

I haven't talked to anybody right now—when we have got unemployment over 9 percent officially, when people are out of work and month after month can't find a job, when small business people are having trouble just keeping the lights on, I don't talk to anybody that says, "Please raise my taxes."

That's what we should be focused on are the hardworking people, the people of this country who want a job, who want to see this economy return to growth. They are the ones who understand that it's cutting taxes; it's cutting the overly burdensome regulatory system in this town that will bring back middle class jobs.

So to the gentleman's suggestion that somehow we have not been talking about jobs in this institution, I know it's not surprising to him that I disagree with that.

Mr. HOYER. It is not.

Mr. CANTOR. Right. Because I say to the gentleman, week after week we brought bills to the floor, yes, that deal with our fiscal situation—that cut spending—because we have got to address that, just like people address it in their homes, their families, their businesses.

But we brought numerous bills week after week to the floor that go to the root of the cause of uncertainty in the business community in this country, and that is Washington's overly aggressive and burdensome regulatory reach. We have got to get back to a growth posture, Mr. Speaker.

That means cut spending, lower taxes and implement a balanced and sensible pro-growth regulatory system as well as, finally, hopefully, returning to a monetary policy that promotes a strong dollar.

Mr. HOYER. First of all, of course, I didn't say anybody wants their taxes raised, including me. I would like to have all the prices for things I buy cut in half, a 50-percent-off sale. We all like that.

I like going and using my credit card—it's so much easier—and that's why credit cards encourage the economy. But you and I both know what happens when you use your credit card: At some point in time you get a bill. The people who sold you the goods or loaned you the money expect you to pay them.

I will tell my friend that I understand what he is saying. We have just come through, arguably, the worst recession that we have experienced since the Great Depression, and it was consistent with economic policies which, by the way, started, as you know, in December of 2007 and in which we lost 8 million jobs.

But the gentleman continues every time to say he wants to have policies which in 1991 and 1993 were argued were policies that were going to grow our economy, expand jobs and have those folks that you talk about do well.

Now, the gentleman misrepresents our position. I want to make it very clear: We are not for asking people who

are trying to make it in America. We are not for asking those who are struggling in America. We are not asking for those who rely on Social Security. We are not asking for those who rely on their Medicare benefits to pay the burden of the spending that we have been involved in over the last decade, which took us from \$5.6 trillion of debt to over \$10 trillion of debt.

We are not asking for those struggling Americans which the gentleman raises as the specter of those we think ought to pay their fair share. Oh, no. We are asking for those who have done extraordinarily well over the last decade, who have made millions per year in the last decade, some billions of dollars over the last decade—oil companies that are now making the biggest profits they have ever made and others—to pay a little more so that we can stabilize the finances of America.

So don't represent that it's Democrats who are asking those struggling small business people—we are not doing that—or those struggling working people in America who, by the way, have been stuck in the mud under the economic policies that were pursued consistent with the 2001 and 2003 economic programs, which have seen a growing disparity between working people and the wealthiest people in America.

Now, we can continue on that path and put on the backs of those struggling people you talk about, my friend, the responsibility to pay for things or we can have a fair and balanced program. That's what the 74 percent in the Gallup Poll want. They don't want their taxes raised.

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What they want is a fair and balanced obligation, a fair and balanced participation in contribution to paying the debts of this country that we've incurred, and we've incurred them together. You're not all responsible. We're not all responsible.

Now, on our side of the aisle, as you well know, this deficit was increased by almost 90 percent under the Bush economic policies, far less than that under the Clinton economic policies—as a matter of fact, about half. But that's not the issue. Under both, the debt went up. We're confronted with it; we've got to pay it, and you and I believe not paying it is not an option.

The Chamber of Commerce says clearly that, first, it is critical the U.S. Government not default in any way on its fiscal obligations, and the President of the United States and our side have said, you bet, we don't want to do that. So let's ask all of us to come to the table, and those who can't afford it ought not to be asked, but those who can—those who can—should be asked to do so, not to penalize them but to say we're all in this together. Those who are the best off in America, those corporations like the oil companies that are getting subsidies at this point in time which said they didn't need

subsidies if oil was over \$55 per barrel—they testified in Congress some years ago to that fact. It has been twice that, and we're still giving them subsidies.

All we're saying is that doesn't make sense, and we ought to have a balanced program, and that's what those 74 percent and 77 percent of independents are saying. They're not saying they want their taxes raised. They're not saying we ought to raise taxes and incur more debt. They are saying we ought to pay our bills. They are saying that we ought to have a fair participation by all Americans in meeting this crisis that confronts us.

And I would hope that over the next 3 weeks that we could get to a place where we could come together in a bipartisan way and ask all of us to participate. Those who are able can help us confront this: bring this deficit down and balance our budget. For those who can't but who are working hard to make themselves and their families live a quality of life, we'll help them out. Then I think, as I said, we'll stabilize the economy; we'll grow jobs and we'll have a better country. I would hope we could do that, Mr. CANTOR, and I'm looking forward to it.

Again, I don't know that this cut, cap, and balance will get us there; but as I said, we're not going to get there, clearly, under those provisions between now and August 2. I think the gentleman knows that, and I hope he has some other thoughts in mind, some other plan in mind. Obviously, there have been a number of plans talked about. The President gave a speech about his plan. That was rejected. The gentleman says it wasn't specifically line by line. That's right, because it was rejected before we got there.

Mr. BOEHNER, your Speaker, discussed trying to get a construct. So perhaps you have a plan that is above and beyond the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act that we might see that would be a balanced plan that would help us.

I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MULVANEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

BELARUS, THE LAST DICTATORSHIP IN EUROPE

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as we're talking about debts and deficits financially, I'm here to talk about a freedom debt and a freedom deficit that's occurring in parts around the world. One

that I've been focused on a lot is the country of Belarus, the last dictatorship in Europe.

