

FOIA Marker

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Communications, White House Office of DeFrancis, Suzanne (Suzy)

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Folder Title:

SOTU 2004

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The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Fact Sheet	New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address	3	01/20/2004	P5;
002	Draft	International Audiences, The State of the Union Address	3	01/15/2004	P5;
003	Speech	State of the Union Address [page 14]	1	01/20/2004	P6/b6;

COLLECTION TITLE:

Communications, White House Office of

SERIES:

DeFrancis, Suzanne (Suzy)

FOLDER TITLE:

SOTU 2004

FRC ID:

2423

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

- A. Closed by Executive Order 13526 governing access to national security information.
- B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address

January 20, 2004

In his State of the Union Address, President Bush called on our Nation to complete the work begun during the last three years and to face the future with confidence and strength. To address America's most pressing needs, the President announced new initiatives to strengthen economic growth, further reform education and job training, address the rising cost of health care, and make America a more compassionate Nation.

Jobs for the 21st Century

- America's growing economy is also a changing economy, and President Bush wants to help Americans gain the skills needed to prosper in our new economy. President Bush announced *Jobs for the 21st Century* – more than \$500 million for a series of measures to better prepare current and future workers for jobs in the new millennium.
- President Bush wants to help current workers get the training and skills they need to secure jobs in high-growth industries. He also wants to help better prepare high school students to enter higher education or the workforce. This initiative is especially important at a time when 80% of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. require higher education and many require math and science skills.
 - The President's *Jobs for the 21st Century* initiative would expand support through America's community colleges to help them train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. It includes a \$250 million proposal to fund partnerships between community colleges and employers in high-demand job sectors, based on successful pilot programs launched by President Bush in 2001 and 2002.
 - President Bush's plan will improve the quality of education at our Nation's middle and high schools and better prepare students for success in higher education and the job market – including \$100 million to help striving readers and \$120 million to improve math education.
 - The President's plan expands Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools and invites professionals with private-sector math and science experience to teach part-time in our high schools. As an incentive for students to take more demanding high school courses, it would provide larger grants for college under the Pell Grant program.

Making Health Care More Affordable

- The rapidly rising cost of health care is the main reason why millions of Americans lack health insurance today. To make insurance more affordable, the President proposed measures to address rising healthcare costs and help more Americans afford insurance.
- **Tax-Free Health Savings Accounts (HSAs):** As part of the Medicare prescription drug bill that President Bush signed into law last month, workers will now be able to take advantage of HSAs – fully portable, tax-free savings accounts that can be used to pay for medical expenses incurred by individuals, spouses, or dependents. Contributions to HSAs by individuals are deductible, even if the taxpayer does not itemize, and contributions by an employer are not included in the individual's taxable income.

- ***Tax-free Insurance Premiums for HSAs:*** President Bush proposed that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage as part of their new Health Savings Accounts, be allowed to deduct 100% of the premium from their taxes. This new deduction of health insurance premiums, which will be available to taxpayers whether or not they itemize, will make health coverage more affordable for millions of Americans who do not get coverage through their workplace.
- The President also called on Congress to establish refundable tax credits of up to \$1,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for families to help low-income workers buy health insurance coverage.
- The President called for Congress to pass Association Health Plans to enable small businesses to provide health coverage to more workers by allowing them to band together and negotiate lower insurance rates.
- President Bush proposed to double the budget to \$100 million for demonstration projects related to health information technology, which will save lives and help to reduce costs.

Doubling Our Efforts to Expand Democracy

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) was established by Congress during the Reagan Administration to expand democracy throughout the world. Governed by an independent, nonpartisan board of directors, the NED makes hundreds of grants each year to support pro-democracy groups in dozens of countries. The NED works in part through direct grants to NGOs and civil society groups fighting for democracy, human rights, religious tolerance, freedom of the press, and free elections. Last year, the NED budget totaled \$39.6 million. The President called for doubling the NED budget, allocating the additional \$40 million to programs in the Middle East.

Helping Young Americans Make Healthy Decisions

- ***Addressing the National Challenge of Teen Substance Abuse:*** Approximately 1.4 million American teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 are in need of drug treatment, according to research done by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Data also show that, if a child does not start using drugs in his or her teen years, he or she is much less likely to develop a substance abuse problem later.
- In his State of the Union address, President Bush announced a new initiative to help young Americans avoid being ensnared by addiction. His budget for FY 2005 will include \$25 million—a \$23 million increase—for student drug testing program grants, extending the benefits of early intervention programs that have been proven in government, military, education, transportation, and private-sector workplaces. The President's anti-drug policies are working – just last month, a leading national survey found that 400,000 fewer drug users among 8th, 10th, and 12th graders. This represents an 11% decline in drug use among these age groups, ahead of the President's two-year goal of 10%.
- ***Encouraging Role Models to Set a Good Example for Young Athletes:*** President Bush called on America's major sports leagues and athletes to end the use of performance-enhancing drugs. Their use by even a minority of elite athletes sets a dangerous example for the millions of young Americans, encouraging young people to take dangerous risks with their health and safety.

- The President will ask these leagues and athletes to implement stringent drug policies to set a healthier and more positive example for America's young people. These policies will also protect the integrity of their sports and ensure the health and well-being of athletes.
- ***Expanding Support for Teen Abstinence Promotion:*** Each year, three million American teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases, causing emotional harm and serious health consequences, even death. President Bush announced a new initiative to educate teens and parents about the health risks associated with early sexual activity and provide the tools needed to help teens make responsible choices. The President's Fiscal Year 2005 budget would increase the funding for abstinence education programs to more than \$270 million. President Bush also directed the Department of Health and Human Services to develop research-based standards for model abstinence education curricula, and he called for a review of all Federal programming for youth addressing teen pregnancy prevention, family planning, and STD and HIV/AIDS prevention to ensure that the Federal government is sending the right messages to teens. He also announced a public education campaign designed to help parents communicate with their children about the health risks associated with early sexual activity.

Empowering Faith-Based and Community Charities to Help Those in Need

- Many faith-based organizations that have been effective in serving the poor have faced discrimination in their efforts to partner with the Federal government. The regulatory reforms instituted by President Bush in December, 2002 have remedied many of these problems, but should be protected by statute.
- President Bush announced his intent to seek legislation to put into law the principle of equal treatment for faith-based organizations in the Federal grants process and end discrimination against these charities. This legislation would ensure that more Americans in need would be able to get vital social services from the country's most effective charities, whether secular or faith-based organizations.

Protecting Communities by Reducing Recidivism Among Returning Inmates

- Some 600,000 prisoners who have completed their prison sentences will be released this year. Unfortunately, many of them will return to prison after committing another crime – causing additional costs to themselves and society. To reduce the number of these prisoners committing new crimes, President Bush proposed a plan to harness the resources and experience of faith-based and community organizations in dealing with the challenges of helping returning inmates contribute to society.
- Through a collaboration with faith-based and community organizations and the Department of Labor (DOL), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), the initiative would address three key requirements for successful re-entry of those who have paid their debt to society – mentoring, transitional housing, and basic job training and placement. The President's FY 2005 budget will provide funding for the first year of this four-year, \$300 million initiative.

