

truth. Opposing reform will leave taxpayers on the hook if a crisis like this ever happens again.

So my hope is that we can put this kind of politics aside. My hope is that Democrats and Republicans can find common ground and move forward together. But this is certain: One way or another, we will move forward. This issue is too important. The costs of inaction are too great. We will hold Wall Street accountable. We will protect and empower consumers in our financial system. That's what reform is all about. That's what we're fighting for. And that's exactly what we're going to achieve.

Thanks so much.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 4:55 p.m. on April 16 in the Blue Room at the White House for broadcast on April 17. In the address, the President referred to Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 16, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Funeral Service for President Lech Kaczynski of Poland *April 17, 2010*

I spoke with Acting President Komorowski and told him that I regret that I will not be able to make it to Poland due to the volcanic ash that is disrupting air travel over Europe. Michelle and I continue to have the Polish people in our thoughts and prayers and will support them in

any way I can as they recover from this terrible tragedy. President Kaczynski was a patriot and close friend and ally of the United States, as were those who died alongside him, and the American people will never forget the lives they led.

Statement on the 62d Anniversary of the State of Israel *April 19, 2010*

On the 62d anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, I join the American people in congratulating the Government and people of Israel on this celebration of their independence. Minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence, realizing the dream of a state for the Jewish people in their historic homeland, the United States became the first country to recognize Israel. To this day, we continue to share a strong, unbreakable bond of friendship between our two nations, anchored by the United States enduring commitment to Israel's security. Israel remains our important partner and key strategic ally in the Middle East, and I am confident that our spe-

cial relationship will only be strengthened in the months and years to come. I look forward to continuing our efforts with Israel to achieve comprehensive peace and security in the region, including a two-state solution, and to working together to counter the forces that threaten Israel, the United States, and the world.

On this day, we once again honor the extraordinary achievements of the people of Israel and their deep and abiding friendship with the American people. I offer my best wishes to President Peres, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the people of Israel as they celebrate this happy occasion.

Remarks at a Fundraiser for Senator Barbara Boxer in Los Angeles, California

April 19, 2010

The President. Hello, California! Hello. I am fired up. It's good to see you. All right, all right, all right. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, California.

I want to begin by just thanking—everybody's a special guest, but let me just point out some folks who are here who I want to acknowledge. First of all, somebody who was one of the finest Governors in the country, is now one of the best DNC chairmen of the country, Tim Kaine—give it up for Tim Kaine; attorney general, and may soon be another great Governor, Jerry Brown—where's Jerry?—he's around here somewhere; State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell is in the house; Congresswoman—outstanding Congresswoman Jane Harman; Congressman Joe Baca; Congresswoman Diane Watson; Congresswoman Laura Richardson; Congresswoman Judy Chu; former Governor Gray Davis; Speaker Emeritus—that's a pretty fancy title—[laughter]—Speaker Emeritus of the California Assembly Karen Bass is in the house.

I haven't seen her, but I'm told she's here, and I love this woman's music and her spirit, India Arie is supposedly in the house. Hello, India, wherever you are. Where is she?

Audience members. [Inaudible]

The President. Right there—there she—there—no—where you are?

Audience member. Backstage.

The President. Backstage—she's backstage, okay. I was like, where? I don't see her.

Somebody else who I'm very honored to have—I want everybody to acknowledge—

Audience members. There she is.

The President. There she is; there's my girl, India Arie.

And while we're at it with special people, somebody who helped Major League Baseball become what it is, but also helped America become what it is, Hall of Fame pitcher Don Newcombe is in the house. I just had the hon-

or of meeting him. Just had the honor of meeting him and taking a picture with him, and he was very gracious in saying, "You know, Jackie would be proud." And I said, "Well, I would not be here if it were not for Jackie and it were not for Don Newcombe."

It is nice to be back. It is nice to be in California, not just because it's good to get out of Washington—[laughter]—but one of the things that I enjoy most about coming to events like this is the chance to be with some old friends, to be with some of the people who were there with me at the beginning, who knocked on doors and made telephone calls and who helped us win the Presidency in 2008.

But as happy as I am to see you, I am even happier to be with my good friend and great Senator, Barbara Boxer. It was one of the privileges of being a Senator that I had a chance to work alongside Barbara. You know, California has been—

Audience member. [Inaudible]

The President. —you know, California has been a leader in promoting hybrids and cleaner burning fuels, and appropriately, you have in Barbara Boxer a subcompact Senator with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy.

Now, a lot of you are aware of how deeply Barbara cares about the environment, about her work to pursue clean—a clean energy future, and that work's vitally important. But what I also want you to know is that this is a woman who has a deep passion for fighting for you, fighting for all her constituents here in California.

She's passionate about fighting for jobs, jobs with good wages, jobs with good benefits. She's passionate about fighting for California's families. She is—

Audience member. Repeat "don't ask, don't tell"!

The President. We are going to do that.