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The President's Radio Address

May 12, 2007

Good morning. Next week, the Senate will take up an important priority for our Nation, comprehensive immigration reform.

Over the past few weeks, leaders from both parties have met at the White House and on Capitol Hill to find areas of agreement and iron out our differences. These meetings have been productive. We've been addressing our differences in good faith, and we're building consensus. Both Republicans and Democrats understand that successful immigration reform must be bipartisan.

Democrats and Republicans agree that our current immigration system is in need of reform. We agree that we need a system where our laws are respected. We agree that we need a system that meets the legitimate needs of workers and employers. And we agree that we need a system that treats people with dignity and helps newcomers assimilate into our society.

We must address all elements of this problem together, or none of them will be solved at all. We must not repeat the mistakes that caused previous efforts at immigration reform to fail. So I support a comprehensive immigration reform bill that accomplishes five clear objectives.

First, America must continue our efforts to improve security at our borders. Second, we must hold employers to account for the workers they hire by providing better tools for them to verify documents and work eligibility. Third, we must create a temporary-worker program that takes pressure off the border by providing foreign workers a legal and orderly way to enter our country to fill jobs that Americans are not doing. Fourth, we must resolve the status of millions of illegal immigrants who are here already, without amnesty and without animosity. Finally, we must honor the great American tradition of the melting pot.

Americans are bound together by our shared ideals, an appreciation of our history, and an ability to speak and write the English language. And the success of our country depends upon helping newcomers assimilate into our society and embrace our common identity as Americans.

Coming together on a good bill that includes all five elements, we will make America more secure; we will make our economy more competitive; and we will show the world that America can be a lawful society and a welcoming society at the same time.

Reforming our immigration system is an important opportunity to show that elected officials in Washington can work together to find practical solutions to the problems that matter most. I thank the Senators who have been working hard on this issue. I am optimistic we can pass a comprehensive immigration bill and get this problem solved for the American people this year.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on May 11 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 12. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 11 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at America's 400th Anniversary Celebration in Williamsburg, Virginia

May 13, 2007

Thank you all. Thank you, Justice O'Connor. Laura and I are really happy to join you today. This State is known as the "Mother of Presidents," which reminds me, I needed to call my mother today. [*Laughter*] I wish all mothers around our country a happy Mother's Day. And if you haven't called your

mother, you better start dialing here after this ceremony.

We're honored to be in Jamestown on this historic day. We appreciate the opportunity to tour the beautiful grounds here. I would urge our fellow citizens to come here to see the fantastic history that's on display. I think you'll be amazed at how our country got started. And I want to thank all the good folks who are working to preserve the past for your hard work, and I appreciate the fact that you spent a lot of time educating our fellow citizens.

Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America; it predated the Mayflower Compact by 13 years. This is a very proud State, and some people down here like to point out that the pilgrims ended up at Plymouth Rock by mistake. [*Laughter*] They were looking for Virginia. [*Laughter*] They just missed the sign. [*Laughter*]

As we celebrate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown to honor the beginnings of our democracy, it is a chance to renew our commitment to help others around the world realize the great blessings of liberty. And so Laura and I are proud to join you. Justice, it's good to see you. There's no finer American than Sandra Day O'Connor, and I'm proud to share the podium with her.

We're also proud to be with Governor Tim Kaine and Anne Holton. I'm proud to call them friends, and I hope, Ms. Kaine, that the Governor recognized Mother's Day. Glad you're here. I want to thank Secretary Dirk Kempthorne of the Department of the Interior; Michael Griffin, the Administrator of NASA; Members of the United States Congress; members of the statehouse, including the Lieutenant Governor. I appreciate the attorney general being here. I thank the speaker for joining us. Most of all, thank you for coming.

I thank the members of the Jamestown 400th Commemoration Commission. Those are all the good folks who worked hard to get this celebration in order. I appreciate the members of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Laura and I saw members of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities digging—in dirt. [*Laughter*] It just so happened we wandered up, and they found some artifacts. [*Laughter*] I appreciate members of the Jamestown 2007 Steering Committee.

