

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 8, 2008
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on September 5, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, September 5, 2008

The President's Radio Address

August 30, 2008

Good morning. This weekend, millions of Americans will celebrate Labor Day. This holiday marks the traditional end of the summer season. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the contributions of hard-working Americans all across our country—from teachers, farmers, and health care professionals, to firefighters, police officers, small-business owners, and workers on the assembly line.

The American workforce continues to be the marvel of the world, yet many working families have been weathering tough economic times. There are families across our country struggling to make ends meet. There is an understandable concern about the high price of gas and food, and many Americans are worried about the health of our housing and job markets.

I share these concerns about our economy, yet there have been some recent signs that our economy is beginning to improve. While the housing market is continuing to experience difficulty, the decline in home sales has leveled off recently, and sales are rising in some parts of the country. Orders for some durable goods, such as business equipment, are rising. And earlier this week, we received a report that America's economy grew in the second quarter at an annual rate of 3.3 percent, surprising analysts who were predicting an economic recession.

These welcome signs indicate that the economic stimulus package that I signed earlier this year is having its intended effect. The growth package will return more than \$150 billion back to American families and businesses this year. Many Americans who received tax rebates are spending them. Businesses are taking advantage of tax incentives

to purchase new equipment this year. And there are signs that the stimulus package will continue to have a beneficial impact on the economy in the second half of the year.

Labor Day is also the traditional start of the election season. In the coming months, it will be tempting for some in Congress to try to score political points instead of getting work done for the American people. Our citizens deserve better. We still have time to accomplish important goals for our country. My administration remains hopeful that we can work with Democratic leaders in Congress on bipartisan measures to help Americans cope with this period of economic uncertainty.

We need to work together on a comprehensive approach to our energy problems. I've called on Congress to permit us to tap vast, unused sources of oil and gas, expand domestic refining capacity, and encourage the development of alternative energy sources. Congress continues to stand in the way of this comprehensive approach. At a minimum, Democratic leaders in Congress should move forward on commonsense energy proposals that have bipartisan support, and it is not too late to do this. They should act responsibly by lifting the ban on offshore drilling, expanding access to oil shale, and implementing long-term tax credits to spur the development of alternative sources of energy like wind, solar, and nuclear power.

We need to work together to open up markets for American goods. Exports account for a greater share of America's gross domestic product than at any time in our history. It is not too late for Congress to approve free trade agreements with strong allies like Colombia, Panama, and South Korea, so that we can create more opportunities for American farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs.

We need to work together to keep your taxes low. At a time of economic challenge, the last thing American families need is a massive tax increase. It's not too late for Congress to make the tax relief we passed in 2001 and 2003 permanent.

Despite our economic difficulties, there is every reason to be optimistic about America's future. Our workforce is dynamic and productive. Our economy is showing that it is resilient. And our Nation is the most industrious, creative, and prosperous on Earth.

Laura and I wish you a safe and joyous Labor Day weekend. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:50 a.m. on August 29 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on August 30. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on August 29 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency

August 31, 2008

I'm here at the FEMA Headquarters where I just received a briefing, and I've also come to thank the people behind me for working the long hours that they're doing to make sure that we've got the preparations in place for Hurricane Gustav. There's been a lot of work done to get ready for the storm. Across the gulf coast, there's Governors and State officials and local leaders that are taking this storm very seriously and are preparing proactively.

Secretary Chertoff and FEMA Administrator Paulison report that the Federal Government has prepositioned teams of emergency managers, doctors, ambulances, search and rescue teams, aircraft, and commodities throughout the region. There are millions of meals and millions of liters of water prestaged, as well as a lot of blankets and

cots. In other words, there's a lot of preparations that have gone in, in anticipation of this storm.

We're working with Governors to identify and secure out-of-State shelter for people in the path of the storm. Several States, including Missouri, Texas, and New Mexico, are in the—are preparing to and have accepted a lot of evacuees. People are leaving those areas that are of concern, and we're working hard to make sure that they have a place to go.

The Army Corps of Engineers informs me that while the levees are stronger than they've ever been, people across the gulf coast, especially in New Orleans, need to understand that in a storm of this size there is serious risk of significant flooding.

The message to the people of the gulf coast is, this storm is dangerous. There's a real possibility of flooding, storm surge, and high winds. And therefore, it is very important for you to follow the instructions and direction of State and local officials. Do not put yourself in harm's way or make rescue workers take unnecessary risks. And know that the American people stand with you, and that we'll face this emergency together.

