

in good faith to solve this problem. And when we do, Republicans and Democrats will be able to stand together and take credit for doing what is right for our children and our grandchildren.

Thanks for letting me come by today, and may God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:14 a.m. at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks Honoring Spring and Fall NCAA Championship Teams May 13, 2005

The President. Please be seated. Thank you. Welcome to the White House, the people's house. We're glad you're here. Today we honor four outstanding NCAA championship teams. The—it's a great—I love this day in the White House. It's a chance to honor people who have worked hard, made right decisions with their lives, and served something greater than themselves, their team. So, really glad you're here. I hope you're excited—as excited about being here as I am as excited about receiving you.

I first want to say thanks to Congresswoman Anna Eshoo for coming. I think—I suspect you're here to support the mighty Stanford women's volleyball team.

Ed Royce from California is here. He's a Cal State grad—Cal State, Fullerton, grad. And you like baseball?

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes. All right, good. I'm glad Marie is with you. Welcome, Marie.

I want to thank Mike Sodrel for coming. Mike, it's good to see you, sir, and your wife, Keta. Mike is from Indiana. He's here because of the men's soccer team, right, Michael?

Audience member. Yes, sir.

The President. Good. Glad you all are here.

Milton Gordon is the president of Cal State, Fullerton—and his wife, Dr. Margaret Faulwell Gordon. I'm glad you all are here.

Mike Freitag, the head coach, is with us from mighty Indiana University, his wife, Renee, and his daughter Hanna. Welcome.

I appreciate Randy Waldrum, who's the head coach of the University of Notre Dame women's soccer team. Randy, it's good to see you, sir. I know your son is here as well.

I appreciate George Horton, who is the baseball coach at Cal State, Fullerton.

I want to thank John Dunning, who's the head coach of the women's volleyball team at Stanford. I welcome his wife, Julie, and his daughter Lauren.

But most of all, I want to thank the players who are here. Good going, and congratulations.

The first team we honor is the Indiana men's soccer team. They are the champs for the second year in a row. I kind of like that idea, back-to-back trips to the White House. [Laughter] Glad you all are back. And the championship game was pretty darn exciting, wasn't it? The game was tied after regulations, 20 minutes of overtime. It came down to penalty kicks. Congratulations.

Coach, I want to congratulate you as well. Pretty good job for a rookie. [Laughter] One of the interesting things the coach made the decision on—the back-to-back championship, he said, "If we win, the team can go ahead and shave his head." That's something we don't want to get

started here in the White House. [Laughter]

Interestingly enough, the team made an incredibly generous gesture. They purchased a water buffalo in Laura and my honor and gave it to a family overseas so that the family could better make a living. And I want to thank you for that great act of generosity. Thank you all. It really does mean a lot.

I want to welcome the Notre Dame women's soccer team. I think it helps a lot you've got coaches from Texas. [Laughter] What do you think? Yes. Anyway, what a great victory the women's team had as well. You beat UCLA on penalty kicks. I loved your slogan, like, GOAT, "Greatest of All Time," in reference to your team. I appreciate you setting high standards and working hard. And congratulations on a job well done.

And the mighty Titans from Cal State, Fullerton, had a motto of their own. The motto was, "Think How Good It's Gonna Feel." I didn't feel so good for the Longhorns. [Laughter] But I do want to congratulate you. I love baseball. I was telling the players that's my favorite sport of all. It's a hard game to play, and it's definitely a team game, and it's really hard to win the national championship in all sports. And this is a team that was, like, under .500 in your first 30 games or so, and then you went 32 out of 38 for the final—in the final stretch of the season.

I really appreciate what Coach Horton said. He said about the championship victory, "I still have chills. It's not from the cold water that was dropped on my head." [Laughter] You don't have much hair to protect your head anyway, but—[laughter]—that was kind of a cheap shot, wasn't it? [Laughter] The guy is a pretty good coach, though. Good luck.

