

ty is trying to hurt our senior citizens; that the other party is doing X, Y, Z.

That's why I say if we're going to frame these debates in ways that allow us to solve them, then we can't start off by figuring out, A, who's to blame, B, how can we make the American people afraid of the other side. And unfortunately, that's how our politics works right now. And that's how a lot of our discussion works. That's how we start off. Every time somebody speaks in Congress, the first thing they do, they stand up and all the talking points—I see Frank Luntz up here sitting in the front. He's already polled it, and he said, you know, the way you're really going to—I've done a focus group, and the way we're going to really box in Obama on this one, or make Pelosi look bad on that one—I know—I like Frank, we've had conversations between Frank and I. But that's how we operate. It's all tactics, and it's not solving problems.

And so the question is, at what point can we have a serious conversation about Medicare and its long-term liability, or a serious question about—a serious conversation about Social Security, or a serious conversation about budget and debt in which we're not simply trying to position ourselves politically? That's what I'm committed to doing. We won't agree all the time in getting it done, but I'm committed to doing it.

## Statement on Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day January 29, 2010

During these difficult economic times, America's working families are struggling to make ends meet and they deserve relief, especially during tax season. The earned-income tax credit gives millions of working families the break they need, and thanks to the Recovery Act, more Americans will qualify for an even larger credit than ever before. The Recovery

Q. Mr. President, can you take one more?

*The President.* You know, I've already gone over time.

*Rep. Pence.* He's gone way over, gentlemen—

*The President.* But I'll be happy to take your question, Congressman, offline.

*Rep. Pence.* Yes.

*The President.* You can give me a call.

Q. I will.

*The President.* All right, thank you, everybody. God bless you.

*Rep. Pence.* Thank you, the President of the United States.

*The President.* God bless the United States of America. Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. at the Renaissance Baltimore Harborplace Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Warren E. Buffett, chief executive officer and chairman, Berkshire Hathaway Inc; Gov. Joseph Manchin III of West Virginia; Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services William Corr, former executive director, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; former Sens. Robert J. Dole, Howard H. Baker, Jr., and Thomas A. Daschle; State Sen. William E. Brady, Illinois gubernatorial candidate; and Frank I. Luntz, chairman emeritus, Luntz, Maslansky Strategic Research.

Act expanded the earned-income tax credit for larger families struggling to get by and cut the marriage penalty that millions of families face. But too many Americans are not aware that they qualify for the credit, so I urge people to visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), where you can also learn more about other tax breaks available for working Americans this year.

## Message on the Observance of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Day of Remembrance *January 29, 2010*

For more than a half century, NASA has explored our final frontier and transformed humankind's understanding of our planet and its place in the universe. These extraordinary achievements have required great sacrifice.

On this day of remembrance, we pause to reflect on the Apollo 1, *Challenger*, and *Columbia* crews, as well as others who lost their lives supporting NASA's mission of exploration and study of the Earth, the planets, and the stars. All

of humanity has benefited from their courage and devotion.

We mourn their loss while celebrating their spirit of discovery. May their sacrifice be an inspiration as we continue our Nation's work to explore our universe.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

## The President's Weekly Address *January 30, 2010*

At this time last year, amidst headlines about banks on the verge of collapse and job losses of 700,000 a month, we received another troubling piece of news about our economy. Our economy was shrinking at an alarming rate, the largest 6-month decline in 50 years. Our factories and farms were producing less, our businesses were selling less, and more job losses were on the horizon.

One year later, according to numbers released this past week, this trend has reversed itself. For the past 6 months, our economy has been growing again. And last quarter, it grew more quickly than at any time in the past 6 years.

This is a sign of progress. And it's an affirmation of the difficult decisions we made last year to pull our financial system back from the brink and get our economy moving again.

But when so many people are still struggling, when 1 in 10 Americans still can't find work and millions more are working harder and longer for less, our mission isn't just to grow the economy. It's to grow jobs for folks who want them and ensure wages that are rising for those who have them. It's not just about improvements we see in quarterly statistics, but ones people feel in their daily lives: a bigger paycheck, more security, the ability to give your kids a decent shot in life and still have enough to retire one day.

That's why job creation will be our number-one focus in 2010. We'll put more Americans back to work rebuilding our infrastructure all across the country. And since the true engines of job creation are America's businesses, I've proposed tax credits to help them hire new workers, raise wages, and invest in new plants and equipment. I also want to eliminate all capital gains taxes on small-business investment and help small businesses to get the loans they need to open their doors and expand their operations.

But as we work to create jobs, it is critical that we rein in the budget deficits we've been accumulating for far too long, deficits that won't just burden our children and grandchildren, but could damage our markets, drive up our interest rates, and jeopardize our recovery right now.

There are certain core principles our families and businesses follow when they sit down to do their own budgets. They accept that they can't get everything they want, and they focus on what they really need. They make tough decisions and sacrifice for their kids. They don't spend what they don't have, and they make do with what they've got.

It's time their Government did the same. That's why I'm pleased that the Senate has just restored the pay-as-you-go law that was in place back in the 1990s. It's no coincidence that we