

must begin immediately to have an up-or-down vote on a clean bill that extends vital emergency unemployment benefits for the 99 weeks for the millions of job seekers who continue to struggle to find a job and are no longer eligible for unemployment compensation.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of Americans who are struggling to find a job now are already no longer getting unemployment benefits due to the 99-week wall. But people want to work. There are four people, however, looking for one job, and that is a fact.

So we need to pass H.R. 3638, the Restore the American Dream Act, for the 99 percent, a package of job-creation measures and policy reforms introduced by the Congressional Progressive Caucus. This bill would significantly boost employment and create jobs in the short term and improve the fiscal outlook in the long term. It's the right thing to do. Instead, this Tea Party-led Congress has wasted an entire year without any jobs bills, without extending any new help to the millions of Americans in need.

We can't wait and neither should Congress. Let's help to make sure that the poor and the unemployed Americans find good-paying jobs and make that our number one priority. We must remove these obstacles to reignite the American Dream.

ENERGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, you know, when we look at what are some of the most important issues facing our country today, obviously economy comes very first. Next, we talk about energy, we talk about spending, and we talk about national security, all very important.

You know, one nexus between economy and national defense is energy and our lack of energy here at home. Yesterday, the President's own Jobs Council called for an "all-in approach" to energy policy that includes expanded oil and gas drilling as well as expediting energy projects like pipelines. The report stated:

"The Council recognizes the important safety and environmental concerns surrounding these types of projects, but now more than ever, the jobs and economic and energy security benefits of these energy projects require us to tackle the issues head-on and to expeditiously, though cautiously, move forward on projects that can support hundreds of thousands of jobs."

The Keystone XL pipeline does just that. This pipeline would directly create 20,000 American jobs in manufacturing and construction and 118,000 total jobs. In addition, we would see 830,000 barrels of safe and secure oil each day from our friends to the north, which means we'll need less oil from

countries we can no longer rely on and are not friendly to the interests of the United States.

Caterpillar, a leading manufacturer from my home State, supports securing stable and affordable energy from a North American ally through the Keystone XL pipeline and urges approval of this pipeline. Daniel Macholan, the Global Pipeline general manager for Caterpillar, said: "Considering the economic and energy security benefits of these vital resources, we should continue to expand America's access to safe, affordable energy to help ensure improved domestic and global energy security and stable prices for consumers. Pipelines are a critical part of our energy infrastructure, and additional pipeline capacity will help consumers and businesses throughout the United States."

There's a lot of talk of the need for bipartisanship today. There's a lot of talk for the need to unite different factions of people into one common goal for our country. And I agree that when you look at this project, the Keystone pipeline, it has bipartisan support. There were Democrats that supported this bill as well as Republicans and something that I believe we should move forward on as a country.

Manufacturers and union organizations are united alike in supporting this project. Last summer, the State Department announced that this extension had passed extensive environmental reviews, but President Obama has already stalled for more than 26 days to make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline.

The fact is that somebody will benefit from oil out of Alberta, Canada. If it's not the United States, it will be China—unless we take immediate action to expand the Keystone XL pipeline—and it will be American businesses and consumers who will suffer the consequences from our inaction.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm an Air Force pilot. I've been overseas. I've fought in these wars. And I can tell you, as much as I think we're doing the right thing, one thing we can do is to reduce our reliance on foreign oil so that when Iran threatens to close the Strait of Hormuz, it means nothing to the energy security of this country and just simply leaves it to what that's going to mean for them.

I strongly urge President Obama to immediately support this job-creating, bipartisan project. The time to act is now.

INSENSITIVE COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, my first reaction upon reading Dr. Gordon Gee's denigrating comments about the Polish Army was to see red—blood red.

As a Polish American, I fail to see the humor when the president of The

Ohio State University described bureaucratic turf battles at his school with administrators "shooting each other" as "kind of like the Polish Army." His comments revealed not only insensitivity to the suffering of the Polish people over the past two centuries, but a shocking lack of knowledge of history. Surely, the leader of a major institution of higher learning should know better.

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Ohio State, after all, is home to the Center for Slavic and East European Studies.

