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Meditation:**Angelsu****Housekeeping:****Rainbird****[at 9:11]**

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- Still **need food** [use Western Union - only costs \$5] + gas money; rent by Aug 9th
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Hard News:**R:** as witnessing the games which are so ancient - in the midst of it, all kinds of stories

- Just being in the middle of it & also watching what is happening in Syria & Lebanon - grateful to be here
- Please forgive me; I am sorry, Thank you; I love you - Mitt the Twit or "Mitt tries to pick up the pieces" or "Romney shambles" or "Prince Charmless"!

Randi Rhodes: he is on his way to Israel: would it not make sense for the Anti Christ to go there and see what they can do as a final smack-down on the Plains of Medigo? [Olympic Games]**R:** 450 Billion years ago our universe got usurped by Mother's wayward children -

- it is 140 days more or less until Dec 21 -
- we have already moved into the 5th dimension; we are still here, because we have a job to do
- Ref to Mitt the Twit and the outrageous stories

R: Mike P filling in for Ed Schultz' radio program: spoke of Mr Bean going to England and screwing up royally -

- the anti- Christ is trying to gin up support for his campaign while Mr Obama is telling it as it is
- the holodeck is fading quickly - England is sinking deep into its recession; has taken them 7 years to put the show together and he shows up & insults them
- we are already in 2014 moving into 2015 because there are 520 years missing - about the Moabite original people, the Bantu, and many other cultures - we are all One people
- this story is in final moment and while the Olympic thing has been going on, Dr Greer has a meditation group close to stadium; they are calling ships in while the ceremony is going on

T: president of CNN is stepping down - they think he is getting arrested

R: arrests are happening every single day whether we hear it or not

T: playing Jacques Fresco again as Mike P brought it up - 3 weeks ago in Toledo, B Obama spoke of rolling out new technologies so won't need another drop of oil

R: the whole story of Lady Di, Dodi and Henri Paul will be told - the east and the west coming together

T: Tara **reads from her notes** of the interviews she has recorded & transcribed

TOPICS: Mitt in England; LIBOR; the Eurozone

- Micheal Eric Dyson standing in for **Ed Schultz**: she reads comments taken from yesterday's show
 - reviews what was said by Mitt, Mayor of London, newspaper headlines & quotes from Mitt's book
- **Eliot Spitzer's program**: About LIBOR - Bethany McQueen was on - discussing the memo written by Tim Geitner and what it means - everyone knew something was going on and everyone just accepted the fraud because this is the way things have always been done. Bethany was shocked because of this attitude: same as the attitude Eliot met when he was AG in New York

T: it is actually thousands of trillions of dollars involved, not the sums they are talking about

- Talk about Sandy Wiles, head of Citi Group, and what he said about breaking up the banks - she talks about growing investor fury with the big banks
- Eliot thinks Bethany may have come up with a theory, that Sandy Wiles is trying to divest himself of his Citi Bank stock and unleash the value and break it in two so he can get his value out of his shares!
- they discuss Sandy is to blame for effects of triumph of fraud and greed over fiduciary duty & combining the various kinds of financial services
- Mitt a spineless voice for the tired theories
- Ezra Klein, sitting in for **Rachel Maddow**: Mario Drage, European Central Bank pres [like Ben Bernanke]

T: Mike P this morning brought up the fact that the Lavender Lad is in the background!!!

- He has said this 3 days in a row

Audio: Breaking news: **Ireland Bankster being arrested and charged**

- Mr Fitzpatrick arrested at Dublin airport and brought into the court in Dublin
- charges: permitting Anglo Irish bank to give assistance to wife, children and others + others
- released on own bond, has to report every Wednesday; to appear again on Oct 8th

Caller: thought he got off easy

T: there is a higher operation going on here!

Two Callers: results of vote about small arms treaty in Congress been given yet?

T: hasn't heard - yesterday a caller said it would be voted on in UN

all Rama heard : 51 senators would oppose it = a majority. If it didn't pass in Senate, would not go to UN

T: watching the Olympics - seeing "dark" stuff: set is dark, using symbolism - using neon

Rainbird: speaking of Queen in the helicopter going to the stadium - showed a projection of queen parachuting & jumping out of the helicopter - funny!