State of the Union Preview

In his State of the Union address, the President will discuss the **serious challenges facing our Nation** and the **steps we must take to make America a more secure, more prosperous and more hopeful country.**

The President will express **faith and confidence in the American people to meet these challenges.** The adversity of past three years has shown the strength of the American people. We are meeting the tests of history.

The President will take stock of the accomplishments of the past three years and also **lay out goals for the future, behind which all Americans can unite, and urge us to move forward with the work that still needs to be done.**

He will point to the **changes** taking place in our country and our world leading toward **freedom and prosperity**—and the **need to act on his agenda so that our policies reflect these changes.**

Specific areas the President will address include:

➤ **War on Terror**

- Actions we must take in defense of our Nation—both on the home front and around the world
- Progress being made in Afghanistan and Iraq
- The difficult work of helping Iraq make the transition to democracy—and its importance to U.S. interests and world interests
- The positive impact of our actions around the world—especially the greater region of the Middle East

➤ **Challenges of a changing economy**

- Helping Americans meet these challenges by learning new skills for a new economy
- Creating jobs so that everyone who wants to work can find a job
- Expanding opportunities for all Americans to own a home or start a business

➤ **Health care:** Importance to seniors of Medicare reforms passed last year—and the steps we must take this year to help families and small businesses deal with the rising costs of health care.

➤ **Education:** Helping schools and students meet the high standards we have set, so no child in America is left behind.

At a time of great change, the President will speak to the importance of preserving values and vital institutions that make America strong—like families, schools and religious congregations.

DeFrancis, Suzy

From: Besanceney, Brian R.
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 5:38 PM
Subject: STATE OF THE UNION EXCERPTS

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2004

State of the Union Excerpts

Tonight, President Bush will discuss the extraordinary challenges our country has faced and the historic achievements we have made. Yet he will also stress that there's much more for our country to do:

“America this evening is a Nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them...”

“We have not come all this way – through tragedy, and trial, and war – only to falter and leave our work unfinished. Americans are rising to the tasks of history, and they expect the same of us.”

He will also remind the American people that we are a Nation still at war, and our government is meeting its responsibility to protect the American people:

“Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11, 2001 – over two years without an attack on American soil – and it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting – and false.”

“...America is on the offensive against the terrorists...”

“As part of the offensive against terror, we are also confronting the regimes that harbor and support terrorists, and could supply them with nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons...”

“...Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better...”

He will discuss the progress we're making in Afghanistan and Iraq, and renew our commitment to ensuring those countries are free and peaceful:

“The men and women of Afghanistan are building a nation that is free, and proud, and fighting terror...”

“The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right. And America has always been willing to do what it takes for what is right.”

On priorities here at home, the President will discuss why he's optimistic about our growing economy, and call on Congress to take action that will help turn our economic recovery into a lasting recovery. He will call on them to help train Americans for the jobs of the 21st Century:

“America's growing economy is also a changing economy. As technology transforms the way almost every job is done, America becomes more productive, and workers need new skills... We must respond by

helping more Americans gain the skills to find good jobs in our new economy.”

President Bush will also discuss the importance of health care and the major cause for why Americans lack health insurance: the rising costs of health care.

“On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs. To make insurance more affordable, Congress must act to address rapidly rising health care costs.”

Finally, the President will argue that in a time of great change in our country and world, the things that make our country strong should never change:

“We are living in a time of great change... Yet some things endure – courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, respect for differences of faith and race. The values we try to live by never change. And they are instilled in us by fundamental institutions, such as families, and schools, and religious congregations. These institutions – the unseen pillars of civilization – must remain strong in America...”

“All of us – parents, schools, government – must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children.”

The State of the Union

January 20, 2004

In his State of the Union address, President Bush discussed the serious challenges facing our Nation and the steps we must take to make America a more secure, more prosperous and more hopeful country. Over the last three years, America has come together to overcome great challenges, and the President expressed faith and confidence in the American people and our nation's future. Now the choice is clear – to move forward on the path to freedom and prosperity, or to turn back to the old policies and divisions of the past.

President Bush laid out ambitious goals for the future, behind which all Americans can unite, and urged the nation to move forward with the work that still needs to be done.

Making America Safer with Decisive Action to Win the War on Terror

America is safer today because of the decisive action and leadership of President Bush. Although there has not been a successful attack on our homeland in 28 months, the President will not allow the nation to return to a sense of false security and complacency. He called for continued action at home and abroad to defeat the terrorists and pursue a forward strategy of freedom to promote democracy throughout the Middle East.

- America continues to wage a relentless campaign against terrorists who threaten our country. In this war, America is taking the offensive, denying terrorists refuge, identifying and seizing their finances, and holding terrorists and their sponsors to account. We have captured almost two-thirds of the known Al-Qaida leaders, including the mastermind of the September 11 attacks.
 - Afghanistan, once ruled by the brutal Taliban regime that sheltered Al-Qaida, has adopted a new constitution and is following the path of democracy, including providing fundamental rights to women.
 - Libya has now pledged to disclose and dismantle all of its weapons of mass destruction programs.
 - In Iraq, Saddam Hussein has been overthrown and captured and the enemies of freedom are being systematically routed from their holes and rounded up. Iraqis are assuming greater responsibility for their own security and future government, and America and more than 30 nations are helping the Iraqi people make the transition to full sovereignty by the end of June. Although it is hard work, we will stand by them as they complete the transition to democracy.
- The President called on Congress to renew the Patriot Act, which provides law enforcement officials with essential tools needed to track down terrorists before they strike. The Patriot Act allows investigators and prosecutors to use laws originally designed to prosecute embezzlers and drug traffickers to bring international terrorists to justice – enabling federal law enforcement to better share information, track terrorists, disrupt their cells, and seize their assets.
- The President recognizes that different threats require different strategies. He is working with other nations to ensure that North Korea and Iran abandon their nuclear ambitions and join the world community in preventing the spread of dangerous weapons.
- America's actions will result in the spread of democracy in the Middle East – an important step that will provide an alternative to terror and violence. To further encourage the progress of democracy, President Bush is calling for a doubling of support for the National Endowment for Democracy, and focusing its new work on the development of free elections, free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East.

Keeping America on Track for a More Prosperous Future

The last three years have revealed the fundamental strengths of America's economy. Despite the unprecedented economic shocks of recession, the September 11 attacks, corporate scandals and war, America's economy is on track for recovery and sustained job creation.

