

So I want to be honest with you: No program or policy is going to solve all the problems in a multitrillion-dollar housing market. The housing bubble went up so high that the heights it reached before it burst were so unsustainable, that we knew it was going to take some time for us to fully recover. But if we take the steps that I talked about today, then I know we will restore not just our home values, but also our common values. We'll make owning a home a symbol of responsibility, not speculation, a source of security for generations to come, just like it was for my grandparents. I want it to be just like that for all the young people who are here today and their children and their grandchildren.

And if we stay focused on middle class security and opportunities to get into the middle class, if we take the strategy that I'm laying out for the entire economy—for jobs and housing and education, health care, retirement, creating ladders of opportunity—then we will secure that better bargain for all Americans, where hard work is once again rewarded with a shot at a middle class life, which means more

Americans will know the pride of that first paycheck. More Americans will know the satisfaction of flipping the sign to "Open" on their own business. More Americans will know the joy of scratching the child's height on the door of their new home, with pencil, of course. [Laughter]

We can do all this if we work together. And it won't be easy. But if we take just a few bold steps, and if Washington will just end the gridlock, set aside the slash-and-burn partisanship, actually try to solve problems instead of scoring political points, our economy will grow stronger a year from now, 5 years from now, 10 years from now.

And as long as I've got the privilege to serve as your President, that's what I'm going to be fighting for.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Jorge Ruiz, senior sales representative, Simpson Strong-Tie Company Inc.

## Interview With Jay Leno of NBC's "The Tonight Show" in Burbank, California August 6, 2013

*Mr. Leno.* Please welcome my first guest—actually, my only guest—the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama.

*The President.* Thank you.

*Mr. Leno.* Welcome back, sir.

*The President.* Thank you. It's good to be back.

*Mr. Leno.* Well, we're thrilled to have you.

*The President.* It is good to be back.

*Mr. Leno.* And a happy birthday.

*The President.* Thank you very much.

*Mr. Leno.* Happy birthday to you.

*The President.* Thank you.

### *The President's Birthday*

*Mr. Leno.* So how did you celebrate Sunday? What did you do?

*The President.* Ah, had a bunch of friends come over who I don't see that often from high school and college. And we played a little golf, and then we tried to play a little basketball. And it was a sad state of affairs. [Laughter]

*Mr. Leno.* Really?

*The President.* Yes. A bunch of old guys, and afterwards, "Where's the ibuprofen?" and all that stuff. [Laughter] Yes.

*Mr. Leno.* But you're pretty competitive.

*The President.* I am pretty competitive. But the day of my birthday—we do departure photos of people who are transitioning out of the White House. And we let them bring their families in, they take a picture in the Oval Office. And this wonderful staff person came in, had a really cute, young son. He looked like Harry Potter, a 6-year-old guy. [Laughter] He

came in, he had an economic report for me. He had graphs and everything. [Laughter] He says, "My birthday is in August too." I said, "Well, how old are you going to be?" He said, "Seven." He said, "How old are you?" I said, "Fifty-two." He said, "Whoa." [Laughter].

Mr. Leno. Whoa.

The President. Whoa.

Mr. Leno. Whoa.

The President. Yes. [Laughter] He was trying—he looked off in the distance. He was trying to project. [Laughter]

Mr. Leno. Yes, you can't even—

The President. What does that—you can't even—you can't go out that far.

Mr. Leno. You can't grasp that number, no.

The President. No. [Laughter]

Mr. Leno. Now, I've seen Michelle tease you about your gray hair. You have a bit of silver in your hair. Do you tease back?

The President. No. [Laughter]

Mr. Leno. No? See—yes.

The President. No. That's why we're celebrating our 21st anniversary. [Laughter]

### *Terrorism/Diplomatic Security*

Mr. Leno. Yes, that's right. As I'm married 33 years, I know exactly what you're saying. [Laughter].

Hey, I've got to ask you about this. Everyone is concerned about these Embassy closings. How significant is this threat?

The President. Well, it's significant enough that we're taking every precaution. We had already done a lot to bolster Embassy security around the world, but especially in the Middle East, North Africa, where the threats tend to be highest. And whenever we see a threat stream that we think is specific enough that we can take some specific precautions within a certain timeframe, then we do so.