In the coming days, I encourage people across our Nation to help their neighbors in need. You can contribute to charities such as the Red Cross. You can volunteer your time to help those in need. And of course, you can pray for those who might be suffering.

In light of these events, I will not be going to Minnesota for the Republican National Convention. I'm going to travel down to Texas tomorrow to visit with the Emergency Operations Center in Austin, where coordination among Federal, State, and local government officials is occurring. I intend to go down to San Antonio, where State and local officials are prepositioning relief materials for Texas and Louisiana. And I'll have a chance to visit with residents of both States who have been evacuated.

I will not be traveling to Louisiana tomorrow because I do not want my visit to impede in any way the response of our emergency personnel. I've been talking to the Governors, yesterday and today; I also spoke with Mayor Nagin of New Orleans to make sure that they're getting everything they need from the Federal Government to prepare for what all anticipate will be a difficult situation. I hope to be able to go to Louisiana as soon as conditions permit.

This Nation has come to know the strong and resilient spirit of the people of the gulf coast. They've made it through great challenges in the past, and they're going to make it through this one as well. In the meantime, all those preparing for this storm are in our thoughts and our prayers, from me and Laura and our whole Nation.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:24 p.m. at the FEMA Operations Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the Emergency Operations Center in Austin, Texas

September 1, 2008

Governor, thank you; Senator, thank you for coming; Members of Congress.

The coordination on this storm is a lot better than on—than during Katrina. A lot of it had to do with the Governors. Yesterday I was on the video conference with the Governors of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. There was clearly a spirit of sharing assets, of listening to somebody's problems and saying, how can we best address them? The Federal Government is very much involved in helping the States. Our job is to assist. That's why Secretary Paulson is with me today; he heads FEMA.

I do want to thank the State of Texas and other States for welcoming citizens from

Louisiana. It's been a huge evacuation. It's hard for a citizen to pull up stakes and move out of their home and face the uncertainty that comes when you're not at home. And I want to thank those citizens who listened carefully to the local authorities and evacuated. And I want to thank my fellow citizens in Texas and in other States for welcoming these folks in open arms. The State of Texas is a generous State. And, Governor, I wanted to thank you and your team for being so kind to the people.

And it's very important for those who have been evacuated to listen very carefully to the officials in their respective States before they decide to return. This storm is yet to pass. It's a serious event. And as the Governor mentioned, the people of east Texas got to be prepared for a possible flooding event.

All in all, what I look for is to determine whether or not assets are in place to help, whether or not there's coordination, and whether or not there's preparation for recovery. And to that end, I feel good about this event.

And I do want to thank Gail McGovern of the American Red Cross for joining us, and thank a lot of the other organizations that are preparing to go help people in need. These organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army require the support of our citizens.

And if you're interested in how you can help once the storm passes, please call up the different web sites of these organizations, and donate your time or your money so that the recovery effort is as compassionate and complete as possible.

Governor, thanks for having me. I want to thank your team for all the hard work they're doing. I'm looking forward to going in with you in the room next door to say thanks to the people that are working the long hours. And we're going to go down to San Antonio and see a staging area there and thank the people there for working so hard, not only on behalf of the citizens of Texas but on behalf of the people of the region.

Appreciate it. It's good to be home.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas; Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama; Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana; Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi; and Gail J. McGovern, president and chief executive officer, American Red Cross.

Remarks at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas

September 1, 2008

The President. You know, one of the great things about our country is the number of people who volunteer during one of these incidents. Here are some Red Cross volunteers. They are—they symbolize the thousands that will help.

And my call to our fellow citizens is that—find out how you can help. You can help by volunteering. You can help by contributing to the Red Cross or the Salvation Army. Somebody is going to say, “Well, I don’t know how to.” Well, it’s pretty easy. You can get on the web page. If you’re interested in the Red Cross, just call up Red Cross on your—and they’ll steer you to the way to help anyway.

America is a great country. It’s great because we’ve got great people. Nobody is happy about these storms; everybody is praying for everybody’s safety. But I’m confident that after the storm passes and there’s a human need, it will be met because of the generosity of the American people.

And I want to thank you all for setting such a good example.

Volunteer. You’re very welcome, very welcome.

The President. Appreciate you.

Volunteer. Thank you.

The President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. at the Alamo Regional Command Reception Center.

