

RECENT FISCAL HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina for the remarks he just made. He is a Republican and I am a Democrat, but I will tell you this: We are friends, and we work together. And he is one of the most conscientious Members of this House, who follows his conscience and his moral values in making decisions. He gave a very moving and important speech on the floor today. I thank the gentleman, Mr. JONES, from North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, when I come to the floor to speak about our country's recent fiscal history, I am often told there is no point in looking back. But Majority Leader CANTOR got it entirely right when he wrote this: "The future will not be won by repeating the mistakes of the past." The future will not be won by repeating the mistakes of the past. Unfortunately, however, we are proceeding on a path that shows little inclination to live by those words.

Once again, our Republican colleagues are using the language of fiscal responsibility, but pursuing policies of fiscal irresponsibility. Our colleagues across the aisle trumpet the \$100 billion in domestic discretionary spending they voted to cut from our budget. However, their actions belie those words. Their very first action in this new Congress was to approve policies, a rule package, that would provide for borrowing an additional \$5 trillion, unpaid for. Their budget policy would give us the worst of both worlds.

On the one hand, they failed to take on the real fiscal challenges. And, very frankly, there is blame to share across this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, for failing to take on those challenges. But the policies they're pursuing would even make our situation worse. On the other hand, the cuts they do make are taken out of vital investments that would grow our economy and create jobs. As I will mention later on, some 700,000 to 800,000 jobs over the next 18 months, it is projected, would be cost by the adoption of their policies. This combination is not new. It is a repeat of Republican fiscal policy in the past.

Let's look at the evidence. First of all on deficits, what this chart shows is everything below this line is a deficit. Everything above this line is a surplus. Obviously, what you want is the deficit going down into surplus. What you don't want is going from surplus into deficit. You will notice that the Reagan administration, Reagan-Bush, are noted in this first red quadrant, and the Clinton administration going from deep debt to surplus, then the Bush administration going from surplus into deep debt. And the Obama administration trying to get out of the extraordinarily tanking, receding economic status, invested in bringing us out, and now we see us coming out.

It shows how the fiscally responsible policies adopted under President Clinton took us into surplus. It unfortunately shows that when we reversed those policies in 2001, we then went back into deep deficits. We all know how those predictions that Republicans made when we adopted this economic program, for which none of the Republicans in the House or the Senate voted for, they said economic catastrophe would occur. That was their analysis. That was their economic prediction. In fact, exactly the opposite happened, and we created 22 million new jobs for Americans. This deficit chart also shows how our record surplus was squandered during the Bush administration.

The second chart I want to show you talks about government spending. We have to cut spending. We all know that. We all talk about it. But let's look at who actually did cut government spending.

Again, government spending was up and down, but at a rate higher than it was under the Clinton administration where spending, as a percentage of our gross domestic product, almost without exception, went down. So when we talk about spending, we have a record of restraining and cutting spending. In fact, that was a partnership, frankly, because Republicans agreed to make compromises with the Democratic President.

However, when they controlled the Presidency, the House, and the Senate, you will see that spending went up sharply once again. Again we see government spending as a percentage of the economy rising under President Bush, and after the emergency measures needed to respond to the recession, starting to come down after the recession was ameliorated.

Real median wages. I want to show this chart as well. Because, after all, these are nice statistics, but what does it do for people? What is the impact on them? Real median wages sort of stuck. And I will end with this and complete the rest of my statement later, Mr. Speaker. But you will see that median wages under President Clinton's administration went up, and then they were flat. And they are going up again now under President Obama. Too slowly to be sure.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue these remarks, because if we do not learn from the past, if we repeat the failed policies of yesterday, our people will not be well served.

IMPROVING THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. QUAYLE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUAYLE. Mr. Speaker, a little more than a week ago this House passed a continuing resolution with \$100 billion in spending cuts. Not only was this an important step towards reining in our Nation's paralyzing defi-

cits, it also sent a clear signal to job creators that House Republicans are determined to foster an economic environment where certainty and confidence can return to the marketplace.