I also want to welcome the Stanford women's volleyball team. I was telling the women from Stanford that I was just with Condoleezza Rice, former provost of Stanford University. I said, "Come by and wel-

come the home girls. Come by and tell them, good going for the second visit in 4 years to the White House." She said she had to meet with a leader from another nation. So she sends her best to you.

I want to welcome you all back here. I appreciate the fact that you won 15 games in a row and you weren't supposed to win the championship. You know, sometimes they count you out of a race—[laughter]—a little too soon, right? [Laughter] But we're glad you're back.

And I want to thank all the teams. I particularly want to thank all the teams not only for being such good role models as you play your games but also off the fields of play. And it's really important that you recognize that as champs, there's some person watching you and some person trying to learn from you and some person that if you—whose life you can affect more than you know.

And so, when I'm told that the Indiana men's soccer team volunteer for youth soccer programs and go to schools encouraging people to make good choices in life, it heartens my soul. And I want to thank you all for doing that. You just don't know what it means to be a champion and have an eighth-grade kid or a seventh-grade kid hear from a star, "Make a good choice. Love a neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself."

And the Notre Dame women's soccer players volunteer at an after-school program. That's great. You know, it can't be a greater gift than to teach a child to read or to encourage a child to read. It's a lasting legacy. Frankly, it's more important than a sports trophy. And I want to thank you for doing that.

I appreciate the Stanford women's volleyball players who read to children at local elementary schools and then help young girls learn the great value of being on a team sport through a volleyball clinic. Keep doing it, not only as college students but after you get out. It's one great way to serve our Nation.

And I appreciate the fact that the Cal State, Fullerton, players took time out of the World Series last year to go to the hospital and say something to somebody who hurts.

What I'm telling you is, you can be a champ on the field and you can be a champ off the field. You'll have a full life when you're able to say to yourself, "I've really helped somebody in need."

Congratulations for setting such a great example. Welcome to the White House.

Maybe you'll be back next year. I'll be here to greet you if you come back. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:02 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marie Royce, wife of Representative Edward R. Royce; and professional soccer player Ben Waldrum, son of University of Notre Dame women's soccer head coach Randy Waldrum.

The President's Radio Address

May 14, 2005

Good morning. I'm pleased to report that we see new signs that the progrowth policies we have pursued during the past 4 years are having a positive effect on our economy. We added 274,000 new jobs in April, and we have added nearly 3½ million jobs over the past 2 years. Unemployment is down to 5.2 percent, below the average rate of the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. We have seen steady job gains during each of the past 23 months, and today, more Americans are working than at any time in our history.

There are other good reasons for optimism. The economy grew at a solid rate of 3.6 percent over the past four quarters, and economists expect strong growth for the rest of 2005. Manufacturing activity is enjoying its longest period of growth in 16 years. Inflation and mortgage rates remain low, and we have more homeowners in America than ever before.

These positive signs are a tribute to the effort and enterprise of America's workers and entrepreneurs, but we have more to do. So next week, I will focus on three priorities that will strengthen the long-term economic security of our Nation.

On Monday, I will travel to West Point, Virginia, to highlight the benefits of bio-

diesel, an alternative fuel that will help our country achieve greater energy independence. We'll also discuss our need for a comprehensive national energy strategy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil. This strategy will encourage more efficient technologies, make the most of our existing resources, help global energy consumers like China and India reduce their own use of hydrocarbons, encourage conservation, and develop promising new sources of energy such as hydrogen, ethanol, and biodiesel.

I applaud the House for passing an energy bill that is largely consistent with these goals. Now the Senate must act. Congress needs to get a good energy bill to my desk by the August recess so I can sign it into law.

On Tuesday, I will welcome our newest United States Trade Representative, former Congressman Rob Portman. Ambassador Portman understands that expanding trade is vital for American workers and consumers. He will make sure we vigorously enforce the trade laws on the books while also working to continue opening foreign markets to American crops and products. The Central America Free Trade Agreement would help us achieve these goals.