1st Caller: she and friend tuned in energetically at 3 pm - went to a crystal shop - all of a sudden dark clouds, a horizontal, driving torrential rain storm came up in 5 minutes - did a meditation in the shop to ask the devas to ease it off - like an opening of some kind that closed up with their intervention

Rainbird: had a storm at same time: she started sending the energies there - not as dramatic

Both of them: after the storm, blue skies, puffy clouds

T: Reads Ecclesiastes Ch 3, v 1 - with commentary

1st Caller: when they sat at the table, she had her medicine bag and buffalo medicine; the change her friend received from a purchase was a 2005 quarter with a buffalo on it; now in her medicine bag

T: watch the symbolism these days

1st Caller: speaks of Gate of Grace \$33.09 was cost of the crystal gateway

3rd Caller: tell of buying something that cost \$11.11, close to 11 am

T: you called at 8:18 = 17= 8 a Cosmic Christ energy

Rainbird: today is 8 AHAU - yellow sun, a time for healing and bringing in the christ consciousness

T: 8 - the self-empowered knowledge of at-one-ment

Reading: Michael Moore's writing on Aurora, CO

[SEE BELOW]

Caller: the guns in an armoury are for the national guard, part of the US Army

T: Thom Hartmann said that the national guard had a part to play

Caller: militia members: in the old days, farmers had guns to protect families and hunt for food

- they ate meat then - didn't know about being herbivores

T: USA no longer going to be guard dogs for the world

- When NESARA comes, this changes

Caller: been talking about this since beginning of year

T: all depends on complex interplay - people have to do their part or how can the galactics come in

Caller: ?? army said to him he needed to get civilians involved to do citizens' arrests of those who violated the

T: **Drake is not in charge of anything;** he self-appointed himself and has no business saying anything - what he says has nothing to do with what is going on

Caller: then what are the people to do if they are not doing anything?

T: **the most important thing to do is wake people up to their spiritual consciousness**

- need to start at the top with the **Gnostic Commandments**

1. **love** - vegan diet,
2. **knowledge of the truth** - pillar of daily prayer - can't function from negative emotion

Caller: talks about what we are working against

T: reminds us of what M. Mead said about the commitment of a small group of people to change things and of the other ONE who taught a vegan diet 2000 years ago & had a rebellious attitude!

3. **peace** - weekly fasting - body can't heal if eating too much and if eating meat; veg juice to fast with takes 16 hours for body to detox
4. **freedom** - participation in the school of the prophets - what we are doing now - learning
- participation is the most important thing; we have the new technologies of TV and Internet

- 60% of US in drought; now glut of meat as they had to be killed because there is nothing to feed them
- We are still oblivious that this is not going to go on forever - we can grow greens inside in the winter
- the only thing that digests thoroughly is a clean body - need **organic sulphur**: it's the 8th most important element in the body; without this, need it for ingestion, digestion, redistribution in the body, best operation of the systems - 99% of people are missing it due to pollution, poor soil so maybe on 5% have enough oxygen in body
- When we eat food that are not correct for your blood type, blood agglutinates and oxygen does not get to the body [No soy in any form; no canola oil]

Caller: reaching 70; walks about 5 miles a day; can breathe with no shortness of breath

- not swimming any more but could swim back and forth underwater - water is chemically treated & polluted by other swimmers

5. **justice** - Russia has justice yet no freedom; US has some freedom, yet no justice. Justice is participation in the school of the prophets

6. **Beauty** - support the monastic / monadic institutions - Christ redefined it - not in a convent, be in the world with your family; create light communities, be with your families; support each other

- This is the lifetime where we will break through again to rejuvenation, immortality

Music: Good night Rothschilds!

Fish Hat ?

Audio: Barack Obama's speech - **Urban League - New Orleans** - July 25, 2012

[SEE BELOW]

Audio: **The Newsroom** - THIS AUDIO WAS RECORDED FROM THE tv PROGRAM -
PLEASE ACCESS THE ARCHIVES TO HEAR IT AGAIN.

Audio: Max Keiser Report **Episode 219** In this episode, Max Keiser and co-host Stacy Herbert discuss the jellyfish robot with a rat heart, aka The Perfect Banker. They also welcome the audience to the world of banking 2012 and introduce the silver dosimeter that signals exposure to toxic financial products and bad economic policies. In the second half of the show, Max talks to Mark O'Byrne of Goldcore.com about silver, gold, manipulation and the crooks put in charge of cleaning up Ireland.

Reading: Swami Purna

Closing: Rainbird

2012, July 24 –

a note from Michael Moore

Sent: Tuesday, July 24, 2012 7:21 PM It's the Guns - But We All Know, It's Not Really the Guns...

