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All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

Federal Emergency Management Agency Funding

Q. Sir, does FEMA have enough funding?

The President. FEMA is in a good position right now. We had some concerns last year when we were in the midst of budget negotiations. I think that we did a good job of making sure that FEMA was properly funded and, not to make him blush, but we happen to have one of the best public servants in America in Craig Fugate and his team, and they know how to manage their money and use it effectively.

So that's not going to be an issue. Of course, we always want to be cautious about making assessments with respect to damage. We're still on the front end of this hurricane. We're not on the back end. So we don't know how bad the damage could end up. We don't know how severe the storm surge could end up being. And we're not going to know for 3, 4, 5 days what the ultimate effects of this are.

If we end up having really significant problems and really severe property damage, then the Stafford Act comes into play, our ability to provide through emergency declarations and other mechanisms—more help to local governments—that's always going to be a question. We have, as you know, we still have flooding in

Louisiana that has left a lot of people homeless. Over 100,000 people lost their homes there and we still have to rebuild. There are—is a backlog of need from natural disasters around the country that we'd like, hopefully during the lame duck session, to figure out how to fund effectively.

So the issue is not so much FEMA's funding for immediate emergency response; the issue is going to be making sure that after the—in this case the hurricane, but in other cases flooding or wildfires or other natural disasters—after they've happened, are we in a position to properly help people rebuild? And we'll obviously make those assessments after the fact, and then we'll talk to Congress about how we can help out.

All right? Thank you, everybody.

2016 Presidential and Congressional Elections

Q. Are you going to vote while you're in Chicago?

The President. I'm not going to the precinct. I'll probably do early vote. I'll fill out my form. Don't worry, I'll be voting.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Nathan J. Deal of Georgia; Gov. Nikki R. Haley of South Carolina; Gov. Patrick L. McCrory of North Carolina; and Gov. Richard L. Scott of Florida.

Remarks at a Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Luncheon in Chicago, Illinois

October 7, 2016

The President. Everybody, have a seat, have a seat. Come on, we're among friends. This is informal. *[Laughter]*

It is so wonderful to be home for the weekend. Michelle says hey. *[Laughter]* Michelle is at Camp David with her—she's got her own girls' weekend. *[Laughter]* But she misses all of you, and it's wonderful to see all of you.

We've got a lot of people here that I want to acknowledge, but I want to start, first and foremost, with Fred and Dan. Thank you so much

for opening up your home. Fred is an early investor, an angel investor—*[laughter]*—in my political career, but that's true for so many others. And so we just could not be more appreciative of everything that he is doing.

In addition, sitting right next to him, is someone who has been my partner on everything good that I've gotten done during the course of my Presidency. She is smart, savvy, tough and lives out her values every single day, and I could not be prouder to call her a friend,

the leader of the Democrats in the House, hopefully, soon to be Speaker once again: Nancy Pelosi.

Somebody who is doing an outstanding job in a thankless job—[laughter]—the DCCC chair, Ben Ray Lujan, is here.

I don't know how a Senator got in here. [Laughter] I thought people were properly vetted—[laughter]—but apparently, they allowed in just because he is such a wonderful man, our senior Senator from the great State of Illinois, Dick Durbin.

We have some incredible Members of Congress and that's why we're here, is to make sure that we're building on the great work that they're doing so I want to just acknowledge all of them. First of all, from the Great Quads area, Cheri Bustos. Out here from California, Anna Eshoo—along with her cousin Doris Nadder. [Laughter] I'm pointing out Cousin Doris because this is her 60th anniversary today. She left the guy at home—[laughter]—but it is her 60th anniversary. [Laughter]

Glenview, IL, resident Doris Moorad Nadder. I came to see you!

The President. I know! [Laughter] I'm just saying. [Laughter]

Congresswoman Robin Kelly is here. The only physicist in Congress, Bill Foster is here. Our dear friend, Jan Schakowsky, is in the house.

Two outstanding candidates for Congress, Brad Schneider. And I've got to give a special shout-out—when I was running for the United States Senate, we couldn't afford a lot of staff so we had to rely on these incredibly smart volunteers, and the person who did a lot of our policy work, I couldn't be prouder of him, he is now running for Congress, he's got a great shot—Raja Krishnamoorthi.

And although she is not running for Congress, she's running for an incredibly important position here in Illinois, and so I just want to acknowledge her—Kim Foxx is here.

