives to cross the border. It would ease the financial burden on State and local governments by replacing illegal workers with lawful taxpayers. And above all, a temporary-worker program would add to our security by making certain we know who is in our country and why they are here.

Third, we need to hold employers to account for the workers they hire. It is against the law to hire someone who is in this country illegally. Yet businesses often cannot verify the legal status of their employees because of the widespread problem of document fraud. Therefore, comprehensive immigration reform must include a better system for verifying documents and work eligibility. A key part of that system should be a new identification card for every legal foreign worker. This card should use biometric technology, such as digital fingerprints, to make it tamper-proof. A tamper-proof card would help us enforce the law and leave employers with no excuse for violating it. And by making it harder for illegal immigrants to find work in our country, we would discourage people from crossing the border illegally in the first place.

Fourth, we must face the reality that millions of illegal immigrants are here already. They should not be given an automatic path to citizenship. This is amnesty, and I oppose it. Amnesty would be unfair to those who are here lawfully, and it would invite further waves of illegal immigration.

Some in this country argue that the solution is to deport every illegal immigrant, and that any proposal short of this amounts to amnesty. I disagree. It is neither wise nor realistic to round up millions of people, many with deep roots in the United States, and send them across the border. There is a rational middle ground between granting an automatic path to citizenship for every illegal immigrant and a program of mass deportation. That middle ground recognizes there are differences between an illegal immigrant

who crossed the border recently and someone who has worked here for many years and has a home, a family, and an otherwise clean record.

I believe that illegal immigrants who have roots in our country and want to stay should have to pay a meaningful penalty for breaking the law: to pay their taxes; to learn English; and to work in a job for a number of years. People who meet these conditions should be able to apply for citizenship, but approval would not be automatic, and they will have to wait in line behind those who played by the rules and followed the law. What I've just described is not amnesty; it is a way for those who have broken the law to pay their debt to society and demonstrate the character that makes a good citizen.

Fifth, we must honor the great American tradition of the melting pot, which has made us one Nation out of many peoples. The success of our country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into our society and embrace our common identity as Americans. Americans are bound together by our shared ideals: an appreciation of our history; respect for the flag we fly; and an ability to speak and write the English language. English is also the key to unlocking the opportunity of America. English allows newcomers to go from picking crops to opening a grocery; from cleaning offices to running offices; from a life of low-paying jobs to a diploma, a career, and a home of their own. When immigrants assimilate and advance in our society, they realize their dreams; they renew our spirit; and they add to the unity of America.

Tonight I want to speak directly to Members of the House and the Senate: An immigration reform bill needs to be comprehensive, because all elements of this problem must be addressed together, or none of them will be solved at all. The House has passed an immigration bill. The Senate should act by the end of this month so we can work out the differences between the two bills, and Congress can pass a comprehensive bill for me to sign into law.

America needs to conduct this debate on immigration in a reasoned and respectful tone. Feelings run deep on this issue, and as we work it out, all of us need to keep

some things in mind. We cannot build a unified country by inciting people to anger or playing on anyone's fears or exploiting the issue of immigration for political gain. We must always remember that real lives will be affected by our debates and decisions, and that every human being has dignity and value, no matter what their citizenship papers say.

I know many of you listening tonight have a parent or a grandparent who came here from another country with dreams of a better life. You know what freedom meant to them, and you know that America is a more hopeful country because of their hard work and sacrifice. As President, I've had the opportunity to meet people of many backgrounds and hear what America means to them. On a visit to Bethesda Naval Hospital, Laura and I met a wounded marine named Guadalupe Denogean. Master Gunnery Sergeant Denogean came to the United States from Mexico when he was a boy. He spent his summers picking crops with his family, and then he volunteered for the United States Marine Corps as soon as he was able. During the liberation of Iraq, Master Gunnery Sergeant Denogean was seriously injured. And when asked if he had any requests, he made two: a promotion for the corporal who helped rescue him and the chance to become an American citizen. And when this brave marine raised his right hand and swore an oath to become a citizen of the country he had defended for more than 26 years, I was honored to stand at his side.

We will always be proud to welcome people like Guadalupe Denogean as fellow Americans. Our new immigrants are just what they've always been—people willing to risk everything for the dream of freedom. And America remains what she has always been—the great hope on the horizon, an open door to the future, a blessed and promised land. We honor the heritage of all who come here, no matter where they come from, because we trust in our country's genius for making us all Americans—one Nation under God.

Thank you, and good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:01 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The Office of

the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

May 16, 2006

Good morning. Laura and I are honored to welcome Prime Minister John Howard and his wife, Janette, back to the White House.

Australia and the United States share timeless values. On opposite sides of the Pacific, our peoples created lands of opportunity and offered millions the hope of new beginnings. As frontier peoples, we cherish the spirit of discovery. We believe that men and women who dream big and work hard can create a better world.

Australians and Americans also believe in the power of freedom. Our two nations were once remote outposts of liberty, lands where those escaping tyranny could find a better life. Today, freedom is on the move. Australians and Americans celebrate freedom's advance, because nations that respect the rights and dignity of their own people are the best partners for peace and the strongest anchors of stability in every region of the world.

Freedom has enemies, and for more than 100 years, Australians and Americans have joined together to defend freedom. Together we fought the Battle of Hamel in World War I. Together we fought in World War II from the beaches of Normandy to the waters of the Coral Sea. Together we fought in Korea and Vietnam. And together we're fighting and winning the global war on terror.

Prime Minister Howard, you and I stood together here at the White House the day before September the 11th, 2001. And our nations have stood together on every day afterwards. The American people know that Australia is a strong ally. We admire your courage, and we appreciate your sacrifice.

We share your grief over the loss of your own countrymen who were brutally attacked in Bali. We share your determination to defeat those who murder the innocent to promote their ideology of hatred. To defeat the

terrorists, we must stay on the offensive, and Australia has been on the frontlines of every offensive in the war on terror.

In Afghanistan, the first casualty among American allies was an Australian. In Iraq, Australian Special Operation forces were among the first coalition units on the ground. The bravery and skill of the Australian military have helped the people of these two nations claim their freedom and deny the terrorists safe havens from which to launch further attacks.

War has reaffirmed the strength of our alliance, yet our alliance is only one component of our broad partnership. Australia and the United States signed a free trade agreement in 2004 because we recognize that open markets create greater prosperity for both our peoples. We're cooperating to expand trade worldwide. In the Doha negotiations, Australia and America speak with one voice. We continue to urge all parties to reduce global trade barriers that keep millions in the developing world mired in poverty.

Our two nations accept other global responsibilities as well. We helped to build the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate, so we can make the latest energy technologies available to all to increase efficiency and reduce pollution.

We've pooled our resources to help the victims of natural disasters, and we're working together to meet the threat of pandemic disease. We share a common approach to security issues, including Iran and North Korea. Our two nations are closer than ever, and Americans admire Australia's strong leader. Prime Minister John Howard has affirmed our common values. He's strengthened our alliance. He's built on our long history of partnership. I value his counsel. I admire his courage.

Mr. Prime Minister and Mrs. Howard, thank you for making the long journey. We welcome you with the honor due to a valiant nation and with the warmth of close friends. Welcome to America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:16 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where Prime Minister Howard was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the Prime Minister Howard.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

May 16, 2006

President Bush. Thank you all. It's my honor to welcome the Prime Minister of Australia here to the East Room for a press briefing. I'm going to feed him tonight—before I feed him tonight, I'm going to feed him to you. *[Laughter]*

We just had a really interesting discussion about a lot of issues. First, I admire John Howard's understanding that the war on terror still goes on and that we've got to be steadfast and firm if we intend to succeed in defeating the terrorists.

Secondly, I appreciate very much his understanding and discussions about the way forward in Iraq. We spent quite a bit of time talking about the new Government. I described to him as best as I could my feelings about the Prime Minister-designee, who I believe is a firm and decisive person that is going to make a difference in that country's future.

I thanked him very much for the commitment of Australian troops. We, of course, talked about the Iraqi security forces' capacity to defend themselves. I reported to him that we're pleased with the progress being made but that the United States will make decisions about our troop levels based upon conditions on the ground.

We talked about Afghanistan. Again, I want to thank the Prime Minister for his support there for this fledgling democracy. We talked about North Korea. We talked about Iran. We talked about a lot. And that's what you'd expect when you're talking to an ally and a friend and a good strategic thinker.

The Prime Minister is capable of not only seeing the problems for today; he's capable of looking down the road. And I appreciate his advice and his judgment on national security matters, as well as in talking about issues like energy and trade. We've got a good relationship with Australia, and we intend to keep it that way.

I always remind my friends who talk to me about countries around the world, I say, I can't think of a country more like—a place more like Texas than Australia. And that's a

compliment—[*laughter*—except for some of these people over here. [*Laughter*] The people of Australia are independent-minded; they're smart; they're capable; they're hard-working. And I really enjoy my relationship with the Prime Minister.

So Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. Thanks for coming, and the floor is yours.

Prime Minister Howard. Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. Again, can I thank you very warmly for the great hospitality that you have extended to me. It was a real privilege to sit around the Cabinet table and talk to your Cabinet officers, which followed a very extensive discussion between the two of us about all of those issues of which you spoke.

We remain a steadfast ally of the United States in the war against terror. I've made that clear on every occasion I've spoken here in the United States. The war against terror will go on for a long time; I think we have to accept that. Progress is being made. The challenge remains very, very strong, and there needs to be a continued commitment. And we admire and respect the leadership given by you and by the United States in that war, and it's a war that confronts us all. Those who imagine that somehow or other you can escape it by rolling yourself into a little ball and going over in the corner and hoping that you're not going to be noticed are doomed to be very, very uncomfortably disappointed.

We did have an opportunity to talk extensively about some of the challenges in our immediate region. And I spoke about the situation in East Timor and the Solomon Islands and the importance of the role of Indonesia, the symbolism and also the practical consequence of Indonesia being the largest Islamic country in the world. And therefore, the success and prosperity of moderate Islamic leadership in that country is itself a very important factor in the long-term success of the fight against terrorism, because the fight against terrorism is not only a military and physical one; it is also an intellectual one. And it's a question of providing within the Islamic world a successful democratic model as an alternative to the fanaticism of those who would obscenely invoke the sanction of Islam to justify what they seek to do.

