

term, what they need is a paycheck. And we've got to figure out how to get jobs going.

I think it's very important for us to extend unemployment benefits, including monies to help people pay for their health care, for those whose lives were affected on 9/11. I think it's very important for our country to do this. I know there is the will to get that done in Washington, DC. It makes sense that we help people.

I met with the people in the community college today, a chemical engineer and an electrical engineer who were reliant upon the high-tech world to make a living. They got laid off. They need these benefits so they can help themselves and be prepared when the economy recovers.

But any economic stimulus plan must also expand the job base. We ought to be asking ourselves, what does it take to increase more jobs so people can find work? And that starts with understanding that the biggest job creators in America are the small businesses and entrepreneurs of America.

I mentioned that last winter we got the indications that the economy was slowing down. And that's one of the reasons I fought so hard for tax relief, because I understand that if the economy is growing down—slowing down, the best thing to do is to give people their own money back. The best thing to do is—because the Government doesn't create wealth; the Government creates an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish.

There is an amazing new kind of economic theory working its way through Washington, and it said that tax relief causes recessions. [*Laughter*] I'm not exactly sure what economic book that came out of, but if you want to get your way out of a recession, you provide tax relief. The worst thing you can do—the worst thing you can do is raise taxes in a recession. And yet, some in Washington, DC, are talking about getting rid of the tax cuts. I can't think of anything worse for growing

our economy. The answer to those who want to raise taxes is: No, you're not going to raise taxes.

Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or perhaps a limited partnership. And when you cut personal income taxes, you're really affecting the ability of small businesses to grow. The question we ought to ask is, how do you expand the job base?

I spent time with John and the people of his good company. I like the idea of providing incentives to encourage corporate America to make investments in capital which is equal to jobs eventually. We ought to have an economic stimulus package that says, let's create more jobs for the American people. And we ought to get on about the American people's business—put politics aside and come together and do what's right for this country.

We have the ingredients for a plan. There's a bill that came out of the House; there was one that could have come out of the Senate; the votes were there. And so I just hope some of the Senators that kind of stood in the way of getting an economic plan done listen to the people and hear the voices of the people and come back and do what's right for the country.

I'll tell you something about America: The people are the true strength of this country. And we can talk about government all we want to talk about, but the thing that makes this country great is our people. I have been so proud of the American people. I love the stories that had to do with the aftermath of September the 11th. When they heard that women of cover, women of the Muslim faith, were worried about going outside their home because somebody might take severe action against them, Jewish women and Christian women in the suburb of Detroit called up on the phone and said, "We want to help you go to the store. We want to provide whatever comfort we can, so you can go about your lives." That's the America I know, and that's the America I love.