

mostly by good intentions, not petty politics. He takes the view that politicians are like other people—no better and no worse—and that public service is a worthy calling. We in public life are grateful for that, believe me.

It is a great loss that George is retiring from the News because we need that attitude now more than ever. In recent years, there has been a coarsening of political life. These are meaner streets these days, with more personal attacks and sharp edges. With his civility and his moderation, George has been in the vanguard of smoothing out those rough edges.

In his farewell column, George referred to me as his “most-interviewed Senator.” That is a distinction I will wear with honor, and I want to thank him for the professional way he has treated our conversations. George is a man of his word, whom you can talk to with confidence that he will get the story straight and whom you can talk to in confidence from time to time as well. I don’t know if George is counting in his tally our informal chats, including annually at the Cherry Festival in his beloved Traverse City. But I do know that I have come to look forward to those talks, and I still will.

Thank you, George Weeks, for your years of service and for your magnificent, ongoing career.●

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

LORING COMMUNITY SCHOOL, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Loring Community School, in Minneapolis, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Loring Community School is truly a model of educational success. This neighborhood elementary school, which educates children in kindergarten through fifth grade, is named for the distinguished Charles M. Loring, father of the Minneapolis Park System and first president of the Park Board.

Loring Community School prepares children for lifelong learning in a respectful environment that nurtures their growth into knowledgeable, skilled, responsible, and confident citizens capable of succeeding personally as well as professionally. The school is 45 percent African American, 29 percent white, and 22 percent Asian. Seventy-two percent of the children are from low-income families.

The school’s success is firmly rooted in basic community values. Each child is treated like an important person, in the classroom and in the school, which sets high standards and expectations for all children, in order to foster growth academically, socially, and personally. Loring School also emphasizes the importance of family involvement, to encourage the educational success of their children.

Loring School goes well beyond the basics, offering a number of enrichment programs, including accelerated math and reading programs, a Math Master competition, a science fair, an art fair, band, and a fifth grade environmental camping experience. A special feature is the student-run radio station, KBEM Radio. All Loring pupils have opportunities to participate in dance, music, theater, and visual art enrichment programs.

Much of the credit for Loring School’s success belongs to its principal, Jane Thompson, and her dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Loring School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Loring School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Loring Community School in Minneapolis, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

HERMANTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HERMANTOWN, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Hermantown Public Schools, in Hermantown, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

The Hermantown Public School District is truly a model of educational success. Mr. Brad Johnson, superintendent of Hermantown Public Schools, was hired last summer to lead the district. Upon his arrival in July, he was greatly impressed that the community demonstrated such strong support for education and such tremendous pride in its schools.

The success of Hermantown Public Schools is evidenced by the large number of students from surrounding districts who have enrolled. The schools have a waiting list of additional families that would like to enroll. Further, 95 percent of the parents of students at Hermantown participate in parent-teacher conferences.

Much of the credit for Hermantown Public Schools’ success belongs to its superintendent, Brad Johnson, its principals, Lois Backscheider, Dave Radovich, and Dennis Nelson, and their dedicated teachers. The students and staff at Hermantown Public Schools understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must provide a nurturing environment where students can develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes for a lifetime of success. All of the faculty, staff, and students at Hermantown Public Schools should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Hermantown Public Schools in Hermantown, MN, for winning the Award for Excellence in Edu-

cation and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

BAY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, PROCTOR, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Bay View Elementary School, in Proctor, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Bay View Elementary School, a neighborhood school for 450 pupils in kindergarten through fifth grade, is truly a model of educational success.

Earlier this year, in their campaign to raise money to construct a boardwalk through their school’s greatly prized forest, Bay View pupils collected 2,000 box tops. With the proceeds from the box tops, they were able to purchase \$200 worth of lumber for the boardwalk. When someone absconded with the lumber, however, the children were not foiled by the theft; instead, turning a challenge into an opportunity, Bay View fifth-graders staged a publicity event and held placards urging the thieves to return the ill-gotten lumber. Their skillful tactic, combined with newspaper stories describing how hard the students worked to raise the money, generated an outpouring of community support. Over \$5,000 in contributions from citizens and corporations streamed in; not only that, but the lumber was returned.

