

folks on stage have shown. They're demanding that people come together and find common ground; that we have a sensible, balanced approach that's based on facts and evidence and us reasoning things out and figuring out how to solve problems and asks everybody to do their part.

That's what I'm fighting for. That's what this debate is all about. That's what the American people want.

So I want to once again thank automakers. I want to thank workers. I want to thank the State of California. I want to thank—[*applause*]*—*which has been—the State of California has consistently been a leader on this issue. I want to thank the environmental leaders and elected officials, including Leader Pelosi, who is here, and the leaders here from the Michigan delegation and—because obviously the State of Michigan has a huge stake and has been on the cutting edge of these issues and have helped to pave the way forward. I want to thank all of you for helping to reduce our dependence on oil, on growing the economy, and leaving for future generations a more secure and prosperous America.

So congratulations, gentlemen. Thank you very much. Good work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. Participating in the event were Daniel F. Akeron, chairman and chief executive officer, General Motors Co.; Alan R. Mulally, president and chief executive officer, Ford Motor Co.; Sergio Marchionne, chief executive officer, Chrysler Group LLC; John Krafcik, president and chief executive officer, Hyundai Motor America; James E. Lentz, president and chief operating officer, Toyota Motors Sales USA, Inc.; Josef Kerscher, president, BMW Manufacturing Co.; Andrew Goss, president, Jaguar Land Rover North America; Doug Speck, president and chief executive office, Volvo Cars North America; John W. Mendel, executive vice president, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.; Scott E. Becker, administration and finance senior vice president, Nissan North America, Inc.; James O'Sullivan, president and chief executive officer, Mazda North American Operations; and Bob King, president, United Auto Workers.

Remarks Following a Meeting With West African Leaders July 29, 2011

Okay. Well, I just wanted to publicly welcome four very distinguished leaders to the White House: President Yayi of Benin, President Conde of Guinea, President Issoufou of Niger, and President Ouattara of Cote d'Ivoire.

Although, obviously, we've got a lot of things going here in Washington today, it was important for us, I think, to maintain this scheduled appointment with four leaders of nations that represent Africa's democratic progress, which is vital to a stable and prosperous and just Africa, but is also critical to the stability and prosperity of the world.

All these leaders were elected through free and fair elections. They've shown extraordinary persistence in wanting to promote democracy in their countries despite significant risks to their own personal safety and despite enor-

mous challenges, in some cases—most recently in Cote d'Ivoire—in actually implementing the results of these elections.

But because of their fortitude and because of the determination of their people to live in democratic, free societies, they have been able to arrive at a position of power that is supported by the legitimate will of their peoples. And as such, they can serve as effective models for the continent.

These countries all underscore what I emphasized when I visited Ghana and gave a speech about Africa as a whole: This is a moment of great opportunity and significant progress in Africa. Politically, a majority of sub-Saharan African countries are now embracing democracy. Economically, Africa is one of the fastest growing regions in the world.

And we just had a very productive discussion where we discussed how we can build on both the political progress, the economic progress, and address the security challenges that continue to confront Africa. And I emphasized that the United States has been and will continue to be a stalwart partner with them in this process of democratization and development.

Despite the impressive work of all these gentlemen, I've said before and I think they all agree: Africa does not need strongmen, Africa needs strong institutions. So we are working with them as partners to build effective judiciaries, strong civil societies, legislators that are effective and inclusive, making sure that human rights are protected.

With respect to economic development, all of us agree that we can't keep on duplicating a approach that breeds dependence, but rather, we need to embrace an approach that creates sustainability and capacity within each of these countries through trade and investment and the development of human capital and the education of young people throughout these countries.

We discussed as well that not only do we want to encourage trade between the United States and each of these respective countries, but we want to encourage inter-African and regional trade, and that requires investments in infrastructure in those areas.

We are partners in resolving conflicts peacefully and have worked effectively with ECOWAS and the African Union to resolve crisis—crises in the region. And we appreciate very much the assistance that we've received on battling terrorism

that currently is trying to gain a foothold inside of Africa.

And finally, we discussed how we can partner together to avert the looming humanitarian crisis in eastern Africa. And I think it hasn't gotten as much attention here in the United States as it deserves, but we're starting to see famine developing in—along the Horn of Africa, in areas like Somalia in particular. And that's going to require an international response, and Africa will have to be a partner in making sure that tens of thousands of people do not starve to death.

So let me just close by saying that many of the countries here are—either have celebrated or are in the process of celebrating their 50th year of independence. As President Issoufou pointed out, I'm also celebrating my 50th year of at least existence. *[Laughter]*

And when we think about the extraordinary progress that's been made, I think there's much we can be proud of. But of course, when we think about the last 50 years, we also have to recognize there have been a lot of opportunities missed. And so these leaders, I think, are absolutely committed to making sure that 50 years from now they can say that they helped to turn the tide in their countries, to establish strong, democratic practices, to help establish economic prosperity and security. And we just want you to know the United States will stand with you every step of the way.

Thank you very much, everyone.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:13 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010 July 29, 2011

A year ago today, I was proud to sign the Tribal Law and Order Act into law. American Indians and Alaska Natives have long been victimized by violent crime at far higher rates than the rest of the country, and the Tribal Law and Order Act is already helping us better address the unique public safety challenges that confront tribal communities. Over the past

year, tribes have gained greater sentencing authority. The rights of defendants are stronger. Services for victims are better. We're working together to combat alcohol and drug abuse and to help at-risk youth in more effective ways. We've established new guidelines and training for officers handling domestic violence and sex crimes. And we've expanded recruitment and