So this is a pretty intimate group. We're all friends. I'm not going to give a long speech. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on Trump. [Laughter] Look, to some degree, I'm preaching to the choir here. But in case you hadn't

noticed—[laughter]—the stakes in this election are extraordinary.

We have made unbelievable progress over the last 8 years: taking an economy that was in a tailspin and cutting the unemployment rate in half; creating jobs for 72 consecutive months; reducing poverty by the largest percentage since 1968; seeing wages increase by the largest percentage ever recorded over the last year; providing 20 million people with health insurance that didn't have it before; locking in a climate change plan that has actually reduced our greenhouse emissions, even as the economy has grown, and mobilizing 200 nations to join us in that effort.

None of this I could have done had it not been for the partnership with the Democrats in the House of Representatives. A lot of the work that we got done that saved the economy and put us on a clean energy track and ensured that health care got done was in those first 2 years when we had the Democratic majority. It was when we had a Democratic majority that we were able to significantly expand the help that we provide young people going to college, increasing the levels of Pell grants, making sure that we had a Consumer Finance Protection Bureau that is looking after consumers. A whole range of the initiatives around Wall Street reform that has made our financial system more stable. We could not have done that unless we had courageous, thoughtful Members of Congress in partnership with me.

Now, I'm confident that we will have an incredibly capable Democratic successor in the White House by the name of Hillary Rodham Clinton. And when I say I'm confident, I'm not overconfident. [Laughter] So we've still got a lot of work to do and nobody knows that more than she does. But even if we're able to maintain the White House, the ability of Hillary to build on the legacy that we've established these past 8 years is going to depend on, ultimately, what happens in the House, as well as our ability to take back the Senate.

And it's an uphill battle—Nancy is the first to acknowledge it—because of gerrymandering, because of population distribution, because during midterms we tend to have really

depressed voter turnout. But despite all that, we have incredible candidates, competitive races, and if we are able and willing to really bear down in this last month—if we are, as we say in church, cheerful givers—[laughter]—then I think we’ve got a real shot. And that will make all the difference in the world in terms of our ability to advance those elements of my agenda that we haven’t been able to get done.

We still need to get immigration reform done. We still need to rebuild our infrastructure all across the country and put people back to work, and make this economy more productive. We still need to make sure that every very young child has access to early childhood education. We’ve still got work to do in terms of making sure that equal pay for equal work is realized in workplaces all across the country. We still have work to do in building on the clean energy legacy that we have established.

So, across the board, whatever your issue, the stakes could not be higher and I hope that all of you feel that same sense of urgency. I’m confident you do, but if there are any remain-

ing holdouts here—[laughter]—who need to be persuaded, hopefully, when you leave here, you don’t feel like you did what you were supposed to do and kind of checked that off the list, but instead, that you are even more enthusiastic and inspired, and you’re willing to go out there and get your friends and neighbors and get them engaged and involved the way I know you can do, because you’ve done it for me.

All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:10 p.m. at the residence of Fred Eychaner and Dan Whittaker. In his remarks, he referred to Richard S. Nadder, husband of Ms. Nadder; former Rep. Bradley S. Schneider; Raja Krishnamoorthi, president, Sivananthan Labs and Episolar, Inc.; Kim Foxx, candidate for Cook County, IL, State’s attorney; and Republican Presidential nominee Donald J. Trump. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to President Juan Manuel Santos Calderon of Colombia *October 7, 2016*

I want to congratulate my friend and partner Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee made the right decision in welcoming his tireless efforts to bring a just and lasting peace to Colombia, sending a message that in a world of conflict the pursuit of peace must be supported and encouraged. As Colombia turns away from the longest running war in the Western Hemisphere, this award is a testament to President Santos’ unwavering, courageous leadership through years of difficult negotiations. The Colombian people have shown extraordinary resilience over several decades, and they now have a chance to pursue a future defined by the progress that can come from a just and lasting peace.

Going forward, President Santos and the people of Colombia can continue to count on a

partner in the United States. The United States was proud to support the negotiations in Havana and to announce a new chapter in our relationship, Peace Colombia, which will continue our bipartisan tradition of support to Colombia by providing a framework to reinforce security gains, reintegrate former combatants into society and extend opportunity and the rule of law.

The democratic vote this week is a reminder that there is still work to be done to realize the future for which President Santos and so many citizens are striving, but it’s also a sign that the national dialogue Colombia needs is taking place now and is building on the momentum created by 4 years of difficult negotiations. President Santos and the citizens of Colombia are reshaping their country for the better, and I am pleased the Nobel Committee is recognizing their work as they keep pushing toward peace.