Statement on the War on Terror in Iraq

September 1, 2008

Today in Iraq, responsibility for security in Anbar Province was transferred to Iraqi civilian authorities. Iraqi forces will now take the lead in security operations in Anbar, with American troops moving into an overwatch role. Not long ago, Anbar was one of the most dangerous Provinces in Iraq. Al Qaida was in control of almost every major population center, and its leaders intended to turn Anbar Province into a safe haven from which to plan and launch further attacks against Iraqis and others in the region as well as here at home.

Today, Anbar is no longer lost to Al Qaida; it is Al Qaida that lost Anbar. Iraqis, like countless other Muslims across the world, witnessed Al Qaida’s brutality firsthand and rejected it. As a result, Anbar has been transformed and reclaimed by the Iraqi people. This achievement is a credit to the courage of our troops, the Iraqi Security Forces, and the brave tribes and other civilians from Anbar who worked alongside them.

Today’s ceremony returns the 11th of 18 Provinces to Provincial Iraqi control. Al Qaida and Iranian-backed special groups remain a threat, but the United States and the nations of Multi-National Forces—Iraq continue to stand with the Iraqis as they work to defeat these enemies and build a democracy in the heart of the Middle East. The success of Iraq will make the American people more secure and help yield the peace we all desire.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting
September 2, 2008

Members of my Cabinet have assembled here, and I thank you all for coming. We recognize that the pre-storm efforts were important and so is the follow-up efforts; in other words, what happens after the storm passes is as important as what happens prior to the storm arriving.

And so our discussion today is about energy. The gulf coast region produces a lot of energy for the United States. And we're now in the process of assessing any damage done to the infrastructure and right—a little early right now to come up with a solid assessment. There are some encouraging signs. For example, during Katrina, rigs would be—rigs moved because of the force of the storm, and their anchors dug across pipelines, which caused there to be infrastructure damage. We didn't see much of that this time, although I will tell you that it's a little early to be making any forecasts.

It's not too early, however, for the Federal Government to continue to coordinate with the State and local people. That's why Secretary Bodman was in touch with Governor Jindal. We want to make sure that we're in touch with these energy-producing States, to help assess what took place and what needs to happen.

One thing is for certain: When Congress comes back, they've got to understand that we need more domestic energy, not less; that—and one place to find it is offshore America, lands that have been taken off the books, so to speak, by congressional law. And now they need to give us a chance to find more oil and gas here at home. I'd much rather American consumers be buying gasoline produced from American oil than from foreign oil. I'd rather our dollar stay at home than go overseas.

And I know the Congress has been on recess for a while, but this issue hasn't gone away. And this storm should not cause the

Members of Congress to say, "Well, we don't need to address our energy independence." It ought to cause the Congress to step up their need to address our dependence on foreign oil. And one place to do so is to give us a chance to explore in environmentally friendly ways on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting the District of
Columbia's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget
Request**

September 2, 2008

*Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr.
President:)*

Pursuant to my constitutional authority and as contemplated by section 446 of the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act as amended in 1989, I am transmitting the District of Columbia's 2009 Budget Request Act. This transmittal does not represent an endorsement of the contents of the D.C. government's requests.

The proposed 2009 Budget Request Act reflects the major programmatic objectives of the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia. For 2009, the District estimates total revenues and expenditures of \$10.1 billion.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate.

Satellite Remarks to the Republican National Convention

September 2, 2008

Thank you, Laura, and good evening. As you know, my duties have me here in Washington tonight to oversee the Federal Government's efforts to help citizens recover from Hurricane Gustav. We are thankful that the damage in New Orleans and across the gulf coast was less than many had feared.

I commend the Governors of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas for their sure-handed response and seamless coordination with the Federal Government. I thank all the wonderful volunteers who stepped forward to help their brothers and sisters in need. We know that there is still risk even after the storm has passed, so I ask citizens across the region to listen closely to local officials and follow their instructions before returning to their homes. All of us are keeping the people of the gulf coast in our thoughts and our prayers.

As you gather tonight in St. Paul, I want to share some thoughts about our nominee, a great American, and the next President of the United States, John McCain.

Before I do so, I want to say hello to two people in the hall with you tonight. I could have no finer examples of character, decency, and integrity than my mom and dad. And I love you a lot.

I know what it takes to be President. In these past 8 years, I've sat at the Resolute desk and reviewed the daily intelligence briefings, the threat assessments, and the reports from our commanders on the frontlines. I've stood in the ruins of buildings knocked down by killers and promised the survivors I would never let them down. I know the hard choices that fall solely to a President. John McCain's life has prepared him to make those choices. He is ready to lead this Nation.

