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OFFICE OF CABINET LIAISON



# CABINET REPORT

FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 2, 2005

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2005  
(202) 456-2572

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- Update: Lawsuit Challenging No Child Left Behind (NCLB) as an Unfunded Mandate***  
 On April 20, the National Education Association (NEA), several school districts in Michigan, Texas, and Vermont, and a number of state and local NEA affiliates filed a lawsuit challenging NCLB as an unfunded mandate. Plaintiffs allege that the NCLB is under-funded and that states and school districts have “had to use non-NCLB funds to comply with the NCLB mandates, diverting those funds from other educational programs and priorities.” The Department of Education’s Office of General Counsel is working with the Justice Department to respond to this lawsuit.
- Update: Return to Flight***  
 NASA has decided to postpone the launch of STS-114 currently slated for May 22. NASA is taking the time needed to ensure it gets Return to Flight right. Based on recent discussions, NASA has decided it needs more time to do additional analysis on potential debris hazards. This is an effort to verify and validate the hours and hours of testing NASA has done to this point. This is a prudent move that demonstrates the diligence in working toward Return to Flight. The next launch window opens up on July 13 and goes until July 31.
- Update: Nuclear Waste Disposal Lawsuit***  
 The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is suing the United States for damages to recover costs incurred due to the Department of Energy’s failure to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel in 1998. On April 21, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims ordered parties to show cause why the waste disposal contract between SMUD and the government should not be voided and all payments made to the Nuclear Waste Fund returned. Briefs from both parties are due by June 20. This case is one of 66 lawsuits filed concerning the government’s partial breach of contract to begin accepting spent nuclear fuel in 1998. While the Court’s opinion would only be binding in the SMUD case, if this approach were extended to all waste disposal contract lawsuits, it could result in the cancellation of most of the existing contracts, the refund of approximately \$12 billion from the Nuclear Waste Fund, and substantial uncertainty for the future disposal of commercial spent fuel from nuclear power plants.
- 60 Stops in 60 Days Tour Wraps Up***  
 May 1, marks day 60 of the 60 Stops in 60 Days tour. Since March 3, Administration officials have participated in 166 events in 40 states, given more than 500 radio interviews in all 50 states, participated in 61 town hall meetings with 30 members of Congress in their home districts, and placed op-eds and letters to the editor in local and national newspapers with an estimated total circulation of 7.94 million. Secretary Snow and Treasury Department officials have logged more than two dozen of these stops and given more than 75 radio interviews.
- H-1B Visa Reform Act (VRA) Regulation Publication***  
 Within the next week, the Department of Homeland Security anticipates the publication by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS) of the H-1B regulation. This regulation implements the provisions of the H-1B Visa Reform Act (VRA) signed by the President in December 2004. The VRA added an additional 20,000 to the numerical limit of 65,000 aliens who may receive an H-1B visa or status during the fiscal year. This 20,000 is limited to those aliens who received a master’s or higher degree from a U.S. institution. The



regulation describes how CIS will process and count the additional 20,000 and has received significant public and congressional attention.

- ***Export Food Aid Conference***

From May 3 to 5, USDA and USAID will sponsor the seventh Export Food Aid Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The Conference is an annual gathering of 500-800 government, business, and private organization leaders, and is expected to highlight Presidential Initiatives, including the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. On May 3, Secretary Johanns will be the keynote speaker and announce allocations for \$91 million in foreign assistance under the USDA's FY 2005 McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. This assistance will feed more than 3 million children in 15 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Also, USAID Administrator Natsios will address the Conference and discuss the International Disaster and Famine Assistance (IDFA) account set to begin in FY 2006, and U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Randall Tobias, will stress the connection between food security and the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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- ***National Day of Prayer***

On May 5, Secretary Johanns will speak at the 2005 National Day of Prayer Observance at the Cannon House Office Building.

- ***Non-Ambulatory (Downer) Cattle Report***

On May 5, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will publish U.S. statistics on non-ambulatory farm cattle and calves for 2003 and 2004. This information was collected during the January 1, 2004 and 2005 cattle surveys. Due to the sensitive nature of the subject, the findings have not yet been revealed. However, no surprises are expected to come from this report.

