

pass by me and they're holding hands, and I'm thinking, oh, that's going to be me and Michelle some day, and I know that they've got the security of a stable retirement and they're not going to have to worry that if they get sick, they'll lose everything, that makes my life better.

That's the vision I've got for America. That's what we're fighting for. That's why you campaigned for me in 2008. That's why I need you to campaign for me again in 2012. Our job is not done. We've got to fight for that vision.

*Audience members.* Yes, we can! Yes, we can! Yes, we can!

*The President.* Now, let me just say that I know I'm preaching to the choir here. [Laughter] But I also know that over the last 2½ years, there have been times where you think to yourself, "Gosh, I'm not feeling as hopeful." [Laughter] "This change, I'm not sure I can believe in it." [Laughter] I know you still got the poster. [Laughter] But there have been times where you say, "You know, how come we didn't get the public option?" [Laughter] Or, "Why did health care take so long?" Or the—you know, I know that there are times where you get frustrated and you—

*Audience member.* Never!

*The President.* No, well that's not true. [Laughter] Maybe you don't get frustrated, but—because—and the reason I say that is I get frustrated. I would love to be able to just—our whole program just got implemented in 6 months, and I would then just relax. [Laughter]

But you know what, we live in a democracy, and it's a big and messy democracy. And it's noisy, and it's contentious. But that's what democracy is. That—it requires engagement, and it requires citizens to take these debates seri-

ously and to pay attention and to suffer setbacks.

Sometimes, people say, "Oh, you know, I don't know, during the campaign, everything was so terrific, and now governing seems so much more frustrating." And I want to remind everybody, the campaign seemed frustrating a lot of times. [Laughter] It wasn't perfect either. And we had setbacks, and we had struggles, and there were times where we didn't get to where we wanted to go as quick as we wanted.

But I just want everybody to understand, we have made enormous progress. And the only reason we've made progress is because all of you stayed committed and all of you stayed engaged. And all of you, no matter the setbacks, said, "I still believe that America can be better, and I'm going to play a part in it." This campaign was never just about me. It was about the commitments we made to each other as Americans and the commitments we're making to the next generation.

So don't sit back and wait. Don't sit back and wait for me. I need you. I need all of you to knock on doors and make phone calls and send e-mails and do whatever it is that you need to do, because we are going to need the same energy and the same passion and the same engagement. And if we do, then I promise you there is nothing that will stop us and we will get done everything that we promised we would get done.

God bless you, New York. I love you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 p.m. at the Broadway Theatre. In his remarks, he referred to comedian and actor Whoopi Goldberg, who introduced the President.

## Remarks at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania June 24, 2011

Hello, hello, hello! Thank you very much. Everybody, please have a seat. Thank you. Hello, Pittsburgh! It is good to be back. Thank you, Senator Casey and Mayor Ravens-  
tahl, County Executive Dan Onorato, State Auditor Jack Wagner, and all of you for hav-

ing me back here at Carnegie Mellon. It is good to be here.

And it seems like every time I'm here I learn something. So for those of you who are thinking about Carnegie Mellon, it's a terrific place, and you guys are doing just great work.

I just met with folks from some cutting-edge companies and saw some of their inventions here in your National Robotics Engineering Center. But that's not the only reason I'm here. You might not know this, but one of my responsibilities as Commander in Chief is to keep an eye on robots. *[Laughter]* And I'm pleased to report that the robots you manufacture here seem peaceful—*[laughter]*—at least for now.

This is a city that knows something about manufacturing. For generations of Americans, it was the ticket to a middle class life. Here and across America's industrial heartland, millions clocked in each day at foundries and on assembly lines to make things. And the stuff we made—steel, cars, planes—was the stuff that made America what it is. The jobs were good. They paid enough to own a home, to raise kids, send them to college, to retire. They were jobs that told us something more important than just how much money we made, what was in our paycheck. These jobs also told us that we were meeting our responsibilities to our family and to our neighborhoods, and building our communities, and building our country.

But for better and worse, our generation has been pounded by wave after wave of profound economic change. Revolutions in technology have transformed the way we live and the way we work. Businesses and industries can relocate anywhere in the world—anywhere that there are skilled workers, anywhere that there is an Internet connection. And companies have learned to become more efficient with fewer employees. In Pittsburgh you know this as well as anybody. Steel mills that once needed a thousand workers now do the same work with a hundred.