- The tax relief proposed and signed into law by President Bush was the right action at the right time for our economy. This tax relief doubled the child tax credit; reduced the marriage penalty; phased out the death tax; lowered taxes on capital gains, stock dividends, and small businesses to create incentives for job creation; and lowered taxes for every American who pays income taxes.
- The results of this decisive action are clear. Economic growth in the 3rd quarter of 2003 and new home construction the highest in almost 20 years; homeownership levels are at historic highs; manufacturing activity is increasing; inflation and interest rates are low; and a quarter million jobs were created in the last half of 2003.
- President Bush called on Congress to enable these positive economic trends to continue by making the tax relief permanent – so families and businesses can plan and invest for the future.

Helping Americans Access High-Demand Jobs: America's economy is growing but it is also changing due to higher productivity and new technology. It is more important than ever that Americans have the education and training needed to succeed. The No Child Left Behind Act is bringing important reforms to America's schools by insisting on standards and accountability for results. There are substantial resources available to implement these reforms, and President Bush will fight any effort to undo them.

- Many older students and current workers will also need to strengthen their skills to compete for the jobs of tomorrow. President Bush proposed more than \$500 million for a series of measures called *Jobs for the 21st Century* – designed to provide extra help to middle- and high school students who fall behind in reading and math, expand Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools, and invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part-time in high schools.
- The President's *Jobs for the 21st Century* initiative increases support for America's community colleges to enable them to train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. It will also provide larger Pell Grants for students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school.

Sustaining Economic Growth: To help sustain America's economic recovery, President Bush called on Congress to pass legislation to streamline federal regulations, protect employers from junk lawsuits, ensure an affordable and reliable supply of energy, and give younger workers an opportunity to set aside a portion of their Social Security taxes in personal retirement accounts. He also underscored his commitment to fiscal responsibility by announcing that his FY 2005 budget will hold discretionary spending growth to less than 4%, keeping America on track to cut the deficit in half in five years.

Strengthening Health Care for Millions of Americans: President Bush urged Congress to extend the benefits of modern medicine throughout our country and take action to help control the rising costs of medical care and give more Americans access to health insurance.

Strengthening Medicare: Just last month, President Bush signed legislation to strengthen Medicare and add a prescription drug benefit, keeping a commitment to seniors to help them afford the medicines they need.

- Starting this year, seniors can choose to receive a drug discount card that will save 10-25% off the retail price of most prescription drugs – and millions of low-income seniors can get an additional \$600 to buy medicine.
- Beginning next year, seniors will have new coverage for preventive screenings against diabetes and heart disease, and seniors just entering Medicare can receive wellness exams.
- In January of 2006, seniors can get prescription coverage under Medicare. For a monthly premium of about \$35, most seniors who do not have prescription drug coverage will see their drug bills cut roughly in half. Seniors will be able to keep Medicare just as it is today, or choose the Medicare plan that fits them best – similar to the health care choices offered to Members of Congress.
- President Bush will veto any effort to take this prescription drug coverage away from seniors and limit their choices.

Increasing Health Care Affordability and Coverage: President Bush is concerned about the rising cost of health care and helping Americans to afford health care coverage that best meets their needs. The President rejects the notion of a government-run health care system as some have proposed. He outlined a series of steps for making health insurance more affordable and accessible, including:

- Enabling small businesses to band together and negotiate for lower insurance rates, covering more workers with health insurance, through Association Health Plans.
- Giving lower-income Americans a refundable tax credit so millions can buy their own basic health insurance coverage.
- Computerizing health records to reduce costs, improve care, and lower the risk of medical mistakes.
- Eliminating frivolous medical lawsuits that damage the doctor-patient relationship and keep good doctors from taking new patients.
- Allowing individuals who set aside money tax free in new Health Savings Accounts to deduct from their taxes 100% of the cost of their health insurance premiums.

Building a Better and More Compassionate America for All

- During this time of great change in our nation, the President spoke to the importance of preserving the timeless values and vital institutions that continue to make America strong—like families, schools, and religious congregations.
- The President proposed several new steps to help young Americans make responsible choices.
 - Drug use in high school has declined by 11 percent over the past two years, and 400,000 fewer young people are using illegal drugs than in 2001. The President's FY 05 budget will include new funding to continue our aggressive, community-based strategy to reduce demand for illegal drugs – as well as an increase of \$23 million for schools that want to use drug testing as a tool to save children's lives.
 - To ensure that role models do not send the wrong message about substance abuse to millions of American children, the President called on America's professional sports leagues and their unions to take decisive action to address the problem of illegal steroids.
 - At a time when 3 million American teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases each year, the President proposes a new grassroots health campaign to inform teens and parents of the risks – and a doubling of federal funding for abstinence education programs.
- **Defending the Institution of Marriage:** The President also called for a principled stand to defend the institution of marriage against activist judges who redefine marriage by court order – without listening to the voices of the elected representatives of the people.
- **Faith- and Community-Based Groups:** The President is fully committed to empowering more of America's faith- and community-based charities to address some of our toughest social problems and help those most in need. He proposes to codify the executive order he signed that ends federal discrimination against these groups. And he announced a new plan to bring local and faith-based groups together with federal agencies to help recently released prisoners make a successful transition back to society – reducing the chance that they will be arrested again. This 4-year, \$300 million initiative will provide transitional housing, basic job training, and mentoring.

President Bush described the state of our Union as confident and strong and urged all Americans to move forward and complete the important work ahead.

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Fact Sheet	New Initiatives in President Bush's State of the Union Address	3	01/20/2004	P5;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

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OA Num.:

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2014-0126-F

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DeFrancis, Suzy

From: Stevens, Pamela R.

Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 8:01 AM

To: 'karen@georgewbush.com'; DeFrancis, Suzy

Subject: FW: These are some of the questions that Dan got this morning on the morning shows.

There are reports that there will be someone from the CIA sitting in on the SOTU speechwriting process to make sure the speech is better vetted this year..is that true?

What is the main theme of this year's speech?

How is the White House reacting to the Kerry/Edwards news?

Did the President stay up late and watch the returns?

How does President feel/think about Sen. Kerry?

Is this speech going to be a political speech -- it is an election year.

The President talked last year re: saddam and wmd -- will he talk about the frustration of not finding wmd?

A: President has made American safer and better for Iraqi people
the process is underway to find wmd

Will the President say that he still expects that WMD will be found in Iraq?

A: Dr kay has already found that the weapons related activities going on were in full violation of the security council

2.3 million jobs lost -- is President satisfied about the progress in job creation?

What is his number one priority for congress in the coming year?

Washington Post poll today shows that President Bush enjoys a large advantage over the Democrats on matters of national security -- but, the poll showed that Democrats would do a better job on domestic issues, such as the economy, prescription drugs, health insurance, Medicare, deficit, immigration and taxes.

What will the President say tonight in his speech to address those challenges?

4:00 - DTT - Briefs ①

Judge briefed at filing center - Ohio
{ Krista / Keith / Dropoff }

450 - T-Tic (Day before) 7:44 p.m.

Phase AIDs (Day after)

Key initiative fact sheet

② Evans

③ 7:45 pm type briefing ?? (TTic)
Jobs 21st Century

④ SOTM Review - no stuff?

