

bookmarkers for the kids that you might recognize.

*The President.* Absolutely.

*Coach Calhoun.* And I said simply that people like Lincoln and Martin Luther King and so on, maybe our President, were speeding along in the process of being something special that he truly is. And I believe that and feel that way.

This basketball team, by the way, was kind of an underdog, much as you were. And who would have thought, 15 years ago—who would have thought maybe 9 months ago we would be here.

But you know what? Yes, we can. [Laughter]

*The President.* Yes, we can. I like that.

*Coach Calhoun.* And like you, Mr. President, yes, we did. We did because we cared. We cared as a family. We cared about each other. We accepted our roles. We accepted who we are and did anything possible to be the best we possibly can become. I watched your rise—magnificent. I've watched their rise, and it's been one of the most emotional seasons of my entire life.

I'm proud of what you've done, certainly, and I'm certainly proud of my kids. And I just thank you very much for having us here. And I want to especially congratulate you, because last night I knew you were pretty excited to watch the Chicago Bulls. Am I correct?

*The President.* I was. [Laughter]

*Coach Calhoun.* That was an easy call.

*The President.* What do you think? Some of you guys may want to look at the Bulls organization. They could use a shooter. [Laughter]

*Coach Calhoun.* But once again, thank you for everything, Mr. President.

*The President.* Thank you so much.

*Coach Calhoun.* We really appreciate having you here, and you're an inspiration to so many young people, definitely a lot of the people I've

coached. And I just want to say that you make us all feel proud about our country and certainly feel proud when you interject athletics and education, because it's very important to us.

*The President.* Thank you so much.

*Coach Calhoun.* And I've got someone special to bring up now, Kemba Walker. Kemba, come on.

*Guard Kemba Walker.* I just want to say—I want to thank everybody for coming out. I have one question for the President. I wanted to ask you, can you teach me that walk?

*The President.* That walk? [Laughter] That's a special Presidential walk—[laughter]—so—but maybe in a few years. You look pretty good behind the podium, I got to say. [Laughter]

*Mr. Walker.* I'm looking forward to that. [Laughter] But on behalf of the team, we all just—we want to give you this jersey.

[At this point, the President was presented with a team jersey.]

*The President.* All right. Oh, man, that's outstanding. Thank you. That's a good-looking jersey there.

Absolutely. There you go. Fantastic.

All right, we're going to strike the podium and get a good picture with the whole crew.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:43 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Michael W. Krzyzewski, head coach, Duke University men's basketball team; Robert M. Knight, former head coach, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Indiana University, and Texas Tech University men's basketball teams; and Shabazz Napier, guard, and Jeremy Lamb, guard/forward, University of Connecticut men's basketball team.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Burma

May 16, 2011

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.1622(d)) provides for the auto-

matic 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 to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared on May 20, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond May 20, 2011.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration and modification of this national emergency has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to

the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser May 16, 2011

Thank you, everybody. Thank you. Well, it is wonderful to see so many old friends and a few new friends here. Let me, first of all, say that you don't have to sleep my campaign, but the eating and breathing part I agree with. [Laughter]

Let me tell you, I feel extraordinarily confident, in part because of the great friends here who—some of you have been with me since 2007, when nobody could pronounce my name. [Laughter] I also feel enormous confidence because we have an extraordinarily dynamic new DNC chair in Debbie Wasserman Schultz. And I think she is going to do an outstanding job. So we are very proud of her.

I want to spend most of my time just having a conversation with you. But I thought maybe I'd tell you a little bit about the trip that I took today. I went to Memphis, Tennessee. And some of you may know Memphis has gone through some tough times. They had flooding that had displaced about 1,500 people. And so we had a chance to meet with some folks whose homes had been overrun with water. And they described, apparently, with water comes frogs and snakes. I didn't realize the snake part. Michelle would not have been happy—[laughter]—to know that there were snakes along with this water.

But what was remarkable was how the community had come together and they had organized over a hundred churches to help take people in. And we met with some of the first-responders, some of whom were volunteers. And it was an extraordinary testimony to the American spirit.

And then I gave a commencement address at Booker T. Washington High School. Now, Booker T. Washington has some very prominent alumni and has been an institution in Memphis for quite some time. But the community surrounding Booker T. had fallen on hard times, in South Memphis. And just a few years ago they had a 50 percent graduation rate. Half the kids dropped out of school. This is one of the toughest neighborhoods in the country. I think—has the highest poverty rate of any place, just about, in Tennessee, one of the highest crime rates in the Nation.

And every kid that you met had some extraordinary story. The young man who introduced me, his father had been killed when he was 4 years old after getting shot 22 times. He was born with a hole in his heart and had to have it repaired over a lengthy period of time when he was very young.

And every young person you met—single mom, struggled, lived in housing projects in