

Now, we've got a ways to go. Even though our economy has created more than 2 million private sector jobs over the past 15 months and continues to grow, we're facing some tough headwinds. Lately it's high gas prices, the earthquake in Japan, and unease about the European fiscal situation. That's going to happen from time to time. There are going to be bumps on the road to recovery.

We know that. But we also know what's happened here at this Chrysler plant. We know that hard-working Americans like Jill helped turn this company and this industry around. That's the American story. We're a people who don't give up, who do big things, who shape our own destiny. And I'm absolutely confident

that if we hold on to that spirit, our best days are still ahead of us.

Thanks for tuning in, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:25 p.m. on June 3 at the Chrysler Toledo Assembly Complex in Toledo, OH, for broadcast on June 4. In the address, the President referred to Jan L. McClain, mother, Robert McClain, Sr., stepfather, Christopher J. Opial, husband, and Carter J. and Jenna E. Opial, children, of Chrysler Toledo Assembly Complex employee Jill L. Opial. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on June 4.

Statement on the Death of Lawrence S. Eagleburger June 4, 2011

With the passing of former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, our Nation has lost a distinguished diplomat and public servant. Through more than four decades of service, first in the Army and then as a dedicated Foreign Service officer and statesman, Lawrence Eagleburger devoted his life to the security of our Nation and to strengthening our ties with allies and partners. As Deputy Secretary and then Secretary of State under President

George H.W. Bush, he helped our Nation navigate the pivotal days during the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the cold war. Our Nation is grateful for Secretary Eagleburger's lifetime of service, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family, especially his three sons.

NOTE: The statement referred to L. Scott, L. Andrew, and L. Jason Eagleburger, sons of former Secretary Eagleburger.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany June 7, 2011

President Obama. Good morning, everybody.

Audience members. Good morning.

President Obama. Chancellor Merkel, members of the German delegation: On behalf of Michelle and myself, it is our great pleasure to welcome you back to the White House, and on behalf of the American people, it is our great honor to welcome you back to the United States.

Today marks the first official visit and state dinner for a European leader during my Presi-

dency. It's only fitting. The transatlantic alliance is the cornerstone, is the heart, of our efforts to promote peace and prosperity around the world. And Germany, at the heart of Europe, is one of our strongest allies. And Chancellor Merkel is one of my closest global partners.

Our alliance, at its core, is a partnership between our peoples: the generations of German Americans who helped build a strong America; the Americans who, during a long cold war, helped to defend a free Germany; and citizens of both our countries—entrepreneurs, innova-

tors, students, scientists, and soldiers—who work together and forge the future every day.

At a time when some have asked whether the rise of new global powers means the decline of others, this visit reaffirms an enduring truth. Our alliances with nations like Germany are more important than ever. Indeed, they're indispensable to global security and prosperity.

As two of the largest and most dynamic economies, the United States and Germany can show that the prosperity we seek is best achieved when nations invest in our greatest resource: our people and their ability to compete and innovate in the 21st century.

As members of the most successful alliance in human history, our commitment to our common defense is also a pillar of global security, from completing our mission in Afghanistan to preventing terrorist attacks to achieving our vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

And finally, as people around the world imagine a different future, the story of Germany and our alliance in the 20th century shows what's possible in the 21st. Wars can end. Adversaries can become allies. Walls can come down. At long last, nations can be whole and can be free.

Madam Chancellor, the arc of our lives speaks to this spirit. It's obvious that neither of us looks exactly like the leaders who preceded us. [*Laughter*] But the fact that we can stand here today, as President of the United States and as Chancellor of a united Germany, is a testament to the progress, the freedom, that is possible in our world.

Chancellor Merkel, to the members of the German delegation: We are honored to have all of you here, as allies, as partners, but most of all, as dear friends. *So herzlich willkommen.*

Chancellor Merkel. Mr. President, dear Barack, dear Michelle, Mr. Vice President, members of both Cabinets, guests of honor, my fellow countrymen, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you very much for this very warm and very moving reception that is overwhelming. I am indeed delighted—and I say this on behalf of all of the members of my delegation—to be back in Washington, DC, again.