Dan - re: Dept. of Commerce Way
Dan - embargoed briefs of T-Tic

Bartlett - Cabinet press sec - 4:00
May Robb - volunteers

STATE OF THE UNION 2004 - TIMELINE OF COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Dan - Brief - Raley,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2004

Media Interviews

- Dan Bartlett leads three 20-minute roundtables with national press to frame the SOTU. Group 1: WH TV correspondents, Group 2: Print One (AP, Reuters, WP, NYT), Group 3: Print Two (USA Today, Wash Times, WSJ, Knight Ridder, LA Times, and others) **[Press Office]**
- Dan Bartlett interviews from 1-2 pm with the news magazines—*Time, Newsweek, U.S. News* **[Krista]**
- Dan Bartlett leads 30 minute regional tong w/*Baltimore Sun, Chicago Tribune, Newsday, DMN, Houston Chronicle, Copley, Austin-American Statesman & Boston Globe* **[Press Office]**
- Dan Bartlett holds conf. call with regional media at 5 p.m. **[Media Affairs]**

Communications Materials

- Release of radio address—embargoed until delivery **[Press Office]**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2004

- The President's radio address broadcast (10:06 A.M.)

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2004

Media Interviews

Hector Barrera - Tues.

- Conference call with Hispanic print media **[Media Affairs/Ruben Barrales]**
- Ask the White House: Richard Norton Smith, Historian, on history of the State of the Union **[Media Affairs]**
- WH Correspondents John King and John Roberts will pre-tape pieces with Dan and Sec. Card for Tuesday evening news prior to SOTU **[Press Office]**

1:45-3:30 Tues

Communications Materials

- State of the Union talking points through staffing for release Tuesday P.M. **[WH Communications]**
- Guest list for First Lady's box finalized and bios staffed for release on Tuesday **[Israel/FLOTUS Press]**
- Photo release of speech prep for weekend use **[WH Communications/Photo Office]**

Communications Logistics

- White House working group meeting (4:00 P.M., EEOB 180)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

President delivers State of the Union address (9:01 P.M.)

Media Interviews

- Suzy DeFrancis to do local television interviews (10 total) 6 A.M. **[Media Affairs]**
- Dan Bartlett on morning shows: Early Show, GMA & Today Show, MSNBC **[Press Office]**
- Suzy DeFrancis on morning shows: CNN and Fox **[Press Office]**
- Telemundo and Univision morning shows/early evening shows **[Media Affairs]**
- Suzy to do Media Affairs local affiliate TV interviews from 11 am to 12 pm with Cox, Hearst-Argyle, NBC, ABC, and FOX (for 5, 5:30, 6 & 6:30 P.M. newscasts) **[Media Affairs/WH Press Office]**
- President lunches with network television correspondents **[Bartlett/Press Office]**
- Dan Bartlett on Inside Politics (3:30 pm) and Neil Cavuto (4 pm) **[Press Office]**
- Karen Hughes or Mary Matalin on Fox News Live (2 pm) and Lester Holt (4pm) **[Press Office]**
- Ask the White House: Secretary Card **[Media Affairs] TBD**

*1:45-3:30
all the stuff
4:00 Lester Holt
Karen - LP*

all am show

Karen

News thr. / Later

- Paige to do BET TV interview [~~Media Affairs~~]
- Paige to lead conference call with African-American press [Media Affairs]
- Chao to lead conference call with Asian-American press [Media Affairs] TBD
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- WH Correspondents (Roberts, Gregory, King, Angle, Moran) will tape pieces with Dan and Sec. Card for evening news prior to SOTU (John King and John Roberts will pre-tape on Monday) [Press Office]
- Interviews on Larry King Live and Nightline with TBD guests (Dan, Sec. Card, Dr. Rice, Karen?) [Press Office]

Foreign Media & Materials

- OGC release of SOTU key themes to foreign media in time for evening newscasts in Europe & the Middle East
- OGC release of speech excerpts to VOA for translation and use prior to SOTU
- OGC Foreign media access to SOTU press-related events, such as stake-outs with Members post-SOTU
- OGC/FPC events with foreign press
- VOA and other int'l broadcasters will carry the speech live, with translations as possible
- OGC will host foreign press to watch SOTU from the White House with TBD guests

476 - Plasma screen for inauguration

Communications Logistics

- Senior Administration briefing on SOTU initiative TBD
- DeFrancis/Besanceney Hill Press Secretaries briefings (Senate at 10 am, House at 11 am)
- Speech text and talking points to Cabinet Affairs & OSI for coordinated release to their distribution lists (8:30pm, excerpts go out at 5:30 pm) [WH Communications]
- Radio Day walk-through for Cabinet staff and distribution of Radio Day packets for Cabinet Members [Cabinet Affairs/Media Affairs]

Communications Materials

- Press Office release of First Lady's box seating chart (5:30 p.m.)
- Press Office release excerpts of the speech (5:50 p.m.)
- Press Office release of bios of the guests in the First Lady's box (7:30 p.m.)
- Press Office release of the as prepared speech—embargoed until delivery (8 p.m.)
- Communications Office blasts out the speech & talking points (8:20 p.m.)
- Legislative Affairs/Cabinet Affairs distributes printed/color "as prepared" speech booklets to Members/Cabinet at 8:45 p.m. [Management Office – Room 1 are preparing the booklets]

Outreach

- Rove speak to Bush Echo Chamber in 450 EEOB (1 P.M.) [OPL]
- Rove/OPL conference calls with outside groups [OPL] 7:00 / Conservatives + Catholics
- Reception and SOTU viewing with outside groups in EEOB 450 (beginning at 7:30 pm) [OPL]

Julie Thomas

TV 3:00

Wed - ATR
Wed - Weyria

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2004

Media Interviews

- RADIO DAY—All DAY Cabinet participation [Media Affairs]
- Sec. Evans on morning shows [Press Office/Commerce Department] TBD
- President remarks on job training/travel to Ohio and Arizona in follow-up to SOTU announcements
- Mrs. Bush remarks on education/travel to Florida in follow-up to President's SOTU announcements
- Website to feature web-exclusive photos of preparation of the State of the Union [Media Affairs]
- Bartlett will travel with the President and brief WH press corps on SOTU initiative
- Sec. Card with Hannity (10 am) and Inside Politics?? (3:30 pm) [Press Office]

Foreign Media & Materials

- TV interviews for selected foreign broadcasters with principals [OGC]
- Post SOTU translations in key languages on the WH website [OGC]

Mrs. Bush

Outreach

- Hispanic Leaders via conference call [OPL] TBD *SNOW & TRUMP*
- ~~Steve Friedman will speak to Business Roundtable CEOs via conference call [OPL] TBD~~
- OPL conference calls with outside groups TBD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004

N.M.