ALERT: Michael Moore will appear this evening on CNN's Piers Morgan Tonight to discuss the Aurora, Colorado theater shooting and where we go from here. Tune in at 9:00 PM ET/6:00 PM PT (replay 12:00 Midnight ET/9:00 PM PT and 3:00 AM ET/12:00 Midnight PT).

Friends,

Since Cain went nuts and whacked Abel, there have always been those humans who, for one reason or another, go temporarily or permanently insane and commit unspeakable acts of violence. There was the Roman Emperor Tiberius, who during the first century A.D. enjoyed throwing victims off a cliff on the Mediterranean island of Capri. Gilles de Rais, a French knight and ally of Joan of Arc during the middle ages, went cuckoo-for-Cocoa Puffs one day and ended up murdering hundreds of children. Just a few decades later Vlad the Impaler, the inspiration for Dracula, was killing people in Transylvania in numberless horrifying ways.

In modern times, nearly every nation has had a psychopath or two commit a mass murder, regardless of how strict their gun laws are - the crazed white supremacist in Norway one year ago Sunday, the schoolyard butcher in Dunblane, Scotland, the École Polytechnique killer in Montreal, the mass murderer in Erfurt, Germany - the list seems endless.

And now the Aurora shooter last Friday. There have always been insane people, and there always will be. But here's the difference between the rest of the world and us: We have TWO Auroras that take place *every single day of every single year!* At least 24 Americans *every day (8-9,000 a year)* are killed by people with guns - and that doesn't count the ones *accidentally* killed by guns or who commit suicide with a gun. Count them and you can triple that number to over 25,000.

That means the United States is responsible for over 80% of all the gun deaths in the 23 richest countries *combined*. Considering that the people of those countries, as human beings, are no better or worse than any of us, well, then, why us?

Both conservatives and liberals in America operate with firmly held beliefs as to "the why" of this problem. And the reason neither can find their way out of the box toward a real solution is because, in fact, they're both half right.

The right believes that the Founding Fathers, through some sort of divine decree, have guaranteed them the absolute right to own as many guns as they desire. And they will ceaselessly remind you that a gun cannot fire itself - that "Guns don't kill people, people kill people."

Of course, they know they're being intellectually dishonest (if I can use that word) when they say that about the Second Amendment because they know the men who wrote the constitution just wanted to make sure a militia could be quickly called up from amongst the farmers and merchants should the Brits decide to return and wreak some havoc.

But they are half right when they say "Guns don't kill people." I would just alter that slogan slightly to speak the real truth: "Guns don't kill people, Americans kill people."

Because we're the only ones in the first world who do this en masse. And you'll hear all stripes of Americans come up with a host of reasons so that they don't have to deal with what's really behind all this murder and mayhem.

They'll say it's the violent movies and video games that are responsible. Last time I checked, the movies and video games in Japan are *more* violent than ours - and yet usually fewer than 20 people a year are killed there with guns and in 2006 the number was two!

Others will say it's the number of broken homes that lead to all this killing. I hate to break this to you, but there

are almost as many single-parent homes in the U.K. as there are here - and yet, in Great Britain, there are usually fewer than 40 gun murders a year.

People like me will say this is all the result of the U.S. having a history and a culture of men with guns, "cowboys and Indians," "shoot first and ask questions later." And while it is true that the mass genocide of the Native Americans set a pretty ugly model to found a country on, I think it's safe to say we're not the only ones with a violent past or a penchant for genocide. Hello, Germany! That's right I'm talking about you and your history, from the Huns to the Nazis, just loving a good slaughter (as did the Japanese, and the British who ruled the world for hundreds of years - and they didn't achieve that through planting daisies). And yet in Germany, a nation of 80 million people, there are only around 200 gun murders a year.

So those countries (and many others) are just like us - except for the fact that more people here believe in God and go to church than any other Western nation.

My liberal compatriots will tell you if we just had less guns, there would be less gun deaths. And, mathematically, that would be true. If you have less arsenic in the water supply, it will kill less people. Less of anything bad - calories, smoking, reality TV - will kill far fewer people. And if we had strong gun laws that prohibited automatic and semi-automatic weapons and banned the sale of large magazines that can hold a gazillion bullets, well, then shooters like the man in Aurora would not be able to shoot so many people in just a few minutes.

But this, too, has a problem. There are plenty of guns in Canada (mostly hunting rifles) - and yet the annual gun murder count in Canada is around 200 deaths. In fact, because of its proximity, Canada's culture is very similar to ours - the kids play the same violent video games, watch the same movies and TV shows, and yet they don't grow up wanting to kill each other. Switzerland has the third-highest number of guns per capita on earth, but still a low murder rate.