From the day of his commissioning, John McCain was a respected naval officer who made decisions on which the lives of others depended. As an elected public servant, he

earned the respect of colleagues in both parties as a man to follow when there's a tough call to make.

John McCain's life is a story of service above self. Forty years ago in an enemy prison camp, Lieutenant Commander McCain was offered release ahead of others who had been held longer. His wounds were so severe that anyone would have understood if he'd accepted; John refused. For that selfless decision, he suffered nearly 5 more years of beatings and isolation. When he was released, his arms had been broken, but not his honor.

Fellow citizens, if the Hanoi Hilton could not break John McCain's resolve to do what is best for his country, you can be sure the angry left never will.

As the father of seven sons and daughters, John has the heart of a protector. He and his wonderful wife, Cindy, are adoptive parents. John is a leader know—who knows that human life is fragile, that human life is precious, that human life must be defended.

We have seen John McCain's commitment to principle in our Nation's Capital. John is a steadfast opponent of wasteful spending. As President, he will stand up to the high-tax crowd in Congress and make the tax relief permanent. He will invest in the energy technologies of tomorrow and lift the ban on drilling for America's offshore oil today.

John is an independent man who thinks for himself. He's not afraid to tell you when he disagrees. Believe me, I know. [*Laughter*] No matter what the issue, this man is honest and speaks straight from the heart.

Last year, John McCain's independence and character helped change history. The Democrats had taken control of Congress and were threatening to cut off funds for our troops. In the face of calls for retreat, I ordered a surge of forces into Iraq. Many in Congress said it had no chance of working. Yet one Senator above all had faith in our troops and the importance of their mission, and that was John McCain. Some told him that his early and consistent call for more troops would put his Presidential campaign

at risk. He told them he would rather lose an election than see his country lose a war. That is the kind of courage and vision we need in our next Commander in Chief.

My fellow citizens, we live in a dangerous world, and we need a President who understands the lessons of September the 11th, 2001: that to protect America, we must stay on the offense, stop attacks before they happen, and not wait to be hit again. The man we need is John McCain.

When he takes office next January, John will have an outstanding leader at his side. America will have a strong and principled Vice President in the Governor of the great State of Alaska, Sarah Palin.

In the time the Oval Office has been in my trust, I've kept near my desk reminders of America's character, including a painting of a west Texas mountain lit by the morning sun. It reminds me that Americans have always lived on the sunrise side of the mountain. We are a nation that looks to the new day with confidence and optimism. And I'm optimistic about our future because I believe in the goodness and wisdom of the American people. I am optimistic because I have faith in freedom's power to lift up all of God's children and lead this world to a future of peace.

And I'm optimistic about something else: When the debates have ended, and all the ads have run, and it is time to vote, Americans will look closely at the judgment, the experience, and the policies of the candidates, and they will cast their ballots for the McCain-Palin ticket.

While I am not with you in the Twin Cities on this wonderful night for our party, with Laura Bush speaking, you have clearly traded up. *[Laughter]* I am so proud the American people have come to know her gracious presence, her determined spirit, and her loving heart. Laura has been a fantastic First Lady.

Thank you, Laura. And thanks to all of you in the hall tonight. God bless you, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 9:54 p.m. from the Cross Hall at the White House to convention participants in St. Paul, MN. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bob Riley of Alabama; Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana; Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi; and Gov. Rick Perry of Texas. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Briefing at the Emergency Operations Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

September 3, 2008

I'm going to make a quick statement, then I want to come around and say thank you in person to you.

First of all, Governor, thanks for having me down here. Phase one of the response to Gustav went very well. A lot of it had to do with the people in this room. We're much better coordinated this time than we were with Katrina. The State government, the local government, and the Federal Government were able to work effectively together.

There is still more work to be done. One of the key things that needs to happen is they got to get electricity up here in Louisiana, get moving as fast as possible. The Governor understands it's a problem, his team understands it's a problem, and I understand it's a problem.

There's a lot of folks from this State that are working hard to restring the lines. There are people from out of State coming into Louisiana to help as well, and of course, all the citizens of this State want to thank the people from other States that are moving in here to help get the electricity up as soon as possible. And I would ask that if utilities in neighboring States have extra manpower, please coordinate with the State and send the folks in. Part of this recovery is going to require the electricity coming back as quickly as possible.