Can I finally say that of the many ties that bind Australia and the United States, as I said on the lawn earlier today, none are more important, of course, than the shared values and the beliefs that both of our countries have—that the spread of democracy around the world is an important goal and an important responsibility. It's been a privilege for our two peoples to enjoy democracy in an uninterrupted fashion for so long that we tend to take it for granted, and we forget its liberating impact on those who taste and experience it for the first time. And both of our societies have a responsibility in expanding the opportunities for democracy, and that, of course, lies very much at the heart of much of what our two societies do.

Mr. President, thank you very, very much for the honor you've done me and the courtesy and friendship that you've extended to me and all of the traveling party. We appreciate it very, very deeply, indeed. Thank you.

President Bush. Two questions a side. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Terrorist Surveillance Program

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, you've said that the Government is not trolling through the lives of innocent Americans, but why shouldn't ordinary people feel that their privacy is invaded by the NSA compiling a list of their telephone calls?

President Bush. What I have told the American people is, we'll protect them against an Al Qaida attack, and we'll do so within the law. I've been very clear about the principles and guidelines of any program that has been designed to protect the American people.

I've also been clear about the fact that we do not listen to domestic phone calls without court approval and that this Government will continue to guard the privacy of the American people. But if Al Qaida is calling into the United States, we want to know, and we want to know why.

For the Australian press friends here, we got accused of not connecting dots prior to September the 11th, and we're going to connect dots to protect the American people, within the law. The program he's asking about is one that has been fully briefed to Members of the United States Congress in

both political parties. They are very aware of what is taking place. The American people expect their Government to protect them, within the laws of this country, and I'm going to continue to do just that.

Prime Minister Howard. Australian press. Mr. Curry.

Australian Prime Minister Howard

Q. Mr. President, your relationship with Mr. Howard is obviously very close, personally. And I was wondering, first, could you just expand a little on that chemistry? And secondly, sir, do you think you would be able to work effectively with a future Australian leader, be it either a successor of Mr. Howard from his own party or from their opposition?

President Bush. Well, I suspect he's going to outlast me, so that is a moot point—[laughter]—probably a question you ought to ask him. Somebody said, "You and John Howard appear to be so close. Don't you have any differences?" And I said, "Yes, he doesn't have any hair." [Laughter]

Look, ours is a world in which sometimes people tell you something and they don't mean it. In order to work together to make difficult decisions—decisions of war and peace, decisions of security, decisions of trade—you've got to have somebody you talk to that tells you straight up what's on their mind. You know, politics sometimes produces people that will tell you one thing and don't mean it. It's really hard to be making rational decisions if somebody you're talking to just doesn't level with you.

And that's what I like about John Howard. He may not be the prettiest person on the block—[laughter]—but when he tells you something, you can take it to the bank. He is a reliable partner. And we don't agree on 100 percent, of course. But the interesting thing, talking to John Howard, is that you can trust the man. And that's what is a necessary ingredient to be working together for the common good.

And I also appreciate a person who is capable of standing by a decision. I remember the campaign—as a matter of fact, your campaign was right before my campaign—and John Howard stood strong. And I remember telling somebody—and the polls didn't look

all that good, I guess, at one point in time—and I remember saying to somebody, "This man is going to be rewarded at the ballot box because the people of Australia want somebody who is consistently strong, not somebody who tries to waffle around trying to figure out where to end up for political expediency."

People may not agree with his position on every issue, but people have got to agree with the fact that he's a man of conviction. And that's the essence of leadership—courage and conviction. And so we've got a relationship that is based upon respect, and I respect him. I've seen him in action. I've seen what it means to have him being pressured—probably by your newspaper. But I've seen him stand strong, and that's what's needed in this world.

Holland [Steve Holland, Reuters], yes.

Immigration Reform

Q. Thank you, sir. On immigration, some worry that the U.S. military is stretched too thin. How effective can these National Guard troops be if they're shuttling in and out of the border area every two or three weeks? And how are you going to turn around these House Members who seem to be unswayed by your argument on the guest-worker program?

President Bush. The program to put Guard on the border is one that will enable the Border Patrol to do its job better. It's very important for the American people to know, it's the Border Patrol that's going to be on the frontline of apprehending people trying to sneak into our country. And the Guard will be doing a variety of functions, which I outlined last night.

Secondly, the Guard is—the up to 6,000 Guard in the first year of operation really is not going to put a strain on our capacity to fight and win the war on terror, as well as deal with natural disasters. And, of course, we'll be working in conjunction with Governors to make sure that that's not the case, that it doesn't put an unnecessary strain on other functions of the Guard.

Thirdly, the Pentagon is briefing today—how the program is going to work. There are Guard troops in Arizona and New Mexico and Texas that can be used by the Governors

down there to work with the Border Patrol, that they'll be reimbursed for. And there's also training missions that can be used to help complement the Border Patrol. We're going to have double the Border Patrol agents since 2001, by 2008. And what the Guard is doing, the Guard is providing an interim service until those Border Patrol agents get stood up.

I made it clear to the country last night that we're not going to militarize our border. Mexico is a friend. But what we are going to do is use assets necessary to make sure that we can assure the American people that the border is secure.

Now in order to secure the border, it's important for people up here in Washington to understand that there's got to be a temporary-worker program. Border security and a temporary-worker program are really important because—let me say, a temporary-worker program is really important to border security, because we don't want people trying to sneak into the country. It seems rational to me, to say, "If you're coming to work, come to work in a legal way, on a temporary basis, so you're not trying to sneak across." So the temporary-worker program goes hand in hand with border security. In order for there to be a—in order for us to solve the problem of an immigration system that's not working, it's really important for Congress to understand that there needs a—that the elements I described all go hand in hand.

And so I'll continue to work with them. Look, this is a hard issue for many people.

Q. Would you go along with border protection only and a guest-worker program—[inaudible].

President Bush. I said I want a comprehensive bill because I understand there needs to be a comprehensive bill in order to make—in order for us to achieve the objective.

And the objective is, on the one hand, protect our borders, and on the other hand, never lose sight of the thing that makes America unique, which is, we're a land of immigrants and that we—we're not going to discriminate against people. Now we don't think there ought to be an automatic path to citizenship; that's called amnesty. Amnesty would be wrong. Amnesty would say that

somebody that stood in line legally is—is mistreated, as far as I'm concerned. Amnesty would mean that more people would try to come and sneak into our country in the hopes that they would be granted automatic citizenship.

But there ought to be a way for somebody to pay a fine or learn English or prove that they've been here for a long time working and be able to get in line—not the head of the line but the back of the line—in order to become a citizen.

You know, there are some in our country who say, "Let's just deport everybody." It's unrealistic. It may sound attractive to some. You can't deport people who have been in this country for a long period of time—millions of people that have been here.

And so we've got to be rational about how we move forward. And part of my appeal last night was to say to people, let's don't get so emotional that we forget who we are. We're a land of immigrants, and when we welcome somebody to our country who is here legally, willing to work and willing to realize a dream, it helps restore our soul.

So this is a difficult debate for Members. I'm going to continue working with them. Part of my job is to lead, and I did last night. I said, here's how we get to where we need to be.

Australia's Wheat Market/Trade

Q. Mr. President, American wheat growers are angry that hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes were paid to Saddam's Iraq to protect Australia's wheat market. Do you share their anger, and do you sympathize with the push on Capitol Hill to investigate this further in America? And Mr. Prime Minister, I'd be interested in your comments on a possible Capitol Hill inquiry into this.

President Bush. My own judgment is, is that the Howard administration is pretty capable of investigating what took place, and I look forward to seeing the results of the investigation.

Prime Minister Howard. For my part, you are aware of what the Australian Government has done. Australia is the only country in the world that has responded to the bulk of findings with a public inquiry with the powers of a royal commission. And you are

aware that the commission has probably completed its public hearings, and we're likely to have a report by the 30th of June.

What the United States Congress does in relation to this is a matter for the United States Congress. And, clearly, if it decides to do something, then we will respond in the appropriate fashion. But for our part, in Australia, we have been open, transparent that we do not approve in any way, shape, or form of the payment of bribes, and if a finding is to that effect, then the full processes of Australian law should be brought to bear. You can't be more transparent than that, and I think that is understood in the United States.

But, obviously, just as we have responsibilities within Australia, the legislators of this country, where I'm a guest, have responsibilities in this country. And if it discharges those in a particular fashion, the way it thinks fit—well, that's its right, and we will respond in what is also the appropriate fashion. I don't think I can add anything more to that, and we have been patently transparent and open. And let me just repeat again, Australia is the only country in the world that has established a public inquiry with the powers of the royal commission.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:43 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister-designate Jawad al-Maliki of Iraq.

Remarks Honoring the 2005 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Sacramento Monarchs

May 16, 2006

Thank you. Please be seated. It is a beautiful day to welcome the Monarchs to the White House. I want to first congratulate the 2005 WNBA champs, the Sacramento Monarchs. We're glad you're here. Thanks for coming, and congratulations to you.

I was thinking about a little one-on-one here on the South Lawn. *[Laughter]* Then I reconsidered. Laura said, "You might as well stick to your mountain bike; don't try

to take on these athletes." But we're really glad you're here.

I want to congratulate Coach John Whisenant on being such a fine coach. Congratulations, sir. Glad you're here. Thanks for coming. Glad you brought Joyce. Welcome.

I want to thank my Cabinet Secretary, Alphonso Jackson. Welcome, A.J.—thanks for coming. I knew you were a sports fan, and I knew you appreciated excellence on the court, so I'm not surprised you're here.

I want to thank Doris Matsui, Congresswoman Matsui—thanks for coming—from the Sacramento area, as well as John Doolittle. I really appreciate you all being here. Thanks for taking time to honor these champs.

I appreciate Donna Orender, the president of the WNBA. Thanks for coming. Proud you're here. I want to thank John Thomas of Maloof Sports & Entertainment for coming. John, congratulations for putting together a good franchise. Good job. It's not easy to field a championship team, but you've done so.

I'm also proud to be up here with Yolanda Griffith, the WNBA Finals MVP. Congratulations, Yolanda—*[applause]*—popular member of the team, as you can tell. I want to welcome all the other Monarch players who are here. I'm honored to be up here with you. I can't thank you enough for coming by to give us a chance to pay a proper tribute to your championship run.

I also want to welcome members of the local Junior WNBA program; glad you all are here. Welcome to the White House. This is the—interestingly enough, the 10th year of the WNBA, and I don't know if you can remember, but I certainly do, when a lot of people were speculating that the WNBA wouldn't last. "They couldn't possibly make it," they were saying. Well the truth of the matter is, the WNBA has not only lasted; it's thrived. And American sports are better for it.

