

*The President.* That's a nice-looking helmet there. [Laughter]

*Mr. Burns.* As well as your exclusive Auburn football national championship jersey.

*The President.* Exclusive. There you go. [Laughter]

All right. Let's—we're going to strike the podium so we can get a good picture.

[At this point, the podium was removed, and the President posed for a photograph with members of the Auburn University Tigers organization.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Robert and Nancy Gibbs, parents of former White House Press Secretary Robert L. Gibbs.

## Statement on the United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS June 8, 2011

As we mark the 30th year of our fight against HIV/AIDS, I join the United Nations High Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS in honoring the memory of all those we have lost to this disease and rededicating ourselves to the fight against this pandemic. Thanks to an aggressive global response, fewer people are being infected, a diagnosis is no longer a death sentence, and more people with HIV/AIDS are living long, vibrant lives. But so long as tens of millions of people live with this devastating disease, and so long as nearly 2 million people die from AIDS-related diseases every year, we cannot and will not rest.

As the global leader in the fight against AIDS, the United States will continue to do our part. That's why my administration has increased funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to record levels, increased our support to the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and launched our Global Health Initiative to help

countries build their capacity to deliver better health care, including for mothers and children with HIV/AIDS. And we will continue to invest in the pioneering research that holds the promise of new treatments and brings us closer to cures.

Still, it is not enough to simply do the same things the same way. This week's meeting at the United Nations is an opportunity for all of us to do better. More governments need to contribute to this effort. More awareness is needed so that no one with HIV/AIDS is stigmatized or discriminated against. More coordination is needed so that the investments we're making are preventing as many infections, delivering as many treatments, and saving as many lives as possible. No nation can do this alone. Together, we can resolve to meet our shared responsibilities. Together, we can come closer to our vision of a world without HIV/AIDS.

## Statement on the Retirement of Michael E. Leiter as National Counterterrorism Center Director June 9, 2011

Mike Leiter's entire career has been one of service to our Nation, and I know his decision to leave the National Counterterrorism Center was undoubtedly a difficult one for him. Serving in two administrations since 2007, Mike led the National Counterterrorism Center with dedication and unwavering determination dur-

ing challenging and demanding times, and our Nation is grateful for his many contributions to our safety and security. Mike has been a trusted adviser to me and to the entire national security team, providing us with an in-depth understanding of terrorist activities that affect our Nation's security. I am confident that Mike will

be leaving the National Counterterrorism Center, the counterterrorism community, and the

Nation in a significantly stronger position to confront the terrorist threats we face.

## Statement on Russia Day

*June 10, 2011*

I join the American people in sending my best wishes to all those who are celebrating Russia Day. Since the first Congress of the Russian Federation declared a new sovereign nation on June 12, 1992, the United States and Russia have worked to build a relationship that makes both our nations more secure and more prosperous. Together, we have reduced our

nuclear arsenals, expanded trade and commerce, and deepened the ties between our people. Here in the United States, we are grateful for the many Russian Americans who have helped to strengthen our country and who play a vital role in bringing the Russian and American people even closer.

## The President's Weekly Address

*June 11, 2011*

Hello, everyone. I want to spend a couple minutes talking with you today about our economy. We've just come through the worst recession since the Great Depression, and while our economy as a whole has been growing and adding private sector jobs, too many folks are still struggling to get back on their feet. I wish I could tell you there was a quick fix to our economic problems, but the truth is, we didn't get into this mess overnight, and we won't get out of it overnight. It's going to take time.

The good news is, when it comes to job creation and economic growth, there are certain things we know we can do. Now, government is not and should not be the main engine of job creation in this country. That's the role of the private sector. But one thing government can do is partner with the private sector to make sure that every worker has the necessary skills for the jobs they're applying for.

On Wednesday, I announced commitments by the private sector, colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers that will make it possible for 500,000 community college students to get a manufacturing credential that has the industry's stamp of approval. If you're a company that's hiring, you'll know that anyone who has this degree has the skills you're looking for. If you're a student considering commu-

nity college, you'll know that your diploma will give you a leg up in the job market.

On Monday, I'll travel to North Carolina, where I'll meet with my jobs council and talk about additional steps we can take to spur private sector hiring in the short term and ensure our workers have the skills and training they need in this economy.

There are also a few other things we know will help grow our economy and give people good jobs that support a middle class lifestyle. We know that a quality education is a prerequisite for success, so we're challenging States and school districts to improve teaching and learning and making it a national goal to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

We know that more and more jobs are being created in the clean energy sector, so we're investing in wind power, solar power, and biofuels that will make us less dependent on foreign oil and clean up our planet for our children. These are steps we know will make a difference in people's lives, not just 20 years from now or 10 years from now, but now and in the months to come.

In the end, the folks I hear from in letters or meet when I travel across the country, they aren't asking for much. They're just looking for a job that covers their bills. They're looking for a