

Administration of Barack Obama, 2011

Exchange With Reporters Aboard Air Force One
January 3, 2011

President's Visit to Hawaii

The President. Did you guys have a little bit of fun?

Q. Happy New Year.

The President. Happy New Year. I hope you guys had a little fun. At least one guy had the right wardrobe.

Q. Did you have beans in your shaved ice? I ask this every year.

The President. No, I did not. I'm a plain shaved ice guy. No beans, no ice cream, no sweet milk on top.

Q. What were the flavors today?

The President. I went for the melon and cherry. I was——

Q. Consistent.

The President. I was consistent.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit

Q. Could the Democratic convention be out here? Have you considered bringing it out here? [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, we've got the APEC convention, so we'll be back in November. That will be a big event. So everybody is very excited about that. The mayor and Governor and all those folks are excited.

Congress/Bipartisanship

Q. A serious question: Are you concerned you're going to get a chilly reception in Washington? Republicans, on Sunday, were talking about the first thing they're going to do is repeal health care. They're talking about asking you to get rid of Eric Holder, the Attorney General. It sounds like a relatively chilly reception awaiting you.

The President. Well, I mean, I think that there's going to be politics. That's what happens in Washington. They are going to play to their base for a certain period of time. But I'm pretty confident that they're going to recognize that our job is to govern and make sure that we are delivering jobs for the American people and that we're creating a competitive economy for the 21st century; not just for this generation but the next one.

And so my expectation, my hope is that John Boehner and Mitch McConnell will realize that there will be plenty of time to campaign for 2012 in 2012 and that our job this year is to make sure that we build on the recovery. We started to make good progress on that during the lame duck, and I expect to build on that progress when I get back.

All right?

Q. What do you think about their effort to repeal health care?

Q. Anything on Larry Summers's replacement?

The President. Thank you, guys. Happy New Year.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10 p.m. while en route to Andrews Air Force Base, MD. In his remarks, he referred to Peter B. Carlisle, mayor, Honolulu, HI; and Gov. Neil Abercrombie of Hawaii. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 4. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Categories: Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters :: Air Force One.

Names: Boehner, John A.; Holder, Eric H., Jr. ; McConnell, Addison M. "Mitch".

Subjects: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); Business and industry : Global competitiveness; Congress : Bipartisanship; Economy, national : Improvement; Economy, national : Strengthening efforts; Employment and unemployment : Job creation and growth; Hawaii : President's visit; Health and medical care : Health insurance reforms; Justice, Department of : Attorney General.

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