FOIA Marker

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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of Presidential Daily Diary Backup

Stack: Row: Sect.: Shelf: Pos.: FRC ID: Location or Hollinger ID: NARA Number: OA Number:
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COLLECTION TITLE: Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office
SERIES: Presidential Daily Diary Backup
FRC ID: 12035

RESTRICTION CODES

President 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]
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PRM. Personal record mistle defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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B. Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
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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.
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<td>Database Printout</td>
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<td>008</td>
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<td>FW: The President spoke to British Prime Minister Blair on 28 April 2003 - From: Gottesman, Blake</td>
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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of

SERIES:
Presidential Daily Diary Backup

FOLDER TITLE:
04/28/2003 [2]

FRC ID:
12035

OA Num.:
13616

NARA Num.:
13637

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BIOGRAPHIES

William "Bill" Ford, Jr., Chairman and CEO, Ford Motor Company
Bill Ford was elected Chairman of the Board in September 1998, and took office on January 1, 1999. He was named Chief Executive Officer on October 30, 2001. He serves as Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee, the Nominating and Governance Committee, and the Environmental and Public Policy Committee.

Mr. Ford joined Ford Motor Company in 1979 as a product-planning analyst. He subsequently held a variety of positions in manufacturing, sales, marketing, product development, and finance. In 1983 he began a 12-month course of study as an Alfred P. Sloan fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was elected Chairman and Managing Director of Ford Switzerland in 1987, and was elected to Ford Motor Company's Board of Directors on January 14, 1988. He is the fourth generation of the Ford family to run Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Ford was elected a company Vice President and head of the company's Commercial Truck Vehicle Center in 1994. He left that position in order to assume the Chairmanship of the Board of Directors' Finance Committee in 1995. He was named Chairman of the Board's Environmental and Public Policy Committee in 1997 and Chairman of the Nominating and Governance Committee in 1999.

Mr. Ford's charitable, volunteer, and business efforts are quite visible in Detroit. As Vice Chairman of the Detroit Lions professional football team, he led efforts to build a new stadium in Detroit, and, through Detroit Lions Charities, helped develop the Detroit Police Athletic League youth football program into one of the largest in the country. As Honorary Chairman of the Southeast Michigan Consortium for Water Quality, he leads a unique partnership of government and business helping to create and preserve clean water in the region. Mr. Ford is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. He is a trustee of Princeton University and Detroit Renaissance. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Princeton University and a Master of Science degree in management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

G. Richard "Rick" Wagoner, Jr., President and CEO, General Motors Corporation
Rick Wagoner was named Chairman-elect of General Motors (GM) on December 3, 2002. He will become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer on May 1, 2003, following the retirement of present GM Chairman, Jack Smith. Wagoner has been President and Chief Executive Officer since June 2000.

Prior to his new position, Mr. Wagoner had served as President and Chief Operating Officer since 1998, and was Executive Vice President of GM and President of North American Operations since 1994. He served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 1992 to 1994, and also had responsibility for worldwide purchasing from 1993 to 1994.

Rick was President and Managing Director of General Motors do Brazil in 1991 and 1992. Prior to that, he was Vice President in charge of finance for General Motors Europe based in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1989 and 1990.

Mr. Wagoner received a bachelor's degree in economics from Duke University in 1975 and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University in 1977.
Mr. Wagoner is a member of the boards of trustees of Duke University, Detroit Country Day School, and the Board of Dean’s Advisors of the Harvard Business School. He is Chairman of the Society of Automotive Engineers *A World In Motion* Executive Committee, and a member of the Business Council and the Business Roundtable.

**Dieter Zetsche, President and CEO, DaimlerChrysler Corporation**

Dieter Zetsche has been President and CEO of DaimlerChrysler Corporation since November 17, 2000. In this capacity, he is responsible for the worldwide operations of Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge, as well as for Mercedes-Benz USA, Canada, and Mexico. He has been a member of the DaimlerChrysler AG Board of Management since the Company was officially formed on November 17, 1998. He was elected a member of the former Mercedes-Benz AG Board of Management in 1992 and the former Daimler-Benz Board of Management in 1997.

Mr. Zetsche joined Daimler-Benz AG in the research division in 1976. He held several domestic and international management positions before becoming the chief engineer for Mercedes-Benz do Brazil in 1987, and a member of that unit’s management board one year later. He was named the President of Mercedes-Benz Argentina in 1989, before becoming the President of Freightliner Corporation, in the United States, in 1991.

Dieter Zetsche was born on (b)(6) in Instanbul, Turkey. After being raised and educated in Frankfurt, Germany, he received his master’s degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Karlsruhe in 1976. He was awarded his doctoral degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Paderborn Technical University in 1982.
THE VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT

TO

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT
EVENT SUMMARY OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003

12:30 pm – 1:10 pm

EVENT: Roundtable with Iraqi-Americans

LOCATION:
Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126
313/943-2350 (p)
313/943-2323 (f)

1:15 pm – 1:55 pm

EVENT: Remarks on Operation Iraqi Freedom

LOCATION:
Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126
313/943-2350 (p)
313/943-2323 (f)

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm

EVENT: Meeting with Automotive Industry Executives

LOCATION:
Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126
313/943-2350 (p)
313/943-2323 (f)
THE SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT

IN

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

Please board Vans at West Executive Drive no later than 9:35 am for transport to Andrews Air Force Base.

Staff driving personal Vehicles, please arrive Andrews Air Force Base-Distinguished Visitors Lounge no later than 10:05 am.

10:35 am  

MARINE ONE:

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(7)(E)

(Flight Time: 10 Minutes)

10:45 am  
THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base and proceeds to Air Force One.

10:50 am  
THE PRESIDENT boards Air Force One and departs Washington, DC en route Detroit, Michigan.

Dearborn, MI
AIR FORCE ONE:

(Flight Time: 1 Hour and 10 Minutes)
(Time Change: None)
(Food Service: Brunch)
12:00 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and proceeds to Vehicle.

Advance:

Bryan Langley  - Lead
Peter Watkins  - Press
Melissa McFall  - Press/Site
Tom Basile  - Site
Matt Marsden  - Site

Met by:

Attorney General Mike Cox, Michigan

State Representative Craig DeRoche

Dr. Steven Shaya
Doctor, J & B Medical Corps

Ms. Shayota Elham
President & CEO, Sigma Associates

Andrew McLemore, Sr.
Owner, AMAC Building Company

Peter Paisley
President & CEO, Local Color

Dr. Mohammed Ogaily
Physician, Oakwood Hospital-Riverview

Note: The Freedom Corps Greeter information was not available at time of printing.

12:05 pm  THE PRESIDENT boards Vehicle and departs Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport en route Dearborn, Michigan.
VEHICLE ASSIGNMENTS:

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(7)e

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)
12:25 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center and proceeds to Studio A.

Met by:

Mayor Mike Guido, Dearborn

Martin Manna
President, InterLink Media

Adhid “Ed” Miri
President, Chaldean Iraqi Association of Michigan

Carl Dalo
President, First Choice Mortgage

Dr. Riba Al-Ansari
Physician, Oakwood Hospital-Dearborn

Dr. Maha Hussain
President, Iraqi Forum for Democracy

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

Please proceed to Dressing Room B for Hold or Staff Viewing Area.