A lot of fans are coming to see the games, which is a good indication. The WNBA broadcasts are seen now in 193 countries in 31 different languages. That means a lot of people are paying attention to what you're doing on the courts. And we appreciate it.

And I appreciate the team. I appreciate a team that's figured out how to, kind of, meld stars together for the common good. You know, there are a lot of teams with stars on them. I'm sure you've run into a few of them with some pretty good stars. But a lot of times, teams aren't able to work together, and this team was able to do so. They were tough on defense. They had an attitude—a positive attitude all the way throughout the season. In other words, they didn't think they could get beat. As a matter of fact, they only lost two games on their home court. It's a pretty good—it's called the home court advantage—[*laughter*]¹⁵ and 2 in Arco Arena.

I know the city of Sacramento is really proud of you, and I know that if the mayor were here and the citizens that are, kind of, serving the folks of Sacramento were here, they'd be saying, "We really like the Monarchs; we're really proud that you brought a championship team to our city."

So one of the things I'd like to say to you is, thanks for being team players; thanks for setting high goals; and thanks for working together to achieve those goals.

I also appreciate the fact that you've got players from China and Portugal and Mali, as well as a lot of different States here in the United States. I think it's pretty neat, isn't it, for people who—from different backgrounds, different cultures are able to figure out a way to win. I think it's a great example for the world; I really do. I think it's important for people to come together for a common cause. I know you view yourself only as athletes, but I view you as diplomats as well.

I also want to thank you for the example you've set. It's one thing to be called champs on the court; it's another thing to be called champs in life. One of the things you've done is, you've set a great example for young women athletes. As the father of twin daughters who had trouble finding the backboard, I might add—[*laughter*]¹⁶—sorry, girls—I love the fact that there are role models, though, for young women, that somebody can look up to and say, "Gosh, I want to be like her; I want to realize my dreams by being like Yolanda."

So it's great to be able to play basketball as well as you play, but it's also really important to know that you're setting a good example for people watching your every move.

I was impressed by the fact that you're working on Read to Achieve. You know, I oftentimes call on fellow citizens to serve our country by helping somebody else. One way you can really help somebody is to teach somebody to read. What a wonderful gift. And the fact that pro athletes were willing to take time out of your busy schedule to help inspire a young reader means a lot to the country.

I appreciate very much your honoring breast cancer survivors, helping to lift somebody's spirits. Thanks for entering the annual Race for the Cure. I used to be able to run. [*Laughter*] But thanks for running while you're young. I know you didn't have to do it, but you set a good sign for people. All in all, I'm honored to be up here with some champs. It's a delight to welcome you here to the White House.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless our country. Welcome.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:27 p.m. in the East Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John Whisenant, head coach, Sacramento Monarchs, and his wife, Joyce; John Thomas, president, Sacramento Monarchs; and Mayor Heather Frago of Sacramento, CA.

Proclamation 8019—Prayer for Peace, Memorial Day, 2006

May 16, 2006

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Throughout our history, the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States have placed the security of our Nation before their own safety. America will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifice. On Memorial Day, we honor those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Defending the ideals of our Nation has required the service and sacrifice of those from

every generation. From Valley Forge, across Europe and Asia, and in Afghanistan and Iraq, courageous Americans have given their lives so that others could live in freedom. These Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen took an oath to defend America, and they upheld that oath with bravery and decency. They have liberated the oppressed, spread freedom and peace, and set a standard of courage and compassion for our Nation. All who enjoy the blessings of liberty live in their debt.

This debt of gratitude extends also to the families who stood by our servicemen and women in times of war and times of peace. Each of the fallen has left behind loved ones who carry a burden of grief, and all Americans are inspired by the strength of these families.

At this important time in the history of freedom, a new generation of Americans is defending our flag and our liberty. These men and women carry on the legacy of our Nation's fallen heroes and demonstrate that the United States Armed Forces remain the greatest force for freedom in human history.

Those who lost their lives in the defense of freedom helped protect our citizens and lay the foundation of peace for people everywhere. On Memorial Day, a grateful Nation pays tribute to their personal courage, love of country, and dedication to duty.

In respect for their devotion to America, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved on May 11, 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 158), has requested the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe each Memorial Day as a day of prayer for permanent peace and designating a period on that day when the people of the United States might unite in prayer. The Congress, by Public Law 106-579, has also designated the minute beginning at 3:00 p.m. local time on that day as a time for all Americans to observe the National Moment of Remembrance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Memorial Day, May 29, 2006, as a day of prayer for permanent peace, and I designate the hour beginning in each locality at 11 a.m. of that day as a time to unite in prayer. I also ask all Americans to

observe the National Moment of Remembrance beginning at 3 p.m., local time, on Memorial Day. I encourage the media to participate in these observances. I also request the Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the appropriate officials of all units of government, to direct that the flag be flown at half-staff until noon on this Memorial Day on all buildings, grounds, and naval vessels throughout the United States, and in all areas under its jurisdiction and control. I also request the people of the United States to display the flag at half-staff from their homes for the customary forenoon period.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirtieth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:52 a.m., May 17, 2006]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 18.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring Prime Minister John Howard of Australia

May 16, 2006

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Howard, distinguished guests: Welcome to the White House. This is going to be a joyous occasion because we're honoring two really good friends. We wish you a warm welcome. We thank the Howards for making a long journey, and thanks for spending so much time with us here in the States.

Our partnership is broad, and it's deep. Australia and America are working together to expand trade and to counter threats of nuclear proliferation, to make the latest energy technologies available to all nations. In the global war on terror, we have no better ally than Australia and John Howard. And in the spread of freedom to create lasting peace, we have no better friend than Australia and John Howard.

Mr. Prime Minister, we value your courage and your faithfulness and your strength, and

I value your friendship. Laura and I have cherished every visit with you and Janette. We really appreciated the chance to plant those trees yesterday at the Australian Embassy. *[Laughter]* We wanted to bring a Texas tree up, but they don't grow too well here in Washington. *[Laughter]* But I know those trees are going to grow strong and sturdy, just like our friendship has grown strong and sturdy.

I was thinking about how to really describe John Howard and his leadership in Australia, and I thought I would remind everybody what Ronald Reagan used to say: it was "morning in America." And Mr. Prime Minister, that's still true for our country. We're really an optimistic people, and we firmly believe the best days are ahead for our country. I know you feel the same way about Australia. It's also comforting to know that on the other side of the world, it's already morning in Australia. *[Laughter]*

Mr. Prime Minister, Laura and I offer a toast to you and Janette, to our allies, and to the great people of Australia.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:07 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Janette Howard, wife of Prime Minister Howard. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Prime Minister Howard.

Remarks Honoring the United States Winter Olympic and Paralympic Teams

May 17, 2006

Thank you all very much. Please be seated. Laura and I are so honored to welcome the 2006 Winter Olympic and Paralympic teams to the White House. It is such a joy to have you all here, and congratulations for being champs.

I appreciate the Members of the Congress who are here: Senator Thomas and Congressmen Shays, Buyer, Hastings, and Ryun. Thank you all for coming. Thanks for honoring these great Olympians—Congressman Ted Poe from Texas as well.

I want to thank all the athletes who've taken time to come. We really appreciate your giving us a chance to pay respects to

your athleticism and your character. I want to thank the coaches and the team leaders and the U.S. Olympic staff. I particularly want to thank the members of the Texas A&M Singing Cadets for joining us today; thanks for coming to provide the—*[applause]*.

I wish I could have been at the games there in Turin, but fortunately we do have TVs here in the White House. *[Laughter]* It was such a thrill to watch you all compete. Laura represented our country and really enjoyed getting to know you all. She came back and talked about the kindness and the integrity of our athletes. I appreciate the fact that you treated her with such respect. More importantly, I appreciate the fact that you represented our country with such nobility and dignity.

I thank you for the example you set. I don't know if you know this or not, but there's all kinds of people watching our Olympic and Paralympic athletes, wondering whether or not it's possible for them to be able to achieve the same level of accomplishments that you all achieved. The fact that you compete hard and train hard and set high goals and succeed is a really important part of encouraging others to follow in your footsteps. Being a champ means that you've got enormous responsibilities, and I thank you for upholding those responsibilities with the class that you've showed as athletes in Turin.

Thanks for creating so many lasting memories for the American people. We love our athletes. We follow your successes. We love it when the "Star Spangled Banner" is played. We also understand that not everybody is going to win the gold, but we appreciate so much the fact that you competed so hard and in such a way that brought honor to our country.

The memories are such that we remember the—America's first medal in ice dancing in 30 years with Tanith and Ben. Congratulations to you both. We appreciate the courage of Lindsey Kildow, who overcame a terrible crash in the training run and then decided to continue to compete. That kind of courage stirs our hearts. It's such a great example for people.

We appreciate Joey Cheek, who won the gold and then turned around and donated

\$40,000 to help the refugee children of Sudan. What a wonderful example for all of us here in America to know that with our personal victories comes the responsibility of helping those who suffer and those who need help.

We're honored that the "Flying Tomato" represented our country, and we want to thank all the dudes and dudesses of the snowboarders who are here. *[Laughter]*

America's Paralympians overcame incredible odds to earn 12 medals for our Nation. Laurie Stephens was born with spina bifida; she won two golds and the silver medal in Alpine skiing. What a strong example for people to look at Laurie and realize that "I can achieve dreams too."

Steve Cook, he lost part of his right leg in a tractor accident, but that didn't stop him. He's gone on to earn seven medals in cross-country skiing, including two golds and a bronze in this year's Paralympics. Steve, I appreciate your courage, and I appreciate the example you have shown for others.

Lonnie Hannah is with us; she had breast [he had skin]* cancer last year and came back to help the U.S. sled hockey team win the bronze in a really thrilling game against Germany.

All of our successes in the Olympics and Paralympics required unbelievable skill and determination, and they also required the support of a lot of people in your lives. The honors you've won are a tribute to, of course, your coaches and trainers but also to your parents and to your brothers and sisters and your friends and supporters who continue to cheer you. I know all of you join me in thanking those who supported you.

At the games you showed the best values of our country. You were humble in victory and gracious in defeat. You made us proud. And so here on the White House South Lawn, I want to thank you for being such great ambassadors to our country. Welcome, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:16 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto, ice dancers, Lindsey Kildow, Alpine skier, Joey

Cheek, speed skater, and Shaun "The Flying Tomato" White, snowboarder, U.S. Olympic Team.