The political, economic, and human rights situation in Belarus has significantly deteriorated. A total of 33 opposition leaders and activists are still being held in prison for peacefully protesting against a dictatorial regime and a falsified 2010 presidential election. Silent protests have sprung up on an online campaign, called "Revolution through Social Networks," which encourages people to come to their localities' central squares every Wednesday to express discontent with the Lukashenko regime.

Opposition activists, journalists and ordinary people have been and continue to be arrested. The authorities have also launched "distributed denial of service" attacks on opposition Web sites.

The United States and the European Union continue to condemn these activities. We must think strategically about Belarus post-Lukashenko when the people of Belarus are finally able to establish a democratic society based upon the principles of a free-market economy. In anticipation of that day, each and every one of us should prepare now so as to be in a position to rapidly assist in the establishment of internationally recognized elections and rules-based, transparent government in Belarus.

SUDANESE WAR CRIMES AGAINST NUBA CIVILIANS

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, thanks to the courageous reporting of two journalists for Al Jazeera's English network, Callum Macrae and John D. McHugh, who risked their lives to find the truth, we have shocking evidence of war crimes committed by the Sudanese Armed Forces against Nuba civilians in Sudan's South Kordofan province.

Here in this photo is a 2-year-old victim of an air strike, and here is a bomb crater in the middle of this Nuba village—50-feet wide and 15-feet deep. Here, Mr. Speaker, is satellite imagery analyzed by Harvard University's Humanitarian Initiative that reveals evidence of mass graves outside South Kordofan's capital of Kadugli.

At this moment, Mr. Speaker, as the U.S. personnel hide behind their barracks walls, the SAF are hunting men, women and children on foot, in fighter jets, and with bombs rolled out of back doors of cargo aircraft onto Nuba villages. Where does the United Nations stand as the Nuba are wiped out? Where do we stand?

HONORING LINDA LOPEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Cali-

fornia (Mr. CARDOZA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a great American, Ms. Linda Lopez, a treasured member of my staff, who passed away over the Fourth of July weekend. It is somewhat appropriate that that was the weekend that she passed away since she was such an honorable and patriotic lady. Her services will be held today and in our hometown that we shared.

Linda was not only a dedicated constituent services representative; she was a tireless advocate and community leader in Merced, California. Born in New Mexico, Linda moved to California's Central Valley in 1955 where she attended public school in Madera and then later attended Stanford University. For the past 40 years, she was involved in civil rights and social justice work, and was considered one of the most influential Latina Americans in the Central Valley.

Linda's community leadership included serving on the City of Merced's Redevelopment Agency Gateway Projects Citizens' Advisory Committee, the City of Merced's Planning Commission, and several City of Merced ad hoc committees. She also served on the San Joaquin Valley Partnership Telecommunications Committee and the California State Advisory Board for Transportation Planning and Environmental Justice.

Linda Lopez was also an alumnae of the Great Valley Center's IDEAL inaugural class, Hispanas Organized for Political Equality, and Leadership Merced. Not surprising, given her devotion to her community, Linda was named the 1998-99 Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

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Linda joined my Merced district staff in 2006 as a constituent services representative, acting as my eyes and ears in the community. She worked on thousands of cases and helped thousands of people. She never let go of a case she believed needed work, and was meritorious. Linda prided herself on giving 100 percent to everyone who walked in the office regardless of their political party, the color of their skin, what they believed or didn't believe. She believed everybody deserved to be treated well. It was not unusual for Linda to work late nights and weekends, to make home visits to elderly constituents needing assistance, or to follow up with a phone call long after she had done her best to resolve a case.

The hallmark of Linda's work was her unbelievable compassion; and she was appreciated not just by the people she helped, but by her community as a whole. Linda's passion for making a difference set her apart from many others. She offered a kind smile and a compassionate ear to everyone she came in contact with. Often Linda's re-

lationship with other community members evolved into a mentorship program, and as her legacy, she asked that there be established a leadership scholarship in her name. Linda guided many other aspiring community activists in her passion and her efforts to serve others.

In addition to her role as a public servant, Linda was a wife and mother, and her beautiful family will miss her dearly. Linda Lopez made Merced, California, a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud today to call her a member of Team Cardoza, and even more proud to call her a friend.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to honor this great American, Linda Lopez, for her work, for her tireless efforts on behalf of our community, and for her work on behalf of our country.

I would now like to yield to my good friend, the gentleman from Florida, for the remainder of my hour.

GOP WHEEL OF MISFORTUNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was overcome with disbelief to hear my Republican colleagues, the same colleagues who are leading America head first into its first default of its obligations, call on President Obama to start picking and choosing who wins when we run out of money.

Now, pay our seniors first, Mr. President. When we force a default, pay our bondholders first, Mr. President. Pay our soldiers first, Mr. President.

The GOP is shockingly silent, however, remarkably quiet when it comes to naming who the Treasury should stop paying when they force us into a default.

Now, in case you weren't aware, let me clue you in on the definition of a "default." It means the inability, the failure, to meet our financial obligations. And we have many financial obligations we cannot afford thanks to the possibility of this default that our friends on the other side of the aisle are leading us toward. This is a crisis that they manufactured: two wars unpaid for; tax cuts for millionaires that were unpaid for; policies that ignited a fiscal crisis and sunk us into a sea of red ink.

Now their refusal to accept responsibility for this debt that they created means that someone who the Treasury owes money to will not get paid. Someone will not get paid, and the full faith and credit of the United States of America will be broken.

Now, they're playing a game with our economy to try to force through an extremist agenda. That's what we have been battling against. That's what you've been watching. That's what people around the country are so incredibly frustrated with. It is a game that