

any part of the government. That means when you buy a transit vehicle, it's going to be made in America. That's manufacturing, that's software, that's engineering, design. It goes all across the economy. It's small business suppliers, minority suppliers under the laws. We could put millions to work and stimulate our economy if that money were spent here.

Last week, I confronted the President's deputy economic adviser, Mr. Furman, over these issues; and he did admit that instead of more tax cuts, which isn't putting anybody back to work—that's their one nostrum which seems to have been adopted by the Obama administration—hasn't worked for a decade, but if we cut them even more, that will then. It doesn't work. Investment works. We know it works. Let's invest. But the President's deputy economic adviser said we can't do that, we can't get the money to do that, but we can do a Social Security tax holiday and borrow \$200 billion more and not put people back to work.

Come on. Let's follow up on what the President said last night. Let's get serious about it, and let's make the investments here. America, it is time to focus on nation-building here at home and put our people back to work and ensure prosperity for future generations.

JOB CREATORS IN TEXAS "JUST SAY NO" TO MORE GOVERNMENT HELP

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Good morning, America. President Reagan once said the nine most terrifying words in the English language were: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.

Recently, I met with job creators, small businesses and mid-size businesses in my east Texas district to talk about jobs, and I wish the President would have been with me to listen to the men and women who create jobs in my district, and they're like the men and women who create jobs across America. In meeting after meeting, job creators in my district made their voices heard loud and clear. They don't want another Washington jobs bill. They don't want government that taxes more, spends more, regulates more, and borrows more. They aren't looking to Washington for more incentives or tools to start hiring.

Want more jobs, they ask? Then get your finances in order and get Washington out of the way of our economic recovery. They want this Congress to cut now and cut deep, and when this Congress thinks it's cut enough wasteful and nonessential government spending, they want this Congress to cut more. In other words, they want their lawmakers to do what it takes to get our Nation back on sound footing.

In Willis, city council member Anna Ross asked, We're making the tough

choices in our city budget. When will the Federal Government do the same?

At the Conroe Rotary Club, Angela Allen told me she wants Washington to pay down the debt, go after fraud in Medicare, and above all, get out of the way of our job creators.

In Orange, Texas, small businesspeople flat out rejected more borrowed stimulus. They insist Congress not raise the debt ceiling unless we begin cutting up Washington's credit cards.

And local hospital administrator Jarren Garrett said it as bluntly as can be: Control spending.

In Huntsville, Texas, I heard how concerned people over our huge job-killing Tax Code. Sandra Sherman not only wants us to stop the spending. She wants government out of so many areas of our lives from housing, and banking, and medicine, and energy, insurance, and other sectors.

E.V. Blissard sent a loud message that we should not give in to the big spenders. E.V. is right. We can't give up the fight for a fair tax or to save Medicare and Social Security for our young people.

I heard that same message in Livingston, Texas, and New Caney, Texas, where they said forcing fewer and fewer taxpayers to carry more and more of the Federal Government burden is a sure way to kill the golden goose of prosperity.

Fear and uncertainty of what's coming next from Washington, including higher taxes, higher health care costs, higher energy costs is keeping these employers from putting out that "Help Wanted" sign we're all looking for.

In every town hall, roundtable, and civic club in my district the four letter word on the lips of everyone's tongue was "debt." Mr. President, in Texas the businesses that can help America pull out of its economic slump say it's time to cut up America's credit cards and end the spending spree in Washington. They will tell you if Washington doesn't back away from the cliff of more debt, more spending, more regulation, and more taxes, they fear we might cease to recognize our great Nation in the future.

Today, 2 years after that economic recovery supposedly started years after we spent \$820 billion against our Republican objections, that stimulus, we have fewer Americans working today than when the stimulus began, one-half million fewer people working than when all that stimulus was supposed to jump-start the economy. Manufacturing is down, factory orders are down, consumer confidence is down. We were promised our unemployment rate right now would be 6½ percent. Well, it is almost 9 percent. We have the largest number of people out of work, unemployed. It's almost at historic levels. We have fewer people working today than almost a quarter of a century ago, fewer people in the workforce in almost a generation.

The stimulus failed. It is time for a new approach. It's time to listen to the

job creators. What they really did like, by the way, was the Republican plan for America's job creators to get the Tax Code out of the way of our small business people, to get higher energy and health care costs out of the way of our job creators. They want to lower the barriers so America competes and finds new customers around the world, get those barriers out of the way, and they want a better business climate, more patent reform, more lawsuit reform, get those extra costs out of the way of our small businesses, and they want us to get our financial house in order.

□ 1100

Mr. President, get out of the White House, listen to our job creators. They don't want more government jobs bills. They want you and this Congress out of the way of what they know they want to do. And with that, we will bring jobs, bring the unemployment rate down, and bring us back to the strongest economy in the world, not just for a few years but for the entire century.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members that remarks in debate must be addressed to the Chair.

THANKING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR ITS LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the National Labor Relations Board for moving in a direction with a recent proposed change that will actually strengthen a worker's ability in the United States to unite, to work within a system that has more transparency, that is fairer, that is streamlined so that we can return a little bit more power here in the United States of America to the worker.

Representing a district in northeast Ohio and cities like Akron and Youngstown, and in a region that includes Cleveland and Canton and is not too far from Pittsburgh, we have had a long, proud history in our region of a strong middle class that, in many ways, was provided by union representation, to bring some balance to an economic system, quite frankly, right now that is run by major global multinational interests that will do whatever is necessary to drive down wages for average workers.

