

about our fellow citizens with whom we share a community. And we have to think about what's required to preserve the American Dream for future generations.

This sense of responsibility to each other and to our country, this isn't a partisan feeling. This isn't a Democratic or a Republican idea; it's patriotism.

The other day I received a letter from a man in Florida. He started off by telling me he didn't vote for me and he hasn't always agreed with me. But even though he's worried about our economy and the state of our politics, here's what he said. He said: "I still believe. I believe in that great country that my grandfather told me about. I believe that somewhere lost in this quagmire of petty bickering on every news station, the American Dream is still alive. . . . We need to use our dollars here rebuilding, refurbishing, and restoring all that our ancestors

struggled to create and maintain. . . . We as a people must do this together, no matter the color of the state one comes from or the side of the aisle one might sit on."

"I still believe." I still believe as well. And I know that if we can come together and uphold our responsibilities to one another and to this larger enterprise that is America, we will keep the dream of our founding alive in our time, and we will pass it on to our children. We will pass on to our children a country that we believe in.

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

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:48 p.m. in the Jack Morton Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to David A. Stockman, former Director, Office of Management and Budget; and Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With the Cochairs of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform *April 14, 2011*

Yesterday I laid out a plan to cut \$4 trillion from our deficit. It is a balanced plan that asks for shared sacrifice in order to provide shared opportunity for all Americans. And I'm very pleased today to have Erskine Bowles and Alan Simpson, the chairs of my fiscal commission, because, very frankly, it is the framework that they developed that helps to shape my thinking on these issues.

As they pointed out in their bipartisan effort, it is important that we put everything on the table. We've got to take some tough decisions when it comes to domestic spending. We've got to look at everything, including our security spending, in order to achieve the goal that we need.

It's important that we look at our Tax Code and find a way to work together to not only simplify and make the tax system fairer, but also that we use it as a tool to help us achieve our deficit targets.

And it's also important—and I think these gentlemen share the view—that we can't exempt anybody from these efforts, that it's not appropriate for us to ask for sacrifices from everybody except for the 2 percent of Americans who are doing best, but rather, we should ask everybody to participate in this effort to get our fiscal house in order.

So my main purpose here today is to once again thank them for their outstanding work, but more importantly, to solicit their ideas in terms of how we move forward. No matter how we may disagree between parties, no matter how much we have spent time debating the issues, at some point, we're going to have to come together as Americans. And yesterday I brought together the leaders of both Chambers, leaders of both parties, to discuss with them how we could start moving rapidly to get some of these major issues resolved.

And I'm pleased that Vice President Biden is going to be heading up that effort, but we're

going to need the help of citizens who served this country in extraordinary ways in the past and are continuing to do so in their spare time. I'm looking forward to having them as partners in order to get this done.

So thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:47 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar

April 14, 2011

President Obama. Well, I want to welcome the Amir of Qatar, and we have just completed a very useful conversation. I expressed to him my appreciation of the leadership that the Amir has shown when it comes to democracy in the Middle East, and in particular, the work that they have done in trying to promote a peaceful transition in Libya.

We would not have been able, I think, to shape the kind of broad-based international coalition that includes not only our NATO members, but also includes Arab States, without the Amir's leadership. He is motivated by a belief that the Libyan people should have the rights and freedoms of all people. And as a consequence, Qatar is not only supportive diplomatically, but is also supportive militarily, and we are very appreciative of the outstanding work that the Qataris have done side by side with the other international coalition members.

In addition to our efforts in Libya, we have a strong relationship between our two countries. It is an economic relationship. It is a military relationship. It is a cultural relationship. And obviously, Qatar has done very well under His Highness's leadership, but his influence extends beyond his borders. And so we've had discussions about how we can continue to promote democracy, human rights, increased freedom, and reform throughout the Middle East.

We discussed our mutual interest in seeing a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Amir provided me insights into how he sees reform evolving throughout the region.

We also discussed some of the areas where our two countries are cooperating beyond the Middle East. For example, Qatar has been a

leader internationally around the issues of food security, and so we are partnering on those issues. In North Africa, in Sudan, Qatar has helped to sponsor talks to see if we can resolve the situation in Darfur. And so what we've pledged is not only that we would continue these consultations in the short term, but that we would continue to work over the long term to deepen our relationship.

Finally, I congratulated His Highness on the fact that Qatar now has the World Cup in 2022. And so I told him that I would undoubtedly be an ex-President by that point, but that I was hoping that I could still get good seats if I traveled to Doha.

So, Your Highness, thank you for your visit. Thank you for your leadership on Libya. And we look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Amir Hamad. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for hosting me here in the White House and for having this meeting with you.

And I would like to extend to you our deep appreciation and thanks for the position the United States has taken in support of the democratization process that has taken place in Tunisia, in Egypt, and what is attempting to take place in Libya.

And I would like to reiterate what you have mentioned, Mr. President, and that is the strength of the relationship that exists between the United States and Qatar. And of course, the most important issue for us in the region is the Palestine-Israeli conflict and how to find a way to establish a Palestinian state.

And we do understand your position, Mr. President, in supporting the existence of two states peacefully living side by side, and we