EVENT:  ROUNDTABLE WITH IRAQI-AMERICANS

CLOSED PRESS
INDOORS
ROUNDTABLE
15 ATTENDEES
ATTIRE: SUIT

12:30 pm  THE PRESIDENT begins participation in Roundtable.

Note: Roundtable will be moderated by Dr. Maha Hussain.
1:10 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes participation in Roundtable and proceeds to Amphitheater.

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

Please proceed to Dressing Room B for Hold or Staff Viewing Area.

EVENT: REMARKS ON OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

OPEN PRESS
INDOORS
REMARKS
ROPE LINE
650 ATTENDEES
ATTIRE: SUIT

1:15 pm THE PRESIDENT begins participation in Event.

1:20 pm THE PRESIDENT proceeds to Microphone for Remarks.

Introduced by: Mayor Mike Guido, Dearborn

1:45 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes Remarks and begins participation in Rope Line.

1:55 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes participation in Event and proceeds to Green Room.

GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:

Please proceed to Dressing Room B for Hold.
EVENT: MEETING WITH AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY EXECUTIVES

PHOTO RELEASE
INDOORS
MEETING
3 ATTENDEES
ATTIRE: SUIT

2:00 pm THE PRESIDENT begins participation in Meeting.

2:15 pm THE PRESIDENT concludes participation in Meeting and proceeds to Vehicle.

Note: THE PRESIDENT will participate in Police Photos prior to Departure.

2:20 pm THE PRESIDENT boards Vehicle and departs Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center en route Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport.
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(7)e</td>
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</table>

(Drive Time: 20 Minutes)
2:40 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and proceeds to Air Force One.

2:45 pm  THE PRESIDENT boards Air Force One and departs Detroit, Michigan en route Washington, DC.
(Flight Time: 1 Hour and 5 Minutes)
(Time Change: None)
(Food Service: Lunch)
3:50 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives Andrews Air Force Base and proceeds to Marine One.


**MARINE ONE:**

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b, (b)(7)e

(Flight Time: 10 Minutes)

4:05 pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives The White House.

**GUEST AND STAFF INSTRUCTIONS:**

Staff Vans will be available on arrival at Andrews Air Force Base for transport to The White House.
THE CONTACT SHEET
OF
THE TRIP OF THE PRESIDENT
IN
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

Monday, April 28, 2003

EVENTS
Roundtable with Iraqi-Americans
Remarks on Operation Iraqi Freedom
Meeting with Automotive Industry Executives

WEATHER
Scattered Thunderstorms
High 66
Low 44

ATTIRE
Men Suit
Women Suit

CONTACTS
Greg Jenkins 202/456-5332 (office)
Director, Presidential Advance (b)(6) (mobile)

Todd Beyer (b)(6) (mobile)
Deputy Director

Lindsay Bourns 202/456-2386 (office)
Trip Coordinator (b)(6) (mobile)
ADVANCE
LEAD Bryan Langley (b)(6) (mobile)
PRESS Peter Watkins (b)(8) (mobile)
PRESS/SITE Melissa McFall (b)(6) (mobile)
SITE Tom Basile (b)(6) (mobile)
SITE Matt Marsden (b)(6) (mobile)
USSS LEAD (b)(6), (b)(7)c, (b)(7)e, (b)(7)f (mobile)
WHCA LEAD Geoffrey Pinsky (b)(6) (mobile)

LOCATIONS
Dearborn Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue
Dearborn, MI 48126
313/943-2350 (p)
313/943-2323 (f)

Dearborn, MI
BACKGROUND ON ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANTS

Haydar Al-Jebori
Haydar was born in Iraq near Najaf. After taking part in the 1991 uprising, he escaped to the Rafaha refugee camp in Saudi Arabia. He came to the United States in May 1993, and is now employed as a real estate agent in the Detroit area. Haydar is also President of the Steering Committee for Iraq Home Culture and took part in the widely publicized Dearborn street parades as Baghdad was liberated.

Dr. Abdul-Hussain Al-Khafaji
Abdul-Hussain came to the United States in 1967 to study medicine and become a surgeon. At 64 years-old, Abdul-Hussain still practices medicine and resides in Rochester Hills, Michigan. He is a former board member of the Islamic Center of America and wants to help rebuild Iraq.

Dr. Raad Al-Saraf
Raad has run a medical practice in Dearborn since 1999 and lives in West Bloomfield. Born in Baghdad in 1957, he graduated from the Medical School at Baghdad University in 1981. He left Iraq for the U.S. in 1991 to pursue his education and earned a post-graduate degree in medicine from Wayne State University.

Tony Antone
Tony is Vice President of Development for the Kojaian Companies, the largest real estate development company in Michigan, and is active in the Chaldean Iraqi-American Association of Michigan. Tony is an American-born son of Chaldean immigrants from Telkaif, Iraq. He earned a Political Science degree from Michigan State University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law. Tony served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Spencer Abraham in 1998, and in January 2001, he served on the Bush-Cheney Presidential Transition team heading up Secretary Abraham’s transition.

Judge Diane D'Agostini
Receiving 64 percent of the vote, Judge D'Agostini was elected to the 48th District Court in November 2000, where she handles both civil and criminal cases. She is the first elected Judge of Chaldean descent. An American-born daughter of Chaldean immigrants from Telkaif, Iraq, Judge D'Agostini is a married mother of two children. A cum laude law school graduate, she served as an assistant prosecutor in Oakland County for nine years where she prosecuted hundreds of cases involving homicide, rape, burglary, and other crimes.

Tarik Daoud
Tarik was born in Basra, Iraq, and came to the United States in 1955. He is the owner of Al Long Ford car dealership and is a Presidential nominee to the Federal Home Loan Board. Tarik is active in numerous Detroit-area charitable causes and works with many of the Arab American groups in Michigan to build bridges within the community.

Mark Dickow
Mark was born just north of Baghdad in a village near Mosul. His family moved to the United States in the mid 1960s, but he still has some relatives in Iraq. Mark is an attorney with Dickow and Associates where he practices criminal and civil law on the defense side. In addition, he owns several other businesses throughout Michigan. He was appointed by former Governor John Engler to the Board of Architects and remains an active participant in the Chaldean community and the Arab American community in southeast Michigan.

Najda Egaily
Najda works as a fashion designer and resides in Ann Arbor. She was born in Basra and left Iraq to come to the United States five years ago. After she left, her brother-in-law, a well-known pediatrician, was executed for criticizing Saddam Hussein and his regime privately in the home of a colleague.

Michael J. George
Mike serves as Chairman of Melody Foods, one of the largest dairy companies in the Midwest. Mike is a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, past president of the Chaldean Iraqi-American Association of Michigan, and recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Widely viewed as a prominent leader in the Chaldean community, he helps newly arrived Chaldean immigrants achieve the "American dream." The Michael J. George Foundation has been established in his honor to assist local charities.

Janey Golani
Janey was born in Detroit and resides in Dearborn Heights. She has degrees in Marketing and Communications and serves on the Board of Directors of the International Organ and Tissue Organization, specializing in multi-cultural communications. Janey is active in the Assyrian community, serving on the board of the Assyrian American National Federation. Recently, she helped organize the rallies in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Detroit and Chicago areas.