Now, it's a reminder that for all the progress we've made—getting bin Laden, putting Al Qaida between Afghanistan and Pakistan back on its heels—that this radical, violent extremism is still out there. And we've got to stay on top of it. It's also a reminder of how courageous our Embassy personnel tend to be, be-

cause you can never have a hundred-percent security in some of these places.

Mr. Leno. Sure.

The President. The countries themselves sometimes are ill-equipped to provide the kind of security that you want. Even if we reinforce it, there are still vulnerabilities.

And these diplomats, they go out there and they serve every day. Oftentimes, they have their families with them. They do an incredible job and sometimes don't get enough credit. So we're grateful to them, and we've got to do everything we can to protect them.

### *Terrorism/State Department Advisory on Travel Abroad*

Mr. Leno. Now, this—yes—[applause]—this global travel warning, this is for Americans all around the world? Are we telling people don't take that European vacation just yet?

The President. No, no, no, no.

Mr. Leno. What are we saying?

The President. No, I think the general rule is just show some common sense and some caution. So there are some countries where you're less likely to experience a terrorist attack. There are some where there are more dangers. And if people are paying attention, checking with the State Department or Embassy, going on the website before you travel, find out what kind of precautions you should be taking, then I think it still makes sense for people to take vacations. They just have to make sure that they're doing so in a prudent way.

### *Terrorism*

Mr. Leno. What do you say to those cynics who go, "Oh, this is an overreaction to Benghazi"? How do you respond to that?

The President. One thing I've tried to do as President is not overreact, but make sure that as much as possible the American people understand that there are genuine risks out there. What's great about what we've seen with America over the last several years is how resilient we are. So after the Boston bombing, for example, the next day folks were out there, they're going to ball games. They are making

sure that we're not reacting in a way that somehow shuts us down.

Mr. Leno. Right.

The President. And that's the right reaction. Terrorists depend on the idea that we're going to be terrorized. And we're going to live our lives. And the odds of people dying in a terrorist attack obviously are still a lot lower than in a car accident, unfortunately.

Mr. Leno. Sure.

The President. But there are things that we can do to make sure that we're keeping the pressure on these networks that would try to injure Americans. And the first thing I think about when I wake up and the last thing I think about when I go to bed is making sure that I'm doing everything I can to keep Americans safe.

*Terrorism/Former National Security Agency Contractor Edward J. Snowden/National Security Agency's Electronic Surveillance Program*

Mr. Leno. Safe to say that we learned about these threats through the NSA intelligence program? Is that a fair assessment?

The President. Well, this intelligence gathering that we do is a critical component of counterterrorism. And obviously, with Mr. Snowden and the disclosures of classified information, it's raised a lot of questions for people. But what I said as soon as it happened I continue to believe in, which is, a lot of these programs were put in place before I came in. I had some skepticism, and I think there's—we should have a healthy skepticism about what Government's doing. I had the programs reviewed. We put in some additional safeguards to make sure that there's Federal court oversight as well as congressional oversight, that there is no spying on Americans.

We don't have a domestic spying program. What we do have are some mechanisms where we can track a phone number—

Mr. Leno. Right.

The President. —or an e-mail address that we know is connected to some sort of terrorist threat. And that information is useful. But what I've said before I want to make sure I repeat, and that is, we should be skeptical about the potential encroachments on privacy. None

of the revelations show that Government has actually abused these powers, but they're pretty significant powers.

And I'm—I've been talking to Congress and civil libertarians and others about are there additional ways that we can make sure that people know nobody is listening to your phone call, but we do want to make sure that after a Boston bombing, for example, we've got the phone numbers of those two brothers—

Mr. Leno. Right.

The President. —we want to be able to make sure did they call anybody else? Are there networks in New York, are there networks—

Mr. Leno. Sure.

The President. —elsewhere that we have to roll up? And if we can make sure that there's confidence on the part of the American people that there's oversight, then I think we can make sure that we're properly balancing our liberty and our security.

Mr. Leno. When we come back, I want to ask you about Russia and Snowden. I hit on something in the monologue which just seems incredible to me, and I want to get your thoughts on that.

More with the President when we come back right after this.

[At this point, there was a commercial break.]

*Former National Security Agency Contractor Edward J. Snowden/Whistleblower Protections/Classified National Security Information*

Mr. Leno. Welcome back to our—[inaudible]—with Barack Obama.