- ***Food Security Assessment Report***

In a report scheduled for a May 3 release, USDA's Economic Research Service will report that just over one billion people in the 70 low-income countries studied are estimated to have consumed less than the recommended nutritional requirements in 2004. This marks an increase from more 830 million in 2003. Over the coming decade, food security is projected to improve most significantly in Asia, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean. The situation is expected to deteriorate in Sub-Saharan Africa, where deep poverty, political unrest, and the effects of HIV/AIDS hinder prospects for improvement.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

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- ***Meeting with International Steel and Textile CEO***

On May 2, Secretary Gutierrez will meet with Wilbur Ross, CEO of International Steel Group (ISG) and International Textile Group, and Lakshmi Mittal of Mittal Steel to discuss issues relating to steel trade, particularly the recently announced merger of Mittal Steel and ISG, to become the largest steel producing company in North America. Mr. Ross will also

present his perspective regarding recent developments in textile trade, including the safeguard actions on certain imports of Chinese textiles and apparel.

- ***Council of the Americas 35<sup>th</sup> Washington Conference***  
On May 3, Secretary Gutierrez will deliver the keynote address. The Conference brings together business and political leaders dedicated to improving trade and investment throughout the region. The Council is composed of more than 170 U.S. and Canadian corporations invested in and trading with Latin America. The Secretary will discuss the CAFTA and other U.S. Latin American free trade agreements and negotiations.
- ***Upcoming Economic Indicators from Commerce***  
New Construction Put in Place: March (May 2)  
Manufacturers' Shipments: Inventories, and Orders: March (May 3)
- ***North American Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP)***  
On May 13, Secretary Gutierrez will travel to Mexico, to meet with his Canadian and Mexican counterparts to discuss progress on the SPP. A progress report on SPP to Presidents Bush and Fox and Prime Minister Martin is due June 23.
- ***Travel to Russia***  
From May 31 to June 3, Secretary Gutierrez will be in Russia to discuss progress with the Russian-American Business Dialogue and the Commercial Energy Dialogue.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

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- ***Charter School Week***  
On May 2, Secretary Spellings will travel to New York to City to kick-off Charter School Week by visiting the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP) Academy. The 2003-2004 school year marks the seventh consecutive year that the KIPP Academy has been the highest performing public middle school in the entire Bronx in terms of reading scores, math scores, and attendance.
- ***People for the American Way Foundation Files FOIA Lawsuit***  
On April 13, People for the American Way Foundation (PFAWF) filed a lawsuit over its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for Department records related to the D.C. School Choice Incentive Program. The suit claims that the Department has not acted timely on two pending FOIA matters for records pertaining to the design, establishment, operation, and effect of the program. The appeal decision has now been signed and issued, and the Department continues to make a resource-intensive effort to respond to the November 18 request.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

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- ***U.S. Delegation to the International Energy Agency Ministerial in Paris, France***  
On May 2 and 3, Secretary Bodman will lead the U.S. delegation to the biennial Ministerial meeting titled "Investing in the Future." Ministers from the 26 IEA countries will discuss current energy issues and challenges facing the world's energy supply, both today and in the



future. The Secretary will convey the Administration's positions on the current international oil market, energy security, energy and the environment, and the need for a vision and budgetary commitment to the research, development, and deployment necessary for transformational technologies such as carbon sequestration and a hydrogen-based energy economy.

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

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- ***Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites***

As soon as the week of May 2, EPA is expected to finalize designation of two dredge material disposal sites in western and central Long Island Sound. EPA is currently in discussion with the States of New York (which opposes the designation) and Connecticut (which supports the designation), and the Army Corp of Engineers to resolve concerns. The sites are needed for disposal of materials from dredging projects scheduled for this year. Interest in the sites is high, and media reaction will be mixed.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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- ***HealthierUS Fitness Festival***

On May 2, the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports is hosting the HealthierUS Fitness Festival in Washington, D.C. Secretaries Leavitt and Johanns will participate in the festival at the official ceremony at noon. The festival will celebrate National Physical Fitness and Sports Month and is free and open to the public.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

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- ***Tour of Port-of-Entry at Douglas, Arizona***

On May 5, Secretary Chertoff will tour the southwest border with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ), per the Senators' request during the Secretary's confirmation hearing. During the open-press tour, Customs and Border Protection officials will discuss operations, processing, detention, and removal procedures.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

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- ***HUD Increases Lender Incentives For Loss Mitigation Actions***

On May 3, HUD expects to announce that it will increase incentive payments available to lenders who utilize HUD's Loss Mitigation Program (LMP). HUD's LMP provides options to help borrowers in default avoid foreclosure and retain their homes. Effective June 1, FHA lenders who utilize loss mitigation will be entitled to claim an additional \$250 per loan. In FY 2004, more than 78,000 borrowers were able to retain homeownership through FHA loss mitigation options, exceeding the number of foreclosure claims paid during the same period.

