

their bets on the energy of the past or place their bets on America's future, on American workers, American technology, American ingenuity, American-made energy.

*Audience member.* Our children.

*The President.* Our children. The—that's the choice we face. That's what's at stake right now.

And, Ohio, we know the direction that we've got to go in. Ending these oil subsidies won't bring gas prices down tomorrow. Even if we drilled every inch of America, that won't bring gas prices down tomorrow. But if we're tired of watching gas prices spike every single year, if we're tired of being caught in this position, knowing that China and India are growing—China had 10 million cars purchased in 2010 alone. You've got a billion people—2 billion people out there, who are interested in buying cars, which means that unless we develop alternatives, oil prices are going to keep on going up.

I don't want folks in the Middle East taking your money out of your pocket because we did not develop the kind of strategies that will sustain our future and our independence.

So I need all of you guys to make your voices heard. Get on the phone, write an e-mail, send a tweet, let your Members of Congress know where you stand. Tell them to do the right thing. Tell them that we can win this fight. Tell them: Yes, we can. We can build an economy that lasts. We can make this another American century. We can remind the entire world just why it is the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:27 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Michael B. Coleman of Columbus, OH; Joseph A. Alutto, provost, and Vijay Gadepally, student, Ohio State University; and Jared Sullinger, forward, Ohio State University men's basketball team.

## Statement on Congressional Passage of Legislation To Prevent Members of Congress From Engaging in Insider Trading

March 22, 2012

In my State of the Union Address, I laid out a blueprint for an economy where everyone gets a fair shot, everyone does their fair share, and everyone plays by the same set of rules, including those who have been elected to serve the American people.

Today I'm pleased Congress took bipartisan action to pass the "STOCK Act." After I sign this bill into law, Members of Congress will not

be able to trade stocks based on nonpublic information they gleaned on Capitol Hill. It's a good first step. And in the months ahead, Congress should do even more to help fight the destructive influence of money in politics and rebuild the trust between Washington and the American people.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 2038.

## Statement on the Death of John A. Payton

March 22, 2012

Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of our dear friend John Payton. As president and director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, John led the organization's involvement in five Supreme Court cases. A true champion of equality, he helped protect civil rights in the classroom and

at the ballot box. The legal community has lost a legend, and while we mourn John's passing, we will never forget his courage and fierce opposition to discrimination in all its forms.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to John's family, the many students he taught, and those who love him.