

*Nomination for Council of Economic Advisers
Chairman*

Now, even as we deal with this crisis of the moment, our great ongoing challenge as a nation remains how to get this economy growing faster. Our challenge is to create a climate where more businesses can post job listings, where folks can find good work that relieves the financial burden they're feeling, where families can regain a sense of economic security in their lives.

That's our urgent mission. And that's what I'm fighting for every single day. That's why today I'm very pleased to nominate Alan Krueger to chair the Council of Economic Advisers. Come on down here, Al.

Alan brings a wealth of experience to the job. He's one of the Nation's leading economists. For more than two decades, he's studied and developed economic policy, both inside and outside of government. In the first 2 years of this administration, as we were dealing with the effects of a complex and fast-moving financial crisis—a crisis that threatened a second Great Depression—Alan's counsel as Chief Economist at the Treasury Department proved invaluable.

So I am very pleased to appoint Alan, and I look forward to working with him. As I told him, it's going to be tough to fill the shoes of Austan Goolsbee, who's been a great friend and adviser who I've relied on for years. But I have nothing but confidence in Alan as he takes on this important role as one of the leaders of my economic team.

I rely on the Council of Economic Advisers to provide unvarnished analysis and recommendations, not based on politics, not based

on narrow interests, but based on the best evidence, based on what's going to do the most good for the most people in this country. And that's more important than ever right now. We need folks in Washington to make decisions based on what's best for the country, not what's best for any political party or special interest. That's how we'll get through this period of economic uncertainty, and that's the only way that we'll be able to do what's necessary to grow the economy.

So it's that spirit that I'm going to be calling upon in the coming days. Next week, I will be laying out a series of steps that Congress can take immediately to put more money in the pockets of working families and middle class families, to make it easier for small businesses to hire people, to put construction crews to work rebuilding our Nation's roads and railways and airports, and all the other measures that can help to grow this economy.

These are bipartisan ideas that ought to be the kind of proposals that everybody can get behind, no matter what your political affiliation might be. So my hope and expectation is that we can put country before party and get something done for the American people.

That's what I'll be fighting for. And we've got to have a good team to do it. So, Alan, I appreciate your willingness to take on this assignment, and I'm looking forward to working with you once again.

Mr. Krueger. Thank you very much.

The President. Thank you so much.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:01 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

*Statement on the Sixth Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina
August 29, 2011*

Six years ago today, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, upending families and ravaging communities, and no one will forget the tragic events of those days. But what's required of us is more than remembrance. What's required of us is our continued efforts

to make sure that New Orleans and the Gulf Coast fully recover and to make sure that our response to such disasters is the best it can possibly be.

Over the past several years, we've seen what Americans are capable of when tested. We've

seen the grit and determination of people on the Gulf Coast coming together to rebuild their communities, brick by brick, block by block. At the same time, we've made sure the Federal Government is doing its part to help. We've cut through redtape to free up funding for recovery efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. We've taken steps to help school systems get children the tools and resources they need for a proper education. We've broken through gridlock on behalf of tens of thousands of displaced families, making sure they have long-term housing solutions. And we'll keep at it until these communities have come back stronger than before.

When it comes to disaster response, we've worked very seriously to enhance our preparedness efforts so that Americans are ready before disaster strikes and to strengthen our recovery capabilities so that we're more resil-

ient after disaster strikes. Over the last week, we have experienced the power of another storm, Hurricane Irene. Before the storm made landfall, the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA worked closely with our State and local partners to pre-position supplies and teams of first-responders and support their response efforts. Those response efforts are ongoing, and we will continue that partnership, responding as quickly and effectively as possible, for as long as necessary, until the affected communities are back on their feet.

Today is a reminder of not just the immediate devastation that can be caused by these storms, but the long-term needs of communities impacted by disasters, whether in Mississippi or Alabama, Tennessee or Missouri, North Dakota or the East Coast States impacted by Hurricane Irene. This administration will stand by those communities until the work is done.

Remarks at the American Legion National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota August 30, 2011

The President. Hello, Legionnaires! It is wonderful to see all of you. Let me first of all thank Commander Foster for your introduction and for your lifetime of service to your fellow marines, soldiers, and veterans. On behalf of us all, I want to thank Jimmie and I want to thank your entire leadership team for welcoming me here today. Thank you very much.

Your national adjutant, Dan Wheeler; your executive director, your voice in Washington, Peter Gaytan, who does just an extraordinary job; and the president of the American Legion Auxiliary, Carlene Ashworth, thank you for your extraordinary service. To Rehta Foster and all the spouses, daughters, and sisters of the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion, as military families, you also serve, and we salute all of you as well.

There are some special guests here I want to acknowledge. They may have already been acknowledged, but they're great friends so I want to make sure that I point them out. First of all, the wonderful Governor of Minnesota, Mark Dayton, is here. Two Senators who are working on behalf of veterans every single day, Amy

Klobuchar and Al Franken; Congressman Keith Ellison—this is his district; Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, a great friend; to all the other Members of Congress and Minnesota elected officials who are here, welcome.

It is wonderful to be back with the American Legion. Back in Illinois, my home State—[*applause*]. Hey! Illinois is in the house. [*Laughter*] We worked together to make sure veterans across the State were getting the benefits they had earned. When I was in the U.S. Senate, we worked together to spotlight the tragedy of homelessness among veterans and the need to end it.

As President, I've welcomed Jimmie and your leadership to the Oval Office to hear directly from you. And I have been—[*applause*]. I've been honored to have you by my side when I signed advance appropriations to protect veterans' health care from the budget battles in Washington, when I signed legislation to give new support to veterans and their caregivers, and most recently, when I proposed new initiatives to make sure the private sector is hiring our talented veterans.