About 20 months ago—and this was almost 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall—I had the great honor and privilege to address both Houses of Congress, a wonderful moment. And I'm certain this day today shall be another such unforgettable moment.

Mr. President, receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom from you tonight is something that I consider to be not only an exceptionally gracious gesture of appreciation, and I see this as a gesture of appreciation for the whole of this united Germany. It is also a testimony of the very, very close ties that bind our two countries together.

We Germans know that America has always been a true friend to us. Our friendship has grown and matured throughout the decades, and every day it is filled with new life. More than 600,000 Americans are working for German companies here in the United States. And the reverse is also true: More than 600,000 Germans work for American companies in Germany.

There are many and diverse exchange programs at schools and universities, and they help us to win over numerous young people to serve as bridge builders between our two countries. Seventeen million members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their families have lived in Germany ever since the Second World War. And they have served their country with honor and distinction and rendered an inestimable service to their country and to us. The more than 50,000 American soldiers who are currently stationed in Germany are more than welcome every day.

I could mention many more examples of the close ties that bind our two countries together, but let me underline one thing in particular. When Germany and Europe were divided by the wall and barbed wire, America consistently stood on the side of freedom and resolutely stood by us Germans as we made our way towards unity and freedom, and this we shall never forget.

Today, we are just as closely linked to each other by the bonds of friendship as we were those 20 years ago. We are standing on a firm foundation, and standing and supported by this

firm foundation, we tackle the current challenges we both face. Germany and the United States are partners, sharing responsibility for a peaceful and stable Afghanistan. We are pulling in the same direction trying to keep Iran from following its course of developing a nuclear forces capability. In North Africa, we support the struggle for freedom. And in the Middle East, we support efforts to fill the peace process with new life. Together, we mastered the aftershock of the global economic and financial crisis.

Yes, Germany and the United States do share the same values: democracy and freedom, rule of law, and the universality of human rights. And it is for this very reason that a close partnership with the United States is just as much part and parcel of Germany's *raison d'être* as is European integration. Both belong

together. Both are and remain the pillars of German foreign policy.

[At this point, Chancellor Merkel concluded her remarks in English.]

Mr. President, dear Barack, in Berlin in 2008, you spoke to more than 200,000 people. And in your address, you said America has no better partner than Europe. And now it's my turn to say Europe and Germany have no better partner than America. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:36 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House, where Chancellor Merkel was accorded a formal welcome with full military honors. Chancellor Merkel spoke partly in German, and those portions of her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

The President's News Conference With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany June 7, 2011

President Obama. Please, everyone, have a seat. Good morning again. It is an honor to welcome my good friend and partner Chancellor Merkel back to the White House. We had a wonderful dinner last night, one on one—although, as you saw again this morning, Angela's English is much better than my German.

Michelle and I are very much looking forward to hosting the Chancellor and Professor Sauer at tonight's state dinner, where I'll have the privilege of presenting Angela with the Medal of Freedom.

As I said earlier, Germany is one of our strongest allies. We see our partnership in the drive of our workers and businesses who sustain the largest trade relationships in the world. We see it in the students and teachers, the scientists and researchers who are unlocking new innovations, including the clean, renewable energy sources that we need to combat climate change and create the industries of the future.

We see our partnership in the courage of our servicemembers who stand shoulder to shoulder in Afghanistan, where Germans serve

under Americans and Americans serve under Germans. Chancellor Merkel, I want to thank you and the German people for your strong commitment to this vital mission, and our hearts go out to the wounded warriors and all the families—American and German and others—whose loved ones have given their lives to keep us safe. We remember and honor them all.

We see our partnership in the skill of our diplomats who prevent the spread of deadly weapons and stand up for democracy in Europe and beyond and in the passion of our development experts as they work to avert suffering in countries like Sudan.

This is the essence of our alliance: two peoples, bound by common values and committed to the security, the prosperity, and the dignity not just of our own citizens, but those far beyond our borders. And that's also the essence of my partnership with Chancellor Merkel.

Angela, I believe this is our tenth meeting together. That doesn't include the many phone calls and video conferences that we seem to