Having spent my public career trying to overcome ethnic stereotyping, I thought about how to respond: Do I hold a press conference? Do I make an official statement? The Polish American Congress quickly demanded, received, and accepted an apology from President Gee.

But I kept thinking about my dear friend Colonel Marian Wojciechowski, a true hero of Poland and America, who died last year at age 97. I have known the Wojciechowski family for almost half a century. Marian's brilliant daughter Mary Ann was my friend in high school and the valedictorian of our class at St. Ursula Academy in Toledo.

Her father, Marian, had commanded a Polish Army cavalry platoon at the place where World War II started on land September 1, 1939. Against impossible odds, the Polish Army secured a tactical victory in the battle of Mokra. There was nothing disorganized or chaotic about Marian's home unit, the 21st Regiment Pulku Ulanow Nadwisclankich, which eventually was awarded the *Virtuti Militari*, Poland's highest military honor.

No, President Gee, the Polish soldiers at Mokra did not shoot at each other. In fact, they inflicted surprisingly heavy losses against the more heavily equipped Nazi invaders, who lost 800 men. Eventually, the Poles' situation deteriorated, as they ran low on ammunition and medicine. No Western country came to their aid. No Western country. The infantry commander considered surrendering, but the cavalry commander ordered a charge. Polish cavalry soldiers bravely drew their swords, positioned their artillery, and heroically charged German positions, even though they were hopelessly overmatched by mechanized blitzkrieg forces on the land, including two Panzer divisions, and Luftwaffe planes in the air.

A fellow soldier from Marian's hometown of Polaniec thought Marian had been killed and reported the sad news to Marian's family who held a funeral for him. But in fact, Marian had survived, had moved east with his remaining cavalry forces to fight the Red Army that attacked Poland 3 weeks later on the Russian front, on September 17. My friend Marian was grazed in the head by a Russian bullet.

He then joined the underground resistance for over 2 years in such dangerous work until he was arrested, brutally tortured, sent to Auschwitz in Death Block 11, and then transferred to Gross-Rosen and finally to Leitmeritz in 1945, from which he escaped. I must mention that the woman who had accidentally revealed his name was beheaded by Nazi forces.

Of course Poland, which had been partitioned by adjoining empires since the late 18th Century for daring to write its own democratic Constitution in 1791—2 years after our own and upon which it was modeled—was devastated by World War II. Poland lost a higher percentage of her population than any other nation, approximately one in five people. Cities such as Warsaw were razed because their people fought unflinchingly until they were subdued.

Fleeing to Germany and a U.S. Army-run refugee camp, Marian met his life-long love, Wladyslawa Poniencka, a Polish girl scout and also a member of the women's Underground resistance. She and her family had been arrested in Warsaw and sent to the notorious Pawiak Prison and then she to Ravensbruck where unspeakable experiments were performed on her while all of her closet relatives were killed. Marian and Wladyslawa married. They had their first child, my friend, and immigrated to America in 1950 under the Displaced Persons Act. They were sponsored by Marian's cousin in Toledo. They raised their family. And he published a Polish language newspaper *Ameryka-Echo* in Toledo, for more than 7 years. He also built a career in neighborhood community development, working until age 80.

Like Generals Kosciuszko and Pulaski, Colonel Marian Wojciechowski dedicated his life to the cause of liberty and community building. He was an extraordinary man. In different times, I think he might have been president of Poland. He surely should have run for office here.

I am going to send a copy of the book "Seven Paths to Freedom," edited by Miroslawa Zawadzka and Andrej Zawadzki, to President Gee. I hope he reads it. It's over time for the President of Ohio State University to show reverence and respect for Poland's heroic struggle for liberty.

THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION,
New York, NY.

Subject: Ohio State President Gordon Gee
Must Be Reprimanded For Polish Slur.
Chairman LESLIE H. WEXNER,
Board of Trustees, Ohio State University, Bricker Hall, Columbus, OH.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WEXNER AND TRUSTEES OF OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY: As a son of Polish war heroes, I ask that you publicly admonish University President Gordon Gee for his unacceptable comment that your staff, "were shooting at each other . . . like the Polish Army." In addition, the Board of Trustees must truly serve the 465,000 Polish-Americans living in Ohio by funding classes on Polish history at the University. With a President who lacks erudition, how can you expect to educate your students about World history, or Poland?