When a young family looks for a new neighborhood, they examine a variety of factors. They might ask about how safe it is. They might want to know about the school system or whether their neighbors are friendly. The broader question being: What is the environment like?

Job creators take a similar approach when they decide whether it's safe to invest capital, expand their businesses, and hire new workers in America. Just as a family is not going to choose a neighborhood with overflowing sewers and a high crime rate, a business owner is not going to expand and invest in an economic environment marred by debt-fueled uncertainty that will increase the costs to run their business. After all, deficits are just deferred tax payments that eventually come due.

We must ensure that America is the most attractive and safest place to start a business, take risks, and invest capital. It is essential that we send a clear signal to American businesses that both parties are committed to removing the barriers to job growth and economic development.

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Republicans believe—and I would argue the American public believes—that cutting spending is a crucial step in that process.

Yesterday, Mark Zandi released a study which argued that the Republican spending cut plan would cost jobs. I am sure Mr. Zandi is a nice enough person, but in recent years, he hasn't seen a spending increase he didn't like. He was the Democrats' go-to guy when they were looking for an economist to endorse the stimulus, and he even endorsed a second stimulus package after the initial \$1 trillion package was signed into law. So before my Democrat colleagues start touting Mr. Zandi's report, I suggest they look at his record on the so-called stimulus.

By merely debating spending cuts for the past few weeks, this body engaged in a process that many feared was obsolete. Some have said Republicans are trying to cut too much, others, that we are not cutting enough; and, indeed, we still have a long way to go to get our deficits and debt under control.

But what no one can dispute, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we are serious about cutting spending. In addition to the \$100 billion in cuts Republicans have offered over the next year, we have also made clear that our upcoming budget will include serious, commonsense entitlement reforms.

All of these efforts have one goal in mind: producing an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation. House Republicans are doing what we were sent here to do, and that's precisely what our job creators need: clarity and decisive leadership

from their government, not mixed messages and delayed action.

MILLIONS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE RISING UP IN PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, across the world we witness millions of ordinary people rising up in public assemblies, many at risk to their own lives speaking out for a better life for all. From Madison to Misurata, from Cairo to Columbus, courageous people are taking a stand for justice for the many, not just the few.

Another giant rally is planned today in Columbus, Ohio, where Republican Governor John Kasich, the son of public workers, is systematically attacking the hard-earned collective bargaining rights of our State public workers, policemen, firefighters, teachers and other public sector workers. He even called an Ohio policeman an idiot and was forced to apologize. That is his priority, not job creation, not education, not economic development, but attacking workers. That is why thousands of people will converge on the State's capital again today to call him out on his extreme right-wing agenda.

The public outcry started in Wisconsin, given its long history of progressivism. Americans have begun to rise up to prevent more harm being done to our way of life, more attacks on our jobs, more threats to the standard of living of our middle class, more cuts in wages and benefits of hard-working families. The movement is spreading, just as the democracy movement is spreading across Northern Africa and the Middle East.

Just as we watch freedom rising in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and beyond, we watched the spectacle of America's Governors trying to dictate to citizens who earn, on average, \$24,000 and aren't even eligible for Social Security, but receive about \$900 a month in average public employee retirement benefits, that they should sacrifice even more to balance State budgets.

No, they don't deserve to be made scapegoats for their States' budget problems, and they don't deserve to be put on the front lines of the battle to save workers' rights; but they are there, nonetheless, and they deserve our support. We are all Wisconsinites. We are all Buckeyes. We are all Hoosiers. We have to stand together united for America, for the good of many, not just the few.

If John Kasich wants to look for scapegoats, perhaps he should draw upon his experience with Lehman Brothers. Maybe he should look into his Rolodex for some of his cronies from Wall Street who helped bankroll his campaign. Because the real culprits who have caused the real deep, economic harm to our Nation are watching gleefully on the sidelines as our friends and neighbors try to protect their livelihoods.