Let me ask you about this—the NSA leaker Edward Snowden. Some call him a whistleblower. What do you call him?

The President. Well, we don't know yet exactly what he did, other than what he's said on the Internet, and it's important for me not to prejudge something.

Mr. Leno. Got you.

The President. Hopefully, at some point he'll go to trial, and he will have a lawyer and due process, and we can make those decisions.

I can tell you that there are ways, if you think that the Government is abusing a program, of coming forward. In fact, I, through Executive order, signed whistleblower protection for intelligence officers or people who are involved in the intelligence industry. So you don't have to break the law. You don't have to divulge information——

*Mr. Leno.* Sure.

*The President.* ——that could compromise American security. You can come forward, come to the appropriate individuals, and say, look, I've got a problem with what's going on here, I'm not sure whether it's being done properly.

If in fact the allegations are true, then he didn't do that. And that is a huge problem because a lot of what we do depends on terrorist networks not knowing——

*Mr. Leno.* Right.

*The President.* ——that, in fact, we may be able to access their information.

*Mr. Leno.* Let me ask—now, he was a contracted employee.

*The President.* Yes.

#### *Government Contractors*

*Mr. Leno.* And it seems the Government has a lot of these.

*The President.* Yes.

*Mr. Leno.* I remember when I was coming up, my brother was in ROTC, and in those days, they would take college students, you go into the Army, the Army would train you.

*The President.* Right.

*Mr. Leno.* This guy is being paid money by an outside firm, living in Hawaii, got the stripper girlfriend. All of a sudden you're all upset with what the Government is doing——

*The President.* Right.

*Mr. Leno.* ——and you go to another country. I mean, in my era, Daniel Ellsberg stood in the town square and said, "I've got this," got arrested. New York Times—I mean, should we go back to not using so many—whether it's Blackwater or any of these contract—these people who are Hessians, they get paid?

*The President.* Well, I think you're raising an important issue. We've been trying to reduce

the reliance on contractors. Some of the contractors do a great job, and they're patriots and they're trying to support our mission. Sometimes they can do it more efficiently or effectively if they've got some specialized knowledge. But one of the things that I've asked our team to look at is, when it comes to intelligence, should we, in fact, be farming that much stuff out. And there are a lot of extraordinarily capable folks in our military, in our Government who can do this, and probably do it cheaper, and then benefit from the training that they get, so that when they transfer, they're in a better position.

#### *Former National Security Agency Contractor Edward J. Snowden/Russia-U.S. Relations*

*Mr. Leno.* Now, were you surprised that Russia granted Snowden asylum?

*The President.* I was disappointed because even though we don't have an extradition treaty with them, traditionally we have tried to respect if there's a lawbreaker or an alleged lawbreaker in their country, we evaluate it and we try to work with them. They didn't do that with us. And in some ways, it's reflective of some underlying challenges that we've had with Russia lately.

*Mr. Leno.* Right.

*The President.* A lot of what's been going on hasn't been major breaks in the relationship, and they still help us on supplying our troops in Afghanistan.

*Mr. Leno.* Sure.

*The President.* They're still helping us on counterterrorism work. They were helpful after the Boston bombing in that investigation. And so there's still a lot of business that we can do with them.

But there have been times where they slip back into cold war thinking——

*Mr. Leno.* Right.

*The President.* ——and a cold war mentality. And what I consistently say to them, and what I say to President Putin, is, that's the past and we've got to think about the future, and there's no reason why we shouldn't be able to cooperate more effectively than we do.

*President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia*

*Mr. Leno.* And Putin seems to me like one of those old-school KGB guys.

*The President.* Well, he——

*Mr. Leno.* I mean——

*The President.* ——he headed up the KGB. [Laughter]

*Mr. Leno.* Yes. Well, that's what I mean. Yes, that's what I mean. He has that mentality.

*The President.* Yes.

*Mr. Leno.* I mean, look at this picture here. You two—[laughter]—you look like me and the NBC executives. What is going on there? [Laughter] That doesn't look like a friendly picture.

*The President.* Well, the truth is, is that when we have meetings we can have some pretty blunt exchanges and animated exchanges.

*Mr. Leno.* Sure.

*The President.* But he's got—that seems to be his preferred style during press conferences, is kind of sitting back and not looking too excited. [Laughter] Now, part of it is he's not accustomed to having press conferences where you've got a bunch of reporters yelling questions at you.