I can assure Mr. Gee that my father, Corp. Dionizy Storozyński was shooting straight as a motorcycle scout for a Polish tank division during the allied invasion of Normandy. Afterwards, he was awarded the Polish Army Medal, and three medals from the British Army. And I can assure Mr. Gee that my grandfather, Sgt. Wladyslaw Krzyzanowski was shooting straight when his Polish regiment, the Anders' Army, helped drive the Germans from North Africa, and when he destroyed two German tanks in the Battle of Monte Cassino in Italy. For this he received three Polish medals and three British medals. And I can assure Mr. Gee that the Polish WWII pilots that set records in accuracy in destroying German Luftwaffe planes during the Battle for Britain were shooting straight.

It's Mr. Gee who is not a straight shooter. Gee has made a half-hearted apology. That is not enough. Gee has a history of putting his feet in his mouth and having to apologize. Yet the Ohio State Board of Trustees has made him the highest paid college president in the United States, paying him \$1.6 million annually.

As Trustees, you are the governing body for a state university in a state that has nearly half a million Polish-American taxpayers and voters. Yet you offer few classes in Polish language and literature, and no classes in Polish history. With your university receiving \$493 million in state appropriations and \$426 million in other government funding in 2012, surely you can afford to rectify this situation. This should be put on the agenda for your next Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 9.

After Mr. Gee made his unenlightened comment, he said, "Who did I embarrass now?" For starters, Mr. Gee embarrassed himself and Ohio State University. This is also an embarrassment to United States foreign policy.

With thousands of Polish soldiers who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, Gee's comments have caused a stir in Poland. And the Polish soldiers supporting the American mission in Afghanistan will not be pleased with Mr. Gee's benighted opinion. Poland's Special Forces unit shut down oilrigs in the Persian Gulf during the invasion of Iraq, and the Polish Army played a major role in the war.

When I traveled to Iraq in 2006 to write an article for the New York Sun, U.S. Army lieutenant general, Peter Chiarelli, told me that the Polish troops "are doing an absolutely outstanding job. They've been one of the most steadfast members of the coalition. And these are two of the most peaceful provinces in all of Iraq, Diwaniyah and Wasit. And that's largely attributable to the great leadership of successive Polish generals who have come down here and the Polish units who have served here."

The Polish Army has made major contributions to European and American history. King Jan Sobieski turned back the Ottoman Empire during the Siege of Vienna in 1683 when the Turks invaded Europe and tried to turn it into a Muslim colony. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was the largest country in Europe at the time and Sobieski's Hussar Knights were the most feared soldiers in Europe.

The President of a major university should also know the military contributions of Poles to this country. The Father of the American Cavalry, Gen. Casimir Pulaski saved George Washington's life at the Battle of Brandywine. Gen. Thaddeus Kosciuszko built the largest fortress in America, West Point and suggested putting a military academy there. That was before he devised the plans for the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution. And Abraham Lincoln appointed Wlodzimierz

Krzyzanowski Brigadier General in the Union Army during the Civil War. Would Abe Lincoln have picked a Polish general if he could not shoot straight?

Mr. Gee further exposed his ignorance about Poland when after his witless comments about the Polish Army he told the crowd at the Columbus Metropolitan Club, "Oh, never mind, who did I embarrass now? I'll have to raise money for Poland now."

If Mr. Gee read the Wall Street Journal he would know that despite Europe's financial woes, over the past several years, Poland has had one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. So no, Poland does not need Mr. Gee to help it raise money. But he can help himself by curing his foot-in-mouth disease and working to rehabilitate his image with the many Polish-Americans in your state.

Here's where he can start. Thaddeus Kosciuszko was given 500 acres on the Scioto River in Ohio by the Founding Fathers for his exemplary service in the American Revolution. That original tract of land borders the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Today, part of that land is the Riverside Drive Park in Dublin, Ohio, and in May the city will rename it Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park. In addition to his military service, Kosciuszko put his money where his mouth was when it came to standing up for liberty. Kosciuszko donated his salary from the American Revolution, \$17,000 and asked that it be used to purchase slaves, and to free and educate them.

