

workers. I believe in our small-business owners. I believe that when people can dream and do and accomplish, our society is better off. I'm confident that the values of the United States will remain strong, because I understand the character of Americans by birth and by choice.

And so I understand we face a lot of challenges, but I believe this country can overcome those challenges. And I want to thank you for letting me come to the Port of Miami to discuss some of the challenges we face.

Thanks for your hard work. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. at the U.S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; former professional football player Daniel C. Marino, Jr., and his wife, Claire; Rear Adm. David W. Kunkel, USCG, district commander, Seventh Coast Guard District; Bill Johnson, acting director, Port of Miami; Marco Rubio, speaker-designate, Florida State House of Representatives; Mayor Carlos Alvarez of Miami-Dade County, FL; Mayor Manuel A. Diaz of Miami, FL; and Nelson Gonzalez and Alex Aguila, founders, Alienware Corp.

Remarks Following a Tour of the Port of Miami in Miami

July 31, 2006

I want to thank Admiral Allen and the members of the Coast Guard for what has been a really interesting tour of the Port of Miami.

A couple of things: One, it's clear that the money we've been spending to help secure our ports is working. In other words, new technologies—there's new ways to investigate cargo that gets here. Obviously, there's more work to be done, but one of the most innovative projects we've done, by the way, is to have a—is to use ports of—the disembarkation to inspect cargo so that the cargo has been inspected before it arrives here.

So I want to thank you all for the tour. I'm real proud of our Coast Guard. The Coast Guard is really, really good. And part of our efforts is to work with the Coast Guard leadership to make sure the Coast Guard is modernized, that they've got the latest chop-

pers, the good boats to be able to do their job.

We talked about a lot of issues besides port security. One of the big issues that people face here is the migration issue, a lot of people trying to sneak into Florida. And the Coast Guard is doing their job to enforce our policy, and I appreciate them for their hard work.

At the United Nations today, the Security Council passed a resolution regarding Iran's attempt to have nuclear weapons. It's a strong resolution. I want to thank our partners. This resolution follows up on North Korea resolution, and it goes to show that when America takes the lead and works with our friends, we're able to accomplish diplomatic objectives.

And now Condi Rice comes back from the Middle East and will be working with our friends and allies on a resolution regarding Lebanon. But the Iranians must hear loud and clear with this resolution: The world is intent upon working together to make sure that they do not end up with a nuclear weapon or the know-how to build a nuclear weapon.

Again, I want to thank our allies on this very important resolution, and remind the American people that we've had a strategy in place to send a common message, a unified message to the Iranian leadership.

I want to thank you all. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:24 a.m. at the U.S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command.

Remarks to Reporters at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland

August 1, 2006

The President. I'm just amazed at the health care here at Bethesda. The Admiral runs an amazing operation. And it's really important for our citizens to know that if one of our men and women get hurt on the battlefield, they're going to get incredibly good health care.

And, Admiral, I can't thank you and your staff enough for serving the country with great dignity and class.

Rear Adm. Robinson. Thank you very much.

The President. Appreciate being here. God bless. Thank you.

I'm doing fine; my health is fine. I probably ate too many birthday cakes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:40 p.m. Participating in the visit was Rear Adm. Adam M. Robinson, Jr., USN, commander, National Naval Medical Center, and chief, Navy Medical Corps.

Remarks on the Renovation of the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room and an Exchange With Reporters

August 2, 2006

Press Secretary Tony Snow. All right, well, never mind. See, every once in a while, hideous threats have a clarifying effect. And sometimes they make people make important choices, and apparently the threat of my singing has persuaded the President of the United States to intervene on yet another mission of peace.

Mr. President.

The President. Dee Dee, how're you doing?

Margaret J. "Dee Dee" Myers. Mr. President.

The President. Marlin, you're looking as pretty as ever.

Marlin Fitzwater. Thank you, Mr. President. Really good to see you.

The President. Sarah, good to see you.

Sarah Brady. How are you?

The President. Jim, really good to see you, sir. Thank you.

James S. Brady. Nice seeing you too.

Q. Speech, speech.

Q. Press conference.

Q. Welcome, Mr. President.

Q. We have a few questions, if you don't mind.

Q. Just a couple of questions.

The President. I know you've been complaining about the digs for a while. [Laughter] So this is like the end of an old era. And let me just say, we felt your pain. And so we decided, you know, to help you renovate and come up with a new Brady center.

And so I want to thank the former spin meisters for joining me up here. Tell my peo-

ple how to do it, will you? I mean, it's a— [laughter].

But anyway, Laura and I wanted to come by and wish you all the best as you get to move headquarters for a while. I look forward to welcome you back here in, I guess, 6 or 7 months. Is that right?

Q. Nine months. We hope.

Q. We're setting no timetables, Mr. President. [Laughter]

The President. That's what you get when you bring your crackpot up from Texas. [Laughter]

Q. No comment, sir. [Laughter]

The President. So, like, suede chairs? [Laughter] Is that what you're looking—kind of velvet armchairs? Armchairs. Everybody wants to be able to lean back.

It looks a little crowded in here. And so you want to double the size?

Q. Yes.

The President. Forget it. [Laughter] You get to work like the rest of us. We may have some air conditioning if we decide to. [Laughter]

Anyway, good luck in the new building. Looking forward to seeing you over there.

Q. Can we come see you?

The President. I don't know. Does the air conditioner work better there than here? [Laughter]

Q. Yes.

The President. The last time I had a press conference in here, it felt like it was outside. As a matter of fact, some of your makeup was running. [Laughter]

Q. Mr. President, should Mel Gibson be forgiven? [Laughter]

The President. Is that you and Gregory [David Gregory, NBC News] standing back there?

Q. I was there first. [Laughter]

The President. You know—

Q. —complaining that the Jews start all the wars—

The President. Is that Sam Donaldson? [Laughter] Forget it. You're a has-been. We don't have to answer has-been's questions.

Q. Oo-o-oh!

Q. Mr. President, do you want to say a little about the White House press corps, please?