

more or less confident that you can keep a real sense of normalcy in the girls' lives?

The President. You know, I think that we're going to be okay. Look, Malia is 10, so 3 years from now, she's 13. Who knows what happens to teenagers.

Mr. Lauer. Right.

The President. But if there are a pair of kids who can handle this weird fishbowl, it's those two. They're just even keeled; they're happy, cheerful—the prettiest, respectful kids.

Mr. Lauer. You're starting off from the right place.

The President. That's exactly right. And having—this is where having the mother-in-law, you know, who won't take any guff from them, really helps. So we feel pretty good about it.

Mr. Lauer. Well, we all wish you much luck.

The President. Thank you so much.

Mr. Lauer. Go enjoy the game.

The President. Good.

Mr. Lauer. Thanks for your time. I really appreciate it.

NOTE: The interview began taping at 5:07 p.m. in the Map Room at the White House for later broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson; Tim Tebow, quarterback, University of Florida Gators; Daniel M. Rooney, chairman, Arthur J. Rooney II, president, and Franco Harris, former running back, Pittsburgh Steelers; Kurt Warner, quarterback, and Larry Fitzgerald, Jr., wide receiver, Arizona Cardinals; David Tyree, wide receiver, New York Giants; Jack Lauer, son of Matt Lauer, host of NBC's "Today"; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command; and Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan. Mr. Lauer referred to entertainer Jessica Simpson; Willie Horton, convicted felon and subject of a 1988 political campaign advertisement; and television personality and entrepreneur Oprah Winfrey. Portions of this interview could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

Remarks Following a Meeting on Economic Stabilization Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters February 2, 2009

The President. Well, I want to thank Governor Douglas for being here. We met early on during the transition period with all of the Governors from across the country, and with very few exceptions, I heard from Republicans and Democrats the need for action—and swift action—and that's what we've been trying to do in moving this package forward.

And nobody understands this better than Governors and mayors and county officials who are seeing the devastating effects on the ground of this contraction in the economy. People are being laid off, and that means that Governors like Jim are having to not only deal with declining revenue, but increased social services to provide support for people who are unemployed as they're seeking work.

And the recovery package that we are moving forward is designed to provide States re-

lief, to make sure that people who are laid off from their jobs are still able to get unemployment insurance, are still able to get health care, and that we are putting in place the infrastructure of rebuilding roads, bridges, waterways, other projects at the State levels that allow us to put people back to work. And we want to create or save 3 million jobs, and we want to put the investments in place that are going to ensure long-term economic growth.

So as Jim indicated, there are still some differences between Democrats and Republicans on the Hill, between the White House and some of the products that's been discussed on the Hill. But what we can't do is let very modest differences get in the way of the overall package moving forward swiftly.

And so I'm very gratified that Governor Douglas, along with many Governors from

across the country, are going to be weighing in, in these critical next few days. And we hope to be able to get a bill to you in the next couple of weeks so we can put America back to work and start digging ourselves out of this deep hole that we're in.

So thank you so much for taking the time to be here.

Governor James H. Douglas of Vermont. Well, thank you, Mr. President.

The President. All right. Good. Thank you, guys.

Health and Human Services Secretary-Designate Thomas A. Daschle

Q. Mr. President, do you stand behind Tom Daschle? Do you still stand behind Tom Daschle?

The President. Thank you. Absolutely. Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Gov. Douglas.

Remarks on the Nomination of Senator Judd A. Gregg To Be Secretary of Commerce *February 3, 2009*

Good morning, everybody. By now, our economic crisis is well-known. Our economy is shrinking. Unemployment rolls are growing. Businesses and families can't get credit, and small businesses can't secure the loans they need to create jobs and get their products to market.

Now is the time for Washington to act with the same sense of urgency that Americans all across the country feel every single day. With the stakes this high, we cannot afford to get trapped in the same old partisan gridlock. That's why I've worked closely with leaders of both parties on a recovery and reinvestment plan that saves or creates more than 3 million jobs over the next 2 years, cuts taxes for 95 percent of American workers, and makes critical investments in our future—in energy and education, health care, and a 21st century infrastructure.

We will act swiftly, and we will act wisely. The vast majority of the investments in the plan will be made within the next 18 months, immediately creating jobs and helping States avoid painful tax hikes and cuts to essential services. And every dime of the spending will be made available to the public on recovery.gov, so every American can see where their tax dollars are going.

But as we act boldly and swiftly to shore up our financial system and revitalize our economy, we must also make sure that the underpin-

nings of that economy are sound; that our economic infrastructure is rebuilt to handle the traffic of the global economy; that our cutting-edge science and technology remain the envy of the world; that our policies promote the innovative and competitive nature of this economy and facilitate the incubation and commercialization of our startups and small businesses, the very engine of our job creation.

These are the tasks of the Commerce Department. And I believe that Judd Gregg is the right person to help guide the Department towards these goals.

Judd discovered the family business at an early age. His father, Hugh Gregg, was elected the youngest Governor of New Hampshire when judge—Judd was a boy. At a time when the mills in Nashua closed down and folks were laid off, he watched his dad work tirelessly to attract new industry, the kind that created jobs that carried with them a sense of dignity and self-worth. Judd's father even found the time to publish a book titled "All I Learned About Politics," and in keeping with his legendary sense of humor, all of its pages were blank.

When the book is written about Judd Gregg, it will tell the story of a man with his own proud record of service on behalf of the American people. As a businessman, attorney, State executive councilor, Congressman, Governor in his own right, and now as a Senator, he's seen from all angles what makes our economy work for