Remarks on Signing the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005

May 17, 2006

Thank you all. Please be seated. Good afternoon, and welcome to the White House. It's nice to see so many Members of Congress at this end of Pennsylvania Avenue. *[Laughter]* And you've come for a really good reason. This is a good day for American workers and families and businesses. You have passed a bill that will keep our taxes low and keep our economy growing. And I'm really pleased to be able to sign this vital piece of legislation. Thank you for your leadership.

I'm glad you're here, and so is the Vice President. I'm proud to be up here with Vice President Cheney. I couldn't have picked a better person to be the Vice President of the United States. I appreciate Secretary John Snow for his leadership on this issue. Mr. Secretary, you have made a difference. I'm proud of your leadership. Thank you.

I want to thank the Speaker of the House, Denny Hastert. Mr. Speaker, welcome back to the White House. Thank you for your leadership. And I want to thank Senator Bill Frist, the Senate Majority Leader. Both these men have shown fine leadership capabilities on an important issue for the American people.

I want to thank Mitch McConnell, Jon Kyl, Kay Bailey Hutchison from the United States Senate. I want to thank John Boehner, Deborah Pryce, Eric Cantor. I particularly want to pay my respects to the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee; Chuck Grassley and Bill Thomas are incredibly able legislators. They've done a fantastic job on behalf of the American people, and our Nation owes them a debt of gratitude. I appreciate all the Members being here today.

This economy of ours is hitting full stride. In the first quarter of this year, our economy grew at an annual rate of 4.8 percent. This follows a vigorous 2005, when the American

* White House correction.

economy grew at 3.5 percent. The past 2½ years, we've added more than 5.2 million new jobs. Productivity over the last 5 years has grown at the fastest rate in decades. Higher productivity leads to higher wages for the American workers. Hourly compensation grew at an annual rate of 5.7 percent in the first quarter of this year. American workers are taking home bigger paychecks, and their standard of living is on the rise. The American economy is powerful, productive, and prosperous, and we're going to keep it that way.

Economic growth begins with the hard work of the American people and good policies in Washington, DC. Over the past few years, our economy has faced a lot of challenges. We've been through a recession, a stock market decline, corporate scandals, an attack on our country, high energy prices, and major natural disasters. But we acted. We believe that our economy prospers when the American people make their own decisions about how to save and spend and invest their own money. And starting in 2001, we delivered the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was in the White House.

We reduced taxes for every American who pays income taxes. We doubled the child tax credit, reduced the marriage penalty, created new incentives for small businesses to invest. We put the death tax on the road to extinction. The American people have used their money better than the Government ever could have. They've used the tax relief to provide for their families and create jobs and help the American economy become the envy of the industrialized world.

Our progrowth policies stand in stark contrast to those in Washington who believe you grow your economy by raising taxes and centralizing power. They are wrong. Our progrowth economic policies are working for all Americans.

One of the most important decisions we made was to cut the taxes on dividends and capital gains. These cuts were designed to lower the cost of capital and to encourage businesses to expand and hire new workers. And these tax cuts are doing exactly what we expected. When these cuts were passed in 2003, business investment had been dropping for several years. Since then, business

investment has been growing at more than 9 percent a year. Spending on equipment and software has hit record levels. And businesses have hired millions of new workers to fill the jobs that this investment creates.

The cuts on dividends and capital gains are reaching families and businesses alike. About half the households in America, 57 million in all, have some investment in the stock market. They either own shares in individual companies or through mutual funds. Sometimes they own these shares through their retirement plans. By cutting the taxes on dividends and capital gains, we helped add about \$4 trillion in new wealth to the stock market.

If you have a mutual fund for your family, these tax cuts made you better off. If you have an IRA or a 401(k), these tax cuts will help provide a better retirement. If you're a senior who depends on dividend income to make ends meet, these tax cuts have led to a better check each month. At all levels of income, the tax cuts on dividends and capital gains are letting Americans keep more of their own money and live a better life.

The danger was that the tax cuts on the dividends and capital gains were set to expire in 2008. That's created great uncertainty, because businesses and investors couldn't plan for the future without worrying about a big tax increase around the corner. That uncertainty discourages investment and expansion. It reduces opportunities for workers and families. The bill you passed helps to address this problem by extending the tax cuts on dividends and capital gains. By reassuring businesses that their taxes will not be going up any time soon, the bill increases confidence for our job creators. It will help millions of American families who are saving for the future.

Part of our strategy to cut our deficit in half is to continue to grow this economy. Tax relief has helped a growing economy, which means more tax revenue for the Federal treasury—2005 tax revenues grew by \$274 billion, an increase of nearly 15 percent over the previous year. This year the economy is still growing, and tax revenues are growing with it. So far, tax revenues are 11 percent higher than they were at the same point last year, which is better than projected. More than a quarter of these tax revenues come

from corporations who pay more because they're growing with the economy.

By growing this economy, we're staying on track to meet our goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009. But to meet that goal, we must be strong on controlling the Federal appetite for spending. Every year since I took office, we've slowed the growth of discretionary spending that's not related to the military or homeland security. My last two budgets have actually cut this kind of spending.

Congress is now considering an emergency supplemental bill that can show the American people we're determined to be fiscally sound with their money. I've set a clear limit on spending that I'll accept for this legislation, and if this bill goes over the limit or includes nonemergency or wasteful spending, I'll veto it.

For the past 50 years, Republicans and Democrats have had many differences, but they've often been able to agree that the American people should keep more of their own money. Presidents like John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan proposed and cut taxes with strong bipartisan support, and in each case, the economy prospered and grew.

The tax cuts we passed in 2001 and 2003 have also helped the economy grow and prosper. Opponents of these tax cuts were wrong when they voted against them the first time. They've been wrong to oppose extension of tax relief in the face of overwhelming evidence that the tax cuts have helped grow the economy and create millions of new jobs.

With this bill, we're sending the American people a clear message about our policy. We're going to continue to trust the American people with their own money. We'll continue to be wise with the people's money in Washington. We'll continue to work and to make sure the tax cuts are permanent. And the bill I sign today is a victory for the American taxpayers, and it's a strong lift for our economy. Congratulations on a job well done.

It's now my honor to sign the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:58 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. H.R. 4297, approved May 17, was assigned Public Law No. 109-222.

Remarks at a Republican National Committee Gala

May 17, 2006

The President. Thank you all. Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks for being here at the RNC Gala. I can't thank you enough for helping our party succeed. It's such an honor to be here. I am, first, really proud of the Republican Party. We're a party, over the past 5 years, that has made a significant difference for the American people. We have defended freedom at home and abroad, and by doing so, we've done our duty to make this Nation safer. And we've trusted the people, and as a result, America is a stronger and more prosperous nation.

I want to thank my friend Ken Mehlman for leading our party. When I talked to him about leading the Republican Party, I said, "I want to be a party that welcomes everybody, from all walks of life, a party based upon principles, a party that trusts the people, a party that stands strong in a time of historic challenge." And Ken is doing a fine job of reaching out. Our party is strong, and it's getting stronger.

Laura sends her love. She's a fabulous First Lady. She's got to be the most patient woman in America. [Laughter]

Audience member. She's hot!

The President. Yes—well, wait a minute. [Laughter] *Muy caliente.* [Laughter] I hope she's not watching, you know? [Laughter]

I appreciate the members of my Cabinet who are here. I thank you all for coming. Thanks for serving. I also want to thank my friend Bill Frist, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, who is here with us. The Speaker is rounding up votes right now, but like Senator Frist, the Speaker is doing a fabulous job for the American people. And we intend to keep Denny Hastert Speaker of the House and Bill Frist Majority Leader of the Senate. I want to thank all the other Members of the House and the Senate who are here. Thank you all for coming.

I appreciate Jo Ann Davidson, who is the cochairman of the RNC. I appreciate her leadership and her friendship. I want to thank Dwight and Martha Schar; he's the finance chairman for the RNC. You've done a great job tonight. Appreciate you making

Schar look good. I want to thank the Gala chairs—Sam Fox, Jack Oliver, Bob and Suzy Pence, and Bill Paxon. I want to thank all the people who have worked to make this such a successful event. I particularly want to thank Diamond Rio for their fantastic singing.

We're just kind of warming up for these off-year elections. *[Laughter]* Tonight is part of the process to make sure that when our candidates take it to the voters, they're able to do so in a way where people can hear them loud and clear. You know, elections are all about choices. And our party is a party that has built a vision based upon solid principle, a vision which is inclusive, a vision which does not shy away from certain truths and values. We're the party of the future, and our candidates will be running against the party of the past, a party that offers no new ideas like the Republican Party, a party that can only offer opposition. The Republican Party is the party of the future because we believe it is our job to take on the challenges of our time and not to pass them on to future Congresses or future generations.

Ours is an optimistic party. We know we don't need to fear the future, because we intend to shape the future for the American people. We believe in the power of freedom, and we trust in the American people. We're going to make our choice—make these choices very clear to the voters come November. And I'm confident the American people will realize the difference between positive and negative, optimistic versus pessimistic, and re-elect Republican majorities to the United States Congress.

And I'm just getting warmed up. *[Laughter]* These are historic times in which we live, and we're in a war. We're in a war against an enemy that is ruthless, an enemy which adheres to an ideology of hatred, a backward ideology, an ideology that can't stand freedom. Ours is a nation that loves freedom and will never back down.

People have a choice to make, between folks who want to stay on the offense and protect the American people and people who lose their nerve.

We learned some lessons from September the 11th, lessons that I'll never forget. First lesson is, is that in order to protect the Amer-

ican people, which is our most important job, the United States of America must stay on the offense. And that's exactly what your Nation is doing. We will find the terrorists and bring them to justice before they can hurt the American people again.

We had a second lesson learned on September the 11th, and that is, if we find somebody harboring a terrorist, they're just as guilty as the terrorists. And when I said that, I meant what I said. When your President speaks, he must speak clearly and mean what he says. And when I said, "If you harbor a terrorist, you're as guilty as the terrorists," the Taliban didn't take me seriously. But we acted. We upheld doctrine to protect the American people, and because of our actions, 25 million people are no longer in the clutches of one of the most barbaric regimes in the history of mankind.

A serious lesson of September the 11th is that we must take threats seriously before they come to hurt us. And I saw a threat, and members of both political parties saw a threat, in Iraq. Iraq was run by a dictator who was killing his own people, who had used weapons of mass destruction, invaded his neighbors, was shooting at our aircraft, harbored terrorists. The world is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

We have a plan for victory in Iraq. There's a political track taking place. I know it seems like a decade ago, but it wasn't all that long ago that 12 million people defied car bombers and assassins and terrorists and said loud and clear, "We want to be free." Democracy is on the march in Iraq, and the United States of America will help these brave people achieve their objective.