Wall Street's greed caused the financial crisis. That greed triggered lower State and local revenues with the devaluation of housing and rampant foreclosures. Yet the Wall Street titans who stole our home equity, our annuities, our pension accounts remain scot free of any real attention or prosecution.

I have a message to our Governors: blame Wall Street, not Main Street. When six megabanks control two-thirds of the banking system of our country, when corporate profits are at record highs, yet ordinary workers are being asked to empty their pockets to balance State budgets, something is really out of kilter in America. When GE and Exxon don't pay taxes and Wall Street executives walk away with huge bonuses while home foreclosures increase, what's seriously out of balance in America is the distribution of political power in this country.

In Ohio, the brothers and sisters of the heroes of 9/11, our firefighters and police, are being asked to give away their rights as free American citizens at the bargaining table for wages and benefits. Our Governor wants to abolish middle class prevailing wages, same in Wisconsin. Any nation that loses labor rights loses democracy.

What's at stake in our Nation is more than wages. What's at stake is liberty for all and opportunity for all. Governor Walker, it wasn't the firefighters in Madison that robbed Main Street and stole our home equity. You might ask your friends, the Koch brothers, about that.

Governor Kasich, it wasn't the teachers in Ohio who financed the shipping of our jobs offshore through NAFTA. You voted for it, and your buddies on Wall Street rammed it through Congress.

And, Governor Daniels, it wasn't your public sector workers that created the biggest financial bubble in U.S. history and then jumped ship when it burst, letting everyone else go down. That was created by the policies of George W. Bush, where you served as director of the OMB while the Federal budget deficit exploded.

I salute America's workers who are fighting for the middle class and our way of life. The whole world is watching.

After the American people win their battles in Madison, in Columbus, in Indianapolis, I hope they take the fight to Wall Street and get our money back. That's who has it.

BORDER WAR CONTINUES—NO END IN SIGHT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the border war continues, and there is no end in sight. This week, President Calderon of Mexico is coming back to Washington D.C. He is going to meet with our President. It will be inter-

esting to see if he continues to blame America for his problems.

You remember the last time he was here, he stood here on the House floor and dressed us down as Members of the United States House of Representatives, blaming us for his problems, blaming us for the corruption, blaming us for the drugs that are in Mexico, blaming us for the violence in Mexico, blaming the folks in Arizona for trying to protect their own border. I wonder if he will continue the blame game.

The problem is the situation is worse, not only on the border, but in Mexico. Corruption along the border with Mexican law enforcement continues, even though the Mexican military is doing a fairly good job of reining in the drug cartels.

And he blames the United States for the guns that are in Mexico. You must remember, Mr. Speaker, just some of the guns that go to Mexico are from the United States. Guns from all over the world end up in Mexico. There are a lot of reasons for that. One of those is Mexico doesn't protect its borders any better than we do.

People throughout the world know if you can get to Mexico by any means, whether you want to bring contraband, drugs, guns or people, you can eventually get into the United States. Mexico, like the United States, doesn't have operational control of the mutual border between the United States.

Even the General Accountability Office, who are the people who keep up with statistics, made this report recently, that on the United States border with Mexico, only 44 percent of the border is under the control of the United States and only 15 percent is airtight.

So who controls the other 56 percent of the U.S. border with Mexico? If it's not the United States, it's not Mexico, who controls it? We don't know. Probably the outlaws, the drug cartels. They are the ones that have operational control of both sides of the border because the situation on the border continues to get worse.

Mexico doesn't protect its border from people going into Mexico from any direction, and the United States doesn't protect its border adequately to keep drugs and violence from coming into the United States.

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Unfortunately, this is continuing to get worse. Last year, 65 Americans were killed in Mexico, and to my knowledge, none of those cases was solved. You see, Mexico has a terrible record of solving crimes not only against Americans, but against Mexican nationals. Over 3,000 people were killed in Juarez last year. That's more people than were killed in Afghanistan last year. It is a serious, violent situation.

And will it continue to come across the border? Some say, oh, it won't come to America. Let me give you one statistic. The 16 border counties in