The story of Jamestown will always have a special place in American history. It's the story of a great migration from the Old World to the New. It is a story of hardship overcome by resolve. It's a story of the Tidewater settlement that laid the foundation of our great democracy.

That story began on a dock near London in December of 1606. More than 100 English colonists set sail for a new life across the ocean in Virginia. They had dreams of paradise that were sustained during their long months at sea by their strong spirit. And then they got here, and a far different reality awaited them.

On May 13, 1607, 400 years today, they docked their ships on a marshy riverbank. Being loyal subjects, they named the site after their King, and that's how Jamestown was born. Today we celebrate that moment as a great milestone in our history, yet the colonists who experienced those first years had little reason to celebrate.

Their search for gold soon gave way to a desperate search for food. An uneasy peace with the Native Americans broke into open hostilities. The hope for a better life turned into a longing for the comforts of home. One settler wrote, "There were never Englishmen left in a foreign country in such misery as we were in the new discovered Virginia."

Looking back, 400 years later, it is easy to forget how close Jamestown came to failure. The low point came after the terrible winter of 1610. The survivors boarded their ships. They were prepared to abandon the settlement, and only the last minute arrival of new settlers and new provisions saved Jamestown. Back in London, one court official summed up the situation this way: "This is an unlucky beginning. I pray God the end may prove happier."

Well, the prayers were answered. Jamestown survived. It became a testament to the power of perseverance and determination. Despite many dangers, more ships full of new settlers continued to set out for Jamestown. As the colony grew, the settlers ventured beyond the walls of their three-sided fort and formed a thriving community. Their

industry and hard work transformed Jamestown from a distant English outpost into an important center for trade.

And during those early years, the colonists also planted the seeds of American democracy, at a time when democratic institutions were rare. On their first night at Jamestown, six of the leading colonists held the first presidential election in American history. And you might be surprised to know that the winner was not named George. [*Laughter*] A matter of fact, his name was Edward Wingfield. I call him Eddie W. [*Laughter*]

From these humble beginnings, the pillars of a free society began to take hold. Private property rights encouraged ownership and free enterprise. The rule of law helped secure the rights of individuals. The creation of America's first representative assembly ensured the consent of the people and gave Virginians a voice in their government. It was said at the time that the purpose of these reforms was, quote, "to lay a foundation whereon a flourishing State might, in time, by the blessing of Almighty God, be raised."

Not all people shared in these blessings. The expansion of Jamestown came at a terrible cost to the native tribes of the region, who lost their lands and their way of life. And for many Africans, the journey to Virginia represented the beginnings of a life of hard labor and bondage. Their story is a part of the story of Jamestown. It reminds us that the work of American democracy is to constantly renew and to extend the blessings of liberty.

That work has continued throughout our history. In the 18th century, our Founding Fathers declared our independence and dedicated America to the principle that all men are created equal. In the 19th century, our Nation fought a terrible civil war over the meaning of those famous words and renewed our founding promise. In the 20th century, Americans defended our democratic ideals against totalitarian ideologies abroad, while working to ensure we lived up to our ideals here at home. As we begin the 21st century, we look back on our history with pride and rededicate ourselves to the cause of liberty.

Today, democratic institutions are taking root in places where liberty was unimaginable not long ago. At the start of the 1980s, there were only 45 democracies on Earth. There are now more than 120 democracies, and more people now live in freedom than ever before.

America is proud to promote the expansion of democracy, and we must continue to stand with all those struggling to claim their freedom. The advance of freedom is the great story of our time, and new chapters are being written every day, from Georgia and Ukraine, to Kyrgyzstan and Lebanon, to Afghanistan and Iraq. From our own history, we know the path to democracy is long, and it's hard. There are many challenges, and there are setbacks along the way. Yet we can have confidence in the outcome because we've seen freedom's power to transform societies before.