Media Interviews

- President travels to Roswell, New Mexico for remarks on the War on Terror
- Mrs. Bush hosts WH event on education announcements from SOTU and budget
- Dr. Rice on morning shows [Press Office] TBD
- Sec. Chao remarks to CPAC members [Labor Dept.]
- TBD Cabinet member travel and remarks
- TBD Agency briefings

Foreign Media

- Background briefing by Senior Administration Official on foreign policy aspects of the address at the Foreign Press Center [OGC]
- Interviews on foreign policy themes of SOTU by U.S. Ambassadors to media in their countries [OGC]
- Op-ed for placement by U.S. Ambassadors in their local press [OGC]

Outreach

- High Tech Leaders via conference call TBD
- African American Leaders via conference call TBD
- Jewish Leaders via conference call at 4 P.M. TBD
- Women Leaders via conference call TBD

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004

Media Interviews

- President remarks to U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Cabinet travel and remarks
- Sec. Snow travels to West Virginia for remarks on the economy [Treasury Dept.]
- Sec. Card interview with MSNBC's Lester Holt (pre-taped for Saturday) [Press Office]

Outreach

- Muslim Leaders via conference call [Abraham? - OPL] TBD
- Labor Leaders via conference call [Rove? - OPL] TBD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2004

- (T) Cabinet Meeting. Pool at the end, Cabinet media to follow [Cabinet Affairs]

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2004

- SUNDAY SHOWS???

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2003

- BUDGET RELEASE

STATE OF THE UNION 2004 – TIMELINE OF COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2004

Media Interviews

- Dan Bartlett leads three 20-minute roundtables with national press to frame the SOTU. Group 1: WH TV correspondents, Group 2: Print One (AP, Reuters, WP, NYT), Group 3: Print Two (USA Today, Wash Times, WSJ, Knight Ridder, LA Times, and others) **[Press Office]**
- Dan Bartlett interviews from 1-2 pm with the news magazines—*Time*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News* **[Krista]**
- Dan Bartlett leads 30 minute regional tong w/*Baltimore Sun*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday*, *DMN*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Copley*, *Austin-American Statesman* & *Boston Globe* **[Press Office]**
- Dan Bartlett holds conf. call with regional media at 5 p.m. **[Media Affairs]**

Communications Materials

- Release of radio address—embargoed until delivery **[Press Office]**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2004

- The President's radio address broadcast (10:06 A.M.)

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2004

Media Interviews

- Conference call with Hispanic print media **[Media Affairs/Ruben Barrales]**
- Ask the White House: Richard Norton Smith, Historian, on history of the State of the Union **[Media Affairs]**
- WH Correspondents John King and John Roberts will pre-tape pieces with Dan and Sec. Card for Tuesday evening news prior to SOTU **[Press Office]**

Communications Materials

- State of the Union talking points through staffing for release Tuesday P.M. **[WH Communications]**
- Guest list for First Lady's box finalized and bios staffed for release on Tuesday **[Israel/FLOTUS Press]**
- Photo release of speech prep for weekend use **[WH Communications/Photo Office]**

Communications Logistics

- White House working group meeting (4:00 P.M., EEOB 180) TBD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2004

President delivers State of the Union address (9:01 P.M.)

Media Interviews

- Suzy DeFrancis to do local television interviews (10 total) 6 A.M. **[Media Affairs]**
- Dan Bartlett on morning shows: Early Show, GMA & Today Show, MSNBC **[Press Office]**
- Suzy DeFrancis on morning shows: CNN and Fox **[Press Office]**
- Telémundo and Univision morning shows/early evening shows **[Media Affairs]**
- Suzy to do Media Affairs local affiliate TV interviews from 11 am to 12 pm with Cox, Hearst-Argyle, NBC, ABC, and FOX (for 5, 5:30, 6 & 6:30 P.M. newscasts) **[Media Affairs/WH Press Office]**
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- Paige to do BET TV interview **[Media Affairs]**
- Paige to lead conference call with African-American press **[Media Affairs]**
- Chao to lead conference call with Asian-American press **[Media Affairs]** TBD
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- **Communications Office** blasts out the speech & talking points (8:20 p.m.)
- **Legislative Affairs/Cabinet Affairs** distributes printed/color "as prepared" speech booklets to Members/Cabinet at 8:45 p.m. **[Management Office – Room 1 are preparing the booklets]**

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- **RADIO DAY—All DAY** Cabinet participation **[Media Affairs]**
- Sec. Evans on morning shows **[Press Office/Commerce Department]** TBD
- President remarks on job training/travel to Ohio and Arizona in follow-up to SOTU announcements
- Mrs. Bush remarks on education/travel to Florida in follow-up to President's SOTU announcements
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Media Interviews

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- Mrs. Bush hosts WH event on education announcements from SOTU and budget
- Dr. Rice on morning shows [Press Office] TBD
- Sec. Chao remarks to CPAC members [Labor Dept.]
- TBD Cabinet member travel and remarks
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- Background briefing by Senior Administration Official on foreign policy aspects of the address at the Foreign Press Center [OGC]
- Interviews on foreign policy themes of SOTU by U.S. Ambassadors to media in their countries [OGC]
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Outreach

- High Tech Leaders via conference call TBD
- African American Leaders via conference call TBD
- Jewish Leaders via conference call at 4 P.M. TBD
- Women Leaders via conference call TBD

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Media Interviews

- President remarks to U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Cabinet travel and remarks
- Sec. Snow travels to West Virginia for remarks on the economy [Treasury Dept.]
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- SUNDAY SHOWS???

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2003

- BUDGET RELEASE

Withdrawal Marker

The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Draft	International Audiences, The State of the Union Address	3	01/15/2004	P5;

**This marker identifies the original location of the withdrawn item listed above.
For a complete list of items withdrawn from this folder, see the
Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet at the front of the folder.**

COLLECTION:

Communications, White House Office of

SERIES:

DeFrancis, Suzanne (Suzy)

FOLDER TITLE:

SOTU 2004

FRC ID:

2423

OA Num.:

4046

NARA Num.:

3881

FOIA ID and Segment:

2014-0126-F

RESTRICTION CODES

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- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

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Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

State of the Union Address
Tuesday, January 20, 2004
Draft #30

Mr. Speaker, Vice President Cheney, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow citizens:

America this evening is a Nation called to great responsibilities. And we are rising to meet them.

As we gather tonight, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women are deployed across the world in the war on terror. By bringing hope to the oppressed, and delivering justice to the violent, they are making America more secure.

Each day, law enforcement personnel and intelligence officers are tracking terrorist threats ... analysts are examining airline passenger lists ... the men and women of our new Homeland Security Department are patrolling our coasts and borders. And their vigilance is protecting America.

Americans are proving once again to be the hardest working people in the world. The American economy is growing stronger. The tax relief you passed is working.

Tonight, Members of Congress can take pride in great works of compassion and reform that skeptics had thought impossible. You are raising the standards of our public schools; and you are giving our senior citizens prescription drug coverage under Medicare.