Dr. Maha Hussain
While attending the Baghdad University School of Medicine in the late 1970s, Maha witnessed the disappearance of many fellow medical students. After graduating in 1980, she and her husband left Iraq as fears of border closures mounted in advance of a possible war with Iran. Shortly after leaving Iraq, many of her Baghdad neighbors were expelled from their homes and forced to flee to Iran. Two of her cousins who stayed behind were killed in the late 1980s for arranging to hide a Kurdish friend who was evading the regime's security forces. Maha is President of Iraqi Forum for Democracy. Maha resides in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Emanuel Kamber
Born in Northern Iraq and raised in Baghdad, Emanuel left for London in 1980 to pursue a doctorate in physics. Emanuel subsequently emigrated to the U.S. and is now a Professor of Physics at Western Michigan University, residing in Kalamazoo. Emanuel has been part of a team of Iraqi Americans working with Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and has also worked with the Department of State on the Future of Iraq project.

Dr. Asad Khailany
Asad is a Professor of Computer Information Systems at Eastern Michigan University. He was born in Northern Iraq, but left in 1966 to pursue his studies in the United States. After witnessing the chemical weapon attacks on Halabja, Iraq, he founded the Kurdish National Congress of North America to promote awareness of the plight of the Kurds.

Mr. Nafa Khalaf
Nafa is the president of Detroit Contracting, Inc., specializing in design and construction of water and waste treatment facilities. He was raised in Baghdad and received a civil engineering degree from the University in Mosul in Iraq. While a citizen of Iraq, he received many high-ranking engineering positions, including project director of an oil pipeline and project director of major water treatment plants in Baghdad. Nafa moved to the United States in 1986 and settled in Detroit.
Mr. Waad Nadhir
Waad's family is from the village of Telkaif, located just north of Mosul. His father was a newspaper publisher who left Iraq for the United States to create a better future for his family. Waad graduated from Michigan State University and believes he and his family have realized the American dream by starting numerous businesses.

Imam Sayed Hassan Al-Qazwini
Imam Qazwini has been supportive of Operation Iraqi Freedom and has closely followed the political situation in Southern Iraq, communicating frequently with Shi'a leaders in the region. He was born in Karbala, Iraq, and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1992 after losing many members of his family to the brutality of the Saddam Hussein regime. He resides in Detroit and is the religious leader of the Islamic Center of America, one of the largest Shi'a mosques in the country. In this capacity, he has established the Young Muslim Association and re-ignited the community's youth movement.

Mrs. Pershang Shukri
Pershang owns a carpet business and is active in the Kurdish community. She was born in Sulaymaniyyah, Iraq, but fled with her husband and two children after they were subjected to Saddam Hussein's chemical attacks. The Shukris have been in the United States for 14 years and live in Fenton, Michigan.
The president was accompanied onto Air Force One by Karl Rove and Ari Fleischer. Wheels up at 10:55. Ari gaggled. You have the transcript. Highlights were announcement that Bush would meet with the heads of the Big Three automakers after the speech, that Bush still wants 100 percent dividend exclusion in the tax cut, that the USS Lincoln speech may be the venue for formally declaring the combat phase in Iraq over and that the road map would be released very soon after a vote tomorrow by the Palestinian parliament. 

Ari said the plan was for a number of reporters from Arab newspapers to be allowed into the roundtable; the pool objected strongly to the plan to exclude the White House press. Ari later agreed to the presence of one pool reporter (yours truly). Uneventful motorcade to the site.

From the roundtable:

The president sat at one end of tables arranged into a rectangle. He was flanked by Dr. Maha Hussain to his left and Tony Antone to his right. You have the bios.

Bush started off with some brief remarks. "The United States of America will stay in Iraq to provide stability, health, to develop an infrastructure, to provide the conditions necessary for Iraqis to develop their own government."

The American goal is "to help develop an Iraqi society that is first and foremost free."

"Then we'll leave," Mr. Bush said.

None of the participants directly criticized Bush or the United States. No discussion of civil rights. The only overt disagreement came toward the end, when Dr. Asad Khailany, identified in the bio as a Kurd Sunni, made a case for a federated system within Iraq, with the country divided into three regions with considerable autonomy. (He also called for a continued US military presence in Iraq.)

Tarik Daoud, identified in the bios as an Arab Christian, who in his presentation earlier had played down the religious differences within Iraq, started to respond with what sounded like an objection to dividing the country.

At that point, the president broke in forcefully, though with a smile on his face.

"We're not going to have a debate on the form of the government," the president said. "This debate is going to take place in Iraq."
Later, the president added: "The political issues, which you're rightly concerned about, become easier to deal with when the human condition is improved in a noticeable way."

Most of the participants thanked Bush and the United States, and to the degree that they had agendas, they were muted, with the exception of the example above.

Dr. Hussain started by telling the president that people (meaning, I guess, those attending the speech) "are dying to meet you."

Tarik Daoud said it was wonderful to live in a country that exported freedom. "Don't do it in a hurry," he said. "Stay in there as long as we need to."

The president said he "absolutely" wanted to encourage Iraqi exiles to return to Iraq when the time was right to help the country rebuild. Bush said "it's going to take awhile for the security to develop and for us to deal with the infrastructure needs."

"People have been enslaved by Saddam Hussein for years," Bush said. "To think this is going to happen in weeks is unrealistic."

Mr. Daoud said Iraq should not be thought of as a country of Shiites and Sunnis, but as a "country of people."

"Or Methodist," the president said.

The president talked about there being "a strong nationalism" in Iraq that led him to believe that there would be "a separation of church and state" in the government.

Heydor al-Jebori said he had taken part in the 1991 uprising. When Saddam's statue fell this month, he said, "we felt we were born again."

Al-Jebori made one of the few specific proposals of the session. Reading from a letter or a document, he said "a timetable should be considered" for the withdrawal of the United States, and he mentioned some possibilities for a length (I heard months but could not make out exactly what he was saying).

One participant I believe it was Pershang Shukri, but I was hustled out before I could confirm her identity thanked Bush for "saving us from being killed and tortured" and for "saving us from witnessing the torture of our children before our own eyes."

Mark Dickow told the president that Iraq could be "a model for peace in the rest of that whole region." He said he was looking to Bush serving another term, at which point Bush said, "Forget that, please...Let's just make sure Iraq works."

Emmanuel Kamber said Iraq's Christians needed to be taken into consideration.

Imam Sayed Hassan al-Qazwini, a Shia, said he had met with Mr. Bush a number of times previously to talk about removing Saddam from power. He said most Shiites "don't want to establish an Islamic Republic, they do not follow Iran." He said anti-American sentiments among Shiites had been amplified by Al Jazeera. He urged the president to assure that the Shia majority would "have their access to parliament."

Bush said the protests did not bother him. "The fact that people are able to protest is positive," he said.

Michael George urged the United States to stay in Iraq as long as necessary. He said the war had brought all Iraqis together. "We've got a lot of negative situations," he said. "We're here to make some positives out of it."

