

referred to Neil J. Mulholland, president and chief executive officer, National Park Foundation; Darrell D. Morton, pastor, Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America; and musician Lonnie R. “Common” Lynn, Jr. He also referred to his mother-in-law Marian Robinson.

Statement on Senate Action on Defense Authorization Legislation December 9, 2010

I am extremely disappointed that yet another filibuster has prevented the Senate from moving forward with the “National Defense Authorization Act.” Despite having the bipartisan support of a clear majority of Senators, a minority of Senators are standing in the way of the funding upon which our troops, veterans, and military families depend. This annual bill has been enacted each of the past 48 years, and our Armed Forces deserve nothing less this year.

A minority of Senators were willing to block this important legislation largely because they oppose the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell.” As Commander in Chief, I have pledged to repeal this discriminatory law, a step supported by the Secretary of Defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and informed by a compre-

hensive study that shows overwhelming majorities of our Armed Forces are prepared to serve with Americans who are openly gay or lesbian. A great majority of the American people agree. This law weakens our national security, diminishes our military readiness, and violates fundamental American principles of fairness, integrity, and equality.

I want to thank Majority Leader Reid, Armed Services Committee Chairman Levin, and Senators Lieberman and Collins for all the work they have done on this bill. While today’s vote was disappointing, it must not be the end of our efforts. I urge the Senate to revisit these important issues during the lame duck session.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 5136.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Former President William J. Clinton and an Exchange With Reporters December 10, 2010

President Obama. I thought it was a slow day, so I’d—

Q. Slow news day, huh?

President Obama. —bring the other guy in.

Obviously, there’s a big debate going on about taxes and about the need to grow the economy and to create jobs. And just about every day this week, I’ve been making an argument as to why the agreement that we’ve struck to provide billions of dollars in payroll tax cuts that can immediately help rejuvenate the economy, as well as tax cuts for middle class families, unemployment insurance for folks who desperately need it, credits for college, credits for—child tax credits, as well as a range of business investments credits are so important to make sure that we keep this recovery moving.

I just had a terrific meeting with the former President, President Bill Clinton. And we just

happened to have this as a topic of conversation. And I thought, given the fact that he presided over as good an economy as we’ve seen in our lifetimes, that it might be useful for him to share some of his thoughts.

I’m going to let him speak very briefly. And then I’ve actually got to go over and do some—just one more Christmas party. So he may decide he wants to take some questions, but I want to make sure that you guys heard from him directly.

[*At this point, former President Clinton made remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Former President Clinton. So in my opinion, this is a good bill. And I hope that my fellow Democrats will support it. I thank the Republican