

telecom—or the Bo Jackson of telecom. [Laughter] And that’s because for more than 30 years, Tom has been at the forefront of some of the very dramatic changes that we’ve seen in the way we communicate and how we live our lives.

He was one of the leaders of a company that helped create thousands of good, high-tech jobs. He’s in charge of the group that advises the FCC on the latest technology issues. He’s helped give American consumers more choices and better products. So Tom knows this stuff inside and out. And I think Julius will attest to that, because Julius has benefited frequently from Tom’s input and advice.

I also want to thank Mignon Clyburn—where is Mignon? There she is right there—who has been an incredible asset to the FCC for the last few years. And so Mignon is going to be Acting Chair until Tom is confirmed. And together, they’ve got a very important mission: giving businesses and workers the tools they need to compete in the 21st-century economy and making sure we’re staying at the cutting edge of an industry that, again and again, we’ve revolutionized here in America.

And as technology continues to shape the way that we do business and communicate and transform the world, we want to make sure

that it’s American ingenuity, American innovation, and that we’re setting up legal structures and regulatory structures that facilitate this continued growth and expansion that can create good jobs and continue to grow our economy.

So I just want to thank Julius and his family, his wonderful wife Rachel and the entire family, for their extraordinary service. I want to thank Mel, I want to thank Tom and their families for agreeing to step into these new and challenging roles. And I’m going to go ahead and thank the Senate now for what I’m sure—[laughter]—will be a speedy confirmation process so these two gentlemen can get to work right away.

Thank you very much, everybody. Hey!

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:27 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Evelyn Herron, mother, and Graham Watt, brother, of Rep. Watt; James N. Brown, former running back, National Football League’s Cleveland Browns; former NFL and Major League Baseball player Vincent E. “Bo” Jackson; and Rachel Goslins, wife of former Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius M. Genachowski.

## Remarks on the Nomination of Penny S. Pritzker To Be Secretary of Commerce and Michael B. Froman To Be United States Trade Representative May 2, 2013

Thank you. Good morning, everybody. Please have a seat. Sit. [Laughter]

My top priority as President is to grow the economy, create good middle class jobs, make sure that the next generation prospers. And in a few minutes, I’ll be departing the White House for a trip that will promote that priority.

First, I’m going to visit Mexico, one of our largest economic partners. Then I’ll be visiting Costa Rica, where I’ll attend a summit with Central American leaders. And in both instances, I’m going to be working to deepen our economic and trade relationships across Latin America, relationships that create jobs and

growth here at home and offer our businesses growing markets where they can sell more American-made goods and services abroad.

But before I go, I had some business to do. I am proud to announce that I’ll be nominating two outstanding individuals to my Cabinet who will focus on precisely these issues.

Over the past 4 years, I’ve tasked the Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative with opening new markets for American goods and services, doubling our exports for those goods and services all in support of millions of American jobs. And over those 4 years, Ron Kirk, along with his outstanding

team at USTR, has stood up for free trade and for American workers and businesses around the world. So he's finalized trade deals with South Korea, Colombia, Panama. He's cracked down on unfair trading practices to give American workers a fair shot in the global economy. And I could not be prouder of the work that he has done.

Meanwhile, at the Department of Commerce, Becky Blank has led our efforts to help promote high-tech manufacturing and travel and tourism—it is a big portfolio—and she has worked closely with the private sector to make sure that America remains the best place in the world to do business.

So I could not be more thankful to Ron and to Becky for their outstanding service. Ron couldn't be here today, but many members of his team are here, and we are so thankful to them. Becky, thank you. Becky is going to be taking on a pretty big job: making sure those Badgers behave up in Wisconsin. *[Laughter]* And we know she's going to be extraordinary leading that institution.

But today I'm in a position to nominate two extraordinary individuals to continue the work of Ron and Becky as key members of my economic team.

As I said in my State of the Union Address, when it comes to growing our economy and our middle class, we should focus on three things. Number one, making sure America is a magnet for good jobs. Number two, helping workers earn the skills they need to get those jobs. And number three, making sure their hard work actually leads to a decent living. Both these individuals share that focus.

First, I'm nominating Penny Pritzker to serve as my Secretary of Commerce. Now, Penny is one of our country's most distinguished business leaders. She's got more than 25 years of management experience in industries including real estate, finance, and hospitality. She's built companies from the ground up. She knows from experience that no government program alone can take the place of a great entrepreneur. She knows that what we can do is to give every business and every

worker the best possible chance to succeed by making America a magnet for good jobs.

