AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

principal adviser on the broad range of domestic and international economic issues that affect the well-being of all Americans. Hank shares my philosophy that the economy prospers when we trust the American people to save, spend, and invest their money as they see fit.

The tax relief we delivered has helped set off the economic expansion that we're seeing today. And one of Hank's most important responsibilities will be to build on this success by working with Congress to maintain a progrowth, low-tax environment.

Hank also understands that the Government should spend the taxpayers' money wisely or not at all. He will work closely with Congress to help restrain the spending appetite of the Federal Government and keep us on track to meet our goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

Hank will also be an important representative of the United States on the international scene. As an investment banker, he understands the importance of opening new markets for American exports. He will insist on fair treatment for American businesses, workers, and farmers. He will help ensure that our trading partners play by the rules, respect intellectual property rights, and maintain flexible, market-based exchange rates for their currencies.

To all these tasks, Hank brings a record of achievement and excellence. He grew up on a farm in Illinois. He went to college at Dartmouth. He starred on the field as an All-Ivy football player and in the classroom as a Phi Beta Kappa student. He earned an MBA from Harvard. He served in the Pentagon and here at the White House. He started at Goldman Sachs in 1974 and rose to its top office after 24 years of distinguished work at the firm. He has a lifelong passion for nature, and he's served as chairman of the Nature Conservancy, where he has promoted conservation both at home and abroad.

As one of America's most prominent business executives, Hank has been a strong and consistent voice for corporate accountability. When the corporate scandals broke, Hank showed his leadership and character by calling for reforms that would strengthen the way America's public companies are governed and improve their accounting practices. And as Treasury Secretary, Hank will bring those high standards to one of the most important posts in Washington.

I want to thank Hank for his willingness to leave one of the most rewarding jobs on Wall Street to serve the American people. Hank will follow in the footsteps of Alexander Hamilton and other distinguished Treasury Secretaries who used their talents and wisdom to strengthen our financial markets and expand the reach of the American Dream.

Hank is going to make an outstanding Secretary of the Treasury, and I call on the United States Senate to promptly confirm him.

Mr. Secretary.

[*At this point, Secretary of the Treasury John Snow made brief remarks.*]

The President. Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Thank you very much.

[*Secretary-designate Paulson made brief remarks.*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:14 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary Snow and Secreatry-designate Paulson.

Remarks on Receiving Diplomatic Credentials From Ambassador Samir Shakir al-Sumaydi of Iraq

May 30, 2006

President Bush. It is my honor and pleasure to welcome the papers from Iraq's Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Ambassador, congratulations.

Ambassador al-Sumaydi. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. You're now officially the Ambassador. I look forward to working with you, Mr. Ambassador, and the new Government, to help Iraq become a country that can govern itself and sustain itself and defend itself. I'm confident in the future of liberty in Iraq because I believe the people of Iraq want to live in a free society. And although there's been some very difficult times for the Iraqi people, I am impressed by the courage

of the leadership, impressed by the determination of the people, and want to assure you, sir, that the United States stands ready to help the Iraqi democracy succeed.

So welcome here to the Oval Office. Thank you for coming.

Ambassador al-Sumaydi. Thank you, Mr. President. I am honored and privileged to serve as the Ambassador of free Iraq, after 16 years of isolation, to represent my country to this great country, to have a voice for the new elected Iraqi Government, and communicate directly with this administration and with the people of the United States, to express our ambitions and desire to live in peace and remove the scourge of terrorism from our land and help others remove it from theirs.

The President said a couple of days ago in his radio address that the terrorists can kill innocent people, but they cannot stop the march of freedom. I echo these words and say that the terrorists can target the innocent and the weak and the vulnerable, but they will never stop us establishing a democratic and free country.

I'm proud to represent this country to you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, Ambassador. Very well done. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:15 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and an Exchange With Reporters

May 31, 2006

President Bush. I want to welcome the President of Rwanda to the Oval Office again. He was here last year, and I'm honored to welcome you back.

The President is—he's a man of action; he can get things done. I'm proud of your leadership. We have talked about a lot of issues. We talked about the Sudan, and I want to thank the President for committing troops in the AU mission to help deal with what I have called a genocide. We strategized about how we can go forward to resolve the situation. I thank you for your wisdom; I thank you for your concern.

One of the interesting things about President Kagame's Government is, there is more women in his Government than anywhere else in Africa, which I think speaks to the man's character and understanding about how societies remain strong and whole. I appreciate his commitment to education. And I want to thank you, Mr. President, for your understanding that the best way for an economy to develop is to welcome private capital. He's been working hard with companies here in America. Many companies are taking a good look at Rwanda because they realize it's a country where they will be treated fairly, and there is a transparent society. And he's had some success, which will help people find work. And that's, to me, a sign of leadership. So welcome back.

I, finally, want to thank you for your commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS. This Government has done a really good job of using some of the monies that we provided to save lives. And I've always told people that it's one thing for the American Government—and the American people, more importantly—to generously write checks to help, but it requires strong leadership at home. And you provided that leadership.

So I welcome you back to the Oval Office, and thank you for your friendship.

President Kagame. Thank you, President. It's a great honor for me to be here, President, and I appreciate the discussion we have had on a wide range of issues—starting with bilateral discussions we have had about United States Government has been very helpful in its support of Rwanda in different areas—dealing with HIV/AIDS, to supporting the private sector to invest in our country, to dealing with infrastructure programs. And also the support we have had during the period we were working under the African Union mission to send our troops to Darfur. The United States Government, with your support, Mr. President—we have had our forces, our troops airlifted by the United States military to Darfur and continued support for the African Union mission.

We are very grateful for—generally the support in the area will bring peace to the