

been serving you for years, believe it or not, this is his first election. He's a heck of a public servant, but he's new to politics, so he hasn't learned the best way to keep your poll numbers up is just to smile and wave and pretend like you're doing something and not really doing anything that might offend anybody. He hasn't perfected the 7-second sound bite. He's never even made a TV ad. Heaven forbid. [Laughter] And he's facing reelection in a tough political climate.

Look, something you got to understand: For those who don't believe in government, those who don't believe that we have obligations to each other, it's a lot easier task. If you can gum up the works, if you make things broken, if the Senate doesn't get anything done, well, that's consistent with their philosophy. It's a whole lot easier to say no to everything. It's a whole lot easier to blame somebody else. That politics that feeds on peoples' insecurities, especially during tough political times, that's the easiest kind of politics. There's a long, storied history of that kind of politics.

And so Michael is running in a very tough environment, but he's got one very powerful

advantage: He's got you. He's been fighting for each and every one of you in Washington. He needs you to fight for him now. And if you do that, if you're willing to organize and make phone calls and talk to your friends and your neighbors and explain to them what's at stake, if you come out and caucus for Michael on March 16 and then fight for him all the way to November, if you help him finish what we've started, we're not just going to move Colorado forward, we're going to move America forward, and we're going to guarantee that this century is the American century just like the last one is.

Let's get to work, Colorado. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. in the Fillmore Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Shaun White, snowboarder, and Lindsey Vonn and Johnny Spillane, skiers, 2010 U.S. Olympic team; and former Sen. Alan K. Simpson and former White House Chief of Staff Erskine B. Bowles, Cochairs, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform.

Statement on the Settlement of the *Pigford* Class-Action Lawsuit on Discrimination by the Department of Agriculture February 18, 2010

My administration is dedicated to ensuring that Federal agencies treat all our citizens fairly, and the settlement in the *Pigford* case reflects that commitment. I applaud Secretary Vilsack for his efforts to modernize operations at the USDA, as well as the work of the Justice

Department in bringing these long-ignored claims of African American farmers to a rightful conclusion. I look forward to a swift resolution to this issue, so that the families affected can move on with their lives.

Remarks at a Reception for Senator Michael F. Bennet in Denver February 18, 2010

The President. Hello, Denver. Well, it is good to be back in Denver, good to be in Colorado, and good to be campaigning for one of the finest young Senators we have in the United States Senate, Michael Bennet.

I have to confess the reason I was delayed. I was grabbing one of those little canapes. [Laughter] Quite tasty.

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. You had one too.

Audience member. Thanks for the snow.

The President. You're welcome. Well, look, it is wonderful to be here. We just came from the Fillmore Auditorium, where we had—what did we have, a couple thousand people?