The president spoke about how the FBI had sought information from the Iraqi exiles about what was happening inside Iraq, but that the FBI had also been trying to find out whether Iraqis in the United States were the victims of any harassment or violence. He said Mueller reported to him that only on "rare" occasions had Iraqis in the US been mistreated.

Najaf Khalaf told of how, in 1951 after Bechtel built the highway from Baghdad to Mosul, many people in villages along the road named newborn sons
"Bechtel."
A few minutes later, the president said he had heard "the left wing babble about war for oil. Forget it. The oil is the Iraqi people's oil."
Abdul Hussain al-Khafaji said Iraq "cannot have an Islamic government" and said the country should aim for a western-style democracy, maybe even based on the US Constitution.
"That'll be up to the Iraqi people," Bush said.
Later, Bush called the looting of the museums "disgraceful" and went on to address reports that the US was more interested in protecting oil fields than museums and hospitals.
"I've heard this ridiculous claim that we were more interested in protecting oil fields than museums," bush said. He said military forces got to the oil fields first as they moved from south to north. He said the US is "doing everything we can to chase down the treasures" looted from the museums.
Waad Nahir urged the president to pay particular attention to young men in Iraq, especially those 16-30. "If we don't address them, we risk losing them," Nahir said.

Dick Stevenson
NY Times
British ACCEPTED new call time of 1635 EDT, today.

President Bush will speak to British PM Blair at 1610 EDT on Monday, 28 April.
President Bush will speak to British PM Blair at 1610 EDT on Monday, 28 April.
REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT ON OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
Dearborn, Michigan

1:46 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you for that warm welcome; I'm glad to be here. I regret that I wasn't here a few weeks ago when the statue came down. (Applause.) I understand you had quite a party. I don't blame you. A lot of the people in the Detroit area had waited years for that great day.

Many Iraqi Americans know the horrors of Saddam Hussein's regime firsthand. You also know the joys of freedom you have found here in America. (Applause.) You are living proof the Iraqi people love freedom and living proof the Iraqi people can flourish in democracy. (Applause.) People who live in Iraq deserve the same freedom that you and I enjoy here in America. (Applause.) And after years of tyranny and torture, that freedom has finally arrived. (Applause.)

I have confidence in the future of a free Iraq. The Iraqi people are fully capable of self-government. Every day Iraqis are moving toward democracy and embracing the
responsibilities of active citizenship. Every day life in Iraq improves as coalition troops work to secure unsafe areas and bring food and medical care to those in need.

America pledged to rid Iraq of an oppressive regime, and we kept our word. (Applause.) America now pledges to help Iraqis build a prosperous and peaceful nation, and we will keep our word again. (Applause.)

Mr. Mayor, thanks, I appreciate you greeting me once again here in Dearborn. I appreciate your leadership. If you've got any problems with the garbage or the potholes, call the mayor. (Laughter.)

I want to thank members of the congressional delegation who have joined us today. Thank you all for coming. Michigan is well represented in the halls of the United States Congress. (Applause.) I want to thank the folks from the state government who have joined us today and local governments. I appreciate so very much the CEOs of the major automobile manufacturing companies who are based here in Detroit who are here: Rick Wagoner, Bill Ford and Deter Zetsche. Thank you all for coming. I look forward to discussing things with you later. (Applause.)

Right before I came in here I had the opportunity to meet with some extraordinary men and women, our fellow Americans who knew the cruelties of the old Iraq. And like me, they believed deeply in the promise of a new Iraq.

I spoke with Najda Egaily, a Sunni Muslim from Basra who moved to the United States five years ago. Najda learned the price of descent in Iraq in 1988, when her brother-in-law was killed after laughing at a joke about Saddam Hussein in a house that was bugged.

In Iraq, Najda says, we could never speak to anyone about Saddam Hussein -- we had to make sure the windows were closed. (Applause.) The windows are now open in Iraq. (Applause.) Najda and her friends will never forget seeing the images of liberation in Baghdad. Here's what she said: we called each other and we were shouting; we never believed that Saddam Hussein would be gone.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: He's gone. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Like Najda, a lot of Iraqis -- a lot of Iraqis -- feared the dictator, the tyrant would never go away. You're right -- he's gone. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: USA! USA!

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible) back in the (inaudible). (Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Because of you, Mr. President, so can you.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible).
THE PRESIDENT: We love free speech in America. (Laughter and applause.)

I talked to Tarik Daoud, a Catholic from Basra who now lives in Bloomfield Hills. (Applause.) When the dictator regime fell, here's what Tariq said, he said: I am more hopeful today than I've been since 1958. We need to take the little children in Iraq and hold their hands and really teach them what freedom is all about. He says: the new generation could really make democracy work.

He's right to be optimistic. From the beginning of this conflict we have seen brave Iraqi citizens taking part in their own liberation. Iraqis have warned our troops about land mines and enemy hideouts and military arsenals.

Earlier this month, Iraqis helped Marines locate the seven American prisoners of war, who were then rescued in Northern Iraq. (Applause.) One courageous Iraqi man gave Marines detailed layouts of a hospital in An Nasiriyah, which led to the rescue of American soldier Jessica Lynch. (Applause.)

Iraqi citizens are now working closely with our troops to restore order to their cities, and improve the life of their nation. In Basra, hundreds of police volunteers have joined with coalition forces to patrol the streets. In Baghdad, more than a thousand citizens are doing joint patrols with coalition troops. And residents are also working with coalition troops to collect unexploded munitions from neighborhoods, and repair the telephone system. People are working to improve the lives of the average citizens in Iraq. (Applause.)

I want you to listen to what an Iraqi engineer said who was working with U.S. Army engineers to restore power to Baghdad. He said: We are very glad to work with the Americans to have power for the facilities. The Americans are working to help us. (Applause.) Iraqi Americans, including some from Michigan, are building bridges between our troops and Iraqi civilians. Members of the free Iraqi forces are serving as translators for our troops, and are delivering humanitarian aid to the citizens.

One of these volunteers, an Iraqi American who fled Saddam Hussein's regime in 1991, recently returned to his homeland with the 101st Airborne Division. A few weeks ago, when he first saw the cheering crowds of Iraqis welcome coalition troops in Hillah he wept. He said people could hardly believe what was happening, and he told them: believe it -- liberation is coming. (Applause.)

Yes, there were some in our country who doubted the Iraqi people wanted freedom, or they just couldn't imagine they would be welcome -- welcoming to a liberating force. They were mistaken, and we know why. The desire for freedom is not the property of one culture, it is the universal hope of human beings in every culture. (Applause.)

Whether you're Sunni or Shia or Kurd or Chaldean or Assyrian or Turkoman or Christian or Jew or Muslim -- (applause) -- no matter what your faith, freedom is God's gift to every person
in every nation. (Applause.) As freedom takes hold in Iraq, the Iraqi people will choose their own leaders and their own government. America has no intention of imposing our form of government or our culture. Yet, we will ensure that all Iraqis have a voice in the new government and all citizens have their rights protected. (Applause.)

In the city of An Nasiriyah, where free Iraqis met recently to discuss the political future of their country, they issued a statement beginning with these words: Iraq must be democratic. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: USA! USA! USA! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: That historic declaration expresses the commitment of the Iraqi people and their friends, the American people. The days of repression from any source are over. Iraq will be democratic. (Applause.)

