

responsible budget that cuts what we can't afford, sharpens America's competitive edge in the world, and helps us win the future.

Thanks, everybody, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 3:55 p.m. on February 25 in the Dip-

lomatic Reception Room at the White House for broadcast on February 26. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 25, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on February 26.

Statement on Government Reforms in Bahrain *February 27, 2011*

I welcome the announcement by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa about making important changes to the Cabinet and restating his commitment to reform. The United States supports the national dialogue initiative led by Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa and encourages a process that is meaningful, inclusive, nonsectarian, and responsive to the people of Bahrain. The dialogue offers an op-

portunity for meaningful reform and for all Bahrainis to forge a more just future together. As a longstanding partner of Bahrain, the United States continues to believe that Bahrain's stability will be enhanced by respecting the universal rights of the people of Bahrain and reforms that meet the aspirations of all Bahrainis.

Remarks at the National Governors Association Dinner *February 27, 2011*

Well, good evening, everybody. Welcome to the White House. I want to start by acknowledging your outstanding chair, Christine Gregoire, for her wonderful work, and your vice chair, Dave Heineman, for his wonderful work. Thank you very much.

I want to welcome some of you back, and I want to welcome those who are here for the first time. I know some of you may be confused and think this is the Oscars. *[Laughter]* There are some similarities. First of all, everybody looks spectacular. And the second thing is, if I speak too long, the music will start playing. *[Laughter]* So I'm going to be very brief.

I know that the last couple of years have not been easy in a lot of your States. People have been struggling. Folks have lost jobs. Businesses have shuttered. We went through the toughest recession since the Great Depression. And nobody has felt it more than folks back home, and you see it each and every day. You have to respond in ways that go beyond just ideology or rhetoric.

The thing about Governors is you're in charge and people know where to find you and they expect you to help them during tough times. And many of you over the last 2 years have done extraordinary work. Many of you are expected for the next 2 years, next 4 years, or however long it may be, to do extraordinary work.

The main message I want to deliver tonight, in addition to asking you to have some fun this evening, is to know that you've got a partner here in the White House. If you look around the room, we come from a lot of different parts of the country, and people may have different perspectives, but one thing that we all absolutely share is the belief in the American Dream and the confidence that when our people get opportunities, they've got the ingenuity and the stick-to-it-ness and the drive to succeed.

And our job is to make sure that we are doing everything possible to ensure that each child gets a good education; that somebody who has a great idea is able to start a business