A new government is being formed in that country, made up of a Kurd and a Shi'a and a Sunni, people who are brave and dedicated, people who understand that the people of their country desires to be free. It shouldn't surprise us that they want to be free, because we firmly understand that the desire to be free is in every human heart. There is an Almighty, and one of the greatest gifts of the Almighty is freedom, and the United States of America will never forget that lesson.

It's tough work. It's tough work to help a young country go from tyranny to democracy. But it's worth it. Free countries are

peaceful countries. Free countries will lay the foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren.

The enemy cannot defeat us in Iraq, and they can't defeat us anywhere else in the world. The only way we can be defeated is if we lose our nerve, and the Republican Party will not lose its nerve.

We understand the power of freedom to transform our world. I want to remind you that this Nation lost thousands and thousands of young men and women during World War II and World War I, and yet today, the continent of Europe is whole, free, and at peace. Why? Because democracies do not war.

One of the interesting lessons of history comes home to me every time I meet with my friend the Prime Minister of Japan. Prime Minister Koizumi is a good friend. Sixty years ago, the United States was embroiled in a terrible war with Japan. My predecessor Harry Truman had the wisdom, however, to recognize the power of freedom to transform societies. Today, I sit down at the table with the Prime Minister of a former enemy and talk about how to keep the peace in North Korea. They've committed troops in Iraq because he understands democracy can make the world a better place.

Something happened between the time World War II ended and George W. was able to sit down with Prime Minister Koizumi, and what happened was, Japan assumed a Japanese-style democracy. One of these days, an American President will be sitting down with a duly elected leader from Iraq talking about keeping the peace, and a generation of Americans will be better off for it.

Our party has worked hard to protect the American people. It's our most important duty. And we passed the PATRIOT Act. You might remember the debates of the PATRIOT Act. Senator Harry Reid, Democrat of the Senate, boasted, quote, he "killed the PATRIOT Act." Because the Republican Party stood strong, our law enforcement have the tools necessary to protect the American people.

There's a lot of debate in Washington, DC, about connecting the dots. My job is to protect you. My job is to defend the civil liberties of the American people. My job is to act within the confines of the Constitution and

the law. And that's precisely what I'm doing when it comes to making sure we understand the intent of the enemy. Let me tell you this: If Al Qaida is making phone calls in the United States, we need to know why. We're not going to sit around and wait for another attack.

These are historic times, and I'm proud to be working with Republican Members of the Senate and the House who are making sure we do our duty, and that's to defend the American people. And we're doing our duty here at home as well. We've got clear choices when it comes to our economy. People are going to be able to choose between a party that's going to keep your taxes low to keep the economy growing and a party that's going to run your taxes up. It's a stark choice, and I'm going to keep talking about it, because we've got a record to run on. This economy of ours is strong, and it's getting stronger.

And the amazing thing is, we've overcome incredible obstacles. Think about the history of this economy. We've been through a recession and corporate scandals and an attack on the United States of America and high energy prices, and we've been through natural disasters. And yet this economy is roaring along, and we intend to keep it that way.

You know, right after the attacks came, right after I got elected and then the attacks, I worked with the United States Congress to pass a progrowth economic policy. It was based on a principle that is profound and works, and that—it says when the American people have more of their own money to save, invest, and spend, the economy grows. The progrowth tax cuts we passed are working. The United States economy grew last year at 3.5 percent. That's faster than any major industrialized nation in the world. Since 2003, we've created 5.2 million new jobs. The national unemployment rate is 4.7 percent. Real after-tax income is 8 percent for Americans since 2001. That means, on average, Americans have an income that is more than \$2,300 higher this year than it was at the beginning of 2001, adjusting for inflation. Consumer confidence has been at its highest point in nearly 4 years. Productivity is high. Manufacturing activity is up. People are owning homes. More minority own a

home than ever before in our Nation's history. This economy is strong, and we're going to keep it strong for the American people.

I want to remind you, we cut taxes on American families; we cut taxes on everybody who pays taxes. We cut taxes on the small businesses of America; we cut taxes on dividends; we cut taxes on capital gains. We've put the death tax on the road to extinction.

And that stands in stark contrast to the Democrat Party. Here in Washington, DC, most congressional Democrats voted against cutting income tax rates. Most voted against a bill that provided tax relief for married couples. Most voted against a bill that doubled the child credit. Most Democrats voted against a bill to put the death tax on the road to extinction. In 2003, most congressional Democrats voted against cutting taxes on dividends and capital gains. They continue to block our efforts to make the tax cuts permanent. If we want to keep this economy roaring and strong, we have got to make the tax cuts permanent.

The elections this year offer the American people a clear choice: If you want to send more of your paycheck to Washington, DC, vote Democrat. *[Laughter]* If you want to keep more of your paycheck for your family, vote Republican.

We're also going to cut the deficit in half by 2009. You know, there's a myth in Washington, DC, that says we can cut the deficit by raising your taxes. When you're out there helping people get elected, you might remind people, that's not the way Washington works. Sure, they'll raise your taxes, but they're going to figure out new ways to spend your money. The best way to cut that deficit is to keep pro-growth economic policies in place by keeping your taxes low and be wise about how we spend your money.

Let me make sure you've got the record about what's taken place in Washington, DC, over the last couple of years. We've cut the rate of growth on nonsecurity discretionary spending. That's discretionary spending other than for the military and the homeland security.

Last year, we had a cut in that discretionary spending. I proposed another budget to do so. The Democrats don't like that idea. They're trying to figure out new ways to

spend your money. But the best way to cut that deficit in half is for the United States Congress to join with this administration, set priorities, and be wise about how we spend your money.

I sent a supplemental up to the United States Congress recently to make sure our troops—what they have they need to be able to do their jobs, and to make sure we provide important emergency relief for Katrina. The number was \$92.2 billion. And if the United States Congress sends me a bill that includes nonemergency measures that exceed the number I've put out there, I will veto it.

Monday night I gave a speech of real importance for this country. The Republican Party needs to lead on this issue of immigration. The immigration system is not working, and we need to do something about it now. America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society, and we don't have to choose between the two.

And so I talked about a five-point plan to make this country's immigration system work. And the first part of the plan is for the United States of America to secure its borders. I understand something about borders—you might recall I was the Governor of the great State of Texas. We've got a long border with Mexico. I'm very aware of the issue. I know how important it is to secure the borders.

I also know how important it is to treat people with dignity. We've increased funding for border security by 66 percent since I've been the President. We've expanded our Border Patrol from about 9,000 to 12,000 agents. Our Border Patrol folks are doing good work under difficult circumstances. Over the past 5 years, we have caught and returned 6 million people trying to come into our country.

But our border is not yet secure, and there's more work to be done. And that's what I explained to the American people the other night. And so we're going to increase the Border Patrol agents by another 6,000 by the year 2008. And at the same time, we're going to make sure that we put the most modern technology on our border to make sure our Border Patrol agents can do the job.

And until those 6,000 agents are up and running, I think it's very important for us to

help our Border Patrol by providing 6,000 Guard troops. It's really important that we help the men and women in our Border Patrol do their job, so the American people know that we're using manpower, technology, and equipment to do our duty to protect the border of the United States of America.

We're ending a policy called catch-and-release. Eighty-five percent of the folks coming across are from Mexico, and they're sent back within 24 hours. But a lot of people are coming from other countries. The problem with that is, we haven't had enough bedspace. So they come in, and a Border Patrol agent finds them, and they say, "Why don't you check back for your court date." [*Laughter*] A lot of them aren't checking back for the court date. [*Laughter*] So I'm going to work with Congress to expand the number of detention beds, speed up the deportation process, make sure countries know that we're very serious about them taking the people that we catch trying to come into our country illegally. We're going to end catch-and-release.

Secondly, to secure this border, you have got to understand there are people coming to work. They want to put food on the table for their families, and they'll do—they'll go to unbelievable means to come here. They walk across our deserts in the 100-degree heat. They get stuffed in the back of an 18-wheeler to come. They want to come and work. In order to secure this border, we must have an orderly way for people to come, on a temporary basis, who are doing jobs Americans aren't doing.

We must have a rational plan that says, if you're going to come and work, you're allowed to do so, on a temporary basis—you've got to pass a criminal background check, but you ought to be able to come in an orderly way, so you're not having to sneak across. In order to enforce this border, we want people coming to work jobs Americans aren't doing, on a temporary basis, in a legal way.

Secondly—thirdly, in order to make this plan work, we've got to make sure our employers are held to account. It's illegal for somebody to employ somebody here illegally. But the problem we face is that there's a lot of document fraud. See, people are showing up with IDs that an employer can't verify.

So in order to make sure we secure our border and do our duty and treat people with dignity, we need to develop a tamper-proof ID card that uses biometrics, and that way, an employer will know whether or not they're hiring somebody who's illegally here. And when the word gets out, you've got to have a tamper-proof card, and you don't have one, it's likely you're not going to come to the United States at all.

Fourthly, you got to understand, in this country there's a lot of people who have been here for a long period of time—decent, hard-working, honorable people. I oppose amnesty, and the United States Congress ought to oppose amnesty. Amnesty would be harmful for those who have waited in line to become a citizen legally, and amnesty would encourage others to come in the hopes that they, too, would become automatically a citizen. In this debate, we must make sure we distinguish between those who have been here for awhile and those who are newly arrived. For those who are newly arrived, they've got to get a temporary-worker card, finish out their time, and go back home.

But for those who have been here for awhile, it is unrealistic to deport them. What is realistic is to say, "Pay a fine; learn the English language; prove that you've been working here for awhile; and get in line—but the back of the line, not the front of the line."

And fifthly, to make sure we have an immigration system that upholds our values and speaks to the decency of America, we must help people assimilate into our country, and the best way to assimilate is to help folks learn to speak the English language.

When you learn to speak the English language, and you're a hard worker, you're likely to go from somebody who's picking crops to owning a grocery, somebody who's cleaning offices to working in an office. You know, one of the great things about America is, we have been a welcoming society. People come to this country because they want to realize the great American Dream. They want to be able to say, "I'm putting food on the table for my family. I want to own my own home." Every immigrant who comes and works hard lifts the spirit of this country. We're a land of immigrants, and we're better for it. We

always got to have confidence in our ability to be one Nation under God.