So: why us?

I posed this question a decade ago in my film 'Bowling for Columbine,' and this week, I have had little to say because I feel I said what I had to say ten years ago - and it doesn't seem to have done a whole lot of good other than to now look like it was actually a crystal ball posing as a movie.

This is what I said then, and it is what I will say again today:

1. We Americans are incredibly good killers. We believe in killing as a way of accomplishing our goals. Three-quarters of our states execute criminals, even though the states with the lower murder rates are generally the states with no death penalty.

Our killing is not just historical (the slaughter of Indians and slaves and each other in a "civil" war). It is our current way of resolving whatever it is we're afraid of. It's invasion as foreign policy. Sure there's Iraq and Afghanistan - but we've been invaders since we "conquered the wild west" and now we're hooked so bad we don't even know where to invade (bin Laden wasn't hiding in Afghanistan, he was in Pakistan) or what to invade for (Saddam had zero weapons of mass destruction and nothing to do with 9/11). We send our lower classes off to do the killing, and the rest of us who don't have a loved one over there don't spend a single minute of any given day thinking about the carnage. And now we send in remote pilotless planes to kill, planes that are being controlled by faceless men in a lush, air conditioned studio in suburban Las Vegas. It is madness.

2. We are an easily frightened people and it is easy to manipulate us with fear. What are we so afraid of that we need to have 300 million guns in our homes? Who do we think is going to hurt us? Why are most of these guns in white suburban and rural homes? Maybe we should fix our race problem and our poverty problem (again, #1 in the industrialized world) and then maybe there would be fewer frustrated, frightened, angry people reaching for the gun in the drawer. Maybe we would take better care of each other (here's a good example of what I mean).

Those are my thoughts about Aurora and the violent country I am a citizen of. Like I said, I spelled it all out here if you'd like to watch it or share it for free with others. All we're lacking here, my friends, is the courage and the resolve. I'm in if you are.

Yours,
Michael Moore MMFlint@MichaelMoore.com @MMFlint MichaelMoore.com

Remarks by the President at the National Urban League Convention

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

7:00 P.M. CDT

THE PRESIDENT: Hello, Urban League! (Applause.) Thank you. It is good to be with the Urban League. (Applause.) And it's good to be in the Big Easy. (Applause.)

Now, I don't know if the fact that this is called the Morial Convention Center had anything to do with folks coming down to New Orleans -- (laughter) -- but it is good to be with all of you. And I'm glad I caught you at the beginning of the conference, before Bourbon Street has a chance to take a toll on you. (Laughter.) All right. You all stay out of trouble now. (Laughter.)

Everybody please have a seat. Have a seat.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Four more years! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: A couple of people that I want to acknowledge. Obviously, first of all, I want to acknowledge your outstanding president and CEO who has shown such extraordinary leadership for so many years -- Marc Morial. (Applause.) Just like we've got an outstanding former mayor of New Orleans, we've also got the outstanding current mayor of New Orleans -- Mitch Landrieu is in the house. (Applause.) Fine young congressman from this area -- Cedric Richmond, is here. (Applause.) And one of the best mayors in the country -- we're glad he came down from his hometown of Philadelphia -- Mayor Michael Nutter is in the house. (Applause.)

And all of you are here, and I am grateful for it. (Applause.) And we love the young people who are in the house. (Applause.) Mitch, don't you -- I wasn't referring to you, man, I was talking to those folks over there. (Laughter.) Mitch is all waving, "thank you." (Laughter.)

For nearly a century, the National Urban League has been inspiring people of every race and every religion and every walk of life to reach for the dream that lies at the heart of our founding -- the promise that no matter who you are, no matter what you look like, no matter where you came from, no matter how modest your beginnings, no matter what the circumstances of your birth, here in America, you can make it if you try. (Applause.)

Of course, this dream has never come easy. That's why the Urban League was formed. In the aftermath of the Civil War, with the South in the grips of Jim Crow, the waves of men and women who traveled north to urban centers discovered that even in their new homes, opportunity was not guaranteed. It was something you had to work for, something you had to fight for -- not just on your own, but side-by-side with people who believed in that same dream.

And so the white widow of a railroad tycoon and a black social worker from Arkansas founded what would become the Urban League, to strengthen our cities and our communities brick by brick, and block by block, and neighborhood by neighborhood, life by life.