Bay View’s school forest, which merited such avid initiative, truly offers an academic highlight, serving as an active, environmental learning laboratory for children in all grades. In January, I toured the forest and saw for myself its many opportunities for hands-on learning. Last summer, eight Bay View teachers used their own personal staff development days to take part in an Audubon Center training program, learning to integrate environmental education into their daily lessons.

Two other notable features are Bay View’s artist-in-residence program and its student-run television studio, which affords opportunities to learn live-television production skills through a local, public access television production and broadcast studio. Students’ daily news broadcasts are televised in classrooms throughout the school.

Much of the credit for Bay View Elementary School’s success belongs to its Principal, Jon Larson, and his dedicated teachers. The children and staff at Bay View Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Bay View Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Bay View Elementary School in Proctor, Minnesota, for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

TRANSMITTING, CONSISTENT WITH THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705), THE 2006 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2006 National Drug Control Strategy prepared by my Administration, consistent with the Office of National Drug Control Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Four years ago, my Administration issued its first National Drug Control Strategy. That Strategy set out an ambitious, balanced plan to reduce drug use in our Nation. Since 2001, drug use by 8th, 10th, and 12th graders has dropped by 19 percent, translating to nearly 700,000 fewer young people using drugs.

I appreciate the support the Congress has given for previous Strategies. I look forward to your continued support as we work together on this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 8, 2006.

REPORT RELATIVE TO BLOCKING PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONFLICT IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), and section 301 of the Na-

tional Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1631 (NEA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. In that order, I declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by that conflict, as described below.

The United Nations Security Council, in Resolution 1572 of November 15, 2004, expressed deep concern over the resumption of hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire, the public incitement of hatred and violence, and the repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement of May 3, 2003. United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1572 determined that the situation in Côte d'Ivoire poses a threat to international peace and security in the region and called on member States to take certain measures against persons responsible for the continuing conflict. The United Nations Security Council has continued to express serious concern at the persistence of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and of obstacles to the peace and national reconciliation process from all sides in UNSCRs 1643 of December 15, 2005, and 1652 of January 24, 2006.

Despite the intervention and efforts of the international community, there have been massacres of large numbers of civilians, widespread human rights abuses, significant political violence and unrest, and attacks against international peacekeeping forces in Côte d'Ivoire. Such activity includes the killing of large numbers of civilians in Korhogo in June 2004, and in Abidjan in March 2004; significant violence and unrest, including public incitements to violence, in Abidjan in November 2004; human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings, in western Côte d'Ivoire in April and June 2005; attacks on a police station and prison in July 2005 in Anyama and Agboville, and violent protests in Abidjan and attacks on U.N. and international nongovernmental organization facilities in western Côte d'Ivoire in January 2006. Also, notwithstanding the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement signed by the Ivorian political forces on January 24, 2003, the related ceasefire agreement of May 3, 2003, the Accra III Agreement of July 30, 2004, the Pretoria Agreement of April 6, 2005, and the Declaration on the Implementation of the Pretoria Agreement of June 29, 2005, consolidating the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis peace and national reconciliation process, Ivorian parties have continued to engage in military operations and attacks against peacekeeping forces in Côte d'Ivoire leading to fatalities.

Pursuant to the IEEPA and the NEA, I have determined that these actions and circumstances constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of

the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat and have issued an Executive Order to deal with the threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy posed by the situation in or in relation to Côte d'Ivoire.

The order blocks the property and interests in property in the United States, or in the possession or control of United States persons, of the persons listed in the Annex to the order, as well as of any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to constitute a threat to the peace and national reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire, such as by blocking the implementation of the Linas-Marcoussis, Accra III, and Pretoria Agreements; to be responsible for serious violations of international law in Côte d'Ivoire; to have directly or indirectly supplied, sold or transferred to Côte d'Ivoire arms or any related materiel or any assistance, advice, or training related to military activities; or to have publicly incited violence and hatred contributing to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

The designation criteria will be applied in accordance with applicable domestic law, including where appropriate, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The order also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, the activities listed above or any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. I further authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, to designate for blocking any person determined to be owned or controlled by, or acting or purporting to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person listed in or designated pursuant to the order. The Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, is also authorized to remove any persons from the Annex to the order as circumstances warrant.

I delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, after consultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by the IEEPA and the United Nations Participation Act, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All executive agencies are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

The order, a copy of which is enclosed, became effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern standard time on February 8, 2006.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

The White House, February 8, 2006.