In World War II, we fought Germany on battlefields across Europe, and today, a democratic Germany is one of our strongest partners on the continent. And in the Pacific, we fought a bloody war with Japan, and now our alliance with a democratic Japan is the linchpin for freedom and security in the Far East. These democracies have taken different forms that reflect different cultures and traditions. But our friendship with them reminds us that liberty is the path to lasting peace and that democracies are natural allies for the United States.

Today, we have no closer ally than the nation we once fought for our own independence. Britain and America are united by our democratic heritage and by the history that began at this settlement 400 years ago. Last month, some of the greatest legal minds in Britain and America, including Justice O'Connor and Chief Justice John Roberts, came to Jamestown to lay a plaque commemorating our shared respect for the rule of law and our deeply held belief in individual liberty.

Over the years, these values have defined our two countries. Yet they are more than just American values and British values or Western values; they are universal values that come from a power greater than any man or any country. These values took root at Jamestown four centuries ago. They have flourished across our land, and one day, they will flourish in every land.

May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:02 p.m. at Anniversary Park. In his remarks, he referred to former Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; Gov. Timothy M. Kaine of Virginia, his wife, Anne Holton, and his mother, Kathy Kaine; Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling and State Attorney General Bob McDonnell of Virginia; and William J. Howell, speaker, Virginia House of Delegates.

Remarks on Fuel Economy and Alternative Fuel Standards

May 14, 2007

Thank you all for coming. Good afternoon. I just finished a meeting with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretaries of Transportation and Agriculture, and the Deputy Secretary of Energy. Thank you all for being here.

We discussed one of the most serious challenges facing our country, our Nation's addiction to oil and its harmful impact on our environment. The problem is particularly acute in the transportation sector. Oil is the primary component of gasoline and diesel, and cars and trucks that run on these fuels emit air pollution and greenhouse gases.

Our dependence on oil creates a risk for our economy, because a supply disruption anywhere in the world could drive up American gas prices to even more painful levels. Our dependence on oil creates a threat to America's national security, because it leaves us more vulnerable to hostile regimes and to terrorists who could attack oil infrastructure.

For all these reasons, America has a clear national interest in reducing our dependence on oil. Over the past 6 years, my administration has provided more than $12 billion for research into alternative sources of energy. And I'd like to thank the Congress for its cooperation in appropriating these monies. We now have reached a pivotal moment where advances in technology are creating new ways to improve energy security, strengthen national security, and protect the environment.

To help achieve all these priorities, I set an ambitious goal in my State of the Union: to cut America's gasoline usage by 20 percent over the next 10 years. I call this goal 20-in-10, and I have said—sent to Congress a proposal that would meet it in two steps. First, this proposal will set a mandatory fuel standard that requires 35 billion gallons of renewable and other alternative fuels by 2017. That's nearly five times the current target. Second, the proposal would continue our efforts to increase fuel efficiency. My administration has twice increased fuel economy standards for light trucks. Together, these reforms would save billions of gallons of fuel and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions, without compromising jobs or safety.

My proposal at the State of the Union will further improve standards for light trucks and take a similar approach to automobiles. With good legislation, we could save up to 8.5 billion gallons of gasoline per year by 2017 and further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks.

Last month, the Supreme Court ruled that the EPA must take action under the Clean Air Act regarding greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles. So today I'm directing the EPA and the Department of Transportation, Energy, and Agriculture to take the first steps toward regulations that would cut gasoline consumption and greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, using my 20-in-10 plan as a starting point.

Developing these regulations will require coordination across many different areas of expertise. Today I signed an Executive order directing all our agencies represented here today to work together on this proposal. I've also asked them to listen to public input, to carefully consider safety, science, and available technologies, and evaluate the benefits and costs before they put forth the new regulation.

This is a complicated legal and technical matter, and it's going to take time to fully resolve. Yet it is important to move forward, so I have directed members of my administration to complete the process by the end of 2008. The steps I announced today are not a substitute for effective legislation. So my—members of my Cabinet, as they begin the process toward new regulations, will work with the White House, to work with Congress, to pass the 20-in-10 bill.