Ours is a party that recognizes we're too dependent on oil, and we intend to do something about it.

Audience member. All right! [Laughter]

The President. I signed a good energy bill, supported by the Republicans. The bill encourages conservation, encourages exploration for oil and gas in environmentally friendly ways, so we become less dependent on foreign sources of oil. And it's a bill that encourages alternative sources of energy. I firmly believe it makes sense for us to encourage use of ethanol. We want our farmers growing energy and—not trying to buy energy from parts of the world that don't like us.

We're on our way for breakthroughs for automobiles that will be able to drive the first 40 miles on electricity without using a drop of gasoline. The party of Lincoln has been active about spending your money on research and development to find new ways to power automobiles, to find better ways to burn coal, to be able to use solar energy. My point to you is, we understand as a Republican Party that it's in our economic interests, in our national interests, national security interests, to get off our addiction to foreign oil.

Ours is a party that's doing something about the cost of health care. The other ones are good about talking about it; we're actually doing something about it. You know, we have a duty, in my judgment, to help the poor and the elderly. That's a commitment our country has made, and it's a commitment the Republican Party is keeping. I want to remind you that for years, the Democrats have promised our seniors a stronger Medicare system. But we delivered. You see, it didn't make any sense to have a Medicare system where decisions were made out of Washington, DC, and that would pay \$25,000 for an ulcer surgery but not one single dime for the prescription drugs that would have prevented the surgery from being needed in the first place.

And so we reformed Medicare. We said to our seniors, "We trust you; we trust you to make decisions that meets your needs." Do you realize, in the State of Florida, there's

over 40 different plans from which a senior can choose a prescription drug benefit? See, Republicans believe in choice. We believe that when you're able to make a choice in the marketplace, it helps affect cost and quality at the same time.

You know, the Medicare drug benefit really does help our low-income seniors. I don't know about you, but I didn't like those stories about some of our seniors having to choose between food and medicine. We stepped up and delivered a Medicare bill, and no longer do poor seniors in America have to make that choice.

Ours is a party that understands the best health care system is when the doctor-patient relationship is central to decisionmaking. That's why we're strong believers in health savings accounts. That's why we believe in transparency in pricing. That's why we believe in information technology.

We also understand that small businesses have trouble buying insurance so they can afford it for their employees. And so we believe small businesses ought to be able to pool risk across jurisdictional boundaries so they can buy insurance at the same discount big businesses get.

We also fully understand that junk lawsuits are driving good doctors out of practice and driving up the cost of medicine. Ours is a party that supports medical liability reform. And when you're out there talking to your friends, I want you to remind them that last week, Senate Democrats defeated the opportunity for small businesses to pool risk, and once again defeated our ability to provide medical liability reform so that health care is available and affordable to the American citizens.

Finally, ours is a party that will continue to work to build a culture of life where every human—every human is respected. You know, I passed—we passed and I signed a ban on partial-birth abortion. It is the right thing to do for the American people, to recognize the value and worth of every human being in our society.

Ours is a party that understands government can pass out money but it cannot put love in a person's heart. And so we make sure that faith-based and religious charities are treated on an equal basis when it comes

to providing compassion for those who need help.

Ours is a political party that understands we need to have people on the bench who understand the difference between legislating and being a good judge. I was proud to nominate Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Sam Alito, and I want to thank the United States Senate for passing—for confirming these two good men.

I've also successfully appointed 44 courts of appeal judges, which is about 25 percent of all the Federal appeal court judges in our Nation. I'm going to continue working with Members of the Senate to make sure my judges get a timely hearing, and I'm going to continue nominating good, conservative judges who will interpret the law and not legislate from the bench.

Ours is a party that believes in the sanctity of marriage, and ours is a party that believes in strong families. We got something to run on. We got something other than rhetoric to run on. We're going to run on principles and a strong record. And I'm confident, with your help, we'll continue to maintain our majorities in the United States Senate and the United States House, and America will be better off for it.

I'm looking forward to the contest. *[Laughter]* I'm looking forward to getting out there among the people again, talking about what I believe in. I believe that because of Members of the House and the Senate working with the administration, that this country is more secure. I believe we're laying the foundation of peace; I truly believe that. I believe history is going to look back at this time and say, thank goodness we had people in the United States Congress and the House of Representatives, good strong Republicans, people that stay true to our values, that when the times got tough, we didn't try to take the easy course, that we understood that there's universal truths and we didn't back off of them, and that we understood to keep this economy strong and America hopeful, that government must always trust the American people.

It is a joy to be your President. I'm proud to be here with you. May God bless you all, and may God bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:58 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Martha Schar, wife of Dwight Schar, finance chairman, Republican National Committee; and former President Saddam Hussein, President Jalal Talabani, Prime Minister-designate Jawad al-Maliki, and Speaker of the Parliament Mahmoud al-Mashhadani of Iraq.

Remarks Following a Tour of the Border in Yuma, Arizona

May 18, 2006

Thank you all very much for allowing me to come by and say hello. It's good to be here in Yuma. I'd never been to Yuma before. *[Laughter]* I'd like to come back. It's a hospitable place with good weather. *[Laughter]* Remember, I was raised in west Texas. *[Laughter]*

I've come down here to first of all thank the men and women of the Border Patrol for doing a fine job on behalf of the American people. A lot of time, you don't get the credit you deserve, but there's a lot of folks who understand how hard you work. And we really appreciate it. So on behalf of a grateful nation, thanks for doing an important job.

I'm down here to talk about the immigration issue. And this is an important issue. It really is. It's an important debate our country is having. We need to have—we need to secure our border, and we need fair and effective immigration laws. The other night, I spoke to the country about the way I see it, and I'm looking forward to working with the United States Congress to get something done.

There's a lot of politics in Washington, DC. And it's time to get rid of all the politics and do what's right for the United States of America and help you do your job. And that's why I've come to this part of the world. I wanted to hear firsthand from David and Ronald Colburn what they need to get the job done, and where we're making progress and where we aren't making progress.

I think it helps to have the President out here, seeing the part of the area of the country that one time was overrun by people coming in here—that's beginning to get settled down because of a strategy that's being employed. And so I really want to thank you

all for greeting me. Plus, I liked riding in the dune buggy. *[Laughter]*

I appreciate very much your Governor for being here. Governor Napolitano is with us today. Thank you very much for coming. I'm honored you're here. She's an important person as part of helping to implement this strategy; after all, she's the commander-in-chief of the Arizona National Guard. And I'm going to talk a little bit about the Guard's presence here on the border to help the Border Patrol do its job.

But I also want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who flew out here with me. It's a good bunch, a little ram-bunctious at times, but they're—I enjoy being with them. I call them friends. Congressmen Kolbe, Hayworth, Shadegg, Flake, and Franks—appreciate you guys taking time out of your day to come down. You care a lot about your State, and you care a lot about this issue. And I appreciate you being here.

I want to thank Senator Ken Bennett. He's the president of the Arizona Senate. Senator, you didn't need to come down here, but I'm grateful you did. And I also want to thank Speaker Weiers for being here as well. I appreciate your interest in the subject. The mayor—Mayor Larry Nelson is with us. Mr. Mayor, thank you for coming.

I want to thank all the other State and local officials. I want to thank Major General David Rataczak. He's the head of the Arizona National Guard. We're going to be working with our Guard. Don't go overboard for the guy. *[Laughter]* We're going to be working closely with our Guard around the country to help the Border Patrol do its job.

I want to thank all the folks who are here for taking time out of your day to give me a chance to come and visit. I particularly want to thank the local law enforcement officials as well.

I understand that illegal immigration is a serious problem. And one of our jobs in public office is to fix problems, is to deal with a problem in a rational way and not pass them on to other people. And I spoke to the country the other night because I want to fix the problem. And I want to work with people in Washington to do so. People here know firsthand that illegal immigration puts big pressure on our local communities, puts

pressures on the schools, puts pressures on the hospitals, puts pressure on the State and local budgets, puts pressures on your penal system. I know that.

Our country is a country of laws, and we've got to enforce our laws. But we're also a nation of immigrants, and we've got to remember that proud tradition as well, which has strengthened our country in many ways. These are not contradictory goals: to remember our heritage and uphold our laws. America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society at the same time.

There's a debate in Washington, and the House started the debate by passing a strong enforcement bill last December. And now the Senate is debating. And I do want to compliment the Senators from this State—Senator McCain and Senator Kyl—for taking the lead. They understand the importance of getting this issue solved, and they're on the floor of the Senate debating a good immigration bill. And they've offered thoughtful proposals, for which I am grateful.

The Senate needs to get the bill out, and get it to what they call the conference committee so we can work hard to iron out the differences between the House and the Senate. I support, strongly support a comprehensive reform bill though. It needs to have five key elements to it.

First, as I mentioned to you, we're going to secure our borders. That is the duty of our country. It's a sovereign responsibility. We want the border to be open to trade and lawful immigration, and we want our borders shut to illegal immigrants as well as criminals and drug dealers and terrorists. That's the objective.

You might remember, I was the Governor of a border State, so I understand how big the border is. I would suggest to Members of Congress, as they debate this issue, that they ought to come down and take a look at the border, see what it's really like. It requires an intense focus of resources and assets in order to secure this border. It also requires a comprehensive strategy as well.

Since I became the President, we've increased funding for our border security by 66 percent. That's helped upgrade equipment, infrastructure. Border Patrol agents have gone from 9,000—about 9,000 to nearly

12,000, a significant increase of Border Patrol agents—so that we can have more people in the frontlines of doing our duty.

Here, we've added about—more than 100 Border Patrol agents in the Yuma Sector in the last year. In other words, people are beginning to see, those on the frontline of protecting the border are beginning to see additional agents coming on board. That's about an increase of 20 percent, to more than 660 agents. This border—this sector was overwhelmed at one time from people coming across illegally. I understand that. And one way to help deal with that problem is to increase the number of agents on the frontline, which is what the leadership of the Border Patrol has done.

We saw some new fencing taking place. It makes sense to use fencing along the border in key locations in order to do our job. We saw lighting. I just saw the cameras in place where we're beginning to install—modernize the border, is what I'm telling you. We're in the process of making our border the most technologically advanced border in the world.

Interestingly enough, I don't think most Americans know this, but over the past 5 years, Federal agents, like our Border Patrol agents, have apprehended and sent home about 6 million people—6 million people since 2001 coming into this country illegally. I mean, we've got some people working hard.

