

“Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend.” In the eyes of those who denied his humanity, he saw the face of God.

Remember Abraham Lincoln. On the eve of the Civil War, with States seceding and forces gathering, with a nation divided half slave and half free, he rose to deliver his first Inaugural and said, “We are not enemies, but friends . . . Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.” Even in the eyes of Confederate soldiers, he saw the face of God.

Remember William Wilberforce, whose Christian faith led him to seek slavery’s abolition in Britain. He was vilified, derided, attacked, but he called for “lessening prejudices [and] conciliating good will, and thereby making way for the less obstructed progress of truth.” In the eyes of those who sought to silence a nation’s conscience, he saw the face of God.

Yes, there are crimes of conscience that call us to action. Yes, there are causes that move our hearts and offenses that stir our souls. But progress doesn’t come when we demonize opponents. It’s not born in righteous spite. Progress comes when we open our hearts, when we extend our hands, when we recognize our common humanity. Progress comes when we look into the eyes of another and see the face of God. That we might do so—that we will do so all the time, not just some of the time, is my fervent prayer for our Nation and the world.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:08 a.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Joshua DuBois, Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

## Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Pay-As-You-Go Legislation *February 4, 2010*

I am pleased that the House of Representatives has passed Statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) into law. Statutory PAYGO would hold us to a simple but bedrock principle: Congress can only spend a dollar if it saves a dollar elsewhere. Mandatory spending increases and tax cuts must be paid for; they’re not free, and

borrowing to finance them is not a sustainable long-term policy.

It is no coincidence that when we last had statutory PAYGO, during the 1990s, we turned deficits into surpluses. The passage of statutory PAYGO today will help usher out an era of irresponsibility and begin putting the country back on a fiscally sustainable path.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser and a Question-and-Answer Session *February 4, 2010*

*The President.* Hello, everybody! Thank you. Well—

*Audience member.* Yes we can!

*The President.* Thank you. It is wonderful to see so many good friends. First of all, I want to thank Michele for the wonderful introduction and great story that she told. I want to thank Tim Kaine, who has been not only an outstanding leader for us but one of the best Governors Virginia has ever had. Give Tim Kaine a big round of applause.

I understand we’ve got thousands of people online, so I just want to say to all the folks online, thank you for joining us. We appreciate it. And I want all of you to know right off the bat how much I appreciate what each and every one of you has done, not just for me, but for the country.

Now, many of you were on the frontlines in our campaign, some of you from the very beginning, making phone calls and knocking on doors and trudging through the frozen fields of Iowa.