

when a lot of you still couldn't pronounce my name—[laughter]—a lot of people were still convinced there was no chance that a guy named Barack Hussein Obama could even win a caucus, much less the Presidency.

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. No, no, no, no—you guys know this. Some of you all didn't think I was going to win. [Laughter] Now—everybody says now, “Oh, I knew it all the time.”

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. No, uh-uh. Right before Iowa—I'm not talking about after Iowa, I'm talking about before Iowa, some of you all—see, they're all high-fiving over there. Yes, girlfriend, I saw you. [Laughter]

There were a bunch of people who didn't think in that last week we were going to win. When Tim Kaine was running, there were a lot of folks who said, “Well, you know, I don't know, some of his policies are too liberal, and he's too principled. And I'm not sure that he can win in the State of Virginia.” Do you remember a week before Tim Kaine—I was out here campaigning for Tim Kaine. A whole bunch of folks said, “I'm not sure he can do it.” So now here we are a week away.

Audience members. Yes we can! Yes we can! Yes we can!

The President. I'm going to get to that. Hold on a second. [Laughter] So now we're a week from Tim Kaine—a week from Creigh Deeds's election, and a lot of people are saying, “Oh, you know, the polls don't look the way we want

them to, and I'm not sure it's going to happen,” and folks are just kind of staying home.

Listen, let me tell you something. I don't believe in “can't.” I don't believe in giving up. I don't believe that we would turn our back on the progress that Tim Kaine has made here in Virginia. I am absolutely confident that we can, if you are willing to work in this last week. If you're willing to make your voice heard in this last week, if you're willing to knock on some doors in this last week and go and talk to your friends and your neighbors and your relatives; go out and get your cousin, who you had to drag to the polls last November, Cousin Pookie. [Laughter] You go out and get him, and you tell him, you got to vote again this time.

If you work hard—because I know Creigh is going to work hard—then I promise you this: Not only are we going to elect an outstanding Lieutenant Governor and an outstanding attorney general, but we are going to continue the outstanding legacy in this great Commonwealth, and you're going to be looking at the next Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Creigh Deeds.

Thank you, everybody. Let's get to work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:11 p.m. at Old Dominion University. In his remarks, he referred to John R. Brocerick, president, Old Dominion University; Secretary of Finance Jody C. Wagner and State Delegate Stephen C. Shannon of Virginia.

Statement on Congressional Action on Legislation To Crack Down on Overseas Tax Havens

October 27, 2009

I commend Chairmen Baucus and Rangel and Senator Kerry and Congressman Neal for moving forward on the important task of giving the Government the tools it needs to crack down on Americans hiding their assets in overseas tax havens. A small number of individuals and businesses hide their assets overseas solely in order to shirk their responsibilities, even as the vast majority of hard-working Americans

honor the obligations of citizenship and fulfill their responsibilities.

Shortly after taking office, I laid out a set of proposals to crack down on illegal overseas tax evasion. The legislation introduced today would fulfill that promise, putting a stop to billions of dollars worth of abuses. I look forward to working with Congress to turn these proposals into law so that honest Americans no longer shoulder

the burden of the few individuals and businesses that put profit before responsibility.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

Message to the Congress on Continuation on the National Emergency With Respect to Sudan October 27, 2009

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the Sudan emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2009.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with

respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Sudan and maintain in force the sanctions against Sudan to respond to this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
October 27, 2009.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on Presenting the Congressional Gold Medal to Former Senator Edward W. Brooke October 28, 2009

Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you so much. It is an extraordinary privilege to be here today. And let me begin by acknowledging this distinguished group gathered on the platform: our extraordinary Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi; Majority Leader Harry Reid; Republican leader Mitch McConnell; Majority Leader Steny Hoyer; Republican leader John Boehner; Senator John Kerry; Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton; Representative Patrick Kennedy; my dear friend, Vicki Kennedy; to our honoree, Senator Edward Brooke, his wife, Anne, and family.

It is a great privilege to be here today as we confer the Congressional Gold Medal on a

man who's spent his life breaking barriers and bridging divides across this country: Senator Edward Brooke.

Now, with his lifetime of achievement, Ed is no stranger to a good awards ceremony. He's been through a few of these. [*Laughter*] He's won the Bronze Star, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, honorary degrees from 34 colleges and universities, and more. So he's a pro when it comes to getting awards. But I think today's honor bears a unique significance: bestowed by this body of which he was an esteemed Member; presented in this place where he moved the arc of history; surrounded by so many—myself included—who have followed the trail that he blazed.