

going to be an election, and we're going to have a convention right here in North Carolina. But that convention is 11 months away. The election is 13 months away. And folks can't afford to wait that long.

They can't sit around just listening to a bunch of political arguments. They need action, and they need it now. Because folks are living paycheck to paycheck. There are folks who are living week to week. And I don't accept the idea that in the face of that kind of hardship that we're going to stand by and do nothing. That's not who we are. We are Americans. And you know what, we keep working at things until we get them fixed.

Yes, we had a problem with the financial crisis, and the economy is not where it needs to be, but we can fix it. We just got to stay on it. We got to be persistent. We got to keep on trying things until folks are back to work and the economy is growing again. And we've got to muster that spirit right now: a "can do" spirit. Not a "no, we can't" spirit, but a "yes, we can"

spirit. We don't need a "why we can't" attitude, we need a "why we can" attitude.

I know that sometimes everybody watches television, and you see what's going on in Washington, and you get discouraged. But I just want you to remember that we've been through tougher times before. This is a country that's been through a Revolutionary War, a Civil War. We got through slavery. We got through a depression. We got through World War I. We got through World War II. We have been through tougher times before. We are going to get through this, and we're going to get through it together. Because Americans don't quit.

So let's meet this moment. Let's get to work. And let's show the world once again why the United States of America is the greatest nation on Earth.

God bless you. God bless North Carolina. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:08 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen C. Laws, superintendent, Wilkes County Schools; and Gov. Beverly E. Perdue of North Carolina.

Statement on the Death of Elouise P. Cobell *October 17, 2011*

Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of Elouise Cobell yesterday. Elouise spoke out when she saw that the Interior Department had failed to account for billions of dollars that they were supposed to collect on behalf of more than 300,000 of her fellow Native Americans. Because she did, I was able to sign into law a piece of legislation that finally provided a measure of justice to those who were affected. That law also creates a scholarship fund to give more Native Americans ac-

cess to higher education and give tribes more control over their own lands. Elouise helped to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country, and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and all those who mourn her passing.

NOTE: The statement referred to Public Law No. 111-291, the Claims Resolution Act of 2010, which was approved on December 8, 2010.

Remarks Prior to a Roundtable Discussion With Educators in Jamestown, North Carolina *October 18, 2011*

Hope you're enjoying the beautiful North Carolina day. We are here to talk to both teachers and soon-to-be teachers and folks who are training teachers and talking about

the importance of education to the economy.

I think all of us are aware at this point that, in this 21st-century global economy, how well