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01/20/2004 - State of the Union Address [611294] [25]

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	State of the Union Address	116	01/20/2004	Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

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SERIES:

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

FOLDER TITLE:

01/20/2004 - State of the Union Address [611294] [25]

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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]
- 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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January 21, 2004

04 JAN 21 PM 4:33

To: Staff Secretary's Office / ORM

Fr: Blake Gottesman

Re: The President's copy of his 2004 State of the Union Address

Please find enclosed the actual copy of the 2004 State of the Union Address used by the President during a joint session of Congress on January 20, 2004.

Thank you.

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

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

1/20/04

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.

) X

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.

X (The American economy is growing

X stronger. / The tax relief you passed is

X 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

X these methods are good for hunting
X criminals, they are even more important for
X 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

X (States of America will never be intimidated

X 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.

x { The terrorists and their supporters declared
x war on the United States – and war is what
x 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.

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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.

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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,

X [the tax cuts you passed should be

X [permanent.

Our agenda for jobs and growth must
help small business owners and employees
with relief from needless federal regulation,
X and protect them from junk and frivolous
L 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.

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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.

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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

X (doctors doing good work, we must eliminate
X 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.

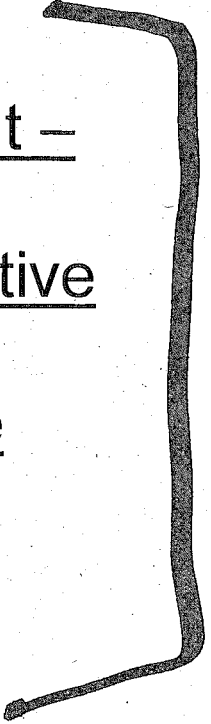
To help children make right choices,
they need good examples. Athletics play
such an important role in our society, but,
unfortunately, some in professional sports
are not setting much of an example.

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.