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In the long run, the biggest challenge to our Nation's budgetary health is entitlement spending on programs such as Social Security and Medicare. Entitlement programs are growing much faster than our ability to pay for them. To keep these programs solvent, we need to slow their growth to a level we can afford. It's not a cut. It's the difference between slowing your car down to the speed limit and putting your car in reverse. Every American family and business has to set priorities and live within a budget, and so should the United States Congress.

My administration is committed to fiscal discipline and economic growth, and these policies will have a strong champion in Rob Portman. As OMB Director, Rob now assumes one of the most important posts in Washington. I'm pleased that he's agreed to serve our country once again. I look forward to working with him to keep America's economy the envy of the world, to create jobs and opportunity for all our citizens, and deliver results for the American taxpayer.

Congratulations.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Portman.

Remarks Honoring the 2006 Super Bowl Champion Pittsburgh Steelers

June 2, 2006

Thank you all for coming. Please be seated. It sounds like some people have been drinking some Iron City beer here. [*Laughter*] It's such an honor to welcome the Pittsburgh Steelers here to the White House. Congratulations on being the champs. You had a ring for every finger; now you've got one for the thumb.

I want to thank all the fans who've gathered here. I want to thank Senators Specter and Santorum for joining us—and Congressman Tim Murphy. I appreciate you all being here. It's good to see former U.S. Attorney Dick Thornburgh, former Governor of Pennsylvania.

The team probably doesn't recognize him, but they got quite a huge following here in Washington, DC, including in my administration. As a matter of fact, you have no greater fan than the new Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. So he came in for one of these briefings, see—he was going to keep the President abreast of what's going on in the world. And he was wearing a "terrible towel." [*Laughter*] Back in his school days in Pittsburgh, Mike spent a lot of time on the football field. Most of the Steeler fans know that Dan Rooney is a team owner, but Mike Hayden is able to call him Coach. Mr. Rooney was Mike's coach. And you coached him well.

I want to—look, I was a Texas Cowboy fan, you know—[*laughter*]—Dallas Cowboy fan—and—yes, I know, I know. It's kind of hard for me to admit, but the Steeler franchise is one of the really great franchises in football history. And one of the reasons why is because of the Rooney family.

You know, I used to be in baseball, and I know the ability of an owner to affect the culture of the team, to be able to instill the habits necessary to win. And a class franchise starts with class ownership. And the Rooneys—Mr. Dan Rooney and Mr. Art Rooney—are classy people. And I welcome you here to the White House.

I tested Mr. Rooney's sense of humor. See, I'm an early-morning riser, and of course, I saw the Super Bowl and got up early and was there in the Oval Office, and I just couldn't—I couldn't hold back. And so I said to the operator, "Get Mr. Rooney on the phone. I've got something I want to say to him." Unfortunately, I had gone to bed relatively early, and he had gone to bed relatively late. [*Laughter*] So he took my phone call after about 3 hours of sleep. And he was a gentleman then, when I apologized for waking him up; he's a gentleman today. Again, I want to publicly apologize—[*laughter*]—for routing you out of your sack. [*Laughter*] Except I'm pretty—I'm pretty sure you were happy to get the phone call. [*Laughter*]

I want to congratulate all the coaches and the folks who make the franchise run. I particularly want to say something about those in the training room and those who pick up

the laundry. Those are the folks that generally don't get a lot of credit, but I know the players will give you credit, and I know the ownership gives you credit, and I know Bill Cowher gives you credit. He is a—he's an amazing coach. He's got the most unusual expressions on the sideline. [*Laughter*] So I told the Vice President I was going to be able to congratulate Coach Cowher in person, and he said, "Well, get him to give me some tips on his scowl." [*Laughter*] You can't win a Super Bowl unless you've got a great coach. And the Pittsburgh Steelers have a great coach. And congratulations. Proud you're here.

I want to congratulate the players and their families. The country is proud of the way you played football. You've got some amazing characters on your team. You got a "Bus." You got a "Longhorn." [*Laughter*] We used to pump iron together. [*Laughter*] His took; mine didn't. [*Laughter*] You got a "Big Ben." And you got a man known for his swagger—I've been looking forward to Joey Porter's new dance. [*Laughter*] He's a great player, and I'm proud to have him here at the White House. You're welcome to be here. Thanks for coming. I appreciate you.

