

up actually seeing money lost or opportunities lost because of a Government shutdown.

And then finally, there's going to be an effect on the economy overall. Earlier today one of our Nation's top economists said, and I'm quoting here: "The economic damage from a Government shutdown would mount very quickly, and the longer it dragged on, the greater the odds of a renewed recession."

We've been working very hard over the last 2 years to get this economy back on its feet. We've now seen 13 months of job growth; a hundred—1.8 million new jobs. We had the best report—jobs report that we'd seen in a very long time just this past Friday. For us to go backwards because Washington couldn't get its act together is unacceptable.

So again, 800,000 Federal workers and their families impacted, millions of people who are reliant on Government services not getting those services, businesses, farmers, veterans, and finally, overall impact on the economy that could end up severely hampering our recovery and our ability to put people back to work.

That's what's at stake. That's why it's important to the American people. That's why I'm

expecting that as a consequence of the good work that's done by our staffs tonight, that we can reach an agreement tomorrow.

But let me just point out one last thing. What I've said to the Speaker and what I've said to Harry Reid is because the machinery of the shutdown is necessarily starting to move, I expect an answer in the morning. And my hope is, is that I'll be able to announce to the American people sometime relatively early in the day that a shutdown has been averted, that a deal has been completed that has very meaningful cuts in a wide variety of categories that helps us move in the direction of living within our means, but preserves our investments in things like education and innovation, research, that are going to be important for our long-term competitiveness.

That's what I hope to be able to announce tomorrow. There's no certainty yet, but I expect an answer sometime early in the day.

All right. Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House.

## Statement on the First Anniversary of the Death of President Lech Kaczynski of Poland and His Delegation

*April 8, 2011*

As the people of Poland mark 1 year since the tragic deaths of President Lech Kaczynski, First Lady Maria Kaczynska, and their delegation, I join with the American people, including many Polish Americans, in honoring the memory of these 96 Polish patriots. The images of the wreckage in Smolensk and the loss of so many extraordinary civilian and military leaders who guided Poland to democracy and prosperity broke our hearts. But it was the inspiring

scenes of people coming together in streets filled with candles and flowers, both in Poland and the United States, that revealed the true strength, resilience, and faith of the Polish spirit, as well as the unbreakable bonds between our two countries. Poland is one of America's strongest and closest allies, and I look forward to deepening these enduring ties and carrying on the work of those who perished 1 year ago this Sunday, when I visit Warsaw next month.

## Statement on the Situation in Syria

*April 8, 2011*

I strongly condemn the abhorrent violence committed against peaceful protesters by the Syrian Government today and over the past

few weeks. I also condemn any use of violence by protesters. The United States extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of