

new in Washington. We will invest in what works. Instead of politicians doling out money behind a veil of secrecy, decisions about where we invest will be made public on the Internet and will be informed by independent experts whenever possible.

We will launch a sweeping effort to root out waste, inefficiency, and unnecessary spending in our Government, and every American will be able to see how and where we spend taxpayer dollars by going to a new web site called *recovery.gov*, because I firmly believe what Justice Louis Brandeis once said, that “sunlight is the best disinfectant,” and I know that restoring transparency is not only the surest way to achieve results but also to earn back the trust in government without which we cannot deliver the changes the American people sent us here to make.

In the end, the answer to our economic troubles rests less in my hands, or in the hands of our legislators, than it does with America’s workers and the businesses that employ them.

They are the ones whose efforts and ideas will determine our economic destiny, just as they always have. For in the end, it’s businesses, large and small, that generate the jobs, provide the salaries, and serve as the foundation on which the American people’s lives and dreams depend. All we can do, those of us here in Washington, is help create a favorable climate in which workers can prosper, businesses can thrive, and our economy can grow. And that is exactly what the recovery plan I’ve proposed is intended to do. And that’s exactly what I intend to achieve soon.

Thank you very much for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:35 a.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Samuel J. Palmisano, chairman of the board and chief executive officer, IBM Corporation; and David M. Cote, chairman and chief executive officer, Honeywell International.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Arlington, Virginia *January 28, 2009*

Well, sorry we’re running a little bit late. I want to, first of all, thank all the men and women in uniform who are represented here. They are the best that this country has to offer. And the first thing that I said to the Joint Chiefs in this meeting was how grateful we are for their service. The sacrifices that they and their families make are what are responsible for our freedoms that sometimes we take for granted.

And as Commander in Chief, one of my principal goals during my Presidency is going to be to make sure that they have the resources and the support that they need to carry out the critical missions that keep our Nation safe each and every day.

I had a wonderful discussion with the Joint Chiefs—we kind of lost track of time—about a range of issues facing our military as well as the threats that face this Nation, both short term and long term. We had discussions about Iraq as well as Afghanistan. We talked about some of

the broader global risks that may arise and the kind of planning and coordination that’s going to be required between our military and our civilian forces in order to accomplish our long-term national security objectives.

We also talked about making sure that the health of our force is always in our sights. And I know that all the Chiefs that are represented here, as well as Secretary Gates, are constantly thinking about what we need to do to make sure that people who are in uniform for the United States are getting the kinds of support that they need, and that their families are getting the support that they need. And that’s something that I’m absolutely committed to, and I know that Vice President Biden is as well.

We’re going to have some difficult decisions that we’re going to have to make surrounding Iraq and Afghanistan, most immediately. Obviously, our efforts to continue to go after extremist organizations that would do harm to the

homeland is uppermost on our minds. I have every confidence that our military is going to do their job, and I intend to make sure that the civilian side of the ledger does its job to support what they are doing.

We have, for a long time, put enormous pressure on our military to carry out a whole set of missions, sometimes not with the sort of strategic support and the use of all aspects of American power to make sure that they're not carrying the full load. And that's something that I spoke with the Chiefs about and that I intend to change as President of the United States.

So again, my first message was to say thank you. And in addition, it's to say that you, all of you who are serving in the United States Armed Forces, are going to have my full support, and one of my duties as President is going to be to make sure that you have what you need to accomplish your missions, and we are grateful to you.

So all right, thank you, guys. I'm going to shake some more hands now.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:06 p.m. at the Pentagon.

## Statement on House of Representatives Passage of Economic Stabilization Legislation *January 28, 2009*

Last year, America lost 2.6 million jobs. On Monday alone, we learned that some of our biggest employers plan to cut another 55,000. This is a wakeup call to Washington that the American people need us to act and act immediately.

That is why I am grateful to the House of Representatives for moving the American recovery and reinvestment plan forward today. There are many numbers in this plan. It will double our capacity to generate renewable energy. It will lower the cost of health care by billions and improve its quality. It will modernize thousands of classrooms and send more kids to college. And it will put billions of dollars in immediate tax relief into the pockets of working families.

But out of all these numbers, there is one that matters most to me: This recovery plan

will save or create more than 3 million new jobs over the next few years.

I can also promise that my administration will administer this recovery plan with a level of transparency and accountability never before seen in Washington. Once it is passed, every American will be able to go the web site [recovery.gov](http://recovery.gov) and see how and where their money is being spent.

The plan now moves to the Senate, and I hope that we can continue to strengthen this plan before it gets to my desk. But what we can't do is drag our feet or allow the same partisan differences to get in our way. We must move swiftly and boldly to put Americans back to work, and that is exactly what this plan begins to do.

## Remarks on Signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 *January 29, 2009*

All right, everybody please have a seat. Well, this is a wonderful day. First of all, it is fitting that the very first bill that I sign—the Lilly Ledbetter fair pay restoration act—that it is upholding one of this Nation's founding

principles, that we are all created equal and each deserve a chance to pursue our own version of happiness.

It's also fitting that we're joined today by the woman after whom this bill is named;