

be leaving the National Counterterrorism Center, the counterterrorism community, and the

Nation in a significantly stronger position to confront the terrorist threats we face.

Statement on Russia Day

June 10, 2011

I join the American people in sending my best wishes to all those who are celebrating Russia Day. Since the first Congress of the Russian Federation declared a new sovereign nation on June 12, 1992, the United States and Russia have worked to build a relationship that makes both our nations more secure and more prosperous. Together, we have reduced our

nuclear arsenals, expanded trade and commerce, and deepened the ties between our people. Here in the United States, we are grateful for the many Russian Americans who have helped to strengthen our country and who play a vital role in bringing the Russian and American people even closer.

The President's Weekly Address

June 11, 2011

Hello, everyone. I want to spend a couple minutes talking with you today about our economy. We've just come through the worst recession since the Great Depression, and while our economy as a whole has been growing and adding private sector jobs, too many folks are still struggling to get back on their feet. I wish I could tell you there was a quick fix to our economic problems, but the truth is, we didn't get into this mess overnight, and we won't get out of it overnight. It's going to take time.

The good news is, when it comes to job creation and economic growth, there are certain things we know we can do. Now, government is not and should not be the main engine of job creation in this country. That's the role of the private sector. But one thing government can do is partner with the private sector to make sure that every worker has the necessary skills for the jobs they're applying for.

On Wednesday, I announced commitments by the private sector, colleges, and the National Association of Manufacturers that will make it possible for 500,000 community college students to get a manufacturing credential that has the industry's stamp of approval. If you're a company that's hiring, you'll know that anyone who has this degree has the skills you're looking for. If you're a student considering commu-

nity college, you'll know that your diploma will give you a leg up in the job market.

On Monday, I'll travel to North Carolina, where I'll meet with my jobs council and talk about additional steps we can take to spur private sector hiring in the short term and ensure our workers have the skills and training they need in this economy.

There are also a few other things we know will help grow our economy and give people good jobs that support a middle class lifestyle. We know that a quality education is a prerequisite for success, so we're challenging States and school districts to improve teaching and learning and making it a national goal to once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

We know that more and more jobs are being created in the clean energy sector, so we're investing in wind power, solar power, and biofuels that will make us less dependent on foreign oil and clean up our planet for our children. These are steps we know will make a difference in people's lives, not just 20 years from now or 10 years from now, but now and in the months to come.

In the end, the folks I hear from in letters or meet when I travel across the country, they aren't asking for much. They're just looking for a job that covers their bills. They're looking for a

little financial security. They want to know that if they work hard and live within their means, everything will be all right. They'll be able to get ahead and give their kids a better life. That's the dream each of us has for ourselves and our families. And so long as I have the privilege of serving as President, I'll keep fighting to put that dream within the reach of all Americans.

Have a great weekend, everybody.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 11:30 a.m. on June 10 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on June 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 10, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on June 11.

Remarks During a Meeting With the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness in Durham, North Carolina *June 13, 2011*

Well, listen, first of all, I just want to thank everybody for the seriousness, the diligence that you've displayed already on this jobs council. When we formed this we understood that we had averted the worst possibilities of a Great Depression. We'd gotten the economy growing again. We had stabilized the financial system. So we had made great strides from where we had been in 2008. But we understood even though jobs were being created, they were not being created fast enough.

And I've said this before, I will say it again: I wake up every single morning thinking about how can I make sure that anybody who wants a job is able to get a job. And that's what I think about when I go to bed at night. And I am absolutely confident about America's prospects for the 21st century, but we do have some challenges. And these challenges predated the financial crisis that we had in 2008. If you look at what had happened between 2001 and 2008, job growth was slow even when the economy was growing at a pretty good clip.

So we've got a combination of factors, as Jeff said, that come into how do we create jobs. I cannot think of a better group of people to help us tackle it than those who are sitting around the table.

A couple of just points that I would make so far. Over the last 15 months, we have seen over 2 million jobs created. And prior to this month, we had seen job growth at a pretty good clip for the previous 3 months. So we had some good reports. This last one showed that job creation has not moved as quickly as we'd like.

Now, there are some headwinds that all of us are aware of. High gas prices, I think, had a depressing effect on consumer confidence. It is something that I think was offset to some degree by the payroll tax cut that we initiated in December. That's made a difference in helping families to absorb it. But when you're reminded every single day that your costs are going up, that's going to constrain how you think about spending and investment and so forth. So that's been a challenge.

Europe is still uncertain. And what's happening with respect to the situation with Greece, that's something that's created a headwind for some businesses. And I also note that Washington getting its act together and making sure that we've got a credible plan for not simply raising the debt limit, but also medium- and long-term deficit reduction is going to be something that's critically important and we're spending a lot of time focused on.

The other thing that we had heard in the last meeting was the question of regulation and regulatory uncertainty. And I took this very much to heart. As I've said before, I am a big believer that it's important for us to have core regulations that help protect consumers from being taken advantage of, that protect our air and water. I think everybody here around this table recognizes that having a smart regulatory structure can actually enhance market competitiveness. But it's also important to make sure that these regulations are serving a purpose and that the benefits exceed the cost.