

Q. —any message for Mitch McConnell and John Boehner today as Congress comes back?

The President. I want to congratulate them once again on their positions as Speaker and Majority Leader in the Senate, and I'm very much looking forward to working with them. I already had a chance to say happy New Year to them. And I'm confident that there are going to be areas where we disagree and there will be some pitched battles, but I'm also confident that there are enormous areas of potential agreement that would deliver for the American people, and we just have to make sure that we focus on those areas where we can make significant progress together.

So I wish them well and—

Q. Did you speak with them today or earlier?

The President. I wish them well, and I think we're going to actually have, hopefully, a productive 2015.

All right? Thanks, guys.

Former Governor Robert F. McDonnell of Virginia

Q. Governor McDonnell sentenced to 2 years. Did you—have you heard that? And do you have any comment on that?

The President. I haven't heard that, and I have no comment on it.

Q. On Keystone—

The President. Thank you, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:54 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mark B. Dayton of Minnesota; and Gov. Patrick L. McCrory of North Carolina.

Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Paris, France, During a Meeting With Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John F. Kerry *January 7, 2015*

I've reached out to President Hollande of France and hope to have the opportunity to talk to him today. But I thought it was appropriate for me to express my deepest sympathies to the people of Paris and the people of France for the terrible terrorist attack that took place earlier today.

I think that all of us recognize that France is one of our oldest allies, our strongest allies. They have been with us at every moment when we've—from 9/11 on, in dealing with some of the terrorist organizations around the world that threaten us. For us to see the kind of cowardly, evil attacks that took place today, I think, reinforces once again why it's so important for us to stand in solidarity with them, just as they stand in solidarity with us.

The fact that this was an attack on journalists, an attack on our free press, also underscores the degree to which these terrorists fear freedom: of speech and freedom of the press. But the one thing that I'm very confident about is that the values that we share with the

French people, a belief—a universal belief in freedom of expression, is something that can't be silenced because of the senseless violence of the few.

And so our counterterrorism cooperation with France is excellent. We will provide them with every bit of assistance that we can going forward. I think it's going to be important for us to make sure that we recognize, these kinds of attacks can happen anywhere in the world. And one of the things I'll be discussing with Secretary Kerry today is to make sure that we remain vigilant not just with respect to Americans living in Paris, but Americans living in Europe and in the Middle East and other parts of the world, and making sure that we stay vigilant in trying to protect them and to hunt down and bring the perpetrators of this specific act to justice and to roll up the networks that help to advance these kinds of plots.

In the end, though, the most important thing I want to say is that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who have

been lost in France and with the people of Paris and the people of France. What that beautiful city represents—the culture and the civilization that is so central to our imaginations—that’s going to endure. And those who carry out senseless attacks against innocent civilians, ultimately, they’ll be forgotten. And we will

stand with the people of France through this very, very difficult time.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks at the Ford Motor Company Michigan Assembly Plant in Wayne, Michigan

January 7, 2015

The President. Thank you, everybody! Give Mia a big round of applause for that outstanding introduction. Well, hello, Michigan! Happy New Year to everybody.

Audience members. Happy New Year!

Audience member. I love you!

The President. I—what was that?

Audience member. Love you, man.

The President. I love you back. [Laughter]

I want to thank all the outstanding leaders that we’ve got here today. I want to introduce some of them. We’ve got Secretary of Labor Tom Perez here. We’ve got Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan here. Senator Gary Peters is in the house. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell is here. Your outstanding CEO, Mark Fields, is here.

Now, I have to say, I love the Secret Service, I love the Beasts that they put me in and—that’s what we call the cars I drive in, “the Beasts.” So I like my ride these days. And it was made in Michigan too. But I just had a chance to look at these new Mustangs, and I’ve got to say that the Mustangs had a little more style, a little more flavor. [Laughter]

Bill Ford is in the house. Surprisingly enough, we talked a little bit about Sunday. [Laughter] Now, listen, I’m a Bears fan. You beat us twice. But even a Bears fan has to admit—

Audience member. We got hosed!

The President. —that that was a little suspect. I have never seen anything like that before. I would have been pretty irritated. Were you irritated? Oh, yes. [Laughter] But all I can say—because I’m used to saying this, I’m a

Bears fan—there’s always next year. [Laughter] And look, you’ve got a lot to be hopeful for. First of all, you’ve got one of the best defenses in the league. A fine young quarterback, Megatron. And if there’s one thing that you can take to the bank when talking about Detroit is that Detroit always comes back. [Applause] Detroit always comes back.

And that’s why I’m here today. One of my New Year’s resolutions is to make sure that more Americans in Wayne, more Americans in Michigan, more Americans all across this great country—that everybody feels like they’re coming back. And there is no doubt, thanks to the steps that we took early on to rescue our economy and to rebuild it on a new foundation, we are entering into the new year with new confidence that America is coming back.

Now, you don’t have to take my word for it. The facts are the facts. And let’s face it, a lot of times the media doesn’t like reporting on good news, but every once in a while, it’s important for us to hear some good news, not to make us complacent, but to give us confidence that if we work harder, we can make even more good news.

So here’s how we begin this year. Last year, 2014, was the strongest year for job growth since the 1990s. [Applause] Since the 1990s. We’ve now had a 57-month streak of private sector job creation. We’ve created nearly 11 million new jobs. That’s the longest stretch in our history of private sector, uninterrupted job creation.

Here’s another way of thinking about it. Since 2010, we, America, have put more peo-