Decades later, I arrived in one of those cities my hometown of Chicago. (Applause.) South Side! (Applause.) And I was driven by this same cause. Like many of my classmates, I felt, I understood, the pull of a hefty paycheck that might come from a more conventional job. But ultimately the pull to serve was even stronger

So I moved to the South Side of Chicago, and I took a job with a group of churches, mostly Catholic

parishes, working to help families who had no place to turn when the local steel plants shut down, and when panic-peddling had led to enormous turnover in these communities. And we worked with laypeople and local leaders to rebuild neighborhoods and improve schools, and most of all, to broaden opportunity for young people, too many who were at risk.

And I confess that progress didn't come quickly and it did not come easily. Sometimes, it didn't come at all. There were times where I thought about giving up and moving on. But what kept me going, day in and day out, was the same thing that has sustained the Urban League all these years, the same thing that sustains all of you, and that is the belief that in America, change is always possible; that our union may not be perfect, but it is perfectible; that we can strive over time through effort and sweat and blood and tears until it is the place we imagine.

It may come in fits and starts, at a pace that can be slow and frustrating. But if we are willing to push through all the doubt and the cynicism and the weariness, then, yes, we can form that more perfect union. (Applause.)

Now, the people I worked with in those early days in Chicago, they were looking for the same thing that Americans everywhere aspire to. We're not a nation of people who are looking for handouts. We certainly don't like bailouts. (Laughter.) We don't believe government should be in the business of helping people who refuse to help themselves, and we recognize not every government program works. But we do expect hard work to pay off. We do expect responsibility to be rewarded. We do expect that if you put in enough effort, you should be able to find a job that pays the bills. (Applause.) You should be able to own a home you call your own. You should be able to retire in dignity and respect. You should be able to afford the security of health care and you should be able to give your kids the best possible education. (Applause.)

That idea that everybody should have a fair shot, not just some -- that this country is special because it has grown this magnificent middle class and has provided ladders of access for those striving to get into the middle class -- that's the idea that drove me. That's the idea that has driven the Urban League. That idea that everyone should have equal opportunity -- that's what brought me to Chicago. That belief that this country works best when we are growing a strong middle class and prosperity is broad-based -- that's what led me into politics. And it is those values that have guided every decision that I have made as President of the United States. (Applause.)

Now, today we're battling our way back from a once-in-a-lifetime economic crisis. And make no mistake, we've made progress in that fight. When I took office, we were losing hundreds of thousands of jobs a month. Our auto industry was on the brink of collapse. Factories were boarding up their windows. We'd gone through almost a decade in which job growth had been sluggish, incomes had declined, costs were going up -- all culminating in the financial system coming close to a breakdown.

Today, three and a half years later, we've had 28 straight months of private sector job growth. (Applause.) Three and a half years later, the auto industry has come roaring back. (Applause.) Three and a half years later, companies are beginning to bring thousands of jobs back to American soil. (Applause.)

We still have much more work to do. There's still too many out of work, too many homes underwater, too many Americans struggling to stay afloat. So the greater challenge that faces us is not just going back to where we were back in 2007, not just settling to get back to where we were before the crisis hit. Our task is to return to an America that is thriving and growing out from our middle class, where hard work pays off -- where you can make it if you try. (Applause.)

And, Urban League, I want you to know what's holding us back from meeting these challenges is not a lack of ideas or solutions. I have no patience with people who say our best days are behind us, because the fact of the matter is we still have the best workers in the world, the best universities in the world, the best research facilities in the world, the most entrepreneurial culture in the world. (Applause.) We have all the ingredients to make the 21st century the American Century just like the 20th.

What's holding us back is a stalemate in Washington -- (applause) -- between two fundamentally different views about which path we should take as a country. (Applause.) And it's up to the American people to decide what direction we should go.

Let me tell you what I believe. I believe that strong communities are places that attract the best jobs and the newest businesses. And you don't build that kind of community by giving tax breaks to companies that are shipping jobs overseas. (Applause.) You build it by giving tax breaks to companies that create jobs in Detroit and in Cleveland and in Chicago and right here in New Orleans, right here in America -- (applause) -- using American workers, making American products that we sell around the world, stamped with three proud words -- Made In America. (Applause.)

You build it by investing in America's manufacturing base and providing the dollars for research so that we have the most advanced products in the world. You do it by investing in small businesses -- the way we've provided 18 tax breaks to small businesses since I've been in office. And if you're a company that wants to relocate in a community that's been particularly hard hit when a factory left town, I believe you should get help financing that new plant or equipment, or training for your workers -- because we can't leave anybody behind if we want to grow America the way it can grow. (Applause.)