The work of building a new Iraq will take time. That nation is recovering not just from weeks of conflict, but from decades of totalitarian rule.

In a nation where the dictator treated himself to palaces with gold faucets and grand fountains, four out of ten citizens did not even have clean water to drink. While a former regime exported milk, and dates, and corn, and grain for its own profit, more than half a million Iraqi children were malnourished. As Saddam Hussein let more than $200 million worth of medicine and medical supplies sit in warehouses, one in eight Iraqi children were dying before the age of five. And while the dictator spent billions on weapons, including gold-covered AK-47s, nearly a quarter of Iraqi children were born underweight. Saddam Hussein's regime impoverished the Iraqi people in every way.

Today, Iraq has only about half as many hospitals as it had in 1990. Seventy percent of its schools are run-down and over-crowded. A quarter of the Iraqi children are not in a school at all. Under Saddam's regime, the Iraqi people did not have a power system they could depend on. These problems plagued Iraq long before the recent conflict. We're helping the Iraqi people to address these challenges, and we will stand with them as they defeat the dictator's legacy. (Applause.)

Right now, engineers are on the ground working with Iraqi experts to restore power, and fix broken water pipes in Baghdad and other cities. We're working with the International Red Cross, the Red Crescent Societies, the International Medical Corps and other aid agencies to help Iraqi hospitals get safe water and medical supplies and reliable electricity. Our coalition is cooperating with the United Nations to help restart the ration distribution system that provides food at thousands of sites in Iraq. And coalition medical facilities have treated Iraqis from everything from fractures and burns to symptoms of stroke.

One Iraqi man who was given medical help with his wife and sister aboard the U.S. Navy ship Comfort, said: They treat us like family. There are babies in Iraq who are not cared for by their mothers as well as the nurses have cared for us.
Already, we are seeing important progress in Iraq. It wasn't all that long ago that the statue fell, and now we're seeing progress. (Applause.)

Rail lines are reopening, and fire stations are responding to calls. Oil -- Iraqi oil, owned by the Iraqi people -- is flowing again to fuel Iraq's power plants. In Hillah, more than 80 percent of the city has now running water. City residents can buy meats and grains and fruits and vegetables at local shops. The mayor's office, the city council have been reestablished.

In Basra, where more than half of the water treatment facilities were not working before the conflict -- more than half weren't functioning -- water supplies are now reaching 90 percent of the city. The opulent presidential palace in Basra will now serve a new and noble purpose. We've established a water purification unit there, to make hundreds of thousands of liters of clean water available to the residents of the city of Basra. (Applause.)

Day by day, hour by hour, life in Iraq is getting better for the citizens. (Applause.) Yet, much work remains to be done. I have directed Jay Garner and his team to help Iraq achieve specific long-term goals. And they're doing a superb job. Congress recently allocated $2.5 -- nearly $2.5 billion for Iraq's relief and reconstruction. With that money, we are renewing Iraq with the help of experts from inside our government, from private industry, from the international community and, most importantly, from within Iraq. (Applause.)

We are dispatching teams across Iraq to assess the critical needs of the Iraqi people. We're clearing land mines. We're working with Iraqis to recover artifacts, to find the hoodlums who ravished the National Museum of Antiquities in Baghdad. (Applause.) Like many of you here, we deplore the actions of the citizens who ravished that museum. And we will work with the Iraqi citizens to find out who they were and to bring them to justice. (Applause.)

We're working toward an Iraq where, for the first time ever, electrical power is reliable and widely available. One of our goals is to make sure everybody in Iraq has electricity. Already, 17 major power plants in Iraq are functioning. Our engineers are meeting with Iraqi engineers. We're visiting power plants throughout the country, and determining which ones need repair, which ones need to be modernized, and which ones are obsolete, power plant by power plant. More Iraqis are getting the electricity they need.

We're working to make Iraq's drinking water clean and dependable. American and Iraqi water sanitation engineers are inspecting treatment plants across the country to make sure they have enough purification chemicals and power to produce safe water.

We're working to give every Iraqi access to immunizations and emergency treatment, and to give sick children and pregnant women the health care they need. Iraqi doctors and nurses and other medical personnel are now going back to work. Throughout the country, medical specialists from many countries are identifying the needs of Iraqis hospitals, for everything from equipment and repairs to water, to medicines.
We're working to improve Iraqi schools by funding a back to school campaign that will help train and recruit Iraqi teachers, provide supplies and equipment, and bring children across Iraq back into clean and safe schools. (Applause.)

And as we do that, we will make sure that the schools are no longer used as military arsenals and bunkers, and that teachers promote reading, rather than regime propaganda. (Applause.) And because Iraq is now free, economic sanctions are pointless. (Applause.) It is time for the United Nations to lift the sanctions so the Iraqis could use some resources to build their own prosperity. (Applause.)

Like so many generations of immigrants, Iraqi Americans have embraced and enriched this great country, without ever forgetting the land of your birth. Liberation for Iraq has been a long time coming, but you never lost faith. You knew the great sorrow of Iraq. You also knew the great promise of Iraq, and you shared the hope of the Iraqi people.

You and I both know that Iraq can realize those hopes. Iraq can be an example of peace and prosperity and freedom to the entire Middle East. (Applause.) It'll be a hard journey, but at every step of the way, Iraq will have a steady friend in the American people. (Applause.)

May God continue to bless the United States of America, and long live a free Iraq. (Applause.)

END 2:10 P.M. EDT
President Bush (news - web sites) speaks during a visit to Dearborn, Mich., Monday, April 28, 2003. President Bush is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s toppled dictatorship, courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election. (AP Photo)
Zalmay Khalilzad, left, special envoy to U.S. President Bush (news - web sites) for Iraq (news - web sites) and Mike O'Brien, right, British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, listen to an Iraqi delegation member during a conference in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, Monday April 28, 2003. An all-day meeting of the U.S. administrators of Iraq and delegates from the country's political factions agreed Monday to convene a larger conference within a month that will select an interim government for the war-torn nation. (AP Photo/Lefteris Pitarakis)

Ratings: Would you recommend this photo?
Not at all 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 Highly
Avg Rating: 2.13, 8 votes
President Bush (news - web sites) meets with, from left, William Clay Ford Jr., Chairman & CEO of Ford Motor Company; Dieter Zetsche, President & CEO of Chrysler Group; and Richard Wagoner, President & CEO of General Motors Corp., at the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn, Mich., Monday, April 28, 2003. (AP Photo/White House, Tina Hager)
President Discusses the Future of Iraq

President Bush (news - web sites), right, kisses Iman Hassan Qazwini, a local religious leader, after speaking Monday, April 28, 2003 in Dearborn, Mich. Bush traveled to the Detroit suburb where about 30 percent of residents claimed Arab ancestry. Where he is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s toppled dictatorship and courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

President Bush (news - web sites), right, kisses Iman Hassan Qazwini, a local religious leader, after speaking Monday, April 28, 2003 in Dearborn, Mich. Bush traveled to the Detroit suburb where about 30 percent of residents claimed Arab ancestry. Where he is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s toppled dictatorship and courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Mon Apr 28, 4:36 PM ET
A federal judge on April 28, 2003 ordered the U.S. government to provide accused Sept. 11 conspirator ... 

