

Republican Viewpoint: Jobs Should Be #1

By Nicholas Panuzio and Michael Andersen

We read with interest the recent “Democratic Viewpoint” of our ongoing economic recovery.

We were astounded by the writer’s contention that we are in recovery because... (drum roll, please)... fewer people are losing their jobs! That fewer folks are being laid off versus the month before is not proof that happy days are here again.

At a time when nearly ten percent of our countrymen have lost their jobs, where the unemployment rate for minority young people is at twenty-five percent and where many people have sub-standard jobs or have had a reduction in their pay, we cannot believe that the Democrats would have the gall to toss about words like “recovery” when the truth is our economy is still shedding jobs and, indeed, is hanging by a thread.

As much as the Democrats would like to blame everything, including the economy, the oil spill, and why today was a cloudy day, on former President George Bush, let us make no doubt about it, this economic situation is owned by President Barack Obama.

To be fair, there were mistakes made in the past when the Republicans controlled the Congress and lost their direction. We all know this, and nobody is ignoring them. However, what we need now is to look ahead at tomorrow and not misdirect folks by trying to cast blame on the past.

So we think our political leaders need to ask themselves this question: What can we do to help empower people so everyone has the opportunity to experience the American dream for themselves and for their children?

It dismays us how today’s Democrats would answer that seemingly simple question. It seems that no matter how many times or ways you ask them for solutions, their answer is always the same: Create a new government program.

This first became apparent just a few weeks into Mr. Obama’s term, when he and his congressional followers pushed through a spending package totaling seven hundred and eighty-seven billion dollars. Mr. Obama demanded that this legislation be passed immediately, even as members of Congress confessed to not having read it, because he said it would halt unemployment at 8%.

More than a year later, here we are with unemployment at 10%, under-employment at 17%, and certain groups of folks even worse off.

What does Mr. Obama’s party in the House propose we do next? You guessed it: More government spending! The congressional Democrats’ appetite for big government is so enormous that they have even foregone Mr. Obama’s requests. Americans don’t want—or need—more social programs. What the American People want and need are jobs!

We want to be able to take care of our families, see our children get a good education and be able to afford their own home when the time comes.

Ronald Reagan said “the best welfare program is a job”. Why can’t the President and his Congress work on a jobs program that puts people back to work (in the private sector; temporary census workers swelling the employment rolls for a few months is NOT a sign of economic growth)? Why is it that their only solution seems to be to spend money we don’t have, on programs that don’t work, which will never go away, and that only serve to create constituencies who will demand more and more slop from the taxpayers’ trough?

Jobs creation happens when we encourage businesses to expand by providing them with incentives such as tax credits, tax breaks, and a stable regulatory environment.

You do not raise taxes during a recession. We all learned that during our first economics class: Taxes add to the cost of an item. The more something costs, the less of it people will buy. And that’s how you wind up with less economic activity when you do it on a large enough scale.

Why not instead implement common sense ideas like:

1. Cut the taxes on small businesses so they can save jobs and create new ones. Every dollar not sent to Washington is a dollar that can go into a new employees pay voucher;
2. Suspend FICA taxes on small businesses so the owners can put the money into providing jobs;
3. Allow small businesses and local governments to hire those who are collecting unemployment for the difference between what they are getting from unemployment and what a regular job would cost. It would put Americans back to work and may develop into a permanent job;
4. If you are going to have a government supported program be sure it has a defined sunset clause so the taxpayer is not permanently being asked to turn over hard-earned wages;
5. Stop trying to control the private sector. This only creates fear in our Board rooms as well as with small businesses, so they will not take risks and create jobs;

We are confident that we have enough ingenuity in this country to come up with better ideas to solve our problems than the Democrats’ tired message of “let’s just start a new government program.”

President Obama could demonstrate leadership here by calling both parties together to reach compromise. He and his party could and should make jobs the most important thing in policy right now. Forget everything else. Show the American people that we are serious about helping them. Stop trying to paint a rosy picture in an election year when all around us you can see suffering in the eyes and hearts of our countrymen.

It’s time to stop the politics. It’s time to get something done.