

since before you were born. And you also happen to go to a school [in a town]^o that for a long time has suffered from a chronic unwillingness to come together and make tough choices. And so I forgive you for thinking that maybe there isn't much we can do to rise to this challenge. Maybe some of you are feeling kind of cynical or skeptical about whether we're actually going to solve this problem. But everything I have seen and experienced with your generation convinces me otherwise.

I think that precisely because you are coming of age at a time of such rapid and sometimes unsettling change, born into a world with fewer walls, educated in an era of constant information, tempered by war and economic turmoil, because that's the world in which you're coming of age, I think you believe as deeply as any of our previous generations that America can change and it can change for the better.

We need that. We need you to dream big. We need you to summon that same spirit of unbridled optimism and that bold willingness to tackle tough challenges and see those challenges through that led previous generations to rise to greatness: to save a democracy, to touch the Moon, to connect the world with our own science and our own imagination.

That's what America is capable of. That's what you have to push America to do, and it will be you that pushes it. That history of ours, of meeting challenges, that's your birthright. You understand that there's no problem out there that is not within our power to solve.

I don't want to leave this challenge for future Presidents. I don't want to leave it for my children. I don't want to leave it for your children. So yes, solving it will take time, and it will take effort. It will require our brightest scientists, our most creative companies. It will require all of us, Democrats, Republicans, and everybody in between, to do our part. But with confidence in America and in ourselves and in one another, I know this is a challenge that we will solve.

Thank you very much, everybody. God bless you. God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:36 a.m. in McDonough Memorial Gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to John J. DeGioia, president, John Thompson III, men's basketball head coach, and John Thompson, Jr., former men's basketball head coach, Georgetown University; and T. Boone Pickens, founder, BP Capital, L.P.

Statement on the Appointment of Princeton N. Lyman as United States Special Envoy to Sudan *March 31, 2011*

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Ambassador Princeton N. Lyman as the new U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan. With a lifetime of experience working on some of Africa's most pressing challenges, Ambassador Lyman is uniquely qualified to sustain our efforts in support of a peaceful and prosperous future for the Sudanese people. I also want to thank my friend Scott Gration for his tireless and effective work as my previous Special Envoy. As the State Department's senior adviser on Sudan north-south negotiations since last August, Ambassador Lyman worked closely with Gen-

eral Gration as part of the American diplomatic effort that led to an historic and peaceful independence referendum for South Sudan.

I was proud to nominate General Gration as our next Ambassador to Kenya, and I am grateful that Ambassador Lyman has agreed to take on this new assignment and sustain the progress that has been made. In his new capacity, Ambassador Lyman will oversee our support for full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, reduced tensions between north and south over the status of Abyei, the birth of an independent South Su-

^o White House correction.

dan on July 9, 2011, and a definitive end to the conflict in Darfur. In those efforts, he has my full support and confidence.

Just as the United States depended on his diplomatic skills to help support the peaceful transition from apartheid to democracy when

he was U.S. Ambassador to South Africa, I am confident that Ambassador Lyman's deep knowledge of the African Continent will advance U.S. interests and the aspirations of the Sudanese people during this time of transformative change in Sudan.

Remarks at a UPS Customer Center in Landover, Maryland April 1, 2011

Thank you. Hello, everybody. Thank you so much. Everybody, please have a seat.

I am thrilled to be here, proud to be joined here today by two of our outstanding Cabinet Secretaries, Steven Chu and Ray LaHood. Where are Steven Chu and Ray? There they are over there. We're here today for a simple reason: Ray wasn't home when they tried to deliver a package yesterday—[laughter]—so we thought we'd just grab it and be on our way. [Laughter] I've been working him too hard.

In addition to Steve and Ray, we also have the attorney general of Maryland, Doug Gansler, is here. And we've got one of the finest Senators in the United States Senate, from Maryland, Ben Cardin is in the house.

We actually didn't come here for—to grab a package. We're actually here to announce an exciting new partnership between the Federal Government and some of America's leading companies, a partnership that will help reduce our dependence on oil, that will protect our planet, and will spur economic growth.

I gave a speech about this earlier this week, and I laid out a blueprint that will put America on a path toward a clean energy future. I know a lot of folks have been feeling the pinch of higher gas prices lately, whether you're filling up your tank or you're running a business like UPS. And usually, it's times like these when everybody starts saying we should do something about our dependence on oil. And when prices go back down, we forget about it and we move on until the next crisis hits.

The point I made earlier this week is that we can't keep on doing that. That's not how we should conduct our energy policy in this country. We can't go from shock to trance, rushing the proposed action when gas prices rise and

then hitting the snooze button when they go back down. We've got to have a steady, sustained, smart strategy. And at a time when we're addressing instability overseas, we know this is a national security issue, and it's a huge economic issue.

Nearly 2 years after one of the worst recessions in our history—certainly the worst one in our lifetimes—our economy is showing signs of real strength. Today we learned that we added 230,000 private sector jobs last month, and that's good news. That means more packages. [Laughter] Right? That makes 1.8 million private sector jobs created in the last 13 months. And the unemployment rate has now fallen a full point in the last 4 months. And the last time that happened was during the recovery in 1984, where we saw such a significant drop in the unemployment rate.

Now, despite that good news, everybody here knows we've got a lot of more work to do. There are still millions of Americans out there that are looking for a job that pays the bills. I know there's a lot going on in the world right now, and so the news has been captured by the images of the Middle East and what's happening—the tragedy to our friends in Japan.

And I'm focused on those issues, but you should know that keeping the economy going and making sure jobs are available is the first thing I think about when I wake up in the morning and it's the last thing I think about when I go to bed each night. And I will not be satisfied until every American who wants a good job can find one and every American gets a shot at the American Dream. That's what we're focused on. That's what we're fighting for.

So although we got good news today, we have to keep the momentum going. And making the