

I want to thank Dr. Randolph for giving me this opportunity to come here this morning.

I am here today for one purpose and that is to apologize so there can be no misunderstanding. When I was asked about this on Friday I apologized for it. I am truly sorry for any offense I have caused. My remark was clearly inappropriate and I apologize for writing it.

Since that time I have written a letter of apology to Mrs. Obama and have given Lonnie a copy of it though I have made no effort to make it public.

My comment was offensive and a flippant remark made without thinking. It was wrong and foolish, and I deeply regret it and any pain it has produced.

I do not want to compound my indefensible words other than to offer each of you as I have Mrs. Obama my complete and total apology for any offense I have caused.

I have embarrassed myself as well as my friends and associates and the members of my family. All I can do is ask you to forgive me.
