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COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Kavanaugh, Brett - Speech Files

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02/01/2005 - Foreward - Fourth Volume of the President's Public Papers [768185]

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RESTRICTION CODES

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

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Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**

Document Date: **2/1/2005**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: FOURTH VOLUME OF THE
PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC PAPERS FEB 01 02**

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For Review + Approval

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Foreword – Fourth Volume of the President's Public Papers (July-Dec. 2002)

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Draft #13

2-9-05

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

This volume collects my speeches and papers from the second half of 2002, a period in which the United States witnessed the passage of significant domestic reforms as we continued vigorously to pursue the war on terror abroad.

On the home front, my Administration worked with the Congress to rouse an economy rocked by corporate scandals and the attacks of September 11. To bolster the worker and investor confidence essential for the functioning of any free market, in July 2002 I signed into law the most sweeping corporate reforms in more than 50 years. The Congress also passed Trade Promotion Authority after an eight-year lapse, giving me a stronger hand to open new markets abroad for American farmers, ranchers, workers, and entrepreneurs. Congress also responded to our call by passing legislation making terrorism insurance available and affordable, as well as new laws that promoted conservation of our wetlands, expanded community health centers, and helped cities and states update their voting systems.

From the outset, my Administration has made it clear that in order to best serve Americans in need, faith-based and community organizations must be free to compete for federal grants on a level playing field. In December 2002, I signed an Executive Order directing all federal agencies to follow the principle of equal treatment in awarding social-service grants. In Congress, meanwhile, we continued to work for passage of legislation advancing my faith-based and community initiative. We also continued to work for a comprehensive energy plan and a Medicare reform bill that would include a prescription drug benefit. And to speed our economic recovery, we urged the Congress to make permanent the tax relief passed in 2001.

Throughout this period, protecting the American people from attack remained our highest priority. During the second half of 2002, we saw important victories. Ramzi Binalshibh, a key al-Qaida chief who shared a house with Mohamed Atta in Germany and helped plan the September 11 attacks, was captured along with several other al-Qaida operatives in

Pakistan, exactly a year to the day after the attack on our homeland. We worked with our allies to take the offense against terrorists, breaking up their cells and disrupting their infrastructure. And in our 2003 defense budget, we provided the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan's Presidency so that our Armed Forces would have the resources they need to defend our security and freedom.

As we pursued terrorists abroad, we took vital steps to secure the homeland. The creation of a new Department of Homeland Security represented the most extensive re-organization of the Federal government since the start of the Cold War. This department united dozens of federal agencies in a single mission of protecting the American people and sharing critical information. We also acted to improve the security of our ports, coasts, and borders, and we began increasing our stockpiles of vaccine to inoculate our population in the event of biological attack.

Protecting Americans from terrorist attack also required us to address other threats before they fully materialized, including that posed by Saddam Hussein's Iraq. In September, I urged the United Nations to consider Saddam's longstanding refusal to disarm and abide by all UN resolutions. After a spirited and civil debate, Congress approved a strong bipartisan resolution, authorizing me to take military action to disarm the Iraqi regime in the event its dictator refused to meet his obligations to the world. In November, the UN Security Council passed a unanimous resolution demanding that Saddam disarm in compliance with its previous resolutions; allow thorough inspections; and abandon the tactics of denial and delay he had used to avoid accountability for more than a decade.

America did not seek conflict with Iraq. By year's end, the many warnings Congress and the UN had given had made clear that the choice between peace and war rested with Saddam Hussein.

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