Last year, agents in the Yuma Sector apprehended more than 70,000 illegal entrants. That's up from 14 percent. People's work is making a difference, but we do not have full control of the border. And that's what I want you all to understand: I realize, and a lot of people in Congress realize.

And so here's the part—here's the strategy: We're going to increase our Border Patrol by another 6,000 agents. That will have doubled the Border Patrol from 2001. We should have those agents on line by 2008. We're going to make sure we continue to be wise about how we enable you to do your job better, with technologies and high-tech fences in urban corridors and patrol roads and barriers in rural areas and motion sensors, infrared cameras, unmanned aerial vehicles. All the equipment is aimed to enable the Border Patrol to do their job. We're add-

ing additional equipment which will enable the 18,000 Border Patrol agents we'll have in place to be able to effectively control this border.

It's going to take time to get the technology in place, and it's going to take time to train the Border Patrol agents. And yet the need to enforce the border is urgent, and that's why, in coordination with our Governors, we're going to send 6,000 National Guard troops to be deployed on the southern border.

Now, the reason why I think this strategy is important is because deploying the 6,000 troops to complement the work of the Border Patrol will get immediate results. And it's time to get immediate results. And so I want to thank Governors like Janet for her understanding about the need to utilize assets to do our job to enforce the border.

The Guard is going to support border control efforts. And the Border Patrol, of course, will be in the lead. The Guard will operate surveillance and communications systems. They will install fences and vehicle barriers. They're going to help build patrol roads. They'll analyze intelligence. They will help spot people. But the Border Patrol will be involved in direct law enforcement. The Guard is going to free up agents to be in direct contact with those trying to sneak across. It is—the Guard is complementary. The Guard makes it easier for the Border Patrol to do its job.

And the initial commitment will last for about a year for the 6,000—for the Guard, and after that, the forces will be reduced as new Border Patrol agents and new equipment comes on line.

There are more than 400 Guard members deployed along the Southwest border. In other words, this is something we've tried; this isn't anything new. The Governor has deployed Guard down here before. We've got Guard already helping the Border Patrol right now. The missions are directly related to their specific skills. In this sector, men and women from the Arizona Guard are assisting with communications and intelligence. Guard personnel from Pennsylvania and Ohio are helping install new infrastructure

and technology. So the strategy I'm announcing—I announced last Monday has already started to work.

State and local law enforcement in border communities are also a part of the strategy. And so we're going to draw on their expertise and provide new resources. We're going to increase Federal funding for State and local authorities assisting the Border Patrol on targeted law enforcement missions. The Federal Government isn't telling you what to do, but we are saying that if you choose to help the Border Patrol, that you'll be reimbursed for targeted enforcement missions. And we're going to help—we'll give State and local authorities specialized training to help Federal officers apprehend and detain illegal immigrants.

As we catch more people crossing the border illegally, we got to make sure they're all returned home. And one of the problems we've had here in the border, that Border Patrol agents will tell you, is the problem of catch-and-release. Now, more than 85 percent of illegal immigrants caught—who get caught crossing the border are from Mexico. And they're sent home within 24 hours, and that's good. Part of having a secure border is, people have got to understand when you're caught, you're sent home.

But the problem is, is that it's not so easy to send home illegal immigrants from other countries. For many years, we didn't have enough space in detention facilities. You all know that. And so what would happen is, somebody would get caught; the Border Patrol would do their job. They'd work hard to enforce the border, and some of the—a judge would say, "Show back up; we'll see you back here in 30 days." Well, guess what? There was nobody back in 30 days. They went and headed into society. We've got to stop that practice. In order to make sure the Border Patrol is effective and do their jobs—I can't think of, frankly, anything more discouraging than to be out there doing—working as hard as you possibly can, apprehend somebody, and the next thing you know, they're let back out.

And so we're going to add detention facilities. We'll continue to—we've added some already; we're going to continue to add more. We're going to expedite the legal process to

cut the average deportation time. And the State Department, along with the White House, is going to continue to work with Governments to say, "Look, we want you to take these folks back; you've got to make sure that when we start sending them back that you take them back."

And we're making some pretty good progress. We've caught—we've ended catch-and-release for illegal immigrants from some countries. And so I'm going to ask Congress for funding and legal authority to end catch-and-release at the southern border once and for all, for all countries.

I strongly believe that to have—secure the border, we need to have a temporary-worker program. And the reason why I do is, I understand there are many people on the other side of the border who will do anything to come and work. And that includes risking their life crossing your desert or being willing to be stuffed in the back of an 18-wheeler. I believe in order for the Border Patrol to be able to effectively do their job, we've got to have a plan in place that will reduce the people who are trying to sneak across.

A temporary-worker program would create a legal path for foreign workers to enter a country in an orderly way for a limited period of time. A temporary-worker program would reduce the number of people trying to sneak across. A temporary-worker program would reduce the appeal of human smugglers. There's a whole industry that has sprung up that traffics in human beings, that degrades the human soul. *Coyotes*—that's a familiar word here in this part of the world. A lot of people around the country don't understand what a *coyote* is, but they're somebody who, for money, will smuggle people into the United States so they can work.

We want to know who is coming in the country and who is not coming in the country. And so I think it makes sense to say, if someone is willing to do a job Americans aren't doing, here's a temporary way to come and work. Here's a tamper-proof card, so you don't have to sneak across the border. You could walk across the border, and you can do that work, and when your time is up, you go home.

Now these people are going to have to pass a criminal background check, but we've got

to recognize there are people here doing jobs Americans aren't doing. You know it as well as anybody in this part of the world. And it seems like to me, there ought to be an orderly way, a rational way, to deal with those workers—with a temporary-work plan.

And by the way, issuing a card, a tamper-proof card, will make it easier for us to enforce the law in the interior of our country. It is against the law for an employer to hire somebody who is here illegally. That's the law of the United States. We're a nation of laws; we'll uphold the laws. But how can you ask employers to uphold the laws when they're not sure whether the documents they're looking at are fraudulent?

So not only has the current immigration system caused a whole smuggling industry to come up, but there's also a document forgery industry. We want our employers to be able to be confident about who they're hiring. That's why we need a tamper-proof ID card based upon modern biometrics.

Fourth, it is important to resolve the status of million illegal immigrants who are here already. First of all, in this debate, there should be—nobody should be given an automatic citizenship—that's called amnesty. I oppose amnesty. Amnesty would be unfair to those who are here lawfully, to those who have played by the rules. Amnesty would undermine the rule of law, and amnesty would invite a further wave of illegal immigrants.

There are some in this country who believe we ought to deport everybody who has been here. I just don't think it's going to work. I don't think it makes sense. And so I believe there's a rational middle ground between automatic citizenship and a program of mass deportation.

And here it is: First, it's important for the law to distinguish between someone who has crossed the border illegally—recently—and someone who has worked here for many years and has a home and raised a family and has a clean record. For that person, the person who has got roots in our country, I believe that person should pay a meaningful fine, pay their taxes, learn English, prove they've worked in a job for a number of years, and then that person should be able to apply for citizenship—but would not be granted an

automatic citizenship, but instead would be at the end of the citizenship line.

In other words, people have been here legally, somebody who pays their dues, pays their taxes, pays a fine, proven to be a good citizen, they get at the end of the line. Someone said, well, that's amnesty—that's not amnesty. Amnesty is automatic citizenship. This is a rational way to deal with people who are God-fearing, decent people, and respect their dignity at the same time.

Fifth, we've got to honor the great American tradition of the melting pot. Americans are bound together by shared ideals and appreciation of our history, of respect for our flag and ability to speak the English language. There's certain things that unite us, no matter where we're from or what our background has been.

I want people to understand, as we go through this debate, that I fully understand English is the key to unlocking opportunity in America. Part of the greatness of America is that we've been able to help assimilate people into our society, people from all kinds of backgrounds who have come here to seek a better life and become American, because we have the capacity to assimilate.

And part of that assimilation process is English. I believe this: If you learn English, and you're a hard worker, and you have a dream, you have the capacity from going from picking crops to owning the store or from sweeping office floors to being an office manager. That's been the greatness of America, when you think about it. People have come here with a dream and have worked hard and realized that dream.

And yet because we're from different backgrounds, we've all been able to be one America, one Nation under God. And so part of a rational immigration plan has got to remember that helping people assimilate into our society is a really important part of making sure we have an immigration system that works.

I strongly believe that Congress needs to pass a comprehensive immigration bill, because you cannot secure the border unless you have all elements of a comprehensive plan in place. Doing our duty to secure the border requires a comprehensive approach. The United States Senate needs to end by

the act—act by the end of this month. They need to do their duty and get a bill out so we can get on about the business of getting a comprehensive bill to my desk.

We have a duty in Washington, DC, to conduct this debate with dignity and honor. Immigration is an emotional issue. Sometimes people get carried away on the issue, and they—in doing so, they forget the greatness of our country, that we are a land of immigrants; that we've always been a haven for better opportunity; that we welcome people who are willing to abide by our laws and work hard and raise their family and trust in the Almighty. America's greatness has been and always will be the fact that we are one Nation under God.

Thanks for letting me come by.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:51 p.m. at the Yuma Sector Border Patrol Headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to David V. Aguilar, Chief, and Ronald S. Colburn, Chief Patrol Agent, U.S. Border Patrol; Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona; and James P. Weiers, speaker, Arizona State House of Representatives. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on the Federal Budget

May 18, 2006

The House's vote to pass a responsible budget marks a positive step toward controlling Federal spending. This Budget Resolution helps enforce spending discipline and moves us in the right direction to fund our Nation's key priorities. I congratulate Chairman Nussle, the House leadership, and all Members of the House who voted for this budget for their hard work and commitment to spending restraint.

Memorandum on the Assignment of Function Regarding Transfer of Items in the War Reserves Stockpile for the Republic of Korea

May 18, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Assignment of Function Regarding Transfer of Items in the War Reserves Stockpile for the Republic of Korea

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby assign to you the functions of the President under section 1 of Public Law 109–159 (119 Stat. 2955).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Memorandum on the Assignment of Functions Relating to Waivers and Reports Concerning Africa

May 18, 2006

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Attorney General

Subject: Assignment of Functions Relating to Waivers and Reports Concerning Africa

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, I hereby assign to the Secretary of State the functions of the President under section 590 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102). The Secretary of State shall consult the Attorney General as appropriate in the performance of such functions.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and Certain Other Property in Which Iraq has an Interest

May 18, 2006

On May 22, 2003, by Executive Order 13303, I declared a national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) (IEEPA). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq constituted by the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Development Fund for Iraq, Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof.