President Bush (news - web sites), right, shakes hands on stage with Imam Hassan Qazwini, local religious leader, after promoting Iraqi democracy in a speech, Monday, April 28, 2003 in Dearborn, Mich. Bush traveled to the Detroit suburb where about 30 percent of residents claimed Arab ancestry. Where he is touting his administration's efforts to plant the seeds of democracy in the rubble of Saddam Hussein (news - web sites)'s toppled dictatorship and courting Michigan's Arab community with an eye on his re-election. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)
The Reliable Source

By Lloyd Grove

Tuesday, April 29, 2003; Page C03

A Line in the Sand

How far will White House press secretary Ari Fleischer go to control President Bush's media coverage?

Not as far as he apparently would like, reporters learned yesterday.

During the morning gaggle aboard Air Force One on the way to Dearborn, Mich., Fleischer announced that only Arab journalists would be allowed into a roundtable featuring the president and leaders of Michigan's Iraqi-exile community.

"It is closed," Fleischer told his wards, including ABC News's Terry Moran and CBS Radio's Peter Maer. "And we are going to accommodate a couple of [Arab journalists] into the meeting. They will be there for their own reporting purposes."

A White House regular asked: "Are they pooling for us?"

Fleischer responded: "They're given an exclusive."

At which Moran erupted: "We have to object to that, we just have to object to that. You're going to allow Arab reporters in because you want to get that message out, but you're afraid of American reporters?" Fleischer suggested that Moran "go to them and talk to them about it afterwards." Moran shot back: "That's not good enough."

Riding shotgun, Maer chimed in: "We can't rely on people that we don't know or that are not part of the regular White House pool to report to the American media on something this sensitive."

Fleischer caved, and the New York Times's Richard Stevenson was let into the meeting to file a detailed pool report.

"Actually these roundtables are nearly always closed," Fleischer told us afterward, "and usually the press corps is bored with the roundtables and don't even want to cover them." A debatable claim perhaps, but Fleischer went on: "Because of the nature of the event, we wanted to give an exclusive to Arab media... . It did not sit well with the American press, and we worked off a road map to bridge the differences between the Arab press and the American press... . The lesson is that it's always perilous to negotiate anything that involves anything relating to the Middle East."

Notes From the Bloomberg Smoking Room

• New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg so despises the deadly, disgusting habit of smoking that he orchestrated a ban on the consumption of tobacco products in his city's restaurants and bars.

The law went into effect this month, but that didn't dissuade the multi-billion-dollar media company Bloomberg owns -- also named Bloomberg -- from providing a smoking area for the many nicotine addicts who gathered at the Russian Federation Trade Ministry Saturday night for the Bloomberg do after the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

The death chamber -- a corner of the tented back yard -- was so hazy that we could barely make out the irony. But we did clearly see a not-quite-Cinderella encounter between Sir Richard Branson, the suave, cigarette-smoking CEO of Virgin Atlantic Airways, and NBC's glam, cigarette-smoking White House correspondent, Campbell Brown.

"I'm an Englishman," Branson told Brown, who sidled beside him on a sofa, "so I don't know much about American television."

Brown fired back: "I just love the pajamas from the first class of British Airways! They are so comfortable -- I have 10 pairs in my closet."

Branson: "I'm not sure I like you anymore." Then: "Virgin Atlantic has pajamas, too. I would like you to have a pair of our pajamas." Later, down on one knee: "Oh, Campbell, I'm begging you! Please! Won't you wear my pajamas?"

Still later, in the wee hours, Branson removed one of Brown's sparkly high-heeled sandals and stowed it in an undisclosed location, requiring her to traipse through the throng unshod until he finally relented and restored the missing footwear. Was this the beginning of something beautiful?

"He's very nice, but I'm not big on zillionaires," Brown demurred. "I tend to fall for the nerdy intellectual types."

THIS JUST IN...

• America, the Expensive? We're not alone in wondering why Ray Charles didn't favor President Bush and the assembled Washington political-media establishment with his hit rendition of "America the Beautiful" at Saturday's White House Correspondents' Association dinner. It turns out Charles would gladly have sung it -- for an extra $60,000. Association President Bob Deans, who hired the R&B legend for $50,000, requested the number weeks ago but was told that Charles's version requires a full orchestra, not the quartet he brought to the Hilton Washington. "I had mentioned, 'Gee, can you play this?' and they said, 'No, he's not going to play it.'" Deans said. "It was Ray Charles's call. They made clear to me that everything is his call. If he had wanted to play it, if he had been in the mood, he would have." Charles's fee went to his favorite charity, the Robinson (Charles's real surname) Foundation for Hearing Disorders.

• The Bush clan showed up in force Friday night to cheer on Margaret Bush, wife of presidential brother Marvin, as she trod the boards in Dominion Stage's production of the J.B. Priestly play "An Inspector Calls." Sitting in the front row at Gunston Middle School in South Arlington were first lady Laura Bush, the president's father George H.W. Bush and Margaret's daughter Marshall Bush, along with an entourage of Secret Service agents. A member of the small audience on the show's penultimate night told us that Margaret, a busy local actress, "did a very good English accent" in her portrayal of Sybil Birling, a socially prominent English lady who figures in Priestly's thriller. During intermission, audience members freely approached the Bushes to schmooze.
WAVES OPERATIONS CENTER - APPOINTMENT: U12979


Appointment Requested by: BALDWIN JENICA
Requestor Phone extension: 66641
Total Number of Visitors: 4

Appointment With: POTUS
Appointment Date: 04/28/2003
Appointment Thru Date: 04/28/2003

Appointment Time: 09:00
Appointment Thru Time: 23:59

Appointment Location: WH
Appointment Room: DIP ROOM

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Page 1
FYI

Sara M. Taylor
04/28/2003 08:46:11 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Todd W. Beyer/WHO/EOP@EOP, bryan.langley@ed.gov @ inet
cc: 
Subject: error on the greeters

On the schedule for the airport greeters, it says Mr. Shayota Elhma. It should read Ms. Elham Shayota. This is our mistake. Sorry.
STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Edward Gaylord was a shining example of generosity, patriotism, and dedication to helping others. As a business leader with a distinguished career in journalism, he spent a lifetime in selfless service to his community and state. I was honored to have Ed as a partner in the Texas Rangers Baseball Club. He was an excellent partner and a fine man. Laura joins me in extending our heartfelt condolences to Ed’s family and friends.