We also believe that every entrepreneur should have the chance to start a business -- no matter who you are, no matter what you look like. (Applause.) That's why we've supported financing and assistance and exporting to small businesses across the board. That's why we've helped African American businesses and minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses gain access to more than \$7 billion in contracts and financing -- (applause) -- that allowed them to grow and create jobs.

That's why we've emphasized helping our veterans create small businesses -- because if they fought for us, they shouldn't have to fight to get financing when they get home. (Applause.) They shouldn't have to fight for a job when they come home. They shouldn't have to fight for a roof over their heads when they come home. We should honor them the way they've honored us with their service. (Applause.)

I believe strong communities are places where people can afford to buy what their local businesses sell. So I ran for President promising to cut taxes for the middle class -- and regardless of what you hear during silly political season, I have kept that promise. (Applause.) Today, taxes are \$3,600 lower for the typical family than they were when I came into office. (Applause.)

Just a few hours ago, the Senate moved forward a bill that we had promoted to keep middle-class tax cuts for 98 percent of Americans next year. (Applause.) I will add that we didn't get a lot of Republican votes -- but that's okay, they've got time. We passed it through the Senate and now is the time for the House to do the same. They should not be holding middle-class tax cuts hostage just to get more tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires. (Applause.) At a time when so many people who have a job can barely keep up with their bills, we don't need another trillion-dollar tax cut for folks like me. We need tax cuts for working Americans, not for folks who don't need it and weren't even asking for it. (Applause.)

Millions of Americans -- including more than 2 million African American families -- are better off

thanks to our extension of the child care tax credit and the earned income tax credit -- (applause) -- because nobody who works hard in America should be poor in America. That's how strong communities are built. (Applause.) And by the way when working folks have money in their pockets, businesses do well because they've got customers, and all of us grow. That's been the history of this country.

I believe strong communities are built on strong schools. (Applause.) If this country is about anything, it's about passing on even greater opportunity to the next generation. And we know that has to start before a child even walks into the classroom. It starts at home with parents who are willing to read to their children, and spend time with their children -- (applause) -- and instill a sense of curiosity and love of learning and a belief in excellence that will last a lifetime.

But it also begins with an early childhood education, which is why we've invested more in child care, and in programs like Early Head Start and Head Start that help prepare our young people for success. It's the right thing to do for America. (Applause.)

Our education policy hasn't just been based on more money, we've also called for real reform. So we challenged every state in the country to raise their standards for teaching and for learning. And three years later, nearly every state has answered the call. We have seen the biggest transformation in terms of school reform in a generation, and we've helped some of the country's lowest-performing schools make real gains in reading and math, including here in New Orleans. (Applause.)

We've made it our mission to make a higher education more affordable for every American who wants to go to school. That's why we fought to extend our college tuition tax credit for working families -- (applause) -- saving millions of families thousands of dollars.

That's why we've fought to make college more affordable for an additional 200,000 African American students by increasing Pell grants. (Applause.) That's why we've strengthened this nation's commitment to our community colleges, and to our HBCUs. (Applause.)

That's why, tomorrow, I'm establishing the first-ever White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans -- (applause) -- so that every child has greater access to a complete and competitive education from the time they're born all through the time they get a career.

And that's why we're pushing all colleges and universities to cut their costs -- (applause) -- because we can't keep asking taxpayers to subsidize skyrocketing tuition. A higher education in the 21st century cannot be a luxury. It is a vital necessity that every American should be able to afford. (Applause.) I want all these young people to be getting a higher education, and I don't want them loaded up with tens of thousands of dollars of debt just to get an education. That's how we make America great. (Applause.)

Of course, that means all of you all have got to hit the books. (Laughter.) I'm just saying. Don't cheer and then you didn't do your homework. (Laughter and applause.) Because that's part of the bargain, that's part of the bargain -- America says we will give you opportunity, but you've got to earn your success. (Applause.)

You're competing against young people in Beijing and Bangalore. They're not hanging out. (Laughter.) They're not getting over. They're not playing video games. They're not watching "Real Housewives." (Laughter.) I'm just saying. It's a two-way street. You've got to earn success. (Applause.)

That wasn't in my prepared remarks. (Laughter.) But I'm just saying. (Applause.)

I believe strong communities are places where you and your family can work and save and buy your

home. That's why we've helped more than a million responsible homeowners -- these are folks who were making their payments -- refinance their mortgages at these historically low rates, saving thousands of dollars every year. Because people who did everything right shouldn't pay the price for somebody else's irresponsibility. (Applause.)