- ***Negative Fair Housing Enforcement Story***

During the week of May 2, HUD expects a *negative* story by Kimberly Morrison of Knight-Ridder to run. The piece is based upon a 2004 GAO report detailing a backlog in Fair Housing cases due to too few personnel and the lack of aggressive enforcement. Former HUD personnel will be quoted in the story. Bryan Greene from HUD's office of Fair



Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) explained the various improvements that have taken place in FHEO since the 2004 report.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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- ***Meeting with the National Press Foundation Fellows***

On May 2, Secretary Norton will meet with the National Press Foundation Fellows at DOI and give informal remarks on the importance of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve to America's energy future. This meeting will be on the record.

- ***New Chief of U.S. Park Police***

Dwight Pettiford begins his new appointment as the Chief of the United States Park Police. On May 3, Secretary Norton will attend a ceremony and reception at Fords Theater in Washington, D.C. congratulating him.

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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- ***Release of Prison Statistics***

On April 24, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 2004*, which presents data on prison and jail inmates, collected from National Prisoner Statistics counts and the *Annual Survey of Jails in 2004*. The study found that, in the year ending June 30, 2004, the Nation's prison and jail population rose 2.3 percent to reach 2,131,180 inmates. The number of inmates in custody in local jails rose by 22,689; in state prison by 15,375; and in Federal prison by 10,095. At midyear 2004, a total of 2,477 state prisoners were under age 18. Local jails held a total of 7,083 persons under age 18. State and Federal correctional authorities held 91,789 non-citizens, up from 90,566 (1.4 percent) at midyear 2003.

- ***The Associated Press Suing Government to Obtain Guantanamo Documents***

On April 19, The Associated Press (AP) sued DOD seeking the government release of transcripts and other documents related to military hearings for Guantanamo Bay detainees. The Federal lawsuit states that the AP has been able to report only anecdotally on 558 tribunals conducted since August to let detainees challenge their incarceration at the Cuban base. The lawsuit asked the court to order the government to turn over transcripts of all Guantanamo detainees' testimony, along with written statements by the detainees and any documents they have submitted. The AP submitted a Freedom of Information Act request in the fall, but it said DOD has refused to provide the documents and has not processed the company's appeal of the government's failure to act. The AP's lawsuit said it was told in March that the government would begin turning over documents in "waves," beginning the first week of April. The suit said, the AP was told the government would not begin reviewing and redacting the documents until this week. This story was covered by The AP.

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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- ***Asian Pacific Heritage Month Activities***

On May 2, Secretary Chao will be addressing nearly 600 Vietnamese Americans gathered in Washington, D.C. On May 3, Secretary Chao will deliver the keynote address at the Asian

Pacific American (APA) Federal Career Advancement Summit. On May 4, Secretary Chao will deliver remarks at the Welcome Networking Reception of CelebrAsian 2005. CelebrAsian, hosted by the U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce (USPAACC) is the largest annual national Asian American business conference in the United States.

- ***Upcoming Releases from the Bureau of Labor Statistics***  
Productivity and Costs, preliminary Q1 (May 5)  
The Employment Situation, April (May 6)

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## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

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- ***Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 2005 Review Conference***  
From May 2 to 27, the seventh NPT Review Conference will meet in New York, New York at the United Nations. More than 150 of the NPT's nearly 190 parties are expected to participate. The key U.S. objective is to strengthen the NPT as a key legal barrier to nuclear proliferation by highlighting the need for strong action to confront current and prevent future noncompliance with NPT nonproliferation obligations and by building support for the President's nonproliferation initiatives.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

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- ***Tax Panel Discusses Proposals***  
On May 11 and 12, the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform will hold its eighth public meeting. At this meeting, the Panel will consider specific proposals for reform of the tax code.
- ***Tax Filing Statistics Released***  
On May 2, the Treasury Department will release estimates for tax payments. Both individual tax filing payments and corporate tax payments are higher than the estimate in the Administration's FY 2006 Budget. The first two quarters of FY 2005, tax receipts year to date (including projections for the remainder of the tax processing season) exceed budget estimates by about \$40 billion. On May 11, the Treasury Monthly Statement will be released which include the formal totals.