###
President Bush spoke to British Prime Minister Blair from 4:35-4:56 PM EDT on 28 April 2003.

(b)(3) 10 USC 130b
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Withdrawal Marker
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Appointments and Scheduling, White House Office of
SERIES:
Presidential Daily Diary Backup
FOLDER TITLE:
04/28/2003  [2]
FRC ID:
12035
OA Num.:
13616
NARA Num.:
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FOIA IDs and Segments:
2015-0088-F

RESTRICTION CODES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2003

PRESS SCHEDULE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2003

Intown Travel Pool
Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP
TV Corr & Crew: ABC
Print: Newsday
Radio: Talk Radio News
Mag Photo: Newsweek
Independent Pool: AP

8:00 am    INTO TOWN TRAVEL POOL gathers in the Brady Press Briefing Room

10:35 am   THE PRESIDENT departs The White House via Marine One
South Lawn, The White House
OPEN PRESS

12:30 pm   THE PRESIDENT participates in a roundtable discussion with Arab-Americans
including Iraqi Americans
Dearborn, Michigan
CLOSED PRESS

1:15 pm    THE PRESIDENT makes remarks on Operation Iraqi Freedom
Dearborn, Michigan
OPEN PRESS
4:05pm  THE PRESIDENT arrives The White House via Marine One
South Lawn, The White House
OPEN PRESS

Briefing Schedule:
There will be no gaggle or briefing for Monday.

###
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Dearborn, Michigan)

For Immediate Release

PRESS GAGGLE
BY
ARI FLEISCHER
Aboard Air Force One
En route Dearborn, Michigan

11:08 A.M. EDT

MR. FLEISCHER: The President before he left had his intelligence briefing, FBI briefings, policy briefings. And will arrive at the Dearborn Ford Community Performing Arts Center, where he will have a roundtable with Iraqi Americans, and will make remarks on Operation Iraqi Freedom, where the focus of his remarks will be an update on the progress of reconstruction as the President sees a hopeful, democratic Iraq to emerge from war.

And then prior to the departure the President will meet with the three heads of the auto industry in the area. That will be the Chairman of the board and CEO of Ford Motor Company, the President and CEO of General Motors and the President and CEO of Daimler/Chrysler. The purpose of the meeting is to talk to them about his jobs and growth program, and also to get their sense on how the economy is doing because, clearly, the automotive sales is an important part of durable sales and job creation and consumer confidence.

With that, I'm happy to take your Qs.

Q Any access to that meeting, or will there be a readout afterwards?

MR. FLEISCHER: The auto meeting?
Q Yes.
MR. FLEISCHER: Closed meeting. I'll be there, so I'll let you know afterwards. I believe that the three of them may have their own plans to talk to local media afterwards.

Q Coverage on the meeting with the Iraqi exiles is closed. Will we get any readout, or why no coverage for us?
MR. FLEISCHER: It is closed. I should advise you that there are many reporters from Arab media outlets who are on this trip, who flew out on the press charter. There are some eight who don't typically travel with the White House press corps, who asked to go. They were accommodated. And we are going to accommodate a couple of them into the meeting. So they will be there for their own reporting purposes.

Q Are there going to be American reporters there?
MR. FLEISCHER: No.
Q Why not allow --
MR. FLEISCHER: Because we cannot open up the whole thing up.
Q Are they pooling for us?
MR. FLEISCHER: They're given an exclusive.
Q We have to object to that, we just have to object to that. You're going to allow Arab reporters in because you want to get that message out, but you're afraid of American reporters?
MR. FLEISCHER: The reason I put it on the record here and told you is so you could go to them and talk to them about it afterwards.
Q That's not good enough. That's not good enough.
Q We can't rely on people that we don't know or that are not part of the regular White House pool to report to the American media on something this sensitive.
MR. FLEISCHER: Let me see if I can expand it into one more. Let me see if I can.
Q Please. Thanks. Some of the Iraqi -- or at least one Iraqi group has served notice that it wants to issue a communique to the President to say that they want to control their own destiny. What is the administration's reaction to that sort of sentiment?
MR. FLEISCHER: We want the Iraqi people to control their own destiny. That's no difference in that. That's one of the reasons that the second meeting took place today with all the various Iraqi groups to talk about the structure of the IIA. And we understand there are going to be different people have different thoughts about the pace of how quickly Iraqis will be able to take over. But there are many others who want the United States to continue to lend a hand, particularly on security and organizational efforts. And as the President said, and he'll talk about this in his remarks, but we are here for the purpose of helping the Iraqi people to arrive at that point. But then we want to leave.
Q Ari, are there just Iraqis, or are there other Arabs, as well?
MR. FLEISCHER: Other Arabs, as well. The roundtable -- we're distributing the list of people who are going to participate in the roundtable, you'll have that. I don't remember if the roundtable is
exclusively Iraqi, but then the speech will be Arab Americans, Iraqi Americans.

Q Will the President discuss the Middle East road map or prospects for the Middle East?

MR. FLEISCHER: The speech is about the future of Iraq.

Q On tax cuts, the Chairman of the Finance Committee said yesterday he might be able to get it up to $425 billion or $450 billion, but that that would require offsets or spending cuts. Would the President back offsets which amount to tax increases by another name in order to get it up to that kind of range?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, first of all, we're pleased to see a willingness from the various parties on the Hill to come together so that the economy can grow and jobs get created. We will continue to work with the Congress on the exact details of it.

You know, the President's budget, for example, had some $11 billion over 10 years in areas that raised revenues. So I think it really comes down to the nature of the specific proposal. And we'll work with Congress to see what they come up with.

Q Would he support including in any tax package the expanded business depreciation proposal that's being talked about if it came at the cost of scaling back, in particular, the dividend tax exclusion?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President continues to support, and will fight for, a 100 percent dividend exclusion, not scaled back.

Q Ari, when are we going to be able to ask the President questions again? It's been more than a week.

MR. FLEISCHER: I'm working on it.

Q I mean, last time was Fort Hood.

MR. FLEISCHER: But in fairness, I understand, that's absolutely accurate for the White House Press Corps. But of course the President has done numerous press interviews. I take the point.

Q -- as much time --

MR. FLEISCHER: Fair point, I take it, I'm working on it. But I do want to say, the President has been accessible, not to the White House Press Corps immediately, but he has been visible taking questions from -- whether it was Tom Brokaw or whether it was a media forum Tuesday with a group of business and economic writers from the press.

Q Is there going to be some give and take with the Iraqi roundtable, or is he speaking -- is it just a one-way thing?

MR. FLEISCHER: Every roundtable takes on its own personality. So typically there's some level of give-and-take. What the President usually likes to do is go around the room and listen to everybody and hear everybody's perspective.

Q Some of the participants have told some of the Detroit newspapers -- they're quoted in the Detroit newspapers today as saying they want to ask the President why oil wells were protected but hospitals and buildings, museums and so forth, were not, that sort of thing. Is he going to be ready to respond to those kinds of pointed questions?

MR. FLEISCHER: That does happen at the roundtables. I think the press has been in some of
the roundtables where people flat-out disagreed with the President's position on taxes, for example. That's kind of how the roundtables go, sometimes. Sometimes they mix it up, sometimes there's opposition, sometimes people agree. We'll see what happens at this one.

Q So does he feel like he has to kind of mend fences here, to kind of woo some of the people back? You know, do you think --

MR. FLEISCHER: Mend fences? I think everybody here is going to be very appreciative of the fact that thanks to this President, Iraq is now free. And these people, I think, see a very hopeful and bright future for Iraq.

