

July 19 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010

politics. It's time to do what's right, not for the next election, but for the middle class. We've got to stop blocking emergency relief for Americans who are out of work. We've got to extend unemployment insurance. We need to pass those tax cuts for small businesses and the lending for small businesses.

Times are hard right now. We are moving in the right direction. I know it's getting

close to an election, but there are times where you put elections aside. This is one of those times. And that's what I hope Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle will do tomorrow.

Thanks very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Honoring the 2009 Women's National Basketball Association Champion Phoenix Mercury

July 19, 2010

All right, everybody, have a seat now, have a seat. Well, it is just wonderful to welcome all of you here to the White House. And congratulations to the Phoenix Mercury on winning your second WNBA title in the last 3 years.

Now, I noticed my Department of Homeland Security Secretary—[laughter]—is kind of hornning in on our event here. [Laughter] She has been a huge fan of Mercury ever since her days as Governor of Arizona. She's—I didn't know you'd been a guest coach. That is cool. Did you guys win that game? Nice, nice, nice. So I'm impressed.

I want to congratulate Head Coach Corey Gaines. He won a ring as assistant coach, now he's got a ring as head coach. So congratulations.

I know how much hard work goes into a championship—

[At this point, there was a minor disruption in the audience.]

—you guys all right back there? [Laughter] I know how much hard work goes into a championship season. But I hear that one of the real keys to the Mercury's title is sitting in the audience. For those of you who don't know, Assistant Coach Julie Hairgrove and her kids are the lucky charms of this team. Where are they? Julie? Sleeping? Not that excited to see the President. [Laughter]

My understanding, when the Mercury won their first title in 2007, Julie was pregnant with her second child. Wait, where's Julie by the way? Nice. When they won their second title,

Julie was pregnant with her third child, Grace, who's now 3 months old. And I understand the team is trying to talk Julie and her husband into their fourth. [Laughter] One more? [Laughter]

But beyond your lucky charms, the sacrifice, the dedication, and the heart that all of you have put into this sport is obvious. Team captain Diana Taurasi was named regular season and WNBA Finals MVP this year. That's pretty good. Last week, she won the ESPY Award for Best WNBA Player of 2010. Congratulations.

Tangela Smith became only the fourth player in WNBA history to score 4,500 career points and rack up 2,000 rebounds. Congratulations, Tangela. Nice! Nice!

But this is a true team. When Diana was named finals MVP, she turned around and gave the trophy to her teammates. She said, "It's not one player that makes an MVP. It never has been, and it never will be."

And this team set a new WNBA scoring record with 92.8 points per game. They made their way onto a box of Wheaties, I understand. [Laughter] But they have managed to keep themselves pretty grounded. I hear that rookies Taylor Lilley and Sequoia Holmes are still doing luggage duty—is that true? [Laughter] You guys didn't even—[laughter]—rooks, huh? That's rough. That's rough. [Laughter]

This team also goes above and beyond in serving the Phoenix community, from putting on basketball camps for children of veterans to collecting clothes for the homeless. And today they're bringing that commitment here to the White House. After we're done here, they'll be

holding a clinic as part of Michelle's "Let's Move!" initiative to help our young people live healthy and active lives.

So I want to thank all of you guys for your extraordinary service as well as your championship spirit. And I want to thank you for setting a wonderful example, because I live with three tall, good-looking women—[laughter]—who are quite competitive and push me around under the boards all the time. [Laughter] But I want Malia and Sasha to know that there is absolutely no contradiction between women who are beautiful and healthy and contributing, and

good athletes and competitive. And when they see you guys every day, that helps them in a way that—I think if you heard from Michelle, sometimes she feels like when she was coming up she didn't always have that. And I think that is just so important to everybody.

So, as a basketball fan, I congratulate you on your second championship. As a father, I thank you for being great role models. And good luck with the rest of the season. All right.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:43 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Statement on United Nations Accreditation of the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission July 19, 2010

I welcome this important step forward for human rights as the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission (ILGHRC) will take its rightful seat at the table of the United Nations. The U.N. was founded on the premise that only through mutual respect, diversity, and dialogue can the international com-

munity effectively pursue justice and equality. Today, with the more full inclusion of the International Lesbian and Gay Human Rights Commission, the United Nations is closer to the ideals on which it was founded and to values of inclusion and equality to which the United States is deeply committed.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Former Liberian Regime of Charles Taylor July 19, 2010

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures dealing with the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor are to continue in effect beyond July 22, 2010.

The actions and policies of former Liberian President Charles Taylor and other persons, in particular their unlawful depletion of Liberian

resources and their removal from Liberia and secreting of Liberian funds and property, continue to undermine Liberia's transition to democracy and the orderly development of its political, administrative, and economic institutions and resources. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the former Liberian regime of Charles Taylor.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
July 19, 2010.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.