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## **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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- ***Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and Germany***  
From April 28 to May 4, Secretary Nicholson will participate in a Congressional delegation led by Senator Larry Craig (R-ID) to visit military personnel, troops, embassy staff, and military facilities in Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, and Germany.
- ***Presidential Delegation on Visit to Czech Republic***  
From May 5 to May 8, Secretary Nicholson will lead the Presidential Delegation to Prague, Czech Republic. The events center on the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe, with a "Thank You America" ceremony scheduled for May 6. Secretary Nicholson will give remarks. Other events include the opening of a permanent exhibit of World War II artifacts



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## **OTHER AGENCIES**

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### **Corporation for National and Community Service:**

- ***Prudential Spirit of Community Awards***

On May 2, CEO David Eisner will join Senator George Allen (R-VA) to honor ten of America's top youth volunteers during the annual presentation of the 2005 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards in Washington, D.C.

### **Office of Personnel Management:**

- ***Federal Benefits' Survey Briefings***

On May 5, OPM will conduct briefings for members of Congress, OMB, the media, and stakeholders on the results of the recent Federal Benefits' Survey. The overall outcome of the survey is generally positive with respect to employee confidence in the Federal benefits package. OPM anticipates significant media interest in the briefings and will update the White House in subsequent reports of media exposure.

### **Overseas Private Investment Corporation:**

- ***Approved \$290 Million in Support of New Projects***

On April 28, the OPIC Board of Directors met and approved four projects that will provide up to \$290 million in OPIC direct loans and loan guarantees to support three projects and one equity fund. The projects are:

*Tsunami Community Reconstruction, Inc.:* A loan guaranty of up to \$176 million to Tsunami Community Reconstruction, Inc., a U.S. non-profit company that provides grants and medium to long term loans to promote job creation and economic development in areas damaged by the December 2004 tsunami.

*Houses for Africa Mortgage Finance Company of Zambia, Ltd.:* OPIC will provide a \$46 million direct loan to Houses for Africa. The project helps fulfill the Bush administration's African Mortgage Market Initiative of July 2003.

*Hyatt Regency Kabul:* OPIC will provide up to \$48 million for the construction and development of a 205 room hotel in Kabul.

*Clearwater Capital Partners Investment II, L.P.:* OPIC approved \$20 million in additional financing for an Asia equity fund. The fund will invest in the credits of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Asia that are financially distressed.

## **Peace Corps:**

- ***Travel to Bulgaria, Albania and Macedonia***

From May 1 to 11, Director Gaddi Vasquez will meet with European, Mediterranean, and Asian Country Directors. The Director will also meet with top U.S. diplomatic officials. The Director will then travel to Albania and Macedonia to visit Peace Corps volunteers, staff, and government officials.

- ***Peace Corps to Welcome 28 New Volunteers***

By May 9, the Peace Corps will welcome 28 new volunteers to Bolivia.

## **USAID:**

- ***USAID Tsunami Update***

In India, over 300 fishermen from four villages returned to the sea on April 20. USAID funding supported the repair of 170 boats, 232 boat engines and 200 fishing nets through a cash-for-work program. In Indonesia, USAID has focused significant resources on developing cash-for-work and micro-enterprise activities to generate employment. More than \$6.3 million in grants have been made to support programs to rehabilitate local infrastructure, such as schools, markets and agriculture gardens. These programs employed more than 35,000 beneficiaries providing \$2.9 million directly to workers.

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## **DISASTER DECLARATIONS**

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- ***State of New Hampshire: Record Snow***

Issued April 28. Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance.