And while these changes have resulted in great wealth for some Americans and have drastically increased productivity, they've also caused major disruptions for many others. Today, a high school diploma no longer guarantees you a job. Over the past 13 years, about a third of our manufacturing jobs have vanished. And meanwhile, the typical worker's wages have barely kept up with the rising costs of everything else. And all this was even before a fi-

nancial crisis and recession that pounded the middle class even more.

Now, we've made some tough decisions that have turned our economy in a positive direction over the past 2 years. We've created more than 2 million new jobs in the private sector over the past 15 months alone, including almost 250,000 in manufacturing. But we still have to confront those underlying problems. They weren't caused overnight, and we won't solve them overnight. But we will solve them. And we're starting to solve them right here in Pittsburgh and right here at Carnegie Mellon.

And by the way, that's why I ran for President. Not just to get us back to where we were—I ran for President to get us to where we need to be. I have a larger vision for America, one where working families feel secure, feel like they are moving forward and that they know that their dreams are within reach, an America where our businesses lead the world in new technologies like clean energy, where we work together, Democrats and Republicans, to live within our means, to cut our deficit and debt, but also to invest in what our economy needs to grow: world-class education, cutting-edge research, and building the best transportation and communication infrastructure anywhere in the world. That's what it's going to take for us to win the future. And winning the future begins with getting our economy moving right now.

And that's why we're here. Carnegie Mellon is a great example of what it means to move forward. At its founding, no one would have imagined that a trade school for the sons and daughters of steelworkers would one day become the region's largest—one of the region's largest employers and a global research university. And yet innovations led by your professors and your students have created more than 300 companies and 9,000 jobs over the past 15 years, companies like Carnegie Robotics.

But more important than the ideas that you've incubated are what those ideas have become: They've become products made right here in America, and in many cases, sold all over the world. And that's in our blood. That's

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who we are. We are inventors and we are makers and we are doers.

If we want a robust, growing economy, we need a robust, growing manufacturing sector. That's why we told the auto industry 2 years ago that if they were willing to adapt, we'd stand by them. Today, they're profitable, they're creating jobs, and they're repaying taxpayers ahead of schedule.

That's why we've launched a partnership to retrain workers with new skills. That's why we've invested in clean energy manufacturing and new jobs building wind turbines and solar

panels and advanced batteries. We have not run out of stuff to make. We've just got to reinvigorate our manufacturing sector so that it leads the world the way it always has, from paper and steel and cars to new products that we haven't even dreamed up yet. That's how we're going to strengthen existing industries; that's how we're going to spark new ones. That's how we're going to create jobs, grow the middle class, and secure our economic leadership.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. in the National Robotics Engineering Center.

## Statement on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture *June 24, 2011*

As we mark the anniversary of the United Nations Convention against Torture, I join people around the world in honoring the victims of torture, paying tribute to all those who are courageously working to eradicate these inhuman practices from our world, and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to achieving this important goal.

Generations of Americans have understood that torture is inconsistent with our values. Over two decades ago, President Reagan signed and a bipartisan Senate coalition ratified this landmark document, which affirms the essential principle that under no circumstances is torture ever justified. Torture and abusive treatment violate our most deeply held values, and they do not enhance our national security. They undermine it by serving as a recruiting tool for terrorists and further endangering the lives of American personnel. Furthermore, torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment are ineffective at developing useful, accurate information. As

President, I have therefore made it clear that the United States will prohibit torture without exception or equivocation, and I reaffirmed our commitment to the Convention's tenets and our domestic laws.

As a nation that played a leading role in the effort to bring this treaty into force, the United States will remain a leader in the effort to end torture around the world and to address the needs of torture victims. We continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and to provide funding for domestic and international programs that provide assistance and counseling for torture victims. We also remain dedicated to supporting the efforts of other nations, as well as international and nongovernmental organizations, to eradicate torture through human rights training for security forces, improving prison and detention conditions, and encouraging the development and enforcement of strong laws that outlaw this abhorrent practice.

## The President's Weekly Address *June 25, 2011*

Hello, everybody. Earlier this week, I spoke about our way forward in Afghanistan, and I said that because of the extraordinary work of our men and women in uniform, civilians, and

our coalition partners, we will soon begin bringing our troops home, just as we've begun doing in Iraq. After a decade of conflict, we're finally bringing these wars to a responsible end.