

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:58 a.m. at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Chuck Canterbury, national president, and James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Frater-

nal Order of Police. The related proclamation of May 7 is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks on Signing the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act of 2009 and an Exchange With Reporters May 17, 2010

*The President.* Well, hello, everybody. I am very proud to be able to sign the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act, a piece of legislation that sends a strong signal about our core values when it comes to the freedom of the press.

All around the world there are enormously courageous journalists and bloggers who, at great risk to themselves, are trying to shine a light on the critical issues that the people of their countries face, who are the frontlines against tyranny and oppression. And obviously, the loss of Daniel Pearl was one of those moments that captured the world's imagination, because it reminded us of how valuable a free press is and it reminded us that there are those who would go to any length in order to silence journalists around the world.

What this act does is it sends a strong message from the United States Government and from the State Department that we are paying attention to how other governments are operating when it comes to the press. It has the State Department each year chronicling how press freedom is operating, as one component of our human rights assessment, but it also looks at countries that are—governments that are specifically condoning or facilitating this kind of press repression, singles them out and subjects them to the gaze of world opinion in ways that I think are extraordinarily important.

Oftentimes without this kind of attention, countries and governments feel that they can operate against the press with impunity. And we want to send a message that they can't.

So this legislation, in a very modest way, I think, puts us clearly on the side of journalistic freedom. I want to thank Adam Schiff in the House and Senator Chris Dodd in the Senate for their leadership. And I particularly want to

thank the Pearl family, who have been so outspoken and so courageous in sending a clear message that despite Daniel's death, his vision of a well-informed citizenry that is able to make choices and hold governments accountable, that that legacy lives on.

So we are very grateful to them. I'm grateful to the legislative leaders who helped to pass this. It is something that I intend to make sure our State Department carries out with vigor. And with that, I'm going to sign the bill.

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

*The President.* There you go. Thank you, everybody. Appreciate it.

### *Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico*

Q. Mr. President, speaking of press freedom, could you answer a couple of questions on BP?

*The President.* You're certainly free to ask them, Chip [Chip Reid, CBS News].

### *Iran*

Q. Will you answer them? How about a question on Iran?

*The President.* We won't be answering—I'm not doing a press conference today, but we'll be seeing you guys during the course of this week. Okay?

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:32 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. H.R. 3714, approved May 17, was assigned Public Law No. 111-166.

## Remarks Honoring the NCAA Women's Basketball Champion University of Connecticut Huskies

May 17, 2010

Hello, everybody. Please have a seat. Well, welcome to the White House, everybody. Congratulations to the UConn Huskies on your second straight undefeated season and your second straight NCAA championship. I want to point out this team has not lost a game since I was elected President. *[Laughter]* I'm just saying. *[Laughter]*

I want to acknowledge a few UConn fans who've made the trek from the other side of Pennsylvania Avenue. We've got Senators Chris Dodd and Joe Lieberman in the house, and Congressmen John Larson and Joe Courtney are here as well.

Now, when this team came to the White House last year, I was just pointing out to Maya, we went out back—I've got a little court—we shot a little bit. I'm not going to say who won. *[Laughter]* But I noticed then there were people who were saying, you know, these Huskies, they've got a little too much swagger, because they said that they'd be back in 2010. They said that at the time. I'm not sure anybody believed them. I believed them, listening to them, and that confidence was well deserved.

This team has had an unbelievable run. I think most of you know the statistics: 7 of the last 16 NCAA titles, 6 undefeated regular seasons, 4 undefeated championship seasons.

And last year, Coach Geno promised you guys would go 40–0 this year. It's not your fault that he can't do math very well; there were only 39 games. *[Laughter]* So, Coach, you can't win 40 if there are only 39 games. But 39–0—*[laughter]*—is pretty good. These women beat their own NCAA record to become the first women's basketball team in history to win 78 games in a row over the past 2 years, which is just a staggering achievement.

And I was telling them Michelle and I work out in the morning. We've got a little gym here in the White House. And we just watch "SportsCenter." I know you'll be surprised that we don't watch the news shows. *[Laughter]* But this is really true. During the entire season, I just kept on repeating, and I truly be-

lieved, this was the best team in all of sports, any sport, any gender, by far. And it was just something that made us all very proud.

I want to point out that Coach Geno's teams have had a 100-percent graduation rate over the past 25 years. And that's true again this year, because these players work as hard in the classroom as they do on the court. I want to congratulate the seniors that graduated last week. If I'm not mistaken, number-one WNBA draft pick Tina Charles is going to be graduating—Jacquie Fernandes, Meghan Gardler, Kalana Greene, and Kaili McLaren. Give them all a big round of applause.

Congratulations to Tina for winning the Naismith Trophy as player of the year, for graduating as UConn's alltime scoring leader. I do have to say, though, Maya has her sights set on that record. *[Laughter]* She's coming after it. And, Maya, congratulations on being named the Final Four's most valuable—most outstanding player. When you consider that Maya says she approaches her academics as she does her basketball, it's no surprise that she was named first team Academic All-American for the third year in a row. That is worth an applause.

So obviously, this team was under enormous pressure this season. Everyone was watching and waiting for them to stumble, figuring out—figuring there was no way for them to go undefeated again. When your toughest test came in this year's national championship game—you trailed the longest that you had all year—you came out swinging in the second half and brought that championship home yet again to the Storrs community that loves and believes in you so deeply.

And when you're at home in Storrs, you apply the same winning attitude off the court. You read with elementary children, spend time with cancer patients. Today you brought that sense of service to Washington, visiting wounded warriors in Walter Reed, and I know they were thrilled to see you.