We have faced serious challenges together – and now we face a choice. We can go forward with confidence and resolve – or we can turn back to the dangerous illusion that terrorists are not plotting and outlaw regimes are no threat to us. We can press on with economic growth, and reforms in education and Medicare – or we can turn back to the old policies and old divisions.

We have not come all this way – through tragedy, and trial, and war – only to falter and leave our work unfinished. Americans are rising to the tasks of history, and they expect the same of us. In their efforts ... their

enterprise ... and their character, the American people are showing that the state of our union is confident and strong.

Our greatest responsibility is the active defense of the American people. Twenty-eight months have passed since September 11th, 2001 – over two years without an attack on American soil – and it is tempting to believe that the danger is behind us. That hope is understandable, comforting – and false. The killing has continued in Bali, Jakarta, Casablanca, Riyadh, Mombassa, Jerusalem, Istanbul, and Baghdad. The terrorists continue to plot against America and the civilized world. And by our will and courage, this danger will be defeated.

Inside the United States ... where the war began ... we must continue to give homeland security and law enforcement personnel every tool they need to defend us. And one of those essential tools is the Patriot Act, which allows federal law enforcement to better share information, to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets. For years, we have used similar provisions to catch embezzlers and drug traffickers. If these methods are good for hunting criminals, they are even more important for hunting terrorists. Key provisions of the Patriot Act are set to expire next year. The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. Our law enforcement needs this vital legislation to protect our citizens – you need to renew the Patriot Act.

America is on the offensive against the terrorists who started this war. Last March, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, a mastermind of September 11th, awoke to find himself in the custody of U.S. and Pakistani authorities. Last August 11th brought the capture of the terrorist Hambali, who was a key player in the attack in Indonesia that killed over 200 people. We are tracking al-Qaida around the world – and nearly two-thirds of their known leaders have now been captured or killed. Thousands of very skilled and determined military personnel are on a manhunt, going after the remaining killers who hide in cities and caves – and, one by one, we will bring the terrorists to justice.

As part of the offensive against terror, we are also confronting the regimes that harbor and support terrorists, and could supply them with nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons. The United States and our allies are determined: We refuse to live in the shadow of this ultimate danger.

The first to see our determination were the Taliban, who made Afghanistan the primary training base of al-Qaida killers. As of this month, that country has a new constitution, guaranteeing free elections and full participation by women. Businesses are opening, health care centers are being established, and the boys and girls of Afghanistan are back in school. With help from the new Afghan Army, our coalition is leading aggressive raids against surviving members of the Taliban and al-Qaida. The men and women of Afghanistan are building a nation that is free, and proud, and fighting terror – and America is honored to be their friend.

Since we last met in this chamber, combat forces of the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Poland, and other countries enforced the demands of the United Nations, ended the rule of Saddam Hussein – and the people of Iraq are free. Having broken the Baathist regime, we face a remnant of violent Saddam supporters. Men who ran away from our troops in battle are now dispersed and attack from the shadows.

These killers, joined by foreign terrorists, are a serious, continuing danger. Yet we are making progress against them. The once all-powerful ruler of Iraq was found in a hole, and now sits in a prison cell. Of the top 55 officials of the former regime, we have captured or killed 45. Our forces are on the offensive, leading over sixteen hundred patrols a day, and conducting an average of 180 raids every week. We are dealing with these thugs in Iraq, just as surely as we dealt with Saddam Hussein's evil regime.

The work of building a new Iraq is hard, and it is right. And America has always been willing to do what it takes for what is right. Last January, Iraq's only law was the whim of one brutal man. Today our coalition is working with the Iraqi Governing Council to draft a basic law, with a bill of rights. We are working with Iraqis and the United Nations to prepare for a transition to full Iraqi sovereignty by the end of June. As democracy takes hold in Iraq, the enemies of freedom will do all in their power to spread violence and fear. They are trying to shake the will of our country and our friends – but the United States of America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. The killers will fail ... and the Iraqi people will live in freedom.

Month by month, Iraqis are assuming more responsibility for their own security and their own future. And tonight we are honored to welcome one of Iraq's most respected leaders: the current President of the Iraqi

Governing Council, Adnan Pachachi. Sir, America stands with you and the Iraqi people as you build a free and peaceful nation.

Because of American leadership and resolve, the world is changing for the better. Last month, the leader of Libya voluntarily pledged to disclose and dismantle all of his regime's weapons of mass destruction programs, including a uranium enrichment project for nuclear weapons. Colonel Gadhafi correctly judged that his country would be better off, and far more secure, without weapons of mass murder. Nine months of intense negotiations involving the United States and Great Britain succeeded with Libya, while 12 years of diplomacy with Iraq did not. And one reason is clear: For diplomacy to be effective, words must be credible – and no one can now doubt the word of America.

Different threats require different strategies. Along with nations in the region, we are insisting that North Korea eliminate its nuclear program. America and the international community are demanding that Iran meet its commitments, and not develop nuclear weapons. America is committed to keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous regimes.

When I came to this rostrum on September 20th, 2001, I brought the police shield of a fallen officer, my reminder of lives that ended, and a task that does not end. I gave to you and to all Americans my complete commitment to securing our country and defeating our enemies. And this pledge, given by one, has been kept by many. You in the Congress have provided the resources for our defense, and cast the difficult votes of war and peace. Our closest allies have been unwavering. America's intelligence personnel and diplomats have been skilled and tireless.

And the men and women of the American military – they have taken the hardest duty. We have seen their skill and courage in armored charges, and midnight raids, and lonely hours on faithful watch. We have seen the joy when they return, and felt the sorrow when one is lost. I have had the honor of meeting our servicemen and women at many posts, from the deck of a carrier in the Pacific, to a mess hall in Baghdad. Many of our troops are listening tonight. And I want you and your families to know: America is proud of you. And my Administration, and this Congress, will give you the resources you need to fight and win the war on terror.

I know that some people question if America is really in a war at all. They view terrorism more as a crime – a problem to be solved mainly with law enforcement and indictments. After the World Trade Center was first attacked in 1993, some of the guilty were indicted, tried, convicted, and sent to prison. But the matter was not settled. The terrorists were still training and plotting in other nations, and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September 11th, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. The terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States – and war is what they got.

Some in this chamber, and in our country, did not support the liberation of Iraq. Objections to war often come from principled motives. But let us be candid about the consequences of leaving Saddam Hussein in power ... We are seeking all the facts, already the Kay Report identified dozens of weapons of mass destruction-related program activities and significant amounts of equipment that Iraq concealed from the United Nations. Had we failed to act, the dictator's weapons of mass destruction programs would continue to this day. Had we failed to act, Security Council resolutions on Iraq would have been revealed as empty threats, weakening the United Nations and encouraging defiance by dictators around the world. Iraq's torture chambers would still be filled with victims – terrified and innocent. The killing fields of Iraq – where hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children vanished into the sands – would still be known only to the killers. For all who love freedom and peace, the world without Saddam Hussein's regime is a better and safer place.