*Group of Twenty (G-20) Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia*

*Mr. Leno.* Now, the G-20 summit is in St. Petersburg next——

*The President.* Coming up, right.

*Mr. Leno.* Are you going to that, and will you meet with Putin?

*The President.* I will be going to that. I will be going to that because the G-20 summit is the main forum where we talk about the economy—the world economy—with all the top economic powers in the world. So it's not something unique to Russia. They're hosting it this year, but it's important for us, as the leading economy in the world, to make sure that we're there, in part because creating jobs, improving our economy, building up our manufacturing base, increasing wages—all those things now depend on how we compete in this

global economy. And when you've got problems in Europe, or China is slowing down, that has an impact here in the United States.

And I've been saying for the entire tenure of my Presidency that my number-one priority at all times is, how do we create an economy where, if you work hard in this country, you can succeed? And there are a lot of things that we can do here in this country, but we've also got to pay attention to what's going on outside it.

*Civil Rights/Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Persons/2014 Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia*

*Mr. Leno.* Well, something that shocked me about Russia—and I'm surprised this is not a huge story—suddenly, homosexuality is against the law. I mean, this seems like Germany: Let's round up the Jews, let's round up the gays, let's round up the Blacks. I mean, it starts with that. You round up people who you don't—I mean, why is not more of the world outraged at this?

*The President.* Well, I've been very clear that when it comes to universal rights, when it comes to people's basic freedoms, that whether you are discriminating on the basis of race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, you are violating the basic morality that I think should transcend every country. And I have no patience for countries that try to treat gays or lesbians or transgendered persons in ways that intimidate them or are harmful to them.

Now, what's happening in Russia is not unique. When I traveled to Africa, there were some countries that are doing a lot of good things for their people, who we're working with and helping on development issues, but in some cases have persecuted gays and lesbians. And it makes for some uncomfortable press conferences sometimes. But one of the things that I think is very important for me to speak out on is making sure that people are treated fairly and justly, because that's what we stand for. And I believe that that's a precept that's not unique to America, that's something that should apply everywhere.

*Mr. Leno.* Do you think it will affect the Olympics?

*The President.* I think Putin and Russia have a big stake in making sure the Olympics work, and I think they understand that for most of the countries that participate in the Olympics, we wouldn't tolerate gays and lesbians being treated differently. They're athletes, they're there to compete. And if Russia wants to uphold the Olympic spirit, then every judgment should be made on the track or in the swimming pool or on the balance beam, and people's sexual orientation shouldn't have anything to do with it.

*Mr. Leno.* Good enough for me.

We'll be right back. We'll talk about the economy when we come back.

*The President.* Absolutely.

*Mr. Leno.* More with President Obama right after this.

[*There was a commercial break.*]

### *National Economy*

*Mr. Leno.* Welcome back. We're talking with the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

Hey, let's talk about the economy. Things seem to be getting better, seem to be improving.

*The President.* Well, the economy is growing.

*Mr. Leno.* Yes.

*The President.* The unemployment rate's been ticking down, and housing is improving. We've seen the deficit cut in half. Health care costs are actually going up slower than they have in—any time in the last 50 years. So there are a lot of good trends.

*Mr. Leno.* Right.

*The President.* But I think what folks all across the country would tell you is we've got a lot more work to do. Wages and salaries haven't gone up. Middle class families are still struggling to make sure they can pay for their kids' college education. They're still concerned about whether they can retire.

And what Washington should be thinking about every single day is, how do we make sure we've got an economy where, if folks work hard, they can find a good job that pays a de-

cent wage; they can send their kids to college; they got health care they can count on; they can retire even if they don't get rich—or even if they're not rich; and that we're creating these ladders of opportunities for people to get into the middle class.

And what's happened over the last 20 years is—actually longer than that, probably over the last 30—is that the gap between those of us at the very top and the vast middle has been growing wider and wider. And some of that's globalization. Some of it's technology. You go to a factory—you're a car guy—if you go to an auto plant now, robots, and it's clean as a whistle, and it doesn't employ as many people as it used to. So a lot of those middle class jobs have gone away.

And what we have to do is make sure that we are investing in infrastructure, research; making sure our kids are educated properly; and a housing—an improved and more stable housing market instead of the kind of bubbles that we had before. All those things can really make a difference.