And Penny understands that just as great companies strengthen the community around them, strong communities and skilled workers also help companies thrive. So she's been an extraordinary civic leader in our shared hometown of Chicago. She served as a member of my Jobs Council. She was the driving force behind Skills for America's Future, which is a program that brings together companies and community colleges to shape and prepare skills-based training programs for workers that are tied into the businesses that potentially will hire them.

So she's got extraordinary experience. And in case I haven't embarrassed her enough, she's got a wonderful family; I watched her kids grow up, and today is her birthday. So, happy birthday, Penny. For your birthday present, you get to go through confirmation. *[Laughter]* It's going to be great. *[Laughter]*

Meanwhile, over two decades in both the public and private sectors, Mike Froman, who I'm nominating to serve as my U.S. Trade Representative, has established himself as one of the world's foremost experts on our global economy. And I'm not surprised, by the way, because we went to law school together. He was much smarter than me then; he continues to be smarter than me now.

And over the past 4 years, he's been my point person at global forums like the G-8 and the G-20. And by the way, when I say point person, he's really been the driving force, oftentimes, in organizing these incredible international summits in which huge amounts of business gets done. He's been a key negotiator alongside Ron Kirk on those trade agreements for South Korea, Colombia, and Panama, which support tens of thousands of American jobs.

He has won the respect of our trading partners around the world. He has also won a reputation as being an extraordinarily tough negotiator while doing it. He does not rest until he's delivered the best possible deal for American businesses and American workers. He's fought

to make sure that countries that break the rules are held accountable.

And Mike believes, just as I believe and just as Penny believes, that our workers are the most competitive in the world, so they deserve a level playing field. And Mike's going to continue to fight for that level playing field in his new role, as he helps to move forward trade negotiations with both the Asia-Pacific region and Europe, and will also continue to advise me on a broad range of economic issues.

And as I think some of you have gathered, I've had a chance to get to know Penny and Mike not just as leaders and professionals, but also as friends. And one of the reasons I'm proud to nominate them is they don't forget what matters. They know this is not about just growing balance sheets. It's about growing opportunity for people. It's about growing a sense of security for the middle class. And most of all, they operate with integrity, and they under-

stand that public service is a privilege and you've got to do it right when you get involved on behalf of the American people.

So I just want to thank Penny and Mike and their extraordinary families for agreeing to serve in these roles. I urge the Senate to confirm Penny and Mike without delay, because they've got a lot of work to do. And I intend to work them to the bone as soon as they're official. [Laughter] So thank you very much, everybody. And thanks to their families for putting up with what I know will be challenging, but ultimately, the extraordinary reward of working on behalf of the American people.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Donald P. and Rose P. Traubert, children of Secretary-designate Pritzker.

## The President's News Conference With President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico in Mexico City, Mexico May 2, 2013

*President Peña Nieto.* Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon, everyone. First and foremost, after the bilateral meeting, I would like to extend the warmest welcome to President Barack Obama, his team joining him. Once again, we would like to welcome all of you with open arms, and we hope you feel at home.

We appreciate your will to have upon this meeting a relation built on mutual respect, collaboration for the benefit of our peoples.

Before we cover the areas that we have shared during our bilateral meeting, on behalf of the Mexican people, I would like to reiterate our solidarity for the regretful acts that were committed in your country: in Boston and in West, in Texas. Unfortunately, it took the lives of American citizens.

If you allow me, I would like to share with the audience and the members of the media the areas that we have addressed with President Obama during the meeting that we just have had.

First of all, we have reached an agreement that the relation between Mexico and the United States should be broad in terms of the areas that it covers. It should open up opportunity and collaboration spaces in different arenas, with a very clear purpose in mind to make North American region a more productive and competitive region that will, in result, trigger the enormous potential that our peoples have, that our nations have. And we're well aware of the fact that we can take stock of our bilateral relation. Within the framework of the agreements made, we have reached a new level of understanding, as our two new administrations that begin roughly at the same time: the second term of President Obama and my administration.

Among the items that we covered, I can speak for how relevant trade and commerce is in the Mexico-U.S. relation. We have dimension of all the achievements made upon the free trade agreement and the benefits that our