

White House, and if you're a Cardinals fan, why don't you come and join us." And he kind of looked at me like, "Check is in the mail, isn't it?" [Laughter] But I was serious, and so was he, and I'm proud to welcome Chad Watson and his mother, Gina. You never know where you're going to find a St. Louis Cardinal fan. [Laughter]

And now it's my honor to bring to the podium, DeWitt—Bill DeWitt. He doesn't like to give speeches. Do you?

**William O. DeWitt, Jr.** Thank you for having us here, Mr. President.

**The President.** You do like to give speeches. [Laughter]

**Mr. DeWitt.** You said be quick, so we'll be quick. We have a little memento of the occasion here, a jersey from the world championship team, the World Series logo on it—

**The President.** Yes, right here.

**Mr. DeWitt.** —06, so you'll remember the year we were here, and Bush—

**The President.** Yes, so I remember who I am. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:33 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dave Duncan, pitching coach, William O. DeWitt, Jr., chairman of the board, Frederick O. Hanser, vice chairman, Stephen Brauer, co-owner, Mercer Reynolds, co-owner, Mark Lamping, president, Walt Jocketty, general manager, and David M. Eckstein, shortstop, St. Louis Cardinals.

### **Letter to Congressional Leaders on Review of Title III of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996**

*January 16, 2007*

*Dear Mr. Chairman: (Dear Representative:)  
(Dear Senator:)*

Consistent with section 306(c)(2) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-114)(the "Act"), I hereby determine and report to the Congress that suspension for 6 months beyond February 1, 2007, of the right to bring an action under title III of the Act is necessary to the national interests of the

United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

Sincerely,

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Joseph R. Biden, Jr., chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Tom Lantos, chairman, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, ranking member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Robert C. Byrd, chairman, and Thad Cochran, ranking member, Senate Committee on Appropriations; and David R. Obey, chairman, and Jerry Lewis, ranking member, House Committee on Appropriations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17.

### **Remarks in a Discussion on Advances in Cancer Prevention in Bethesda, Maryland**

*January 17, 2007*

**The President.** Thanks, Michael. I appreciate you joining us. I love coming to the NIH; it is an amazing place. It is an amazing place because it is full of decent, caring, smart people, all aiming to save lives. And I truly believe the NIH is one of America's greatest assets, and it needs to be nourished.

And I'm real pleased to be working with Elias and the good folks who work here to make sure that there's ample resources to fund these incredible projects that are taking place. And we'll talk about some of them today. The purpose of the meeting is to let the American people understand what kind of work takes place here and some of the practical applications of the discoveries that are being made. Obviously, we're all very concerned about cancer—and, John, thank you for joining us.

First, I'm pleased that we're funding cancer research. We're up about 25 or 26 percent since 2001. It's a commitment that I made when I first came to Washington; it's a commitment we're keeping. And the reason why it makes sense to spend taxpayers' money on cancer research is that we can make some good progress and have. Interestingly enough, this is the second consecutive year there was a drop in the number of cancer deaths in the United States, and the drop