Some critics have said our duties in Iraq must be internationalized. This particular criticism is hard to explain to our partners in Britain, Australia, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Italy, Spain, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Romania, the Netherlands, Norway, El Salvador, and the 17 other countries that have committed troops to Iraq. As we debate at home, we must never ignore the vital contributions of our international partners, or dismiss their sacrifices. From the beginning, America has sought international support for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and we have gained much support. There is a difference, however, between leading a coalition of many nations, and submitting to the objections of a few. America will never seek a permission slip to defend the security of our people.

We also hear doubts that democracy is a realistic goal for the greater Middle East, where freedom is rare. Yet it is mistaken, and condescending, to assume that whole cultures and great religions are incompatible with liberty and self-government. I believe that God has planted in every heart the desire to live in freedom. And even when that desire is crushed by tyranny for decades, it will rise again.

As long as the Middle East remains a place of tyranny, despair, and anger, it will continue to produce men and movements that threaten the safety of America and our friends. So America is pursuing a forward strategy of freedom in the greater Middle East. We will challenge the enemies of reform, confront the allies of terror, and expect a higher standard from our friends. To cut through the barriers of hateful propaganda, the Voice of America and other broadcast services are expanding their programming in Arabic and Persian – and soon, a new television service will begin providing reliable news and information across the region. I will send you a proposal to double the budget of the National Endowment for Democracy, and to focus its new work on the development of free elections, free markets, free press, and free labor unions in the Middle East. And above all, we will finish the historic work of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq, so those nations can light the way for others, and help transform a troubled part of the world.

America is a Nation with a mission – and that mission comes from our most basic beliefs. We have no desire to dominate, no ambitions of empire. Our aim is a democratic peace – a peace founded upon the dignity and rights of every man and woman. America acts in this cause with friends and allies at our side, yet we understand our special calling: This great republic will lead the cause of freedom.

In these last three years, adversity has also revealed the fundamental strengths of the American economy. We have come through recession, and terrorist attack, and corporate scandals, and the uncertainties of war. And because you acted to stimulate our economy with tax relief, this economy is strong, and growing stronger.

You have doubled the child tax credit from 500 to a thousand dollars – reduced the marriage penalty – begun to phase out the death tax – reduced taxes on capital gains and stock dividends – cut taxes on small

businesses – and you have lowered taxes for every American who pays income taxes.

Americans took those dollars and put them to work, driving this economy forward. The pace of economic growth in the third quarter of 2003 was the fastest in nearly 20 years. New home construction: the highest in almost 20 years. Home ownership rates: the highest ever. Manufacturing activity is increasing. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Exports are growing. Productivity is high. And jobs are on the rise.

These numbers confirm that the American people are using their money far better than government would have – and you were right to return it.

America's growing economy is also a changing economy. As technology transforms the way almost every job is done, America becomes more productive, and workers need new skills. Much of our job growth will be found in high-skilled fields like health care and biotechnology. So we must respond by helping more Americans gain the skills to find good jobs in our new economy.

All skills begin with the basics of reading and math, which are supposed to be learned in the early grades of our schools. Yet for too long, for too many children, those skills were never mastered. By passing the No Child Left Behind Act, you have made the expectation of literacy the law of our country. We are providing more funding for our schools – a 36 percent increase since 2001. We are requiring higher standards. We are regularly testing every child on the fundamentals. We are reporting results to parents, and making sure they have better options when schools are not performing. We are making progress toward excellence for every child.

But the status quo always has defenders. Some want to undermine the No Child Left Behind Act by weakening standards and accountability. Yet the results we require are really a matter of common sense: We expect third graders to read and do math at third grade level – and that is not asking too much. Testing is the only way to identify and help students who are falling behind.

This Nation will not go back to the days of simply shuffling children along from grade to grade without them learning the basics. I refuse to

give up on any child – and the No Child Left Behind Act is opening the door of opportunity to all of America's children.

At the same time, we must ensure that older students and adults can gain the skills they need to find work now. Many of the fastest-growing occupations require strong math and science preparation, and training beyond the high school level. So tonight I propose a series of measures called Jobs for the 21st Century. This program will provide extra help to middle- and high school students who fall behind in reading and math ... expand Advanced Placement programs in low-income schools ... and invite math and science professionals from the private sector to teach part-time in our high schools. I propose larger Pell Grants for students who prepare for college with demanding courses in high school. I propose increasing our support for America's fine community colleges, so they can train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. By all these actions, we will help more and more Americans to join in the growing prosperity of our country.

Job training is important, and so is job creation. We must continue to pursue an aggressive, pro-growth economic agenda.

Congress has some unfinished business on the issue of taxes. The tax reductions you passed are set to expire. Unless you act, the unfair tax on marriage will go back up. Unless you act, millions of families will be charged 300 dollars more in federal taxes for every child. Unless you act, small businesses will pay higher taxes. Unless you act, the death tax will eventually come back to life. Unless you act, Americans face a tax increase. What the Congress has given, the Congress should not take away: For the sake of job growth, the tax cuts you passed should be permanent.

Our agenda for jobs and growth must help small business owners and employees with relief from needless federal regulation, and protect them from junk and frivolous lawsuits. Consumers and businesses need reliable supplies of energy to make our economy run – so I urge you to pass legislation to modernize our electricity system, promote conservation, and make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. My Administration is promoting free and fair trade, to open up new markets for America's entrepreneurs ... and manufacturers ... and farmers ... and to create jobs for America's workers. Younger workers should have the

opportunity to build a nest egg by saving part of their Social Security taxes in a personal retirement account. We should make the Social Security system a source of ownership for the American people.

And we should limit the burden of government on this economy by acting as good stewards of taxpayer dollars. In two weeks, I will send you a budget that funds the war, protects the homeland, and meets important domestic needs, while limiting the growth in discretionary spending to less than four percent. This will require that Congress focus on priorities, cut wasteful spending, and be wise with the people's money. By doing so, we can cut the deficit in half over the next five years.

Tonight I also ask you to reform our immigration laws, so they reflect our values and benefit our economy. I propose a new temporary worker program to match willing foreign workers with willing employers, when no Americans can be found to fill the job. This reform will be good for our economy – because employers will find needed workers in an honest and orderly system. A temporary worker program will help protect our homeland – allowing border patrol and law enforcement to focus on true threats to our national security. I oppose amnesty, because it would encourage further illegal immigration, and unfairly reward those who break our laws. My temporary worker program will preserve the citizenship path for those who respect the law, while bringing millions of hardworking men and women out from the shadows of American life.

Our Nation's health care system, like our economy, is also in a time of change. Amazing medical technologies are improving and saving lives. This dramatic progress has brought its own challenge, in the rising costs of medical care and health insurance. Members of Congress ... we must work together to help control those costs and extend the benefits of modern medicine throughout our country.

Meeting these goals requires bipartisan effort – and two months ago, you showed the way. By strengthening Medicare and adding a prescription drug benefit, you kept a basic commitment to our seniors: You are giving them the modern medicine they deserve.