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## **KEY SPEAKING AND TRAVEL ENGAGEMENTS**

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Date	Location	Audience/Event	Topic/Activity
<b><i>Secretary Bodman</i></b>			
2-3 May	Paris, France	International Energy Agency Biennial Ministerial meeting - "Investing in the Future" and a BBC HARDTalk Interview	Convey the Bush Administration's positions on the current international oil market, energy security, energy and the environment, and the need for a vision and budgetary commitment to the research, development and deployment necessary for transformational technologies such as carbon sequestration and a hydrogen-based energy economy
6-May	Chicago, IL	Center for Nanoscale Materials at Argonne National Laboratory	Dedication Ceremony



7-May	Atlanta, GA	Commencement Address at Georgia Tech University	Remarks on the importance of research universities to the American economy
<b>Secretary Chao</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Vietnamese American National Dinner	Remarks celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and commemorating three decades of progress and achievement in America
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Department of Labor's Asian Pacific American Career Advancement Summit	Keynote address highlighting the Bush Administration's record number of Asian Pacific American (APA) appointments and commitment to advancing opportunities for the APA community
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Bloomberg TV Interview	Discuss pension reform
4-May	Washington, D.C.	CelebrAsian Reception	Remarks TBD
5-May	Alexandria, VA	National Day of Prayer Breakfast	Attend
5-May	Tuscaloosa, AL	Visit to Shelton State Community College and Tuscaloosa Career Center with Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL) and Governor Bob Riley (R-AL)	Participate in events highlighting the President's High Growth Job Training Initiative and participate in a ribbon-cutting and tour of the Tuscaloosa Career Center
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<b>Secretary Chertoff</b>			
2-May	Brunswick, GA	Tour the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center with the Vice President	Brief remarks to roughly 3,000 students and staff and introduce Vice President Cheney
3-May	Washington, D.C.	U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Swearing-In Ceremony	Swearing-In
5-May	Douglas, AZ	Port-of-Entry Tour	Tour the Port with Senators John McCain (R- AZ) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and discuss with Customs and Border Protection officials operations, processing, detention, and removal procedures

6-May	Albuquerque, NM	Sandia National Laboratories	Tour the Laboratories with Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM)
6-May	Colorado Springs, CO	Northcom/Norad Joint Operations Center	Tour the Center and do a meet and greet with Department of Homeland Security employees
6-May	Cheyenne Mountain, CO	Cheyenne Mountain Operation Center	Tour the Center
<b><i>Attorney General Gonzales</i></b>			
3-May	Gatlinburg, TN	Gatlinburg Law Enforcement Conference	Remarks TBD
4-May	Washington, D.C.	Latino Small Business Economic Conference	Keynote address TBD
5-May	Washington, D.C.	Radio Interviews	Patriot Act
6-8 May	Houston, TX	Houston Community College Commencement	Commencement Speech
<b><i>Secretary Gutierrez</i></b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Sperling Breakfast	Remarks promoting CAFTA
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Congressman Fred Upton's (R-MI) annual Washington Conference	Remarks on the Bush Administration's economic agenda, CAFTA, and general trade issues
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Congressman Gresham Barrett's (R-SC) Washington Conference	Remarks on the Bush Administration's economic agenda, CAFTA, and general trade issues
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Council of the Americas Conference	Remarks regarding CAFTA and other U.S. Latin American free trade agreements and negotiations
4-May	Washington, D.C.	Business Council	Remarks promoting CAFTA
4-May	Washington, D.C.	The Latino Coalition	Remarks promoting CAFTA
5-May	Washington, D.C.	CAFTA Coalition	Remarks promoting CAFTA
5-May	Washington, D.C.	U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce	Remarks on the President's domestic economic initiatives, social security reform, and the international trade agenda-including CAFTA, and increasing global competitiveness through tort reform, and reducing health care costs
5-May	Washington, D.C.	Speak to Congressional Western Caucus	Remarks promoting CAFTA



