

to make that trip in 88 years. And in Havana, you can hear the beautiful sounds of Afro-Cuban jazz and that unlikely marriage of cultures that, a century later, still captivates us. We hope this music will lead to new avenues for dialogue and new collaborations across borders. And if we can keep faith with that spirit, there's no doubt that jazz will live on for generations to come.

The President's Weekly Address

April 30, 2016

Hi, everybody. It's now been 45 days since I nominated Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. Judge Garland is a man of experience, integrity, and unimpeachable qualifications. Judge Garland is someone who Senate Republicans are on record saying is "a man of accomplishment and keen intellect," a man who's "honest and capable," a man whose "reputation is beyond reproach." Those are all quotes from Republicans in the Senate.

But so far, most Senate Republicans have refused to even meet with Judge Garland, which means they've also refused to do their job and hold a hearing on his nomination or an up-and-down vote. But they've still found time to head home for recess over the next week.

This is an abdication of the Senate's responsibility. Every Supreme Court nominee since 1875 who hasn't withdrawn from the process has received a hearing or a vote. For over 40 years, there's been an average of 67 days between a nomination and a hearing. This time should be no different. This is not about partisan politics, it's about upholding the institutions that make our democracy work.

There's a reason Judge Garland has earned the respect of people from both political parties. As a young lawyer, he left a lucrative private firm to work in public service. He went to oversee the Federal response to the Oklahoma City bombing. For the last 19 years, Judge Garland has served on the DC Circuit Court, often called the second highest court in the land, and for the past 3 years, he's served as that court's Chief Judge. In fact, Judge Merrick Garland has more Federal judicial experi-

So let me stop talking. We've got an all-star lineup of artists from around the country and around the world. Is everybody ready? Let's do this thing. Jazz at the Blues House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:31 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to actor Morgan Freeman.

ence than any other Supreme Court nominee in history. With a brilliant mind, a kind spirit, and a good heart, he has dedicated his life to protecting our rights and ensuring that the voices of everyday Americans are heard.

So there is absolutely no reason for Republican Senators to deny him the basic courtesy of a hearing and a vote, the same courtesy that has been extended to others. This refusal to treat a Supreme Court nomination with the seriousness it deserves is what makes people so cynical about Washington. That's why poll after poll shows a majority of Americans think Senate Republicans should do their job, give Judge Garland a hearing, and give Judge Garland a vote.

For all of our political differences, Americans understand that what unites us is far greater than what divides us. And in the middle of a volatile political season, it is more important than ever that we fulfill our duties—in good faith—as public servants. The Supreme Court must remain above partisan politics. I've done my job. I nominated someone as qualified as Merrick Garland. Now it's time for the Senate to do their job. Give Judge Garland a hearing. Give Judge Garland an up-or-down vote. Treat him—and our democracy—with the respect they deserve.

Thanks for listening, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:20 a.m. on April 29 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on April 30. In the address, the President referred to

Sens. Jeffrey L. Flake and Lindsey O. Graham. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 29, but was em-

bargoed for release until 6 a.m. on April 30. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner April 30, 2016

[As the President entered the stage, the song "Cups" by Anna Kendrick, including the lyrics "You're gonna miss me when I'm gone," was played over the sound system.]

The President. You can't say it, but you know it's true. *[Laughter]*

Good evening, everybody.

Audience members. Good evening.

The President. It is an honor to be here at my last—and perhaps the last—White House Correspondents' Dinner. *[Laughter]* You all look great. The end of the Republic has never looked better. *[Laughter]*

I do apologize. I know I was a little late tonight. I was running on C.P.T.—*[laughter]*—which stands for “jokes that White people should not make.” *[Laughter]* It's a tip for you, Jeff. *[Laughter]*

Anyway, here we are. My eighth and final appearance at this unique event. *[Laughter]* And I am excited. If this material works well, I'm going to use it at Goldman Sachs next year. *[Laughter]* Earn me some serious Tubmans. That's right. *[Laughter]* That's right.

My brilliant and beautiful wife Michelle is here tonight. She looks so happy to be here. *[Laughter]* That's called practice. *[Laughter]* It's like learning to do 3-minute planks. *[Laughter]* She makes it look easy now, but—*[laughter]*.

Next year at this time, someone else will be standing here in this very spot, and it's anyone's guess who she will be. *[Laughter]* But standing here, I can't help but be reflective, a little sentimental. Eight years ago, I said it was time to change the tone of our politics. In hindsight, I clearly should have been more specific. *[Laughter]*

Eight years ago, I was a young man, full of idealism and vigor, and look at me now. *[Laughter]* I am gray and grizzled, just counting down the days till my death panel. *[Laugh-*

ter] Hillary once questioned whether I'd be ready for a 3 a.m. phone call. Now I'm awake anyway because I've got to go to the bathroom. *[Laughter]* I'm up.

In fact, somebody recently said to me: “Mr. President, you are so yesterday. Justin Trudeau has completely replaced you. He's so handsome, he's so charming. He's the future.” And I said, “Justin, just give it a rest.” *[Laughter]* I resented that. *[Laughter]*

Meanwhile, Michelle has not aged a day. The only way you can date her in photos is by looking at me. *[Laughter]* Take a look.

Here we are in 2008.

[At this point, an image of the President and the First Lady was shown.]

Here we are a few years later.

[Another image was shown.]

And this one is from 2 weeks ago. *[Laughter]*

[An image of the First Lady standing beside a tuxedo-clad skeleton was shown.]

So time passes. *[Laughter]* In just 6 short months, I will be officially a lame duck, which means Congress now will flat-out reject my authority. *[Laughter]* And Republican leaders won't take my phone calls. And this is going to take some getting used to, it's really going to—it's a curve ball. I don't know what to do with it. *[Laughter]*

Of course, in fact, for months now congressional Republicans have been saying there are things I cannot do in my final year. Unfortunately, this dinner was not one of them. *[Laughter]* But on everything else, it's another story. And you know who you are, Republicans. In fact, I think we've got Republican Senators Tim Scott and Cory Gardner, they're in the house,