Starting this year, under the law you passed, seniors can choose to receive a drug discount card, saving them 10 to 25 percent off the retail price of most prescription drugs – and millions of low-income seniors can

get an additional 600 dollars to buy medicine. Beginning next year, seniors will have new coverage for preventive screenings against diabetes and heart disease, and seniors just entering Medicare can receive wellness exams.

In January of 2006, seniors can get prescription drug coverage under Medicare. For a monthly premium of about 35 dollars, most seniors who do not have that coverage today can expect to see their drug bills cut roughly in half. Under this reform, senior citizens will be able to keep their Medicare just as it is, or they can choose a Medicare plan that fits them best – just as you, as Members of Congress, can choose an insurance plan that meets your needs. And starting this year, millions of Americans will be able to save money tax-free for their medical expenses, in a health savings account.

I signed this measure proudly, and any attempt to limit the choices of our seniors, or to take away their prescription drug coverage under Medicare, will meet my veto.

On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs. To make insurance more affordable, Congress must act to address rapidly rising health care costs. Small businesses should be able to band together and negotiate for lower insurance rates, so they can cover more workers with health insurance – I urge you to pass Association Health Plans. I ask you to give lower-income Americans a refundable tax credit that would allow millions to buy their own basic health insurance. By computerizing health records, we can avoid dangerous medical mistakes, reduce costs, and improve care. To protect the doctor-patient relationship, and keep good doctors doing good work, we must eliminate wasteful and frivolous medical lawsuits. And tonight I propose that individuals who buy catastrophic health care coverage, as part of our new health savings accounts, be allowed to deduct 100 percent of the premiums from their taxes.

A government-run health care system is the wrong prescription. By keeping costs under control, expanding access, and helping more Americans afford coverage, we will preserve the system of private medicine that makes America's health care the best in the world.

We are living in a time of great change – in our world, in our economy, and in science and medicine. Yet some things endure – Courage and compassion, reverence and integrity, respect for differences of faith and race. The values we try to live by never change. And they are instilled in us by fundamental institutions, such as families, and schools, and religious congregations. These institutions – the unseen pillars of civilization – must remain strong in America, and we will defend them.

We must stand with our families to help them raise healthy, responsible children. And when it comes to helping children make right choices, there is work for all of us to do.

One of the worst decisions our children can make is to gamble their lives and futures on drugs. Our government is helping parents confront this problem, with aggressive education, treatment, and law enforcement. Drug use in high school has declined by 11 percent over the past two years. Four hundred thousand fewer young people are using illegal drugs than in the year 2001. In my budget, I have proposed new funding to continue our aggressive, community-based strategy to reduce demand for illegal drugs. Drug testing in our schools has proven to be an effective part of this effort. So tonight I propose an additional 23 million dollars for schools that want to use drug testing as a tool to save children's lives. The aim here is not to punish children, but to send them this message: We love you, and we don't want to lose you.

To help children make right choices, they need good examples. Athletics play such an important role in our society, but, unfortunately, some in professional sports are not setting much of an example. The use of performance enhancing drugs like steroids in baseball, football, and other sports is dangerous, and it sends the wrong message – that there are shortcuts to accomplishment, and that performance is more important than character. So tonight I call on team owners, union representatives, coaches, and players to take the lead, to send the right signal, to get tough, and to get rid of steroids now.

To encourage right choices, we must be willing to confront the dangers young people face – even when they are difficult to talk about. Each year, about three million teenagers contract sexually transmitted diseases that can harm them, or kill them, or prevent them from ever becoming parents. In my budget, I propose a grassroots campaign to help

inform families about these medical risks. We will double federal funding for abstinence programs, so schools can teach this fact of life: Abstinence for young people is the only certain way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases. Decisions children make now can affect their health and character for the rest of their lives. All of us – parents, schools, government – must work together to counter the negative influence of the culture, and to send the right messages to our children.

A strong America must also value the institution of marriage. I believe we should respect individuals as we take a principled stand for one of the most fundamental, enduring institutions of our civilization. Congress has already taken a stand on this issue by passing the Defense of Marriage Act, signed in 1996 by President Clinton. That statute protects marriage under federal law as the union of a man and a woman, and declares that one state may not re-define marriage for other states. Activist judges, however, have begun re-defining marriage by court order, without regard for the will of the people and their elected representatives. On an issue of such great consequence, the people's voice must be heard. If judges insist on forcing their arbitrary will upon the people, the only alternative left to the people would be the constitutional process. Our Nation must defend the sanctity of marriage.

The outcome of this debate is important – and so is the way we conduct it. The same moral tradition that defines marriage also teaches that each individual has dignity and value in God's sight.

It is also important to strengthen our communities by unleashing the compassion of America's religious institutions. Religious charities of every creed are doing some of the most vital work in our country – mentoring children, feeding the hungry, taking the hand of the lonely. Yet government has often denied social service grants and contracts to these groups, just because they have a cross or Star of David or crescent on the wall. By Executive Order, I have opened billions of dollars in grant money to competition that includes faith-based charities. Tonight I ask you to codify this into law, so people of faith can know that the law will never discriminate against them again.

In the past, we have worked together to bring mentors to the children of prisoners ... and provide treatment for the addicted ... and help for the homeless. Tonight I ask you to consider another group of Americans in

need of help. This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit more crimes and return to prison. So tonight I propose a four-year, 300 million dollar Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative to expand job training and placement services ... to provide transitional housing ... and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. America is the land of the second chance – and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.

For all Americans, the last three years have brought tests we did not ask for, and achievements shared by all. By our actions, we have shown what kind of Nation we are. In grief, we found the grace to go on. In challenge, we re-discovered the courage and daring of a free people. In victory, we have shown the noble aims and good heart of America. And having come this far, we sense that we live in a time set apart.

I have been a witness to the character of the American people, who have shown calm in times of danger, compassion for one another, and toughness for the long haul. All of us have been partners in a great enterprise. And even some of the youngest understand that we are living in historic times. Last month a girl in Lincoln, Rhode Island sent me a letter. It began, "Dear George W. Bush." "If there is anything you know, I Ashley Pearson age 10 can do to help anyone, please send me a letter and tell me what I can do to save our country." She added this P.S.: "If you can send a letter to the troops ... please put, 'Ashley Pearson believes in you.'"

Tonight, Ashley, your message to our troops has just been conveyed. And yes, you have some duties yourself. Study hard in school, listen to your mom and dad, help someone in need, and when you and your friends see a man or woman in uniform, say "thank you." And while you do your part, all of us here in this great chamber will do our best to keep you and the rest of America safe and free.

My fellow citizens, we now move forward, with confidence and faith. Our Nation is strong and steadfast. The cause we serve is right, because it is the cause of all mankind. The momentum of freedom in our world is unmistakable – and it is not carried forward by our power alone. We can

trust in that greater power Who guides the unfolding of the years. And in all that is to come, we can know that His purposes are just and true.

May God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

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