

work through what exactly the rules are governing the relationship between each country and make sure that there are no misunderstandings. And I think that we have gone a long way in closing some of the gaps, but as Chancellor Merkel said, there are still some gaps that need to be worked through.

But I think what we can be confident about is that the basic approach that we take with Germany is similar to the approach that we take with all our allies and all our friends and that during the course of the last several years as technology advanced, I think there was a danger in which traditional expectations tipped over because of new technologies. And what we've tried to do is make sure that our policies now reflect increased capabilities and, as a consequence, increased dangers of intrusions in privacy.

But let me put it this way: Our interest in working effectively with the Germans and to making sure that German governments as well as the German people feel confident about what we do is as important to us as any other country. Germany is at the top of our list in terms of friends and allies and colleagues, and so we're not holding back from doing something with Germany that we somehow do with somebody else.

Chancellor Merkel. I think the whole debate, Mr.—[inaudible]—has shown that the situation is such that we have a few difficulties

yet to overcome. So this is why there's going to be this cyber dialogue between our two countries, and this is also why there needs to be and will have to be more than just business as usual. I mean, looking at the discussion not only in the German Parliament, but also among members of the German Government and also in the German public, we need to do that.

But it's very good that we have taken these first steps, and what's still dividing us—issues, for example, of proportionality, and the like—will be addressed. We will work on this, and it's going to be on the agenda for the next few weeks to come.

President Obama. Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:07 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Col. Axel Schneider, who led the team of Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) monitors detained in Kramatorsk, Ukraine, on April 25; and former National Security Agency contractor Edward J. Snowden, who is accused of leaking classified documents to members of the news media. A reporter referred to President François Hollande of France. Chancellor Merkel and some reporters spoke in German, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

The President's Weekly Address

May 3, 2014

Hi, everybody. My number-one priority as President is doing whatever I can to create more jobs and opportunity for hard-working families. And yesterday we learned that businesses added 273,000 jobs last month. All told, our businesses have now created 9.2 million new jobs over 50 consecutive months of job growth.

But we need to keep going, to create more good jobs and give middle class families a sense of security. And I want to work with Congress to do it.

But so far this year, Republicans in Congress have blocked or voted down every serious idea to create jobs and strengthen the middle class. They've said no to raising the minimum wage, no to equal pay for equal work, and no to restoring the unemployment insurance they let expire for more than 2 million Americans looking for a new job.

That's not what we need right now. Not when there are still too many folks out of work and too many families working harder than ever just to get by.

That's why, in my State of the Union Address, I said that in this year of action, whenever I can act on my own to create jobs and expand opportunity for more Americans, I will. And since January, I've taken more than 20 executive actions to do just that.

I acted to raise more workers' wages by requiring that workers on new Federal contracts earn a fair wage of at least \$10.10 an hour, and as long as Republicans in Congress refuse to act, I'll keep working with cities, States, and businesses to give more Americans a raise. I acted to encourage more pay transparency and strengthen enforcement of equal pay laws so that more women have the tools they need to earn fair pay. And I'm modernizing regulations to make sure that more Americans who work overtime get the pay that they've earned. I've launched new hubs to help attract more high-tech manufacturing jobs to America and ordered a reform of job training programs to make sure more Americans can earn the skills that employers need right now. I've brought together business leaders to help us connect more classrooms to high-speed Internet and

give more of the long-term unemployed a better shot at finding a job.

Each of these steps will make a difference. You can check out the full list at whitehouse.gov. But we could do a lot more if Republicans in Congress were less interested in stacking the deck in favor of those at the top and more interested in growing the economy for everybody. They've now voted more than 50 times to take apart the Affordable Care Act. Imagine if they voted 50 times on serious jobs bills.

That's why I'm going to take action on my own wherever I can: to grow our economy from the middle out, not the top down; to give every American who works hard a chance to get ahead. That's what this year of action is all about, and that's what I'm going to keep fighting for.

Thanks, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:30 p.m. on May 2 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on May 3. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 2, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on May 3.

Statement on the Death of Former Representative James L. Oberstar May 3, 2014

Michelle and I were saddened to hear about the passing of Congressman Jim Oberstar. Jim cared deeply about the people of Minnesota, devoting his 36 years of service to improving America's infrastructure, creating opportunity

for hard-working Minnesotans, and building a strong economy for future generations of Americans. Jim will be deeply missed, and Michelle and I send our condolences to his wife Jean, his children, and grandchildren.

Remarks at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner May 3, 2014

The President. Thank you so much. Everybody, have a seat, have a seat. Before I get started, can we get the new Presidential setup out here?

[*At this point, aides placed two fern plants beside the podium.*]

It's worked before. [*Laughter*] That's more like it.

It is great to be back. What a year, huh? I usually start these dinners with a few self-deprecating jokes. After my stellar 2013, what could I possibly talk about? [*Laughter*]

I admit it, last year was rough. Sheesh. [*Laughter*] At one point, things got so bad, the 47 percent called Mitt Romney to apologize. [*Laughter*]