

And if we do that, if we speak to the hopes of the American people instead of their fears, if we inspire them instead of divide them, if we respond to their challenges with the same sense of urgency they feel in their own lives, we're not just going to win elections—elections will take care of themselves—we will once again be the party that turns around the economy and moves

this country forward and secures the American Dream for another generation.

Thanks very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:26 a.m. at the Capital Hilton hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Timothy M. Kaine, chairman, Democratic National Committee.

## Statement on the Death of Representative John P. Murtha, Jr. *February 8, 2010*

Michelle and I were deeply saddened today to hear about the passing of Congressman John Murtha. Jack was a devoted husband, a loving father, and a steadfast advocate for the people of Pennsylvania for nearly 40 years. His passion for service was born during his decorated career in the United States Marine Corps, and he went on to earn the distinction of being the first Viet-

nam war combat veteran elected to Congress. Jack's tough-as-nails reputation carried over to Congress, where he became a respected voice on issues of national security.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife of nearly 55 years, Joyce, their three children, and the entire Murtha family.

## Joint Statement by the United States of America and the European Union Calling on the Iranian Government to Fulfill Its Human Rights Obligations *February 8, 2010*

The United States and the European Union condemn the continuing human rights violations in Iran since the June 12 election. The large scale detentions and mass trials, the threatened execution of protestors, the intimidation of family members of those detained and the continuing denial to its citizens of the right to peaceful expression are contrary to human rights norms.

Our concerns are based on our commitment to universal respect for human rights. We are particularly concerned by the potential for fur-

ther violence and repression during the coming days, especially around the anniversary of the Islamic Republic's founding on 11 February. We call on the Government of Iran to live up to its international human rights obligations, to end its abuses against its own people, to hold accountable those who have committed the abuses and to release those who are exercising their rights.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

## Remarks on Signing a Memorandum Establishing a Task Force on Childhood Obesity *February 9, 2010*

*The President.* Good morning, everybody. I am so proud of the work that the First Lady, along with the Cabinet Secretaries behind me, have done in trying to tackle one of the most ur-

gent health issues that we face in this country, and that is the increase in childhood obesity.

And because of the outstanding planning that they've done, they are going to be rolling out a

terrific plan of action that involves the private sector as well as Government agencies coordinating much more effectively a lot of public information out there to help parents make good decisions about allowing their children to be active and eating healthier.

And what the Executive order I'm going to be signing today does is to create a 90-day plan that allows optimal coordination as we move forward, in addition to the coordination that we're doing with private sector companies and not-for-profits and other organizations out there that are interested in this issue.

So we think that this has enormous promise in improving the health of our children, in giving support to parents to make the kinds of healthy choices that oftentimes are very difficult in this kind of environment. And so I just

want to say how proud I am of the First Lady for her outstanding work, and I will now sign this order.

[At this point, the President signed the memorandum.]

*The President.* There you go.

*The First Lady.* Good job.

*The President.* It's done, honey. Thanks.

*The First Lady.* Now we work.

*The President.* Now they get to work. Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:16 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The memorandum is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders February 9, 2010

Well, I want to thank both Democratic and Senate leaders—Democratic Senate leaders and Democratic House leaders as well as Republican leaders from the House and Senate for joining us.

As I said in my State of the Union, part of what we'd like to see is the ability of Congress to move forward in a more bipartisan fashion on some of the key challenges that the country is facing right now. I think it's fair to say that the American people are frustrated with the lack of progress on some key issues. And although the parties are not going to agree on every single item, there should be some areas where we can agree and we can get some things done, even as we have vigorous debates on some of those issues that we don't agree on.

A good place to start, and what I hope to spend a lot of time on in these discussions today, is how we can move forward on a jobs package that encourages small business to hire, that is helping to create the kind of environment where, now that we have economic growth, people actually are starting to add to their payroll. I think there are some ideas on both the Republican and Democrat side that allow us to potentially, for example, lower rates for small businesses on their taxes to help

spur on some growth. And my hope is, is that both in the House and the Senate, we'll see some packages moving over the next several weeks that can provide a jumpstart to hiring and start lowering the unemployment rate.

Another area where I hope we can find some agreement is on the issue of getting our deficits and debt under control. Both parties have stated their concerns about it; I think both parties recognize that it's going to take a lot of work. I have put forward the idea of a fiscal commission, and I'm going to be discussing both with my Democratic and Republican colleagues how we can get that moving as quickly as possible so that we can start taking some concrete action. I think the American people want to see that concrete action.

I'm also going to just be talking about some more mundane matters, things like making sure that we have our Government personnel in place on critical positions—in critical positions that involve our basic Government functioning and seeing if we can accelerate that and try to find some agreement in those areas. And then I'm going to spend some time listening, because there may be some priorities that both the Republican and Democratic leaders have that they want to raise at this meeting.