I love this economic theory that we hear many times from our friends on the other side that if the minimum wage just wasn't so high, if workers just weren't making as much money, that maybe the economy would start humming. Let's reduce taxes on the wealthiest people in the United States

when they've had a boom for 20 years of an increase in income. But if we reduce wages for middle class people, that somehow this economy will just turn right around.

And let me remind my friends on the other side, we are currently living under the President Bush tax system. If this tax system of cutting taxing for the wealthiest worked had created jobs, we wouldn't have the problems we have right now. Think about it. We are living under President Bush's tax system. This system, in '01 and '03, was supposed to lead to tremendous growth and job creation in the American economy. It hasn't worked. America works when we reinvest back into our people, when we make sure people are trained and educated.

I am for a reduction in the corporate tax. We do need to keep business taxes low so that we can be more competitive. But when you start making hundreds of millions of dollars and billions of dollars, like Warren Buffett and Bill Gates, you've got to pay a little bit more in taxes. And we need that revenue so that we can rebuild our infrastructure in the United States, so that we can make college more affordable in the United States, so that average families in Youngstown, in Niles can send their kids to college to become engineers. That revenue can be used to make sure that every American has affordable health care, so that no family in the United States has to make a decision or stare at the ceiling when they are laying in bed at night, worrying about whether or not their children will have proper health care, or that if one of their kids gets sick, they may not be able to afford health care. That shouldn't happen in the United States of America.

What the NLRB has done is said, Let's give more fairness, more transparency, a more streamlined process so that workers can unite together and have some little bit of leverage against the massive corporate interests. I've been down here 9 years now in this Congress, and it seems to me that whatever the oil industry wants, they get; whatever the insurance industry wants, they get; whatever the multinationals want, they get. And if we don't begin as a country to empower average people to make a good middle class wage, we are not going to be the America any of us want. We are going to be weaker.

You want to talk about family values—these are family values. What the NLRB has done is move us closer to having some family values. So I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to say thank you to the leadership of the NLRB for some of these proposed changes. I hope they continue to move forward. And I hope this is just one small step where we, as a country, say, You know, the middle class is working, if we're manufacturing things in the United States, if we work together with a common cause, a common purpose, if we're healthy, if we're educated, everything

else will take care of itself. That's the kind of country that this decision is moving us towards, and I would like to thank them.

SYRIAN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, while our President telegraphs to our enemies a timeline for ending the war that they are certainly willing to continue to commit to, while military efforts continue in Libya with uncertain, undisclosed, and unsuccessful outcomes led by our administration under NATO command, greater atrocities perpetrated against freedom seekers in Syria go unaddressed, unannounced, unconsidered by our President. Why? What's the reason? What's the time limit? It is known that Syria has been a continuing threat to freedom and a strong supporter and sustainer of unrest and terrorism in the Middle East and around the world. They're a strong ally of Iran and a constant threat to our friend Israel.

As freedom-seeking citizens of Syria join, Mr. Speaker, many others in the Middle East in calling for political reforms, respect for human rights, and regime change, the government of Syria and President Bashar Al-Assad is violently and sadistically suppressing the Syrian people, his own people. Tanks, snipers, goon squads, violent attacks on women and children, starvation and dehydration, inhuman imprisonment, torture, and worse has been the norm for the Syrian people for too long—without a strong and principled response from our President and our Nation. Why? We're not calling for a war. We're not calling for troops on the ground. We're not calling for anything right now except to take a stand against this atrocity.

Other nations have stood and voiced their concerns that President Assad has violated its international obligations, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Isn't it time for our President and this administration to stand and speak as the world leader and call on President Assad to step down and for the Syrian Government to end its cruel crimes against humanity?

I am firmly convinced that the rest of the peace-loving world will respond to our leadership. They are looking for it. They expect it. They are asking for it, and the Syrian people will be encouraged and defended. And liberty's cause will be promoted in this earthquake zone called the Middle East.

It's time to speak up. May God grant our President and this administration and our government the courage to do so. Because it is for humanity and people like ourselves that we speak.

OLD-FASHIONED ECONOMIC COMMON SENSE

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

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, my constituents know that Washington could learn a lot from using just some good old-fashioned Georgia common sense. I want to tell you a quick story. Earlier this month after one of my town hall meetings, a mayor from a small town in my district came up to tell me about the hard times that her city has been dealing with recently. Unemployment has shot through the roof, and many businesses in Hoschton, Georgia, have been forced to downsize or shut down completely. The mayor told me about how tough times have also required her to make some bold choices about Hoschton's budget. Ultimately in efforts to keep the town afloat, she ended up slashing their budget by a whopping 67 percent. The mayor said to me, "Everything has to be put on the table. Nothing can be impossible to cut."

My liberal Democrat colleagues need to take note. It's long past time for the Obama administration to stop spending money like there's no tomorrow. There is a tomorrow, even though right now, with over 9 percent unemployment, that tomorrow is looking pretty bleak.

□ 1110

America's runaway spending has gotten so far out of control that it's hard get a grasp on the amount of debt our Nation is in or how long it will take us to repay the almost \$14½ trillion that we have borrowed.

Americans don't want excuses anymore; they want solutions. They want less spending and more jobs. They want burdensome regulations removed from the backs of small businesses who can put so many more people back to work. They want more free choice and less big government when it comes to their day-to-day lives.

Washington needs to follow the lead of small cities, small businesses, and families who are tightening their belts all across this country. That small Georgia town in my district that cut 67 percent of their budget to deal with their financial crisis ought to be a model and a blueprint for the Obama administration and for Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 12 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.