### *Infrastructure/National Economy*

*Mr. Leno.* You mentioned infrastructure. Why is that a partisan issue? I live in a town, the bridge is falling apart, it's not safe. How does that become Republican or Democrat? How do you not just fix the bridge? [*Laughter*]

*The President.* I don't know. As you know, for the last 3 years, I've said, let's work together. Let's find a financing mechanism, and let's go ahead and fix our bridges, fix our roads, sewer systems, our ports. You know, the Panama Canal is being widened so that these big supertankers can come in. Now, that will be finished in 2015. If we don't deepen our ports all along the Gulf—places like Charleston, South Carolina, or Savannah, Georgia, or Jacksonville, Florida—if we don't do that, those ships are going to go someplace else. And we'll lose jobs. Businesses won't locate here.

So this is something that traditionally has been bipartisan. I mean, it used to be Republicans and Democrats, they love cutting those ribbons.

*Mr. Leno.* Yes.

*The President.* And we've got a bunch of construction workers who aren't working right now. They've got the skills. They want to get on the job. It would have a huge impact on the economy not just now, but well into the future. So I'm just going to keep on pushing Republicans to join with us, and let's try to do it.

Part of it is—what they'll say is, we like infrastructure, but we don't want to pay for it. And one of the things I've been trying to get across here is, is that we don't need a huge Government, but we need Government doing some basic things, and we should all agree on a sensible mechanism to go ahead and pay for it—make sure we don't waste money, make sure we're cutting down on permitting times and delays, but let's go ahead and get it done.

*Mr. Leno.* Would it be possible to do a modern WPA, almost like a America Peace Corps, where kids get paid a decent wage, you give them food, and they fix up Detroit, they fix up other cities—whatever—they fix bridges? I mean, when you travel this country, you see these great bridges and things that were built by—and they have the plaque, the guys that built it in 1932, in 1931.

*The President.* And it was incredibly important for not just the economy in the thirties, we use it still—Golden Gate Bridge, Hoover Dam. It opened up opportunity for everybody. The Interstate Highway System—think of all the businesses that got created because we put that together.

So it's possible. The question is, do we have the political will to do it? And my argument to Congress has been, this is just like your house. You can put off fixing the roof. You can put off doing the tuck-pointing. You can put off replacing the old boiler. But sooner or later, you're going to have to fix it, and it's going to be more expensive the longer you put it off. When we've got unemployed folks right now, we should be putting them to work, and it would be good for the entire country.

*Senator John S. McCain III/Bipartisanship*

*Mr. Leno.* And let me ask you about something I'm seeing. Is it me, or do I see kind of

bromance with you and John McCain? [*Laughter*] I remember you two had that lovers' quarrel for a while. And, oh, now, you're all—well, you're best friends.

*The President.* Well, you know that's how—

*Mr. Leno.* What happened?

*The President.* That's how a classic romantic comedy goes, right? [*Laughter*] Initially, you're not getting along, and then you keep on bumping into each other. [*Laughter*]

*Mr. Leno.* Yes, but what's—I mean, what changed? Who saw the light? [*Laughter*]

*The President.* No, you know, John McCain and I have a number of philosophical differences, but he is a person of integrity. He is willing to say things regardless of the politics. The fact that he worked hard with a group of Democratic and Republican Senators on immigration reform; they passed a bill in the Senate that will make sure that folks who are here illegally have to pay back taxes and have to make—and pay a penalty and get to the back of the line, but over time have a pathway to citizenship, and make sure that we're strengthening our borders; he went ahead and passed that even though there are some questions in his own party. So I think that he deserves credit for being somebody who is willing to go against the grain of his own party sometimes. It's probably not good for me to compliment him on television. But—

*Mr. Leno.* Yes, yes. [*Laughter*] Get a big head.

*The President.* But I think that he's an example of a number of Republicans in the Senate, in the House who want to be for something, not just be against everything. And the more that they can try to move in that direction, I think the better off we'll be.

*Mr. Leno.* Now, we're going to take a break. I want to talk about Hillary because I know you had lunch with her.

*The President.* Absolutely.

*Mr. Leno.* My question when we come back: Who asked who to lunch? [*Laughter*] Don't answer. Don't answer. We'll find out more with President Obama right after this.

