



# Dreams From My Second Term: More Speeches

***Paul Ryan: "As If That's The Whole Problem Here?...These Past Four Years We Have Suffered No Shortage Of Words In The White House"***

## **OBAMA TELLS TIME'S MICHAEL SCHERER THAT HE WANTS TO CONTINUE TELLING STORIES DURING HIS SECOND TERM ABOUT AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

**In An Interview With *TIME*, Obama Said In A Second Term He Wants To Continue To Tell The Story Of How He Is Focused On The Economy.** TIME'S MICHAEL SCHERER: "You said that one of the mistakes you see in the first term was not telling that story better. What does it mean to tell the story better in the next four years?" OBAMA: "...And that's a story that I'm doing my best to tell during the campaign. That's a story that I will continue to try to tell, if I'm fortunate enough to have a second term, in inaugurations, in States of the Union. I want to make sure that people understand that I've got a focus on growing this economy, not growing the public sector, but doing enough to ensure that we've got the best workers in the world, we've got the best technology in the world, and we're competitive in the 21st century." (Michael Scherer, "What He Knows Now: Obama on Popularity, Partisanship and Getting Things Done in Washington," [TIME](#), 8/30/12)

**FLASHBACK:** In July, Obama Said The Biggest Mistake Of His First Term Was "Putting Policy Over Storytelling." "President Obama's biggest mistake during his first term, he told CBS News in an exclusive interview, has been putting policy over storytelling." (Lindsey Boerma, "Obama Reflects On His Biggest Mistake As President," [CBS](#), 7/12/12)

- **Obama: "In My First Two Years, I Think The Notion Was, 'Well, He's Been Juggling And Managing A Lot Of Stuff, But Where's The Story That Tells Us Where He's Going?'"** "When I think about what we've done well and what we haven't done well,' the president said, 'the mistake of my first term - couple of years - was thinking that this job was just about getting the policy right. And that's important. But the nature of this office is also to tell a story to the American people that gives them a sense of unity and purpose and optimism, especially during tough times.' Mr. Obama acknowledged the dissonance between others' perception of his strength as an expert orator, and his own. 'It's funny - when I ran, everybody said, well he can give a good speech but can he actually manage the job?' he said. 'And in my first two years, I think the notion was, 'Well, he's been juggling and managing a lot of stuff, but where's the story that tells us where he's going?' And I think that was a legitimate criticism.'" (Lindsey Boerma, "Obama Reflects On His Biggest Mistake As President," [CBS](#), 7/12/12)

## OBAMA WOULDN'T NEED TO TELL A STORY ABOUT THE ECONOMY IMPROVING IF THE ECONOMY WAS ACTUALLY IMPROVING

***The Associated Press:*** "The President Can't Tell Voters About A Grand Economic Comeback Story Because There Isn't One To Tell." (Ken Thomas, "Obama Doesn't Emphasize Issues He Fought Hard For," [The Associated Press](#), 6/12/12)

- **Focus Group Participants When Asked What Obama Had Accomplished After Three Years In Office "Responded With Blank Stares And Silence."** "They expressed disappointment with the job Obama has done so far on the economy. When asked about what accomplishments he'd achieved in his three years in office, many of the women responded with blank stares and silence. In Richmond, the question hung in the air for a while until finally one woman piped up, 'His wife is encouraging us to eat healthy.'" (Amy Walter, "Can Romney Convince Walmart Moms He's Up To The Job?" [ABC News](#), 6/8/12)

### ***Obama Has To Tell Stories Because Across The Board His Policies Have Failed***

**Jobs:** Since President Obama Took Office, The Nation Has Lost 316,000 Jobs And The Unemployment Rate Has Remained Above Eight Percent For 42 Straight Months. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/30/12)

**Unemployment:** 23.6 Million Americans Are Either Unemployed, Underemployed Or Have Given Up Looking For Work. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/30/12)

**Long-Term Unemployment:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Duration Of Unemployment Has Nearly Doubled From 19.8 Weeks To 38.8 Weeks. ([Bureau Of Labor Statistics](#), Accessed 8/30/12)

**Net Worth:** "The Net Worth Of The American Family Has Fallen To Its Lowest Level In Two Decades." (Ylan Q. Mui, "Fed: Americans' Wealth Dropped 40 Percent," [The Washington Post](#), 6/11/12)

**Median Household Income:** "Real Median Household Income In March Was Down \$4,300 Since Obama Took Office In January 2009 ..." (Mike Dorning, "Obama Fails To Stem Middle-Class Slide He Blamed On Bush," [Bloomberg](#), 4/30/12)

**Savings:** 23.4 Percent Of Families Have No Savings At All, Up From 18.5 Percent In 2009. (Christine Dugas, "Recession Added Debt, Drained Families' Savings," [USA Today](#), 5/12/12)

**Government Assistance:** "49.1%: Percent Of The Population That Lives In A Household Where At Least One Member Received Some Type Of Government Benefit In The First Quarter Of 2011." (Phil Izzo, "Number Of The Week: Half Of U.S. Lives In Household Getting Benefits," [The Wall Street Journal's "Real Time Economics"](#), 5/26/12)

**Food Stamps:** Since President Obama Took Office, The Number Of Americans Receiving Food Stamps Has Increased From 31.9 Million To 46.5 Million, A 45 Percent Increase. ([Department Of Agriculture](#), 7/26/12)

**Poverty:** 97.3 Million Americans Now Qualify As Low-Income And Another 49.1 Million Are In Poverty; Together, 146.4 Million Americans Or 48 Percent Of The Population. ([U.S. Census Bureau](#), Accessed 8/30/12)

**Health Care Premiums:** Under Obama, The Average Cost Of Family Health Care Premiums Have Increased From \$12,680 To \$15,073. ("Employer Health Benefits, 2011 Annual Survey, Exhibit 1.11" [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), 2011)

**Gas Prices:** Since Obama Took Office, The Average Price Per Gallon Of Gas Has Increased From \$1.847 To \$3.776. ("Gasoline And Diesel Fuel Update," [U.S. Energy And Information Administration](#), Accessed 8/30/12)

**Food Prices:** Since Obama Became President, The Monthly Price Of A Moderate-Cost Food Plan For A Family Of Four With Young Children Has Increased From \$819.40 To \$861.60. ("Official USDA Food Plans: Cost Of Food At Home At Four Levels, U.S. Average, January 2009," [USDA](#), 2/09; "Official USDA Food Plans: Cost Of Food At Home At Four Levels, U.S. Average, June 2012," [USDA](#), 7/12)

**College Tuition:** Since President Obama Took Office, The Average Cost Of In-State Tuition At A Four Year College Has Risen From \$6,585 To \$8,244, A 25 Percent Increase. ("Trends In College Pricing 2009," College Board, 2008; "Trends In College Pricing 2011," [College Board](#), 2011)