

willing to work for it and struggle for it and sacrifice for it.

That's how it's going to be again. I have the fullest confidence that if we think boldly and we act quickly and fully devote ourselves to the work at hand, then out of this ordeal will come a better day and a brighter future for our children and our grandchildren. That's the history of this company. That's the history of this city. That's the history of this State. And that's

the history that we're going to make, you and me together.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:20 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Dan Armstrong, former employee, Caterpillar, Inc.; former Rep. Robert H. Michel; Rep. Aaron Schock; and Illinois State Senator George P. Shadid and his wife Lorraine.

Statement on the Fourth Anniversary of the Death of Former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri of Lebanon

February 12, 2009

Saturday marks the fourth anniversary of the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri. As we share our grief with the Lebanese people over the loss of Prime Minister Hariri, we also share our conviction that his sacrifice will not be in vain. The United States fully supports the Special Tribunal for Lebanon, whose work will begin in a few weeks to bring those responsible for this horrific crime and those that followed to justice.

As Lebanon prepares for Parliamentary elections, the United States will continue to

support Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, the legitimate institutions of the Lebanese state, and the Lebanese people. The United States remains committed to the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 1701 and 1559. We also will continue to support the voices of peace and moderation in Lebanon and hope that Lebanon continues down the path of national reconciliation, peace, and prosperity that its citizens so strongly deserve.

Remarks at the Abraham Lincoln Association Annual Banquet in Springfield, Illinois

February 12, 2009

Thank you very much. Well, it is wonderful to be back in Springfield, and I see so many familiar faces—to Mr. Hart; to Marilyn; to my Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood; to two of the finest Governors that we've had in the past, Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar; to Laura Lynn Ryan and to our new Governor, who's going to be doing outstanding work for us in the future, Pat Quinn; to Reverend McCants and to my dear friend Loretta Durbin.

I do feel guilty because Dick was the one who brought this event to my attention. [*Laughter*] I'm here, and he's there. [*Laughter*] But part of the reason that Dick Durbin has been such a great friend, not just to me,

but to the people of Illinois, is because his work always comes first. And he has been unbelievable in providing leadership in the Senate through thick and through thin. And I'm very, very grateful to him. He is one of my greatest friends, and I would not be standing here if it were not for Dick Durbin. So please give Dick Durbin a big round of applause.

So it is wonderful to be back in Springfield, the city where I got my start in elective office, where I served for nearly a decade. I see some of my colleagues, your attorney general, Lisa Madigan, in the house. And you've got some constitutional officers there. I think that's Alexi, your treasurer, who's going to be playing