

would overcome oppression. That early wisdom has guided her through life, and that truth has guided our Nation to a better day.

I know that the Reverend and Mrs. Rice would be filled with pride to see the daughter they raised in Birmingham, Alabama, chosen for the office first held by Thomas Jefferson. Something tells me, however, they would not be surprised. [Laughter]

As many of you know, Condi's true ambition is beyond my power to grant. [Laughter] She would really like to be the commissioner of the National Football League. I'm glad she's put those plans on hold once again. The Nation needs her. I urge the Senate to promptly confirm Condoleezza Rice as America's 66th Secretary of State.

Congratulations.

[At this point, Secretary-designate Rice made brief remarks.]

The President. Good job. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:33 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Rice.

Executive Order 13361—Assignment of Functions Under the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003

November 16, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Executive Order 12163 of September 29, 1979, as amended, is further amended as follows:

(a) in subsection 1–100(a), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (15), by inserting a semicolon at the end of paragraph (15), and by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraph:

“(16) the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–25)(the “HIV/AIDS Act”), as amended, and amendments made by the HIV/

AIDS Act, which the Secretary shall perform, in the case of section 304, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”;

(b) in section 1–701, by inserting, after subsection (g), the following new subsections:

“(h) Those functions conferred by section 1(f)(1) and section 1(f)(2)(B)(ii)(VII) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended (22 U.S.C. 2651a).

“(i) Those functions conferred by section 202(d)(4)(C)(i) and (ii) of the HIV/AIDS Act, as amended.”;

(c) by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

“1–906. *Implementation.* In carrying out this order, officers of the United States shall ensure that all actions taken by them are consistent with the President’s constitutional authority to: (a) conduct the foreign affairs of the United States; (b) withhold information the disclosure of which could impair the foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive’s constitutional duties; (c) recommend for congressional consideration such measures as the President may judge necessary and expedient; and (d) supervise the unitary executive branch.”.

Sec. 2. Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

Sec. 3. This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, entities, officers, employees or agents, or any other person.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 16, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 18, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on November 19.

Remarks at the Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation Ceremony

November 17, 2004

Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome. Welcome to a beautiful day here in the Rose Garden. I'm pleased to welcome Biscuits—[laughter]—the National Thanksgiving Turkey. Biscuits, welcome. [Laughter]

This is an election year, and Biscuits had to earn his spot at the White House. Over the past week, thousands of voters cast ballots on the White House web site. It was a close race. You might say it was neck and neck. [Laughter] When all the voters were in—all the votes were in, Biscuits and his runningmate, Gravy, prevailed over the ticket of Patience and Fortitude. [Laughter] The Vice President and I are here to congratulate Biscuits for a race well run.

It came down to a few battleground States. [Laughter] It was a tough contest, and it turned out some 527 organizations got involved—[laughter]—including Barnyard Animals for Truth. [Laughter] There was a scurrilous film that came out, "Fahrenheit 375 Degrees at 10 Minutes Per Pound." [Laughter] Now it's a time for healing.

This day took a lot of planning, and I want to thank all those who helped. I appreciate Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman. She has served our Nation with class and distinction. I'm going to miss having her in my Cabinet, and I wish her all the best.

Congressman, I'm honored you are here. Thanks for coming. I know that you're deeply concerned about the fate of this year's Thanksgiving turkey. You're a man of deep compassion.

I want to thank everyone here with the National Turkey Federation, especially John O'Carroll and Alice Johnson. Welcome.

I want to thank Kevin Foltz and his family for the fine job they did in raising Biscuits and Gravy on their farm in Mathias, West Virginia. They fed the turkeys American corn and American soybeans. And from the looks of it, he had a pretty healthy appetite. [Laughter] I'm also grateful to Kevin's children, Kolby, Kollin, and Korey, who helped to coach the turkeys to face the cameras on their big day here.

We've also got some special guests from the Immaculate Conception School. I'm glad you took this field trip to the White House. I'm grateful to your school and the parish for sharing some of your blessings during the holidays. This is the 40th year Immaculate Conception has provided food baskets to families in the Shaw neighborhood to make sure they have plenty to eat for their Thanksgiving dinner. For the sake of our feathered guests, I'm not going to elaborate on the contents of those baskets. [Laughter]

The Thanksgiving tradition dates back to our Nation's earliest days. We are a nation founded by men and women who deeply felt their dependence on God and always gave Him thanks and praise. As we prepare for Thanksgiving in 2004, we have much to be thankful for, our families, our friends, our beautiful country, and the freedom granted to each one of us by the Almighty.

During this holiday season, we think especially of our men and women of the Armed Forces, many of whom are spending Thanksgiving far from home. Last Thanksgiving, I had the privilege of meeting with our military serving in Baghdad area of Iraq. Those men and women, like all who wear our Nation's uniform, have volunteered to serve. Through their courage and skill and sacrifice, they are keeping our country safe and free. America is proud of our military. We're proud of our military families, and we give them our thanks every day of the year.

The National Thanksgiving Turkey will soon be on stage for all to see, but he's not going to end up on the table. I'm granting him a Presidential pardon. Not only will I grant the pardon to Biscuits; I will also grant one to Gravy as well. I wish them well as they begin their new life at Frying Pan Park in the great State of Virginia.

Laura and I and the Vice President wish every American a happy Thanksgiving. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:15 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to John O'Carroll, chairman, and Alice L. Johnson, president, National Turkey Federation.