Kosciuszko was a virtuous straight shooter who did the right thing. If Mr. Gee is as much of a straight shooter as Polish soldiers, and has any semblance of decency, he should pay to erect a statue of Kosciuszko in that park. With a salary of \$1.6 million per year, Mr. Gee can clearly afford it.

ALEX STOROZYNSKI,
President & Executive Director,
The American Center for Polish Culture.

PIAST INSTITUTE,
Hamtramck, MI, January 17, 2012.

President E. GORDON GEE,
The Ohio State University, Bricker Hall, Columbus, OH.

DEAR PRESIDENT GEE: I like many others both inside and outside the Polish American community, was surprised and dismayed by your remarks that played off deeply offensive stereotypes of Poles and Polish Americans. I am glad that you have recognized the inappropriateness of your statements and have tendered an apology. Nevertheless, it is disheartening that such remarks should come from the President of one of America's major universities. It shows that our society still has a long way to go in dispelling prejudice.

I am sure that you and the university's trustees have also received quite a number of letters detailing at some length the story of Poland as source of a world-class culture, a distinguished democratic tradition, courageous soldiers who have fought consistently for freedom for themselves and others and an unparalleled contribution to the history of liberty and human dignity in our time, through the efforts of heroes such as John Paul II and Lech Walesa.

Many of those who have written have asked for redress in the form of greater attention to the history of Poland and Polish Americans in courses and programs at The Ohio State University. Such projects would indeed help the people of Ohio better appreciate the contribution of Poland to world civilization and to give students a valuable historical and cultural perspective on universal issues such as human dignity, the price of liberty, and the various dimensions of tolerance, pluralism and non-violence. The Piast Institute heartily supports such a program, which is at the heart of its mission.

Nevertheless, such a program no matter how far reaching, will be of limited success unless it also addresses deep-seated negative images of Poles and Poland that lie buried in our culture. It will be hard for most people to even hear, let alone incorporate more positive images of Poland and Poles until these are attacked and extirpated. As Malgorzata Warchol-Schlottmann pointed out in her study of stereotypes of Poles in German culture "Positive personal experiences or empirical knowledge of Poland did not modify the stereotypical images". On the basis of my experience, I believe that the same is true of American culture.

I do not think that you picked the image of incompetent Polish soldiers shooting at each other at random out of thin air. It would have left your listeners puzzled if you had chosen "The Norwegian army" as your example. You were drawing, certainly without deep reflection, perhaps ever reflexively on deeply embedded negative images of Poles and Poland in American culture.

These stereotypes took shape in Europe in the 18th century as part of propaganda by Prussia, Russia and Austria to justify their unprecedented partition of Poland and the destruction of the Polish constitution. They were later used to justify Nazi genocide against Poles. Those images were transmitted to America in the 19th century and became a distinct American bigotry in response to the large influx to Polish immigrants. Those stereotypes still exist and have power. This is clear from the fact that a President of a major American university could invoke them so unthinkingly and cavalierly.

I would hope that any program to provide redress would also include a mandate to examine the character and roots of anti-Polonism in courses and special programs designed to deal with racism, bigotry and prejudice in American Society. The Piast Institute, which is a national research and policy institute, would be pleased to assist in curriculum development and materials for such classes and programs.

We maintain close ties with the Polish community in Ohio and have worked with them on educational and cultural programs as well as providing demographic analysis of the Polish American population in Cleveland and Akron. The work of the Institute on such projects as our national survey of 1,400 Polish American leaders published as *Polish Americans Today* (2010) and our work in preparing curricula for the genocide curriculum in the California schools and for the National Catholic Holocaust Education Center at Seton Hill College has given us unparalleled recognition in Polish American communities and among their leaders. I also served for eight years as President of St. Mary's College founded by Polish immigrants and for many years a national center for Polish studies in the U.S.

I look forward to working with you and the university to turn this unfortunate event into a positive project to lessen prejudice and create a genuine pluralism at Ohio State as well as to build bridges to the half a million Polish Americans who live in Ohio and the 10 million Polish Americans in the United States.