On August 28, 2003, in Executive Order 13315, I expanded the scope of this national emergency to block the property of the former Iraqi regime, its senior officials and their family members as the removal of Iraqi property from that country by certain senior officials of the former Iraqi regime and their immediate family members constitutes an obstacle to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq.

On July 29, 2004, in Executive Order 13350, I amended the Annex to Executive Order 13315 to include certain persons determined to have been subject to economic sanctions pursuant to Executive Orders 12722 and 12724. Because of their association with the prior Iraqi regime, I determined that these persons present an obstacle to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in that country, and the development of

political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq and, therefore, such persons should be subject to sanctions under Executive Order 13315.

Executive Order 13350 also amended Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, in which, consistent with section 203(a)(1)(C) of IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. 1702(a)(1)(C), I ordered that certain blocked funds held in the United States in accounts in the name of the Government of Iraq, the Central Bank of Iraq, Rafidain Bank, Rasheed Bank, or the State Organization for Marketing Oil be confiscated and vested in the Department of the Treasury. I originally exercised these authorities pursuant to the national emergency in Executive Order 12722. In light of the changed circumstances in Iraq and my decision to terminate the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12722, I determined that the exercise of authorities in Executive Order 13290 should continue in order to address the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as expanded in scope in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, regarding the obstacles posed to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq. Executive Order 13350 amends Executive Order 13290 to that effect.

On November 29, 2004, in Executive Order 13364, I modified the scope of this national emergency to address the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the threat of attachment or other judicial process against the Central Bank of Iraq. I also determined that, consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1483 and 1546, the steps taken in Executive Order 13303 to deal with this national emergency need to be limited so that such steps do not apply with respect to any final judgment arising out of a contractual obligation entered into by the Government of Iraq, including any agency or instrumentality thereof, after June 30, 2004, and so that, with respect to Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products and interests therein, such steps shall apply only until title passes to the initial purchaser.

Because the obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 22, 2003, and the measures adopted on that date, August 28, 2003, July 29, 2004, and November 29, 2004, to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond May 22, 2006. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq and certain other property in which Iraq has an interest.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:56 p.m., May 18, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency Protecting the
Development Fund for Iraq and
Certain Other Property in Which
Iraq has an Interest**

May 18, 2006

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication. This notice states

that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, as expanded in scope by Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, and modified in Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2006. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 20, 2005 (70 FR 29435).

The threats of attachment or other judicial process against (i) the Development Fund for Iraq, (ii) Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, or (iii) any accounts, assets, investments, or any other property of any kind owned by, belonging to, or held by, on behalf of, or otherwise for the Central Bank of Iraq create obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq. Accordingly, these obstacles continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq, certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, and the Central Bank of Iraq, and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2006.

**Notice—Continuation of the
National Emergency With Respect to
Burma**

May 18, 2006

On May 20, 1997, the President issued Executive Order 13047, certifying to the Congress under section 570(b) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), that the Government of Burma has committed large-scale repression

of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, thereby invoking the prohibition on new investment in Burma by United States persons contained in that section. The President also declared a national emergency to deal with the threat posed to the national security and foreign policy of the United States by the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, invoking the authority, *inter alia*, of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.* On July 28, 2003, I issued Executive Order 13310 taking additional steps with respect to that national emergency by putting in place an import ban required by the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 and prohibiting exports of financial services to Burma and the dealing in property in which certain designated Burmese persons have an interest.

Because the actions and policies of the Government of Burma continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on May 20, 1997, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond May 20, 2006. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Burma. This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2006.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register,
12:56 p.m., May 18, 2006]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 19.

**Message to the Congress on
Continuation of the National
Emergency With Respect to Burma**
May 18, 2006

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for

the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, which states that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2006, for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on May 18, 2005 (70 FR 28771).

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
May 18, 2006.

**Letter to the Speaker of the House of
Representatives Requesting
Additional Funds for Border Security**
May 18, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On May 15th, I outlined to the Nation a comprehensive immigration reform initiative with five objectives. As part of my first objective to secure our Nation's borders, I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed requests for an additional \$1.9 billion for the Departments of Defense, Justice, and Homeland Security, which is in addition to supplemental funding requested on February 16th

for the Global War on Terror and the consequences of Hurricane Katrina. This additional amount is offset by a \$1.9 billion reduction in the amount requested on February 16th for the Department of Defense.

The revised request for the Department of Homeland Security will support my Administration's commitment to gain full control of the borders through the deployment of additional Border Patrol agents, infrastructure, and technology (such as hundreds of miles of new roads, vehicle barriers, tactical communications, and aerial surveillance).

The request for additional resources, coupled with additional legal authority from the Congress, will end the practice of catch and release along our southern border once and for all by increasing detention, transportation, and removal capabilities.

The revised request for the Department of Defense will support the deployment, in coordination with the Governors, of up to 6,000 National Guard members to the southern border. There, they will assist the Border Patrol by operating surveillance systems, building infrastructure, analyzing intelligence, and providing training until new Border Patrol agents and technologies come online. The request increases funding for training and other assistance for State and local authorities to support the Border Patrol on targeted enforcement missions. The request for the Department of Justice will provide additional resources for the prosecution and adjudication of illegal immigration cases.

I designate these proposals in the amounts requested herein as an emergency requirement. I urge the Congress to act expeditiously to address the security needs along the Nation's borders.

The details of these requests are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

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.

May 13

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

May 14

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

In the evening, at the residence of Australia's Ambassador to the U.S. Dennis Richardson, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and his wife, Janette.

May 15

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing followed by a National Security Council meeting on Iraq. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with recipients of the 2006 MATHCOUNTS National Competition Award.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President received diplomatic credentials from newly appointed Ambassadors to the United States.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel to the White House on May 23.

May 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had separate telephone conversations with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a state dinner for Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and his wife, Janette, followed by entertainment in the East Room.

The President announced his intention to nominate John Ray Correll to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement at the Department of the Interior.

The President announced his intention to nominate John H. Hill to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Hunter Biden and Donna R. McLean to be members of the Amtrak Reform Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint Norman Y. Mineta as a member of the Amtrak Reform Board.

May 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a photo opportunity with the Texas A&M Singing Cadets.

The President declared a major disaster in Washington and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, tidal surge, landslides, and mudslides from January 27 to February 4.

May 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Yuma, AZ, where, upon arrival, he toured the Yuma Sector of the U.S.-Mexico border.

In the afternoon, at the Yuma Sector Border Patrol Headquarters, the President participated in a briefing on border security. Later, the President participated in brief interviews with television networks.

Later in the afternoon, at the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station, the President greeted U.S. military personnel. Later, he returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the evening.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kathleen L. Casey to be a Commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Donald L. Kohn to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

The President announced his intention to appoint Carl E. Schneider as a member of the President's Council on Bioethics.

The President announced his intention to appoint Alan Austerman as a U.S. Commissioner on the U.S. Section of the North Pa-

cific Anadromous Fish Commission (Alaska State Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Gary Thomas Smith as a U.S. Commissioner on the U.S. Section of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (Washington State Representative).

The President announced his intention to appoint Joseph Albert Cirillo, Elizabeth Ann Stewart, and John Charles Wyvill as members of the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Access Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Brittain Bardes Cudlip; Jody Dow; Fred Wiehl Lazenby; Robert D. Leebern, Jr.; Carole J. McNeil; Robert Frank Pence; Larry Ruvo; Mark S. Siegel; Stephanie Spencer Tellefsen; David Carl Weinstein; Nancy R. Williams; and Ilene Zarkin-Butler.

The President announced his intention to designate LaSalle Doheny Leffall, Jr., as Chairman of the President's Cancer Panel.

May 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Saud al-Faysal bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. He then traveled to Virginia Beach, VA.

In the afternoon, at a private residence, the President attended a Thelma Drake for Congress reception. Later, he traveled to Highland Heights, KY, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer David Trinh. He then traveled to Florence, KY.

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

The President announced his intention to appoint Malik M. Hasan as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to designate Steven D. Aitken as Acting Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted May 16

Francisco Augusto Besosa,
of Puerto Rico, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, vice Juan M. Perez-Gimenez, retired.

R. Hunter Biden,
of Delaware, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice Michael S. Dukakis, term expired.

John Ray Correll,
of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, vice Jeffrey D. Jarrett.

John H. Hill,
of Indiana, to be Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, vice Annette Sandberg, resigned.

Donna R. McLean,
of the District of Columbia, to be a member of the Reform Board (Amtrak) for a term of 5 years, vice John Robert Smith, term expired.

Submitted May 18

Kathleen L. Casey,
of Virginia, to be a member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2011, vice Cynthia A. Glassman, resigned.

Donald L. Kohn,
of Virginia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of 4 years, vice Roger Walton Ferguson, resigned.

Martin J. Jackley,
of South Dakota, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota for the term of 4 years, vice Steven Kent Mullins.

Kimberly Ann Moore,
of Virginia, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit, vice Raymond C. Clevenger, III, retired.

Bobby E. Shepherd,
of Arkansas, to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, vice Morris S. Arnold, retiring.

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 May 15

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow, Counselor to the President Dan Bartlett, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Frances Fragos Townsend, and Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Joel Kaplan on the President's Speech on Immigration

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel

Fact sheet: Overview: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Excerpts of the President's Address to the Nation on Immigration

Advance text of the President's Address to the Nation on Immigration

Released May 16

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, Border Patrol Chief David V. Aguilar, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Paul F. McHale, and Chief of the National Guard Bureau Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum on the President's Immigration Reform Plan

Released May 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Washington

Fact sheet: Extending the President's Tax Relief: A Victory for American Taxpayers

Released May 18

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Michael P. Jackson, National Guard Bureau Comptroller Christopher Gardner, and Office of Management and Budget Executive Associate Director Austin Smythe on the President's Supplemental Appropriation Request

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 83 and S. 1382

Fact sheet: President Requests Funds To Strengthen Border Security

Statement by the Press Secretary: Denial of the Appeal of Egyptian Politician Ayman Nour

Released May 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: The American Competitiveness Initiative: A Commitment to Education, Research, and Innovation

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved May 17

H.R. 4297 / Public Law 109-222
Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005

Approved May 18

H.J. Res. 83 / Public Law 109-223
To memorialize and honor the contribution of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist.

S. 1382 / Public Law 109-224
To require the Secretary of the Interior to accept the conveyance of certain land, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Indian tribe.