

and the Arab world, that there's nothing unique in aspiring to freedom and human rights and democracy. This is something that all people want to enjoy, and I'm very pleased that the Libyan people are going to have the opportunity to do so. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

Q. Thank you.

President Obama. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:16 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

## Statement on Azerbaijan's Independence Day *October 20, 2011*

On behalf of the American people, I want to extend my best wishes to all those who are celebrating Azerbaijan's Independence Day in Azerbaijan, in the United States, and around the world. This 20th anniversary of independence and Azerbaijan's achievements

during this time demonstrate the extraordinary promise and determination of the Azeri people. The United States is committed to developing greater opportunities to work with the Government and people of Azerbaijan.

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of John E. Bryson as Secretary of Commerce *October 20, 2011*

As Secretary of Commerce, John Bryson will be a key member of my economic team, working with the business community to promote job creation, foster growth, and help open up new markets around the world for American-made goods. At such a critical time for our economy, I nominated John because I believe

his decades of experience both in the public and private sector have given him a clear understanding of what it takes to put America on a stronger economic footing and create jobs. I'm confident he will help us do that, and I look forward to working closely with him in the months and years ahead.

## Statement on Senate Action on Job Growth Legislation *October 20, 2011*

For the second time in 2 weeks, every single Republican in the United States Senate has chosen to obstruct a bill that would create jobs and get our economy going again. That's unacceptable. We must do what's right for the country and pass the commonsense proposals in the "American Jobs Act." Every Senate Republican voted to block a bill that would help middle class families and keep hundreds of thousands of firefighters on the job, police officers on the streets, and teachers in the classroom when our kids need them most.

Those Americans deserve an explanation as to why they don't deserve those jobs, and every American deserves an explanation as to why

Republicans refuse to step up to the plate and do what's necessary to create jobs and grow the economy right now.

We must rebuild the economy the American way and restore security for the middle class based on the values of balance and fairness. Independent economists have said the "American Jobs Act" could create up to 2 million jobs next year. So the choice is clear. Our fight isn't over. We will keep working with Congress to bring up the "American Jobs Act" piece by piece and give Republicans another chance to put country before party and help us put the American people back to work.