[*There was a commercial break.*]

*Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton*

*Mr. Leno.* We are back with the President of the United States.

You and Hillary had lunch last—who invited who to lunch? I'm curious.

*The President.* I invited her.

*Mr. Leno.* Okay.

*The President.* And we had a great time. She had that post-administration glow. [*Laughter*] You know, when folks leave the White House, like 2 weeks later, they look great. [*Laughter*] But it was a wonderful conversation. By the end of my first term, we had become genuinely close, and I could not have more respect for her. She was a great Secretary of State, and I'm very, very proud of the work she did.

*Mr. Leno.* Did you notice her measuring the drapes or anything like that? [*Laughter*]

*The President.* No. Keep in mind, she's been there before. [*Laughter*]

*Mr. Leno.* Right, that's true. That's true.

*The President.* So she doesn't have to measure them. Yes.

### *Health Care Reform*

*Mr. Leno.* So what's the latest in health care? What's new?

*The President.* Well, on October 1, people are going to be able to sign up if they don't have health care. If you've got health care, you don't have to do anything. The only thing that's happened for people who have health care right now is, is that you've been able to benefit from the fact that we put in place a law so that insurance companies have to spend 80 percent of your premiums on health care, and if they spend it on administrative costs and high CEO salaries, they got to send you a rebate. And that's been affecting people.

If you've got a kid who has just graduated, doesn't have a job with health care, they can stay on their parent's plan. That's in place right now. Free preventive care and free contraceptive care for young women and families—all that stuff's in place now. No lifetime limits.

So a lot of consumer protections got put in place. But on October 1, if you don't have health care right now, you can join what are called these marketplaces, and you'll be able to get lower cost health care. Here in California, it's estimated it will be 20-, 30-percent cheaper than what you're already getting. And we'll give you subsidies—tax credits, essentially—if you still can't afford it.

So you can go to healthcare.gov, and right now you can preregister essentially and start figuring out is this plan right for you.

*Mr. Leno.* Well, I was able to get health care from—the guys who worked at my shop for me are all over 50. They never had health care. And I was able to get it now because you can't be turned down. So thank you for that.

*The President.* You can't be turned down because of a preexisting condition. That's part of what we're going to be doing.

### *Shooting Death of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida/Civil Rights*

*Mr. Leno.* Hey, something I thought was—I thought you spoke very eloquently about the Trayvon Martin case, and I could tell you were speaking from the heart. And tell me about that.

*The President.* Well, I think all of us were troubled by what happened. And any of us who were parents can imagine the heartache that those parents went through. It doesn't mean that Trayvon was a perfect kid—none of us were. We were talking offstage—when you're a teenager, especially a teenage boy, you're going to mess up, and you won't always have the best judgment. But what I think all of us agree to is, is that we should have a criminal justice system that's fair, that's just. And what I wanted to try to explain was why this was a particularly sensitive topic for African American families, because a lot of people who have sons know the experience they had of being followed or being viewed suspiciously.

We all know that young African American men disproportionately have involvement in criminal activities and violence—for a lot of reasons, a lot of it having to do with poverty, a lot of it having to do with disruptions in their

neighborhoods and their communities, failing schools, and all those things. And that's no excuse, but what we also believe in is, is that people—everybody—should be treated fairly and the system should work for everyone. And so what I'm trying to do is just—

*Mr. Leno.* I agree.

*The President.* —make sure that we have a conversation and that we're all asking ourselves are there some things that we can do to foster better understanding, and to make sure that we don't have laws in place that encourage the kind of violent encounter that we saw there that resulted in tragedy.

### *The President's Favorite Food*

*Mr. Leno.* Let me ask you something. You told a group of young people that broccoli was your favorite food. [Laughter] Now, lying to voters is one thing; lying to children, that's—[laughter]—that is—

*The President.* Now, let me say this—

*Mr. Leno.* Can you put your right hand on a Bible and say, "Broccoli"? [Laughter]

*The President.* Let me say this: I have broccoli a lot. [Laughter] I mean, no—

*Mr. Leno.* Really?

*The President.* —you can ask my staff. It is one of my staples. Me and broccoli, I don't know, we've got a thing going. [Laughter]

*Mr. Leno.* Really? So—

*The President.* It goes especially well with burgers and fries.

