

Fred Hochberg:

Let me just wrap up, with a few quick comments, and then we'll be on our way. I thought it was interesting in listening to Susan Rice. We didn't coordinate on our speeches, but she talked about, "We have a choice." The choice that I talked about, it feels like a long time ago, yesterday morning, "Whether we're going to lead, or be left behind, or retreat." I thought that was significant, and that is something I'd like to leave you all with. I also recall that when Susan Rice talked about the President, and the National Export Initiative, we went up to, now we're exporting at \$2.3-trillion. As Madame Lagard reminded us, yesterday, we've had considerable headwinds, and as global trade is running at half the level it used to run. If I can leave you with those two thoughts.

I want to make sure we acknowledge a few people who really helped put this together, and so just bear with me for a moment. First, actually I want to thank, they probably can't hear me, the people in the kitchen staff, the waiters and everybody else at the hotel that made a spectacular job. (applause) Also, behind the scenes, Capital Meeting Planning. Matt Burdetsky, I think he's back there somewhere. (applause) In case you're wondering, the voice of God, was not really God himself. It was Russell Gordon, who has done this year, after year. Let's give Russell a round of applause. (applause) Our Communications team: we would not have this great conference without them, and I'm going to single out just a couple of people. First, Nicki Shepherd, who has been doing this for 24 years. (applause) Nicki said to me a few years ago, "Are we ever going to have a woman as a keynote speaker?" We tried to make sure we got two this year. Thank you, Nick. (applause)

Also, Catrell Brown, who is vice-president of Public Affairs. As well as, Dan Fluty, who helped do a lot of the thinking, pulling this together. Let's give the three of them a round of applause. (applause) Of course, everybody who ran the breakout sessions, our Export Finance team, Policy team. We had a lot of volunteers. Let me just leave you with this. Next year, we will be meeting on April 7th and 8th. It's actually right in the heart of Cherry Blossom Season, so we hope we can keep you in the building. You will also be getting an email within the next few days, for feedback on the panels, what you thought of the conference, how to make it better. One of the things we changed this year: We made our breakout sessions much more like workshops. I visited almost; I think I visited eight or seven of the nine of them. They were really full.

That was really because of your feedback. You gave us feedback, on "What would you like to have at the conference." The better you can give us feedback; we'll do even a better job next year. We're committed to make this a better and better conference, each year. With that, I want

you to just go forth: Keep exporting, Keeping adding to our employment.
Keep making America stronger and greater country. Thank you so much.
(applause) (music)