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>> A lot has changed since George W. Bush became president -- executive
>>orders that support a "culture of life," judicial appointees who
>>respect
>>the constitution and members of the Cabinet who are unapologetic
>>about
>>their Christian faith. But perhaps nothing more clearly represents
>>the
>>new leadership we enjoy as a country than that place Mr. Bush now
>>calls
>>his temporary home-1600 Pennsylvania Ave. The president is quick to
>>point out that it is not his house but the American people's house.
>>And,
>>as such, he treats it and the people who work there with respect.
>>From
>>the Secret Service to the grounds crew, the folks who work at the
>>White
>>House rave about the First Family. The president and first lady
>>prefer
>>to entertain family friends in their private quarters rather than
>>ask
>>the stewards and waiters to negotiate difficult formal dining
>>rooms.
>>Harkening back to the days of Ronald Reagan, Bush will not allow
>>any man
>>to attend a meeting in the Oval Office without a jacket and tie.
>>Gone
>>are the days of blue jeans and pizza boxes. One of the clearest
>>ways to
>>show respect for someone is to respect their time. Everyone who
>>works
>>with and around the president has noted his punctuality. Meetings
>>begin
>>and end on time. This stands in stark contrast to the previous
>>occupant
>>of the White House, who was notorious for keeping visitors and the
>>media
>>waiting. And speaking of the former president, in his
>>administration
>>more than 500 staffers had access to the White House kitchen. One
>>presidential aide said they turned it into a fast-food restaurant.
>>These
>>days, only 150 senior staff members have meal privileges.
>>Of course the Clinton years were known for worse things than that.
>>US
>>News & World Report reported recently that it was common for
>>President
>>Clinton to have violent and sex-laden R-rated film s playing on Air
>>Force One. Even seasoned reporters would blush at the images being
>>played out before their eyes while trying to question the president
>>on
>>some issue of national importance. A Marine who worked at Camp
>>David
>>publicly stated that pornography was littered all over the retreat.
>>In
>>contrast, President Bush has said that even some of the new major
>>motion-picture releases, which are routinely sent to the White
>>House for
>>viewing by the First Family, are too vulgar for him. I've visited
>>the
>>White House twice since President Bush moved in. As anyone might

>>be, I
>>was awed by the history of the place. Oil portraits of past
>>occupants
>>reminded me that some presidents have understood the honor of
>>living
>>there and others have wantonly dishonored it. My visits with
>>President
>>Bush at the White House were an opportunity to witness firsthand
>>how
>>much this man respects the office to which he was elected. He
>>arrived at
>>our meetings promptly and took the time to greet every person in
>>attendance. He was warm and polite to each of us. His manner
>>conveyed
>>the message that he knew he was only a temporary resident and his
>>job is
>>to leave this august home in better shape than he found it. In one
>>of my
>>meetings, I made a point of speaking to a young man who is part of
>>the
>>military service assigned to the White House. His job is to escort
>>guests and to help people find their way through the large
>>hallways. His
>>uniform was covered with ribbons and his shoes were perfectly
>>polished.
>>His face was emotionless and he drew no attention to himself, but
>>for
>>some reason he caught my eye. "Thank you," I said, "for the work
>>you do.
>>You really represent us all in your service here. It must be
>>wonderful
>>work." He paused and then allowed a big smile to cross his face.
>>"Oh,
>>yes, Madam. It truly is."
>>Yes, things certainly are different in Washington.
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