So now we want to expand that refinancing opportunity to every homeowner who's making their payments on time.

And while we're at it, let's put construction workers back on the job -- because they've been hit by the housing bubble bursting. Let's put them back on the job not only rebuilding roads and bridges and ports, but also rehabilitating homes in communities that have been hit by foreclosures, businesses that have been hit hardest by the housing crisis. (Applause.) That creates jobs. It raises property values, and it strengthens the economy of the entire nation.

Strong communities are healthy communities. Because we believe that in the richest nation on Earth, you shouldn't go broke when you get sick. (Applause.) And after a century of trying, and a decision now from the highest court in the land, health care reform is here to stay. (Applause.) We're moving forward.

Insurance companies will no longer be able to discriminate against those who are sick. Prescription drug prices will be lower for our seniors. We're going to close that doughnut hole. Young people will be able to stay on their parent's insurance until they're 26 years old. (Applause.) Thirty million Americans without health insurance will finally know the security of affordable care. (Applause.)

We'll improve any aspect of this law, and any recommendations and suggestions that those who actually know the health care system and aren't just playing politics put forward. But we're going to implement this law and America is going to be better for it. (Applause.)

Now, I've got to say that I recognize we are in political season. But the Urban League understands that your mission transcends politics. Good jobs, quality schools, affordable health care, affordable housing -- these are all the pillars upon which communities are built. And yet, we've been reminded recently that all this matters little if these young people can't walk the streets of their neighborhood safely; if we can't send our kids to school without worrying they might get shot; if they can't go to the movies without fear of violence lurking in the shadows. (Applause.)

Our hearts break for the victims of the massacre in Aurora. (Applause.) We pray for those who were lost and we pray for those who loved them. We pray for those who are recovering with courage and with hope. And we also pray for those who succumb to the less-publicized acts of violence that plague our communities in so many cities across the country every single day. (Applause.) We can't forget about that.

Every day -- in fact, every day and a half, the number of young people we lose to violence is about the same as the number of people we lost in that movie theater. For every Columbine or Virginia Tech, there are dozens gunned down on the streets of Chicago and Atlanta, and here in New Orleans. For every Tucson or Aurora, there is daily heartbreak over young Americans shot in Milwaukee or Cleveland. Violence plagues the biggest cities, but it also plagues the smallest towns. It claims the lives of Americans of different ages and different races, and it's tied together by the fact that these young people had dreams and had futures that were cut tragically short.

And when there is an extraordinarily heartbreaking tragedy like the one we saw, there's always an outcry immediately after for action. And there's talk of new reforms, and there's talk of new legislation. And too often, those efforts are defeated by politics and by lobbying and eventually by the pull of our

collective attention elsewhere.

But what I said in the wake of Tucson was we were going to stay on this, persistently. So we've been able to take some actions on our own, recognizing that it's not always easy to get things through Congress these days. The background checks conducted on those looking to purchase firearms are now more thorough and more complete. Instead of just throwing more money at the problem of violence, the federal government is now in the trenches with communities and schools and law enforcement and faith-based institutions, with outstanding mayors like Mayor Nutter and Mayor Landrieu -- recognizing that we are stronger when we work together.

So in cities like New Orleans, we're partnering with local officials to reduce crime, using best practices. And in places like Boston and Chicago, we've been able to help connect more young people to summer jobs so that they spend less time on the streets. In cities like Detroit and Salinas, we're helping communities set up youth prevention and intervention programs that steer young people away from a life of gang violence, and towards the safety and promise of a classroom.

But even though we've taken these actions, they're not enough. Other steps to reduce violence have been met with opposition in Congress. This has been true for some time -- particularly when it touches on the issues of guns. And I, like most Americans, believe that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms. And we recognize the traditions of gun ownership that passed on from generation to generation -- that hunting and shooting are part of a cherished national heritage.

But I also believe that a lot of gun owners would agree that AK-47s belong in the hands of soldiers, not in the hands of criminals -- (applause) -- that they belong on the battlefield of war, not on the streets of our cities. I believe the majority of gun owners would agree that we should do everything possible to prevent criminals and fugitives from purchasing weapons; that we should check someone's criminal record before they can check out a gun seller; that a mentally unbalanced individual should not be able to get his hands on a gun so easily. (Applause.) These steps shouldn't be controversial. They should be common sense.

