

*The President's Holiday Travel to Hawaii*

Q. When do you think you'll leave?

*The President.* Well, I will not leave until my friends in the Senate have completed their work. My attitude is, is that if they're making these sacrifices to provide health care to all Americans, then the least I can do is to be

around and to provide them any encouragement and last-minute help if necessary.

All right. Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:52 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

**Statement on the Death of Ann Nixon Cooper**  
*December 22, 2009*

Michelle and I wish to express our deepest condolences on the passing of Mrs. Ann Nixon Cooper. From her beginnings in Shelbyville and Nashville, Tennessee, to her many years as a pillar of the Atlanta community, Ann lived a life of service. Whether it was helping to found the Girls Club for African American Youth, serving on the board of directors for the Gate City Nursery, working as a tutor at Ebenezer Baptist Church, or registering voters, Ann had a broad and lasting impact on her community. I also understand that as a wife, mother, and grandmother, Ann was a source of strength for her entire family and that she always put them first.

Over the course of her extraordinary 107 years, Ann saw both the brightest lights of our

Nation's history and some of its darkest hours as well. It is especially meaningful for me that she lived to cast a vote on election day 2008, and it was a deep honor for me to mark her life in the speech I delivered that night. It was a life that captured the spirit of community and change and progress that is at the heart of the American experience, a life that inspired and will continue to inspire me in the years to come.

During this time of sadness, Michelle and I offer our deepest condolences to all who loved Ann Nixon Cooper. But even as we mourn her loss, we will also be rejoicing in all that she meant for her family, her community, and so many Americans.

**Remarks on Senate Passage of Health Care Reform Legislation and an Exchange With Reporters**  
*December 24, 2009*

*The President.* Good morning, everybody. In a historic vote that took place this morning, Members of the Senate joined their colleagues in the House of Representatives to pass a landmark health insurance reform package, legislation that brings us toward the end of a nearly century-long struggle to reform America's health care system.

Ever since Teddy Roosevelt first called for reform in 1912, seven Presidents—Democrats and Republicans alike—have taken up the cause of reform. Time and time again, such efforts have been blocked by special interest lobbyists who've perpetuated a status quo that works better for the insurance industry than it

does for the American people. But with passage of reform bills in both the House and the Senate, we are now finally poised to deliver on the promise of real, meaningful health insurance reform that will bring additional security and stability to the American people.

The reform bill that passed the Senate this morning, like the House bill, includes the toughest measures ever taken to hold the insurance industry accountable. Insurance companies will no longer be able to deny you coverage on the basis of a preexisting condition. They will no longer be able to drop your coverage when you get sick. No longer will you have to pay unlimited amounts out of your own pocket for the