*Mr. Leno.* Right, right. [Laughter]

*The President.* Absolutely.

*Mr. Leno.* And did Michelle make a broccoli cake with the broccoli icing?

*The President.* Well, I won't go that far.

*Mr. Leno.* Now, did the kids believe you, or did they go, "Oh, come on"?

*The President.* No, they did kind of—they looked at me. [Laughter] They had their little pads and pencils, and they were all, "Really?" [Laughter] "More than chips?" [Laughter]

But to Michelle's credit—

*Mr. Leno.* Yes.

*The President.* —the "Let's Move!" initiative that she's been involved with that has got-

ten so many folks all around the country doing stuff to help kids exercise and eat right, for the first time in a long time, we've started to see some modest reduction in childhood obesity.

*Mr. Leno.* Well, that's good.

*The President.* So I think it's making a difference.

*Mr. Leno.* That's good.

*The President.* Really proud of it.

*Mr. Leno.* Mr. President, it's been an honor. I know you have to go.

*The President.* It was nice to see you.

*Mr. Leno.* Thank you so much.

*The President.* Before we go, well, Jay, I know you're very proud of your car collection.

*Mr. Leno.* Yes.

*The President.* Well, there's one piece that's missing.

*Mr. Leno.* Cool.

*The President.* This is the Beast.

[*The President presented Mr. Leno with a scale model of his limousine.*]

*Mr. Leno.* The Beast!

*The President.* The one I drive in.

*Mr. Leno.* Oh, look at that. My friend, Ed Welburn, designed that car.

*The President.* So—

*Mr. Leno.* Will you sign the roof?

*The President.* I will sign the roof.

*Mr. Leno.* Oh, cool. [Laughter]

*The President.* Now, the doors are heavy, so when you're getting in—

*Mr. Leno.* Yeah, yeah, yeah.

*The President.* —you may need a little help. [Laughter]

*Mr. Leno.* I assume the real car will be at my garage after the show tonight. [Laughter]

[*The President signed the roof of the model.*]

*The President.* There you go, Jay.

*Mr. Leno.* Very good.

*The President.* Thank you so much.

*Mr. Leno.* Mr. President, a pleasure and an honor, sir.

*The President.* I appreciate it.

*Mr. Leno.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The interview began at 4:34 p.m. at NBC Studios. In his remarks, he referred to suspected April 15 Boston Marathon bomb-

er Dzhokhar Tsarnaev; and Tracy Martin and Sybrina Fulton, parents of Trayvon Martin.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders on Prohibiting Certain Imports of Burmese Jadeite and Rubies *August 6, 2013*

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the “order”) pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA) and the Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE (Junta’s Anti-Democratic Efforts) Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–286) (the “JADE Act”) that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, as modified in scope in Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, and Executive Order 13619 of July 11, 2012, and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13310 of July 28, 2003, Executive Order 13448 of October 18, 2007, Executive Order 13464 of April 30, 2008, and Executive Order 13619 of July 11, 2012.

In Executive Order 13047, the President found that the Government of Burma committed large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma after September 30, 1996, and further determined that the actions and policies of the Government of Burma constituted an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat. To address that threat and to implement section 570 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–208), the President in Executive Order 13047 prohibited new investment in Burma by United States persons. On July 28, 2003, the President issued Executive Order 13310, which contained prohibitions implementing certain provisions of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (Public Law 108–61) and blocked the property and inter-

ests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13310 or determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to meet designation criteria specified in Executive Order 13310. In Executive Order 13448, the President expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047, incorporated existing designation criteria set forth in Executive Order 13310, blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13448, and provided additional criteria for designations of other persons. In Executive Order 13464, the President blocked the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to Executive Order 13464 and provided additional criteria for designations of other persons. In Executive Order 13619, I modified the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13047 and provided additional designation criteria.

The order that I have just issued prohibits the importation into the United States of any jadeite or rubies mined or extracted from Burma and any articles of jewelry containing jadeite or rubies mined or extracted from Burma. The order amends Executive Order 13310 to revoke the section of that order imposing a prohibition on the importation into the United States of any article that is a product of Burma and a related section. The order waives the sanctions described in section 5(b) of the JADE Act. Except as authorized or exempt, transactions with persons included on the Department of the Treasury’s List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons continue to be prohibited pursuant to IEEPA.

The order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of