

for young people. So they've been leading in the community; they've been leading in terms of style of play.

I want to commend the Spurs as well for something they did after the championship: hiring Becky Hammon, who's the first female full-time assistant coach in the NBA. And as somebody who has got two daughters, one of who is a baller, it makes me feel good when excellence is recognized regardless of gender.

So that's what the Spurs do. They find ways to put together the best team, whether it means going to Australia or Italy or the WNBA. They want everybody on the court. They think everybody has worth. They find folks who didn't have a chance someplace else, and suddenly, they figure out a way to make them shine as part of a team. And in that sense, they're a great metaphor for what America should be all about.

So I just want to say, once again, congratulations. They're working through some injuries on their quest to another title. But I'll tell you what, if you guys need any tips on winning back to back, you know where to find me. [Laughter] So—[applause].

Head Coach Gregg C. Popovich. Mine isn't here, sir.

The President. You don't get notes, man. [Laughter] Because—mainly, because you just give one-word answers. [Laughter]

Coach Popovich. Exactly. What I want to remind the President about—if I might, with all due respect—when I sit stars, I get fined. He doesn't. So—[laughter].

But mostly I would just like to say thank you to the President and for all the people here for having us. It truly is an honor to be here. And for me, the most satisfying part is to be able to be with all these guys. They truly have gotten over themselves. They care about the group more than the individual. And I didn't do that. That's in their character. That's who they are.

So it's a pleasure to have them here be honored by all of you, especially so many San Antonio fans and people that know San Antonio. We know that we answer to you all, and we feel that all the time.

The last thing I want to say is, all the pieces that the President talked about that get put together to keep the team at an excellent level, the guy responsible for that is right here, R.C. Buford. He's the guy that does that.

And now we have some things for the President, I believe.

The President. All right, what have we got? We've got some stuff?

[At this point, the President was presented with a team jersey and a basketball signed by team members.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:44 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Timothy T. Duncan and Tiago Splitter, centers, W. Anthony Parker, Jr., Patrick S. Mills, Emanuel D. Ginobili, and Daniel R. Green, Jr., guards, and Kawhi A. Leonard, Boris B. Diaw-Riffiod, Marco S. Belinelli, and Matthew R. Bonner, forwards, San Antonio Spurs.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders January 13, 2015

Well, I want to welcome the congressional leadership here to the White House. Harry Reid is absent because he is still convalescing a little bit from the mishap in the gym, but I know he'll be back strong next week, and I've had a chance to talk to him. I want to thank the Speaker and Leader McConnell, as well as Dick Durbin, filling in for Mr. Reid, and Nancy Pelosi and all the leadership that are here today.

First of all, some of these folks I haven't seen so I haven't had an opportunity to wish them Happy New Year. To the Speaker, I just want to point out—I said there are going to be some things that we agree on—having a college football playoff is clearly something that we can agree on. [Laughter] I called for it when I came into office, I think it turned out pretty well, particularly for Ohio—[laughter]—so I want to

congratulate the Ohio State Buckeyes for their outstanding victory and commend Oregon as well for fielding a great team, because their quarterback is from my original home State of Hawaii.

And I also want to just talk to all this leadership about how we can keep the progress going that we're seeing, particularly in our economy. The latest job report indicates that the recovery continues to move in a robust fashion. We've now created 58 straight months of private sector job growth, about 11 million jobs created in the private sector. Unemployment rate has come down faster than any time in several decades. We now are seeing the strongest job growth overall, as well as in manufacturing, since the 1990s. We are producing more energy than ever before. The deficit has been cut by two-thirds. And we're finally starting to see some movement last year in wages going up at a time when families are also enjoying some lower gas prices.

So we're in a position to make sure that 2015 is an even stronger year, and relative to our competitors, we are holding much better cards. The key now is for us to work as a team to make sure that we build on this progress. Obviously, there are disagreements around the table on a whole range of issues, but there are also areas where we can agree, and that's where we're going to be focused.

Just to cite a few examples, I've got a State of the Union next week. One of the things we're going to be talking about is cybersecurity. With the Sony attacks that took place, with the Twitter account that was hacked by Islamist jihadist sympathizers yesterday, it just goes to show how much more work we need to

do, both public and private sector, to strengthen our cybersecurity to make sure that families' bank accounts are safe, to make sure that our public infrastructure is safe. I've talked to both the Speaker as well as Mitch McConnell about this, and I think we agree that this is an area where we can work hard together, get some legislation done, and make sure that we are much more effective in protecting the American people from these kinds of cyber attacks.

I think that there's going to be opportunities for us to work together on trade. There's going to be opportunities for us to work together on simplifying the tax system and making sure everybody is paying their fair share. There are going to be opportunities for us to streamline Government so it's more responsible. And on each of these issues, I'm going to be listening to everybody around this table, and I'm hopeful that in the spirit of cooperation and putting America first, we can be in position where, at the end of this year, we'll be able to look back and say we're that much better off than we were when we started the year.

So I just wanted to thank everybody for being here, and I'm very much looking forward to not just this discussion, but some real collaboration over the course of the next several months. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Marcus A.T. Mariota, quarterback, University of Oregon football team.

Remarks at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center in Arlington, Virginia *January 13, 2015*

Good afternoon, everybody. I want to thank Secretary Johnson, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas, and the dedicated public servants of the Department of Homeland Security for welcoming me here today. I've kind of taken over

your workspace. I apologize for that, but just pretend that I'm not here. [*Laughter*] I want you to keep working. I did ask who dressed up for this event, and apparently, a few were brave enough to admit it.