

Ted simply said that during their first dinner in Wisconsin, they discovered they were all fishermen. [Laughter] And so he quickly readied a boat for a twilight trip out on the lake. And they fished, and they talked, and they changed the course of history.

Now, I will not pretend that the challenges we face will be easy, or that the answers will come quickly, or that all our differences and divisions will fade happily away, because life is not that simple. It never has been.

But as you leave here today, remember the lessons of Cardinal Bernardin, of Father Hesburgh, of movements for change both large and small. Remember that each of us, endowed with the dignity possessed by all children of God, has the grace to recognize ourselves in one another, to understand that we all seek the

same love of family, the same fulfillment of a life well lived. Remember that in the end, in some way, we are all fishermen.

If nothing else, that knowledge should give us faith that through our collective labor, and God's providence, and our willingness to shoulder each other's burdens, America will continue on its precious journey towards that more perfect Union.

Congratulations, class of 2009. May God bless you, and may God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:06 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to E. Brennan Bollman, class of 2009 valedictorian, University of Notre Dame.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser in Indianapolis, Indiana

May 17, 2009

The President. It is great to be back in Indiana. We had a wonderful time up at Notre Dame, and I told Father John that of all the controversies surrounding my appearance, they paled in comparison to what to do about the football team. [Laughter] That's an issue we may not resolve within my 4 years——

Audience member. Eight!

The President. All right, well, maybe in 8 we might get it done.

Anyway, I am—it's just wonderful to be here. I see a lot of old friends, as well as new friends. We've, obviously, have been working very hard over the first 100 days to lay the foundation for the kind of economy that's going to work for all Americans. And we've seen the kind of crisis that we haven't seen since the Great Depression, and yet, despite the enormous challenges, I think that Washington has actually been a pretty energized and hopeful time because we're getting things done.

We got a Recovery Act passed. And thanks to the wonderful Members of Congress who are here, we've provided health insurance for children who didn't have it. Just this week alone we're going to be getting credit card reform

done. We're going to get procurement reform done that will save us \$40 billion that's been wasted in Pentagon purchases. We're going to get anti-fraud measures. We're going to get a housing bill.

This is all just in this work session just over the last several weeks. And I thank both Members of Congress, but most importantly, the American people. They just want results. We're going to continue to go through some hard times. This economy is not yet out of the woods. We're going to have enormous challenges getting health care passed so that we're driving down costs and providing coverage for all Americans. The challenges of the environment and energy and climate change are things that are going to be a heavy lift for a lot of folks. But I believe that when you look back at the end of this year, we're going to be able to say that this was one of the most productive legislative years in the history of the United States of America.

And the reason is because of you. We could not—first of all, I wouldn't be there if it weren't for you. But what's true for me is also true for the wonderful Democratic Congressmen here. If it weren't for your steady support of the DNC

and of the elections, we would not be successful.

We started my Presidential campaign 2½ years ago with this crazy idea that the American people wanted change. And nobody thought we could accomplish what seemed unimaginable at the time. And yet here we are and not only did we win an election, but more importantly, we're starting to deliver on the promises that were made.

We're going to continue to need your help. We're going to continue to need your support.

But I'm absolutely confident that we're going to get it done. And so I'm grateful to you, and I look forward to being back in Indiana sometime soon.

All right, guys, appreciate you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:20 p.m. at the Westin Indianapolis. In his remarks, he referred to Father John I. Jenkins, president, University of Notre Dame. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at a Keep Indiana Blue Fundraiser Event in Indianapolis May 17, 2009

Hello, Indiana. It's good to see you guys. It's good to see you. Hello, hello, hello. It is good to be here. And it's a pleasure to be with your outstanding representatives in Congress, Andre Carson, Joe Donnelly, Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill; give it up for these outstanding Members of Congress. We're here to make sure they can stay right where they belong, in the United States Congress, representing your hopes, representing your dreams, carrying your voices to Washington, DC.

It's good to be back in Indiana. We spent a little time in Indiana. It reminds me of why I like getting out of Washington so much. People are friendly. *[Laughter]* It brings back a lot of memories from all those days out here on the campaign trail. So I want to start out tonight by saying thank you, thank you to all of you here in Indiana. I know that I'm here tonight because of you, and folks like you across this country who made the phone calls, and knocked on the doors, and registered voters, and dug deep and gave whatever you could, because you were hungry for new ideas and new leadership and a new kind of politics. And that's what we are trying to deliver right now in Washington.

You believed that after an era of selfishness and greed, we could reclaim a sense of responsibility from Main Street to Wall Street to Washington. You believed that instead of huge inequalities and bubbles that bust, we could restore a sense of fairness and stability to our economy and build a new foundation for last-

ing growth and prosperity. You believed that at a time of war and turmoil, we could stand strong against our enemies, stand strong for our ideals, and show a new face of American leadership around the world. That's the change you believed in, that's the trust you placed in me, that's something that I will never forget.

But we know that winning that election was just the beginning of our work. It wasn't the end, it was just the start, it was the end of the beginning. That victory alone was not the change that we sought, it was just the opportunity to make the change. And I don't know about you, but I think it's fair to say that over these past 4 months, we have seized this opportunity.

To jump-start job creation and get our economy moving again, we passed the most ambitious economic recovery package in our Nation's history. We gave tax cuts to 95 percent of working Americans and put back people to work modernizing our health care system, and rebuilding our crumbling roads and bridges and transit systems, and investing in renewable energy that could help boost our economy and preserve our planet.

We launched plans to stabilize our housing market and unfreeze our credit markets and to ensure the survival of our auto industry in this new century. We passed a budget that will cut our deficit in half while making investments to spur long-term growth.