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Obama: 'I Can Do Whatever I Want'

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President Obama "quipped" today during a visit to Monticello with the French president, "That's the good thing about being president, I can do whatever I want."

Via the pool report:

Monticello

At 4:45 POTUS and president Hollande walked out from a portico and strolled in front of your pool with Leslie Bowman, president of the Monticello Foundation. Looking at a terrace she said that Jefferson loved to admire the landscape from there. POTUS said that he'd like to take a look and seemed delighted to "break the protocol".

"That's the good thing as a President, I can do whatever I want" he quipped, walking to the terrace with his guest and Ms. Bowman. Pool now in the mansion as the leaders will come and visit Jefferson's study.

The comment came around the time the White House announced it would be delaying the Obamacare mandate for some businesses unilaterally.

The French president is here in the U.S. on a state visit.

More notes from the pool:

Monticello

POTUS and pres Hollande paid a short visit to the study as your pool was looking through an alcove over president Jefferson's bed. They admired contraptions invented by Jefferson to read and write more efficiently such as a lectern and a "polygraph". Hollande noticed that one of the books was written in French.

Monticello

At 5:15 your pool squeezed itself into Monticello's basement kitchen where POTUS and pres Hollande we're listening to Ms Bowman's explanations on the estate featuring the same plants than the ones used in French cooking. The kitchen featured a clock for precision, unheard of back in the day. POTUS and Hollande kept a low voice so it was hard to understand what they were saying. Photo op was over after two minutes. Now holding for statements. They'll happen in the foyer, near two busts of Turgot and Voltaire.

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