

on it—they point to everybody and say, “Look what these guys did to your car”—[*laughter*—after we got it out of the ditch. And then they got the nerve to ask for the keys back. [*Laughter*] I don’t want to give them the keys back. They don’t know how to drive.

I mean, I want everybody to think about it here. When you want to go forward in your car, what do you do?

Audience members. “D”!

The President. You put it in “D.” They’re going to pop it in reverse. [*Laughter*] They’d have those special interests riding shotgun, then they’d hit the gas, and we’d be right back in the ditch. [*Laughter*]

Milwaukee, we are not going backwards. That’s the choice we face this fall. Do we want to go back, or do we want to go forward?

Audience members. Forward!

The President. I say we want to move forward. America always moves forward. We keep moving forward every day.

Let me say this, Milwaukee. I know these are difficult times. I know folks are worried. I know there’s still a lot of hurt out there. I hear it when I travel around the country. I see it in the letters that I read every night from folks who are looking for a job or lost their home. It breaks my heart, because those are the folks that I got into politics for. You’re the reason I’m here.

And when times are tough, I know it can be easy to give in to cynicism, I know it can be easy to give in to fear and doubt. And you know, it’s easy sometimes for folks to stir up stuff and turn people on each other, and it’s easy to settle for

something less, to set our sights a little bit lower.

But I just want everybody here to remember, that’s not who we are. That’s not the country I know. We do not give up. We do not quit. We face down war. We face down depression. We face down great challenges and great threats. We have lit the way for the rest of the world.

Whenever times have seemed at their worst, Americans have been at their best. That’s when we roll up our sleeves. That’s when we remember we rise or fall together, as one Nation and as one people. That’s the spirit that started the labor movement, the idea that alone, we may be weak; divided, we may fall; but we are united, we are strong. That’s why they call them unions. That’s why we call this the United States of America.

I’m going to make this case across the country between now and November. I am asking for your help. And if you are willing to join me and Tom Barrett and Gwen Moore and Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, we can strengthen our middle class and make this economy work for all Americans again and restore the American Dream and give it to our children and our grandchildren.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. at Henry W. Maier Festival Park. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. James E. Doyle, Jr., of Wisconsin; House Republican Leader John A. Boehner; and Rep. Pete Sessions, in his capacity as chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee.

Statement on the Death of Jefferson Thomas *September 6, 2010*

Michelle and I are saddened by the passing of Jefferson Thomas, who, as one of the Little Rock Nine, took a stand against segregation and helped open the eyes of our Nation to the struggle for civil rights.

Mr. Thomas was just a teenager when he became one of the first African American students to enroll in Little Rock Central High School.

Yet even at such a young age, he had the courage to risk his own safety, to defy a Governor and a mob, and to walk proudly into that school, even though it would have been far easier to give up and turn back. And through this simple act of pursuing an equal education, he and his fellow members of the Little Rock Nine helped open the doors of opportunity for their generation and

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for those that followed. The searing images of soldiers guarding students from those days will forever serve as a testament to the progress we've made, the barriers that previous generations have torn down, and the power of ordinary

men and women to help us build a more perfect Union.

Our Nation owes Mr. Thomas a debt of gratitude for the stand he took half a century ago and the leadership he showed in the decades since. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Videotaped Remarks on the Observance of Rosh Hashanah September 7, 2010

As Jews in America and around the world celebrate the first of the High Holy Days, I want to extend my warmest wishes for the New Year. *L'shana Tova Tikatevu*—may you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the spiritual calendar and the birth of the world. It serves as a reminder of the special relationship between God and his children, now and always. And it calls us to look within ourselves, to repent for our sins, recommit ourselves to prayer, and remember the blessings that come from helping those in need.

Today, those lessons ring as true as they did thousands of years ago. And as we begin this New Year, it is more important than ever to believe in the power of humility and compassion to deepen our faith and repair our world.

At a time when too many of our friends and neighbors are struggling to keep food on the table and a roof over their heads, it is up to us to do what we can to help those less fortunate.

At a time when prejudice and oppression still exists in the shadows of our society, it is up to us to stand as a beacon of freedom and tolerance

and embrace the diversity that has always made us stronger as a people.

At a time when Israelis and Palestinians have returned to direct dialogue, it is up to us to encourage and support those who are willing to move beyond their differences and work towards security and peace in the Holy Land. Progress will not come easy, it will not come quick. But today we had an opportunity to move forward, toward the goal we share: two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The Scripture teaches us that there is "a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace." In this season of repentance and renewal, let us commit ourselves to a more hopeful future.

Michelle and I wish all who celebrate Rosh Hashanah a sweet year full of health and prosperity.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 5:35 p.m. on September 2 in the Blue Room at the White House for later broadcast.

Statement on Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's Decision Not To Seek Reelection September 7, 2010

No mayor in America has loved a city more or served a community with greater passion than Rich Daley. He helped build Chicago's im-

age as a world-class city and leaves a legacy of progress that will be appreciated for generations to come.