<b>Secretary Jackson</b>			
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Council of Federal Home Loan Banks	Remarks on the Administration's position on the reform of the Government Sponsored Enterprises
7-May	Columbia, SC	Benedict College Commencement	General commencement address
8-May	Hampton, VA	Hampton University Commencement	General commencement address
<b>Secretary Johanns</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	National Association of Farm Broadcasters	Roundtable discussion that may include CAFTA
2-May	Washington, D.C.	HealthierUS Fitness Festival with Secretary Leavitt	Remarks TBD
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Southwest Michigan group	Remarks TBD
3-May	Kansas City, MO	Export Food Aid Conference	Remarks on the Perspective on Food Aid from the Heartland and Vision for the Future
3-May	Kansas City, MO	Speech to the International Symposium on Agroterrorism	Remarks regarding agricultural terrorism
4-May	Brownsville, TN	HealthierUS School Challenge Recognition	Present Silver Certification awards to Haywood Elementary, Sunny Hill Elementary, and East Side Elementary
5-May	Washington, D.C.	Monthly Call-in Show	Interview that may include CAFTA
5-May	Washington, D.C.	National Day of Prayer	Remarks will focus on the importance of prayer in both his political and personal life
6-May	Washington, D.C.	C-SPAN's Washington Journal	Interview that may include CAFTA
<b>Secretary Leavitt</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	American Society of Anesthesiologist Luncheon	Remarks on Health Information Technology, Medicaid, and Medicare physician payments
2-May	Washington, D.C.	American Hospital Association Annual Membership Meeting	Remarks on Medicare and Medicaid Reform and Health Information Technology

2-May	Washington, D.C.	Healthier US Fitness Festival	Participate in the festival at the official ceremony that encourages Americans to eat a healthy diet, engage in daily physical activity, and make healthy choices
4-May	Washington, D.C.	AoA Breakfast & Walk the Mall with Seniors	Healthy Lifestyle for Seniors
4-May	Washington, D.C.	Business Council Event	Remarks on Health Economic competitiveness and reducing the costs of health care
5-May	Washington, D.C.	National Council of State Chief Information Officers	Remarks on Health Information Technology
7-May	Emmons, WV	Rural Health Facility Visit with Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV)	Rural Health Center
<b>Secretary Mineta</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	Congressman Fred Upton's (R-MI) Annual Washington Conference	Remarks promoting the Administration's Transportation Reauthorization proposal and its benefits to the U.S. economy, as well as calling for Congress to pass a bill, rather than a seventh short term extension
<b>Secretary Nicholson</b>			
2-5 May	Qatar, Iraq, Jordan, Germany	Congressional Delegation Trip with Senator Larry Craig (R-ID)	Visit troops in Qatar, Iraq, & Germany
5-8 May	Prague, Czech Republic	60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Europe	Remarks recalling how the forces of freedom, Americans and its allies, defeated the evil of tyranny 60 years ago in Europe, and will emphasize how today's generation of peace-keepers must remain vigilant as long as evil continues to prey on peace-loving people all over the world
8-May	Washington, D.C.	National Ceremony Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of World War II "Victory in Europe" Day	Remarks honoring World War II veterans



<b>Secretary Norton</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	American Boating Congress	Keynote address highlighting the Administration's commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible recreation and the programs, policies, and partnerships that the Department is pursuing
3-May	Washington, D.C.	National Association of Farm Broadcasters	Remarks promoting the President's energy policy
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Promotion Ceremony for Chief Dwight E. Pettiford, United States Park Police	Remarks praising the Park Police and their new Chief for their continued service in keeping our national icons safe
6-May	New York, NY	National Park Foundation	Board of Directors Meeting
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<b>Secretary Rice</b>			
3-May	Washington, D.C.	Council of Americas Annual Meeting	Remarks TBD
6-10 May	Latvia, Netherlands, Russia and Georgia	President's Trip	Diplomatic Relations
<b>Secretary Snow</b>			
2-May	Washington, D.C.	2005 Association for Advanced Life Underwriting's Annual Meeting	Remarks promoting the President's Social Security reform plan
3-May	Washington, D.C.	American Academy of Actuaries	Remarks promoting the President's Social Security reform plan
3-May	Washington, D.C.	The Council of the Americas Washington Conference	Remarks TBD
4-May	Washington, D.C.	The Business Council	Remarks promoting the President's Social Security reform plan
7-May	Harrisonburg, VA	James Madison University	Commencement address encouraging graduates to discover their strengths through doing things that they enjoy, to be the best citizens they can be, and to pursue a lifetime of learning

<i>Secretary Spellings</i>			
2-May	New York City, NY	Kick-off Charter School Week	Visit the Knowledge is Power Program Academy
4-May	Boston, MA	Education events highlighting the President's High School Initiative with Governor Mitt Romney (R-MA)	Remarks regarding the different aspects of high school reform with regards to No Child Left Behind
6-May	St. Petersburg, FL	Education Writers Association	Remarks regarding the New Path flexibility for No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the pending lawsuits against the Department, and the importance of the NCLB mission