We talked about the need to make sure that in parts of Louisiana that are getting flooded now—rural Louisiana—that MREs and water and ice get delivered to those communities as quickly as possible.

As a Governor of a neighboring State, I remember often how people would say, “All they care about is the big cities.” And I understand there’s a lot of focus on New Orleans, and there should be focus on New Orleans. But in the briefings today, it is clear that this State is focused as well as on people who live in rural Louisiana and in the smaller towns of Louisiana. And so the efforts will be aimed at helping people there.

Bobby talked about the need for—to release energy or oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Last night we got a request from a company doing business here in Louisiana, and we met that request. And if—so oil was released from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. And we will continue to do that upon requests by companies.

All in all, the response has been excellent, but the people here understand that there is more work to be done. And that’s why I came down here with members of the Federal Government to listen and to figure out how to help.

I can’t thank you all enough for working as hard as you are. Looking around, I can see that some people may not have had much sleep recently. [*Laughter*] The people of your State care a lot about the fact that you are working as hard as you are. And if this helps you keep going, I want to thank you, and I want to thank all the volunteers and the faith-based community that always rises up in a challenge like this. They listen to that universal call to love a neighbor like you’d like to be loved yourself. And that’s happening here in Louisiana again. And I know the people that are—whose lives have been affected appreciate a total stranger coming in to help.

And finally, the people in Louisiana must know that all across our country there’s a lot of prayer, prayer for those whose lives have been turned upside down. And I’m one of

them. It’s good to come down here. Governor, I can’t thank you enough for your leadership and your team’s leadership, and we stand ready to help.

And now I’m going to come around and thank every one of you for working. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Situation in Georgia

September 3, 2008

Last month, Russia invaded a sovereign neighbor and violated Georgia’s territorial integrity. The people of Georgia withstood the assault from the Russian military, and the international community rallied to stand with the people of Georgia and their democratically elected Government.

Early in the crisis, I directed a series of steps to demonstrate America’s solidarity with Georgia, including instructing Secretary Gates to oversee a mission by the U.S. military to provide humanitarian aid for the people of Georgia. Since the conflict began, our Nation has provided nearly \$30 million in humanitarian assistance to Georgia, including more than 1,200 tons of food and other relief supplies delivered by the U.S. military. While that mission continues, the United States is also prepared to help Georgia rebuild and regain its position as one of the world’s fastest growing economies.

On Monday, September 1, European leaders announced that the European Union is prepared to provide aid for reconstruction in Georgia, including the regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and would soon convene an international conference to assist Georgia in its reconstruction. The United States applauds the actions taken by the European Union, and we will participate in the EU’s reconstruction conference.

As part of America's contribution to this international effort, today I am announcing \$1 billion in additional economic assistance to meet Georgia's humanitarian needs and to support its economic recovery. More than half of these funds will be made available in the near term and will support reconstruction efforts in Georgia, assist the Government of Georgia in leading the nation's recovery, and meet ongoing humanitarian needs, including the resettlement of displaced families. The balance of the funds, together with assistance from the European Union and other partners, will help the Government of Georgia rebuild critical infrastructure and help local communities and businesses get back on their feet. My administration looks forward to working with Congress on elements of this package. The Vice President will brief Georgia's leadership on this package when he visits Tbilisi tomorrow.

Today I have also directed a number of Federal agencies to expand their support for Georgia's economic recovery. U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab will take steps to expand trade and investment in Georgia, by negotiating an enhanced bilateral investment treaty and expanding preferential access to the U.S. market for Georgian exports. Secretary of Commerce Gutierrez will assist U.S. firms interested in trade and investment in Georgia and dispatch a trade mission to Georgia in the coming weeks. Secretary of Transportation Peters will make available risk insurance to support U.S. maritime commerce with Georgia. Secretary of the Treasury Paulson will continue to lead our efforts to coordinate assistance efforts with international financial institutions, and Secretaries Rice and Gates will continue to coordinate with our international partners to ensure that our aid is delivered swiftly to those who need it most.

Georgia has a strong economic foundation and leaders with an impressive record of reform. Our additional economic assistance will help the people of Georgia recover from the

assault on their country and continue to build a prosperous and competitive economy.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Proclamation 8285—National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, 2008

September 3, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are helping to extend lifelines of learning throughout our country. During Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week, we pay tribute to these distinguished institutions.

Our Nation's HBCUs help unlock the great potential within students by providing quality higher education to traditionally underserved communities. By offering all students an opportunity to develop their skills and talents, HBCUs are helping more Americans realize the promise of our Nation.