Coach Cowher said this before the Super Bowl: "You play as a team, and you're going to walk away as champions." And this team played as a team. You may have some interesting characters on the team, but one thing the Pittsburgh Steelers learned to do was play as a unit. And that's why you're standing right here. It was a tough brand of football. It wasn't always flashy, but you learned how to win. And you're the kind of team Pittsburgh Steeler fans like to watch—hard-nosed football.

About halfway through the season, a lot of people were counting the Steelers out. They said you didn't have a chance. I kind of know the feeling. [*Laughter*] But you won eight games in a row, including three on the road in the playoffs, and of course, Super Bowl XL in Detroit. You had some amazing unexpected players step up to help you play. You had the quarterback make an important tackle, and you had yourself a receiver make an important pass.

Super Bowl XL included other entries in the record book—"Fast" Willie Parker, 75-yard touchdown, the longest run in Super Bowl history. Looking sharp, too. [*Laughter*] Your quarterback was the youngest quarterback in history to win an NFL title. But the most amazing thing about the victory, it seemed like to me, and for a lot of other fans, was you had a fine man, a man you call "The Bus," retire in his home city of Detroit with the Lombardi Trophy in his arms. It was a touching moment for football fans.

There's a great responsibility with being in the spotlight and being champions, and I appreciate the acts of kindness the Pittsburgh Steelers do to help improve the community in which you live. I appreciate Jerome Bettis' The Bus Stops Here Foundation that helps underprivileged children in inner-cities. I appreciate Hines Ward, Super Bowl MVP, who traveled to his mother's home country of South Korea to inspire children of multiracial backgrounds speak out against discrimination. I thought that was an act of a champion.

I appreciate the players who participated in Play Ball for Kids to raise money to help somebody who needs help. You know, one of the great admonitions of all time is to love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself. And true champs do that. So it's an honor to have champions on the field and off the field here at the White House. It is a joy for me to welcome you. Congratulations. Play hard. I'll be around here next year to see you come back. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Daniel M. Rooney, chairman, Arthur J. Rooney II, president, Bill Cower, head coach, Jerome Bettis, former running back, Casey Hampton, nose tackle, Ben Roethlisberger, quarterback, Joey Porter, linebacker, Willie Parker, running back, and Hines Ward, wide receiver, Pittsburgh Steelers.

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 27

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Newburgh, NY, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Heather DiSilvio. He then traveled to West Point, NY.

Later in the morning, the President returned to Camp David, MD.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia to express his condolences for the loss of life following the earthquake in Java.

May 28

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

May 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in separate signing ceremonies for H.R. 1499, the Heroes Earned Retirement Opportunities Act, and H.R. 5037, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act.

In the evening, the President had a private dinner with King Abdullah II of Jordan.

May 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a meeting with public policy experts on Iraq.

Also in the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with President Vladimir Putin of Russia, President Jacques Chirac of France, and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss the situation in Iran.

In the evening, in the Family Theater, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a screening of the film "United 93."

The President announced his intention to nominate Henry M. Paulson, Jr., to be Secretary of the Treasury.

May 31

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to CIA Headquarters in Langley, VA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC. He then traveled to Baltimore, MD.

During the day, the President participated in a swearing-in ceremony for Mark J. Sullivan as Director of the U.S. Secret Service.

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

The President announced his appointment of Raul F. Yanes as Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary.

June 1

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hu Jintao of China to discuss the situation in Iran. Later, he had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo to the White House on June 5.

The President announced his intention to nominate David H. Laufman to be Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles D. Nottingham to be a member of the Surface Transportation Board and, upon confirmation, to designate him as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Darwin Snelling to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

The President announced his intention to appoint George Nesterczuk as a member of the Federal Salary Council for Labor Relations and Pay Policy and, upon appointment, to designate him as Vice Chairman.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dallas Rob Sweezy as a member of the President's Committee for People With Intellectual Disabilities and, upon appointment, to designate him as Chair.