So I'm going to continue to work with members of both parties, and with religious groups and with civic organizations, to arrive at a consensus around violence reduction -- not just of gun violence, but violence at every level, on every step, looking at everything we can do to reduce violence and keep our children safe -- from improving mental health services for troubled youth -- (applause) -- to instituting more effective community policing strategies. We should leave no stone unturned, and recognize that we have no greater mission as a country than keeping our young people safe. (Applause.)

And as we do so, as we convene these conversations, let's be clear: Even as we debate government's role, we have to understand that when a child opens fire on another child, there's a hole in that child's heart that government alone can't fill. (Applause.) It's up to us, as parents and as neighbors and as teachers and as mentors, to make sure our young people don't have that void inside them.

It's up to us to spend more time with them, to pay more attention to them, to show them more love so that they learn to love themselves -- (applause) -- so that they learn to love one another, so that they grow up knowing what it is to walk a mile in somebody else's shoes and to view the world through somebody else's eyes. It's up to us to provide the path toward a life worth living; toward a future that holds greater possibility than taking offense because somebody stepped on your sneakers.

That's the difference that we can make in our children's lives and in the lives of our communities. That's the legacy we must leave for the next generation. (Applause.)

Now, this will not be easy. Even though it's called the Big Easy, this proud city and those who call it

home, they know something about hardship. They've been battered again and again in this new century: One of the worst natural disasters in our history, the worst environmental disaster in our history, the worst economic crisis most of us have ever known. So sometimes being from the Big Easy means knowing hardship and heartbreak. (Applause.)

But what this city also knows is resilience, and determination, and heroism. (Applause.) That's one of the reasons it is one of America's jewels. It's quintessentially American because of its resilience.

There is no shortage of citizens in this city who's stepped up in the darkest of times. And one person I want to end with is somebody that many of you know -- the superintendent of schools in St. Bernard's Parish, Doris Voitier. Now, when Katrina's waters rose, Doris and the faculty and staff of Chalmette High School saved the lives of hundreds of their neighbors, many of them old and sick, by moving them to shelter in the school's second floor.

Two days later, they led 1,200 people to safety. (Applause.) The day after that, with her community in ruins, the superintendent was on her way to Baton Rouge to make sure her schools would open that fall. "Failure is not an option" became her motto. When some government officials gave her the runaround, she plowed ahead on her own -- secured loans, finding portable classrooms and books, and doing everything it took to make sure her kids -- our kids -- could return to some semblance of normalcy.

When an official told her a gas line wouldn't be repaired in time for school to reopen, and that her kids might have to eat MREs, she hired a local restaurant owner to cook hot lunches on a barge and sent FEMA the bill. (Applause.) On the first day of school, less than three months after Katrina swept ashore, she heard a young child, who'd endured nearly three months of suffering and hardship, yell out loud, "Real food! Real food!"

Of that first night she said, "There were no riots; there were no disruptions; there were just hundreds of people just like you and the person sitting next to you, in the blink of an eye, having lost everything they had worked for over their entire lifetimes, who now looked to us for rescue. And we accepted that responsibility because that's what school people do." (Applause.)

Now, obviously, the superintendent is an exceptional educator and an exceptional citizen. But as I've traveled around the country, what I've discovered is that's not just what school people do. That's not -- that's what Americans do. (Applause.) That's what Americans, at their best, do. When I traveled to Joplin, Missouri, that's what folks in Joplin do. When I go to Aurora, that's what people in Colorado do. (Applause.) In urban communities all across America, that's what you do.

For more than two centuries, our journey has never been easy, and our victories have never come quickly. And we have faced our share of struggles and setbacks and climbs that have seemed too steep -- just like we do today. But we know what we're fighting for. We can see the America we believe in -- a country where everybody gets a fair shot and everybody is doing their fair share, where everybody is playing by the same set of rules. And if we don't keep fighting as hard as we know how for that America, if we don't keep fighting for better jobs and better schools and a better future, who will? (Applause.)

That's our challenge. We don't quit. Folks in New Orleans didn't quit. Americans don't quit. (Applause.) We accept responsibility. We keep on going. We keep marching. We keep moving forward. Failure is not an option. (Applause.) This is not a time for cynics. It is not a time for doubters. It is time for believers. It is time for folks who have faith in the future.

I still believe in you. And if you still believe in me, I ask you to stand with me, march with me, fight with me. (Applause.) And as I do, I promise we will finish what we started, turn this economy around, seize our future, and remind the world why the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth. (Applause.)

Thank you, Urban League. God bless you. (Applause.) God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

7:40 P.M. CDT