Sincerely yours,

THADDEUS C. RADZILOWSKI, Ph.D.,
President.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Obama asked Congress for

\$1.2 trillion in additional borrowing authority, and today Congress has the opportunity to respond to the President's request. Since the President took office, the national debt has increased \$4.6 trillion. The current Federal debt now exceeds the U.S. gross domestic product, and our Federal Government is borrowing more than 30 cents of every dollar it spends. In recent years, that has been as high as 40 cents of every dollar it spends.

The President's most recent request for a \$1.2 trillion increase will bring the debt limit to \$16.394 trillion. Yet despite this fiscal outlook, Admiral Mullen, the recently retired Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has rightly called the national debt "the single-biggest threat to our national security." President Obama and some in Congress still refuse to make the difficult, long-term spending choices necessary to begin restoring fiscal discipline to the Federal budget.

The President publicly opposed a balanced budget amendment, an idea about which Thomas Jefferson said, "I would be willing to depend on that alone for the reduction of the administration of our government."

The House of Representatives, in a majority fashion, passed a balanced budget amendment late last year. Unfortunately, it did not receive a two-thirds vote here, as the Constitution requires; and I hope we can revisit that issue.

President Obama has failed to put forth a credible budget plan that reins in runaway Federal entitlement spending. It is the single-biggest contributor toward our long-term fiscal problems.

When the President releases his budget proposal for fiscal year 2013 in a few weeks, he has another opportunity to propose real spending caps and entitlement program reforms. I hope he will seize the opportunity to do so.

I commend to the President's attention and to the administration's attention, for example, Chairman RYAN's budget proposals, and we would like to work in good faith with the administration and with the President to make sure that we move forward in a fiscally responsible way.

But today's debate, Mr. Speaker, is about leadership and making tough choices. The Governor of the State of New Jersey, my friend Chris Christie, said last year, "Leadership, today in America, has to be about doing the big things." When given the opportunity to lead on issues concerning levels of spending, debt, and deficits, I urge President Obama to join with us in doing the big things to make sure that we can get our fiscal house in order, a glide path back toward fiscal responsibility for balancing our budget over time.

We need to restore that fiscal discipline in Washington instead of choosing the fiscally perilous path of more spending, larger annual deficits, and mounting debt. The next generation will have to pay back this debt. It is a

tremendous burden on young people, and it will sap our strength in the continuing competition of the United States with the nations around the world, including, for example, China and India.

Mr. Speaker, I will oppose the President's request for an additional \$1.2 trillion in spending. I hope that we can work together with the administration on this fundamental issue, the issue that confronts the Nation's fiscal responsibility. And may the United States be restored to fiscal responsibility so that future generations might succeed, as generations have succeeded generation in and generation out, the great promise of the American Nation.

MORE THAN LIP SERVICE: HELPING OUR VETERANS FIND JOBS

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is now in the 124th consecutive month of war. And while those of us privileged to serve in this body enjoyed time back home with our families for the holidays, there is no such holiday break for our servicemembers who are serving in harm's way.

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Thousands of American families had a permanently empty seat around their table this holiday season because a son or daughter or mother or father was killed in one of these senseless wars that we've been fighting.

I would note as a bit of an aside, Mr. Speaker, how ironic it is that 2 days ago we celebrated a Federal holiday named for a man who was a proud and principled pacifist, who believed in the moral power of nonviolent resistance. Martin Luther King once said, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual doom."

Mr. Speaker, it's time we paid more than lip service to his dream; it's time we started living it.

It's time also that we paid more than lip service to our veterans who are returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan. These men and women who have courageously sacrificed so much for us are coming home to an economy that seems to have no place for them.

Yes, we're in the grips of a devastating job crisis that's affecting just about every community and every group in the United States, but veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars are feeling the squeeze disproportionately. Even as the job numbers have picked up some for the rest of economy, because it has rallied slightly, veterans are slipping further behind.

Overall, unemployment dropped to 8½ percent in December for our country. But for veterans who've served since September 2001, the jobless rate is a staggering 13.1 percent. Is this