

The city is even testing out futuristic technologies like 3-D holograms. And here's what their former mayor said: "It's like having"—"It's like being the first city to have fire." [Laughter] "We don't know all of the things we can do with it yet."

Yet. But think about that. And when you're first in something, when you figure something out, you may not know all the applications right away, but that's the spirit of America: imagining what might come next. We may not always know what's right around the corner, but we know we'll figure it out as long as we're bold and we go ahead and work together.

We've been through some very hard times. We didn't always know those hard times were coming, but we pulled together, we worked together, we relied on each other, we believed in each other, and we figured it out.

We're blessed with the greatest natural resource in the world—not corn—[laughter]—

but the pluck and the ingenuity and the willingness to take risks of the American people. And I'm absolutely confident, if we just give Americans the tools they need, if we just help lay the foundation and allow them to access the amazing opportunities and technologies at this moment in world history, we're not just going to continue recovering from a bad recession, we're going to ignite the next generation of American innovation. And it's going to start right here in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Marc Reifennath, president, Spinutech; William N. Ruud, president, University of Northern Iowa; Sen. Cory S. Gardner; and former Mayor Ron C. Littlefield of Chattanooga, TN.

Remarks at Charmington's Cafe in Baltimore, Maryland January 15, 2015

Hello, everybody. I want to thank Amanda and the whole crew here at this wonderful coffee shop. And I also want to thank Vika and Mary, as well as the senior Senator from the State of Maryland, Barbara Mikulski.

We've had a great conversation about the announcements I'm making today and that I'll amplify in the State of the Union about how can we support working families so that they have the tools to succeed in this new economy.

Now, part of the reality of the new economy is that 60 percent of households have at—two people working, and if they've got kids or they've got an ailing parent, juggling both doing right by their families and making a living can be tough.

Now, one of the biggest problems that we have is that there are 43 million Americans who don't get paid sick leave, which, when you think about, is a pretty astonishing statistic. And that means that no matter how sick they are or how sick a family member is, they may find themselves having to choose to be able to

buy groceries or pay the rent or look after themselves or their children.

And part of the reason we wanted to have this conversation here was because Amanda, is part of the cooperative that opened this coffee shop, is really adamant, as a small business, in looking after their employees and providing paid sick leave, in making sure that they're paying above minimum wage. And what Amanda's found—and we've heard this from a lot of employers—is, is that when they make that investment in their employees it pays dividends because the employees are more productive, there's lower turnover, there's greater productivity. And in fact, both large and small companies, it turns out, end up being more profitable over the long term, because, typically, any organization and certainly business is only going to be as good as its people.

We had a chance to hear from Mary, who is a school nurse as well as a small-businesswoman, and Mary made the point that even now, she finds herself in a situation where during flu season, you've got a kid who is at school, has a

bad flu, she needs to call the parent to try to get them to pick up their kid, and the parent can't do it because they risk losing their job or losing a big chunk of their paycheck. And that obviously puts everybody else's kids at risk because you've got a sick child who can infect others.

Vika talked about a time in her life when she was basically a consultant, having small children and trying to juggle looking after them. And each time that she had to take a day off, that might cost her \$150, which, when you're a young family getting started, that's going to have an impact on whether or not you can save to ultimately buy a home or start putting away savings for a college education.

So this is an issue that spans geography, spans demographics. Working families, middle class folks all across the country are concerned about it. And the good news is, we really can do something about it.

So today I'm going to be announcing our support and advocacy on behalf of a national 7-days—7 sick-day policy all across the country. And we're going to go beat the drum across cities and States to encourage not only that these laws are adopted nationally, but also that employers start adopting these policies as well.

And we're also going to help cities and States study and look at the feasibility of paid sick leave generally—or, excuse me, paid family leave generally, because we already have laws in place, the Family Medical Leave Act, that allows people to take the time off to look after their sick child or sick parent, but unfor-

tunately, a lot of people just can't afford to take advantage of it.

So the good news is, the economy has picked up speed. We are past the point of crisis. We've seen 58 straight months of job growth. We have seen 11 million jobs created. The economy is stable and is building momentum. Now we have to make sure that that economy is benefiting everybody.

And by adopting this working families agenda, thinking about how we can provide more flexibility to families, thinking about how we can make sure that moms and dads don't have to choose between looking after their kids and doing what they need to do at work, thinking about all those families that are now trying to care for an aging parent—that kind of flexibility ultimately is going to make our economy stronger and is just one piece of what needs to be a really aggressive push to ensure that if you work hard in this country, then you can make it.

So I just want to thank this outstanding venue. The food was great. And I ate a little too much, but that's okay; it was off camera. [Laughter] I want to thank Mary, Vika, Amanda, and somebody who has been a champion for working families here in Maryland and across the country for a very long time, Barbara Mikulski.

All right? Thanks, guys.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:46 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Amanda Rothschild, co-owner and managing partner, Charming-ton's; Morvika Jordan, accounts payable analyst, Addit Healthcare, LLC; and Mary Stein, nurse, Howard County Public Schools.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom

January 16, 2015

President Obama. Please have a seat. Good afternoon, everybody.

This month marks a notable anniversary: 200 years since the Battle of New Orleans. Now, here in America, we call it a great victory over a mighty United Kingdom. Our British friends call it a technicality. [Laughter] The

treaty ending the war was signed weeks before.

Either way, we've long since made up. On this 200th anniversary of a great American victory, we count the United Kingdom as one of our greatest friends and strongest allies. And today it's a great pleasure to welcome Prime