

The same is true when it comes to reforming our education system. The same is true when it comes to trying to make our health care system more affordable. The same is true when it comes to energy. Each of these things are hard. Some of them have some costs on the front end, and working stuff through Congress is more than a notion. *[Laughter]* But by taking these steps we'll help foster the kind of broadly shared growth that will serve us in the years and the decades to come.

That's how we'll create the conditions for businesses to expand and hire. That's how we'll truly grow our middle class again. That's how

we'll not only rebuild our economy, but we'll rebuild it stronger than it was before this crisis.

I am confident that we can do it. Savannah Tech is leading the way, a whole bunch of folks in this room are leading the way, and I just hope that Washington stands alongside you in making sure that we've got the kind of energy future that we need.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:31 p.m.

Remarks Following a Tour of Meddin Studios and an Exchange With Reporters in Savannah March 2, 2010

Q. Mr. President, what has impressed you about Meddin Studios? What do you see here that—

The President. Well, look, the—if you think about the two businesses we just visited, on the one hand you've got old-line manufacturing at a steel company that is in its third generation, but they've been able to adapt to a tough manufacturing environment and succeed, mainly around customer service, being able to turn around orders very quickly, specialized orders.

These guys here at Meddin, I think, are doing a similar concept, which is that whatever the customer needs in terms of film production, digital production, sound, you name it, they've got it all under one roof. And what it means is that anybody who comes here is going to be able to, from soup to nuts, do what they need to do very effectively.

The main reason that we wanted to highlight what they're doing is they took advantage of an

SBA loan to get this thing started. And I was just finding out how that experience was. I'm sort of doing a customer satisfaction survey here—*[laughter]*—with our SBA loans, and it sounds like it really was helpful in terms of making sure that these guys could get started with the business idea that they had, and it doesn't sound like, without it, they would have been able to get moving as quickly as they did.

So it's a testimony, I think, to the good work that the SBA is doing. It's an example of the kinds of additional capital we want to get out to small businesses and medium-sized businesses as part of the jobs package that hopefully will be working its way through Congress in the next several weeks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:46 p.m. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Senate Passage of Legislation Temporarily Extending Unemployment Insurance and Other Programs March 2, 2010

During these difficult economic times, supporting American workers, their families, and our small businesses must be everyone's focus.

The bill passed tonight by the Senate will extend access to health care benefits for workers who have lost their jobs, help small businesses