My Administration is committed to promoting equal opportunities and access to higher education for all students. Since 2001, funding for HBCUs and Historically Black Graduate Institutions has increased. Additionally, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 makes college more affordable for low-income students by increasing funding for Federal Pell Grants by more than \$11 billion. The Act also helps HBCUs increase educational opportunities in the critical fields of math, science, technology, and foreign languages. By educating all of America's students, we are investing in our next generation of leaders and contributing to a more hopeful people and a more prosperous America.

Throughout this week, we renew the call for this country to never rest until equality is real, opportunity is universal, and all citizens can realize their dreams. We also recognize our country's HBCUs and their important role in making these goals a reality.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 7 through September 13, 2008, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities in respect and appreciation for the contributions these valuable institutions and their graduates have made to our country.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 4, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 5.

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.

August 30

In the morning, the President had separate telephone conversations with Governor

Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi, Governor Bob Riley of Alabama, and Governor Rick Perry of Texas to discuss Hurricane Gustav. He then had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President was briefed on Hurricane Gustav and Federal and State disaster response preparations.

The President declared an emergency in Mississippi and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Gustav beginning on August 28 and continuing.

The President declared an emergency in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Hurricane Gustav beginning on August 29 and continuing.

August 31

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy to discuss the situation in Georgia. Later, he had a telephone conversation with Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA, to discuss Hurricane Gustav.

September 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Austin, TX. While en route aboard Air Force One, he was briefed on Hurricane Gustav by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison.

Later in the morning, at the Texas Emergency Operations Center, he met with emergency operations center employees.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to San Antonio, TX. Then, at the Alamo Regional Command Reception Center at Lackland Air Force Base, he met with military personnel and Red Cross volunteers. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

September 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then met with Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison to discuss Hurricane Gustav and Federal and State disaster response efforts.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Lusaka, Zambia, to attend the funeral of President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa of Zambia on September 3: Tevi Troy (head of delegation); Jendayi E. Frazer; R. Timothy Ziemer; and Michael Koplovsky.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Hurricane Gustav on September 1 and continuing.

September 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Baton Rouge, LA. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had separate telephone conversations with Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA, and was briefed on Hurricane Gustav by Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison.

Later in the morning, the President toured areas damaged by Hurricane Gustav. Later, at the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center, he met with emergency operations center staff, volunteers, and military personnel.

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

In the evening, the President met with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael G. Mullen who presented him with Multi-National Force—Iraq Commanding General David H. Petraeus's recommendation for U.S. troop levels in Iraq.

The President announced that he has named Sandra K. Evans as Special Assistant

to the President and Director of the Office of Administration.

The President announced that he has named Jamil Nazim Jaffer as Associate Counsel to the President.

The President announced that he has named Karen Race as Special Assistant to the President and Director of White House Personnel.

The President announced that he has named Kerrie Rushton as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives.

The President announced that he has named Heath P. Tarbert as Associate Counsel to the President.

September 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced that he has named Melissa Bennett as Assistant to the President for Appointments and Scheduling in the Office of Appointments and Scheduling.

The President announced that he has named Linda Gambatesa as Assistant to the President for Management and Administration in the Office of Management and Administration.

September 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had separate telephone conversations with Governor Mark Sanford of South Carolina, Governor Michael F. Easley of North Carolina, and Governor Tim Kaine of Virginia to discuss Tropical Storm Hanna and Federal and State disaster response preparations.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Gettysburg, PA, to tour the Gettysburg National Military Park.

In the evening, the President returned to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia to the White House on September 20.

The President declared a major disaster in New Hampshire and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from July 24 to August 14.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released August 30

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Alabama

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Mississippi

Released September 1

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison

Transcript of remarks by First Lady Laura Bush and Cindy McCain, wife of Republican Presidential candidate John McCain, at the Republican National Convention

Statement by the Press Secretary on the situation in Georgia

Fact sheet: Iraqi's Take Responsibility for Security in Anbar Province

Released September 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Louisiana

Excerpts from the President's remarks to the Republican National Convention

Released September 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Dana Perino and Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator R. David Paulison

Fact sheet: U.S. Support for Georgia

Released September 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Released September 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Dana Perino

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Alvaro Uribe of Colombia

Statement by National Security Adviser Stephen J. Hadley on a Washington Post article concerning a new book by Bob Woodward

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New Hampshire

Fact sheet: American Economy is Resilient in the Face of Challenges

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.