

they didn't care, because he was the toughest guy in the unit. It happens when a video sparks a movement to let every single young person know they're not alone and things will get better. It happens when people look past their ultimately minor differences to see themselves in the hopes and struggles of their fellow human beings. That's where change is happening.

And that's not just the story of the gay rights movement. That's the story of America, the slow, inexorable march towards a more perfect

Union. You are contributing to that story, and I'm confident we can continue to write another chapter together.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:26 p.m. at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to musicians Stefani J.A. "Lady Gaga" Germanotta and Cyndi Lauper; and Joe Solmonese, president, Human Rights Campaign.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters October 3, 2011

The President. All right, good morning, everybody. I am pulling my Cabinet together to talk about the one topic that's on everybody's minds, and that is how do we put America back to work.

Each of the Secretaries and heads of agencies have been assigned to look at what we can do administratively to accelerate job growth over the next several months. And working with the Jobs Council that we've set up, working with the private sector, we have been looking for a wide range of ideas of administrative action we can take. A good example would be, for example, accelerating the payments to small businesses so that they've got better cash flow, trying to figure out ways that we can be working in the housing market without congressional action to provide some relief for homeowners.

But ultimately, we still have to have congressional action. It's been several weeks now since I sent up the "American Jobs Act." And as I've been saying on the road, I want it back. I'm ready to sign it. And so my expectation is, is that now that we're in the month of October that we will schedule a vote before the end of this month. I'll be talking to Senator Reid, McConnell, as well as Speaker Boehner and Nancy Pelosi, and insisting that we have a vote on this bill.

We've been hearing from Republicans that there are some proposals that they're interested in. That is not surprising, since the contents to the "American Jobs Act" includes proposals that, in the past, have been supported by Republicans

and Democratic—Democrats alike. And if there are aspects of the bill that they don't like, they should tell us what it is that they're not willing to go for. They should tell us what it is that they're prepared to see move forward.

I have to tell you that I can't imagine any American that I've been talking to that's not interested in seeing construction workers back on the job rebuilding roads and bridges, schools, airports, putting teachers back in the classroom to make sure that our kids are getting the very best education, making sure our vets get help when they come home and that small businesses have further incentive to hire them.

So I'm very much looking forward to seeing Congress debate this bill, pass it, get it to my desk, so we can start putting hundreds of thousands and millions of Americans back to work. And I will be continuing to put as much pressure as I can bring to bear on my administration and our agencies to do everything we can without Congress's help. But ultimately, they've got to do the right thing for the American people.

All right? Thank you very much, everybody.

Trade Agreements

Q. Are you sending those trade agreements up, sir?

The President. We'll have an announcement on that in the next day or so.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:17 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.