Within that, sure, issues are going to come up. That's why the President seeks these roundtables. He finds these roundtables, particularly where people will say something to him that pushes the debate, as very helpful. It's his way, as he puts it, to break out of the bubble and to hear from real people and to hear the real thoughts that are on their minds. So that's why I said, sometimes these roundtables just depend on the particular roundtable for the texture of what's discussed. Sure, sometimes people disagree and they tell him.

Q And why were oil fields protected, if they're correct -- are they correct in asserting that oil fields were protected but other civilian buildings and so forth were not?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, of course it gets into the plan that CENTCOM had. And I think CENTCOM would tell you is day one, it was from a military point of view physically easier to land hundreds and hundreds of miles away from downtown Baghdad, for defensive purposes, than it was to arrive at a building, for example, in downtown Baghdad, on day one.

So some things flowed directly from a war plan and the physical arrangements to protect our forces as they secured assets throughout Iraq.

Q Can I ask you about -- what's the administration's position on whether Islamic Sharia law should be part of the new Iraq? There are a lot of people in Iraq calling for the adoption of the Sharia legal code, which is very strict and very traditional.

MR. FLEISCHER: These are the issues for the Iraqi people to figure out, to settle on themselves. But the administration believes what should guide any of these discussions is transparency, rule of law, tolerance.

Q So you're open to it?

MR. FLEISCHER: Transparency, rule of law, tolerance. We've always said that there can be an Islamic democracy -- not an Islamic theocracy like Iran, but an Islamic democracy.

If nothing else --

Q Thanks.

Q Do you have any guidance for us on when the road map might be unveiled?

MR. FLEISCHER: There's an important vote tomorrow in the Palestinian parliament, which is one of the final steps, if not the final step, in the ratification of Abu Mazen's cabinet. It's important to let that event go forward, and then if all is ratified, then you will see the administration move forward very shortly thereafter with the release of the road map.
Q: Within hours, or days?

MR. FLEISCHER: I can't predict hours or that type of thing, but it will be very shortly thereafter. At that point there's no purpose in waiting. We want to move forward to help the parties to find a way to peace.

Q: How are you guys going to do that? Are you going to have a speech? Is he going to have a --

MR. FLEISCHER: It will be principally a State Department-led effort.

Q: One other thing in the -- I'm sorry, go ahead.

Q: Powell is going to do it?

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, what do you mean when you say, "do it?" I think there could be different layers to it, you know, in terms of --

Q: What is Bush's role going to be on this?

MR. FLEISCHER: We'll keep you posted.

Q: So it could be as early as tomorrow, maybe?

MR. FLEISCHER: I want to, the reason I'm hesitating to be more specific is, allow the events on the ground to conclude.

Q: Any further guidance for us on what he's -- the tone of what he's going to say when he goes out to the Abraham Lincoln, in terms of -- is he going to say, peace, victory in our time, or what is he going to say?

MR. FLEISCHER: I think he's going to sum up where we are. He will talk about that the combat phase has come to a -- let me do this. Let me do this. We'll have more to say about what the remarks on the Lincoln will be, as it gets closer to it. We're still waiting -- we're still waiting to hear from Tommy Franks. The speech on the Lincoln could be the speech where he gives the summary on that. If that becomes the case, I'll have more to say about it closer to it. Today is Monday, I'm just not prepared to go that far yet.

Q: Would it be jumping at this point? Jumping too --

MR. FLEISCHER: You almost had me.

Q: Would it be jumping too far to say, is he going to use the word "victory"?

MR. FLEISCHER: Whenever he gives the remarks -- and it could be Thursday -- he does not look at it as declaring victory. He looks at it as describing where we are, and the fact that we are now turning into a new and important phase in the war on terror, and in Iraq. There still are missions to be accomplished in Iraq. So he won't look at it as simply declaring victory. He'll look -- he will use different words to describe where we are.

Q: Thanks.

Q: I've got to clarify. I need to ask, the President still wants to see the full dividend exclusion. That's what you said?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President continues to support and will fight for a 100 percent dividend
exclusion.

Q: Thank you, sir.

MR. FLEISCHER: Okay.

END 11:23 A.M. EDT
Former Texas Rangers manager Johnny Oates sits with his wife, Gloria, at their Petersburg, Va., home Wednesday, April 23, 2003. The twitching in his left shoulder that he blamed on three straight days of bad golf, and that sudden inability to speak during a radio show was glioblastoma multiforme. Brain cancer. "When you look at it, it's a blessing," Oates said, noting his disease has allowed him to appreciate the time he has left. (AP Photo/Lisa Billings)
Born in New York, Barbara Ernst Prey grew up in Manhasset on Long Island, graduated from Williams College, and earned a masters degree from Harvard University. She received a Fulbright Scholarship and a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, enabling her to travel, study, work and exhibit extensively in Europe and Asia. While she absorbed many influences from her travels, she remained an American artist rooted in the traditions of Winslow Homer and Edward Hopper. Prey currently lives with her family in Oyster Bay, Long Island, and claims Maine as a second home and source of inspiration, having worked and exhibited there for several decades.

Barbara Ernst Prey is considered one of the foremost landscape painters active in the United States today. One of her paintings, in the collection of President and Mrs. George W. Bush, is currently on display at The White House. Many of her other works are included in prominent private, corporate and museum collections throughout the world.

Ms. Prey is an artistic ambassador for her country, having been chosen this year to participate in the United States Arts in Embassies Program. Her painting "Reunion at Dusk" is on view at the United States Embassy in Prague, hanging in the company of works by major American artists. Three other of Prey's paintings, "Hayrolls," "Autumn Breeze" and "Hilltop," are on exhibition at the United States Embassy in Oslo. The Arts in Embassies Program promotes national pride and cultural awareness by presenting the work of influential American artists to a broad, international audience. Other artists involved in the program include Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol and Chuck Close. Domestically, Prey has exhibited this past year at the Guild Hall Museum in East Hampton, New York; The Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington, New York; the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and over the summer, at Blue Water Fine Arts in Port Clyde, Maine. She is represented by Pamela Auchincloss in New York.

Ms. Prey has recently been commissioned by NASA to do a painting of the International Space Station. She joins an elite group of American artists who have been invited by NASA to document space history including Norman Rockwell and Robert Rauschenberg. Dr. H. Lester Cooke, former National Gallery of Art Curator who guided the NASA Arts Program comments, "future generations will realize that we have not only the scientists and engineers capable of shaping the destiny of our age but artists worthy to keep them company."

Prey's paintings were exhibited this year at the Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York, Hecksher Art Museum and the Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa Oklahoma. She was awarded "Best of Show" at the Westmoreland Museum of American Art, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. "Friendship II," her painting of two sun-bleached dories placed against a bright blue body of water in the collection of the Farnsworth Museum, Rockland, Maine, was in their recent Acquisitions exhibition. Prey's work is collected by prominent private, corporate, and museum collectors around the world. Her paintings are included in public collections such as the Farnsworth Art Museum, Williams College Museum of Art, The Twain Museum of Art, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Reader's Digest Collection. Her work is owned by private collectors including President and Mrs. George W. Bush, former President and Mrs. George Bush, Mr. And
Mrs. Henry Luce III, Mr. And Mrs. S. Prosser Mellon, and Prince and Princess Johannes Lobkowicz.
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<td>LARRY DOWNING</td>
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