

That's who we're here to serve. That's why we're supposed to be carrying out these responsibilities. It's why we should be avoiding these kinds of constant brinkmanship. It's something that we do in the ordinary process of this extraordinary system of Government that we have. You don't get to extract a ransom for doing your job, for doing what you're supposed to be doing anyway, or just because there's a law there that you don't like.

The American people sent us here to govern. They sent us here to make sure that we're doing everything we can to make their lives a little bit better: to create new jobs, to restore economic security, to rebuild the prospects of upward mobility. That's what they expect.

And they understand that there are differences between the parties, and we're going to be having some tough fights around those differences. And I respect the fact that the other party is not supposed to agree with me a hundred percent of the time, just like I don't agree with them. But they do also expect that we

don't bring the entire Government to a halt or the entire economy to a halt just because of those differences.

And that's what they deserve. They've worked too hard, for too long to recover from previous crises just to have folks here in Washington manufacture yet another one that they have to dig themselves out of.

So Congress needs to keep our Government open, needs to pay our bills on time, and never, ever threaten the full faith and credit of the United States of America. And time is running out. My hope and expectation is that in the eleventh hour, once again, that Congress will choose to do the right thing and that the House of Representatives, in particular, will choose the right thing.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.J. Res. 59.

Remarks Prior to a Cabinet Meeting *September 30, 2013*

This is my Cabinet. And we're going to be discussing the impacts, potentially, of the shut-down and how all these various agencies will be managing to make sure the core essential functions continue, but also, obviously, to help try to manage what's going to be a very difficult potential situation for the employees of all these agencies, who are doing outstanding and very difficult work all across the country.

So I appreciate all the members of the Cabinet who are here. They have been doing a lot

of planning. I wish they were spending more time focusing on how to grow jobs and the economy as opposed to having to spend time figuring out how they manage a Government shutdown. But as always, they're prepared. And we'll be getting a full briefing from the entire crew during the course of this meeting.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:19 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House.

Remarks on the Federal Government Shutdown and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act *October 1, 2013*

Good morning, everybody. At midnight last night, for the first time in 17 years, Republicans in Congress chose to shut down the Federal Government. Let me be more specific: One faction of one party in one House of Con-

gress in one branch of Government shut down major parts of the Government, all because they didn't like one law.

This Republican shutdown did not have to happen. But I want every American to under-