



**ON WATCH IN**  
**WASHINGTON**  
Intercessors for America's PRAYER ALERT

July 27, 2011

**U.S. NATIONAL DEBT: ADDRESSING THE NATION**

*The following is the prepared transcript of House Speaker John Boehner's speech Monday night on debt reduction talks:*

Good evening. I'm John Boehner. I serve as Speaker of the whole House -- of the members of both parties that you elect. These are difficult times in the life of our nation. Millions are looking for work, have been for some time, and the spending binge going on in Washington is a big part of the reason why.

Before I served in Congress, I ran a small business in Ohio. I was amazed at how different Washington, DC operated than every business in America. Where most American business make the hard choices to pay their bills and live within their means, in Washington more spending and more debt is business as usual.

I've got news for Washington -- those days are over.

President Obama came to Congress in January and requested business as usual -- yet another routine increase in the national debt limit -- we in the House said "not so fast." Here was the president, asking for the largest debt increase in American history, on the heels of the largest spending binge in American history.

Here's what we got for that spending binge: a massive health care bill that most Americans never asked for. A "stimulus" bill that was more effective in producing material for late-night comedians than it was in producing jobs. And a national debt that has gotten so out of hand it has sparked a crisis without precedent in my lifetime or yours.

The United States cannot default on its debt obligations. The jobs and savings of too many Americans are at stake.

What we told the president in January was this: the American people will not accept an increase in the debt limit without significant spending cuts and reforms.

And over the last six months, we've done our best to convince the president to partner with us to do something dramatic to change the fiscal trajectory of our country. . . something that will boost confidence in our economy, renew a measure of faith in our government, and help small businesses get back on track.

Last week, the House passed such a plan, and with bipartisan support. It's called the "Cut, Cap, and Balance" Act. It CUTS and CAPS government spending and paves the way for a Balanced Budget

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Amendment to the Constitution, which we believe is the best way to stop Washington from spending money it doesn't have. Before we even passed the bill in the House, the president said he would veto it.

I want you to know I made a sincere effort to work with the president to identify a path forward that would implement the principles of Cut, Cap, & Balance in a manner that could secure bipartisan support and be signed into law. I gave it my all.

Unfortunately, the president would not take yes for an answer. Even when we thought we might be close on an agreement, the president's demands changed.

The president has often said we need a "balanced" approach -- which in Washington means: we spend more. . . you pay more. Having run a small business, I know those tax increases will destroy jobs.

The president is adamant that we cannot make fundamental changes to our entitlement programs. As the father of two daughters, I know these programs won't be there for them and their kids unless significant action is taken now.

The sad truth is that the president wanted a blank check six months ago, and he wants a blank check today. That is just not going to happen.

You see, there is no stalemate in Congress. The House has passed a bill to raise the debt limit with bipartisan support. And this week, while the Senate is struggling to pass a bill filled with phony accounting and Washington gimmicks, we will pass another bill -- one that was developed with the support of the bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Senate.

Obviously, I expect that bill can and will pass the Senate, and be sent to the President for his signature. If the President signs it, the 'crisis' atmosphere he has created will simply disappear. The debt limit will be raised. Spending will be cut by more than one trillion dollars, and a serious, bipartisan committee of the Congress will begin the hard but necessary work of dealing with the tough challenges our nation faces.

The individuals doing this work will not be outsiders, but elected representatives of the people, doing the job they were elected to do as outlined in the Constitution. Those decisions should be made based on how they will affect people who are struggling to get a job, not how they affect some politician's chances of getting re-elected.

This debate isn't about President Obama and House Republicans ... it isn't about Congress and the White House ... it's about what's standing between the American people and the future we seek for ourselves and our families.

You know, I've always believed, the bigger government, the smaller the people. And right now, we have a government so big and so expensive it's sapping the drive of our people and keeping our economy from running at full capacity.

The solution to this crisis is not complicated: if you're spending more money than you're taking in, you need to spend less of it.

There is no symptom of big government more menacing than our debt. Break its grip, and we begin to liberate our economy and our future.

We are up to the task, and I hope President Obama will join us in this work.

God bless you and your families, and God bless America.

[Obama's speech:](#)

**Pray for our leaders that God will give them the wisdom to solve these financial issues. Ask the Father to fill them with creative solutions, and that they will lay aside all bitterness and needless political banter.**

*And I will bring the blind by a way that they know not, I will lead them in paths that they have not known, I will make darkness into light before them and make uneven places into a plain. These things I have determined to do for them; and I will not leave them forsaken. (Isaiah 42:16)*

## **GOVERNORS CALL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING AUGUST 6**

On August 6, people throughout the nation will unite in prayer and fasting. The Governor Paul LePage of Maine has issued a proclamation naming August 6 as a "Day of Prayer and Fasting for Our Nation." The Maine Legislative Prayer Caucus is urging Maine citizens to participate in this important event.

Check the Maine [website](#) soon for more information or learn more about The Response [here](#).

**ACLU Seeks Disclosure of Funding For Texas Governor's Prayer Event** - The ACLU of Texas [announced](#) yesterday that it has filed open records requests with state, county and city offices seeking information on the amount of government support that is being devoted to Texas Gov. Rick Perry's controversial prayer service scheduled for August 6 in Houston's Reliant Stadium.

[The Response Video](#) 60 secs.

**Pray for this event and the challenges facing leaders as a result of their bold stand.**

*"They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword" (2 Samuel 1:12).*

## **WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL PRAYER ACT H.R. 2070**

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the nation on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day. Follow the status of this legislation by clicking [here](#). (Contributors: [govtrack.us](#), [Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation](#))

**Pray for the World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2011 which would require the Secretary of the Interior to place a plaque at the World War II Memorial or inscribe on the Memorial President Franklin D. Roosevelt's D-Day prayer, which has been entitled "Let Our Hearts Be Stout."**

*"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;"*  
Psalm 107:2

## **CURRENT RELIGIOUS HIRING RIGHTS AFFIRMED**

At a town hall meeting today, July 22, Obama affirmed the current policy that allows faith-based government contractors to consider religious criteria in their employment decisions. When a representative from the Secular Coalition for America [pressed Obama](#) about overturning the religious

hiring rights, Obama said that he feels the current framework strikes the right balance, but that the Administration would continue discussing the issue with faith-based organizations.

Today's encounter adds to recent dialogue concerning the issue.

Recently, a group of faith-based organizations [sent a letter](#) to Obama, urging him to preserve the current policies. Groups who signed the letter include Focus on the Family, American Center for Law and Justice, Bethany Christian Services, World Vision, The Navigators, and many more. Their letter opposed a [letter](#) sent a few weeks earlier by groups including the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Secular Coalition for America, urging reversal of the policy. (Contributors: [Secular.org](#), [JasonBoyte.com](#), [AU.org](#), [Congressman Randy Forbes](#))

**Pray that the current policies will be honored and maintained by this administration. Praise God for His power to touch world authorities. Humbly ask for a mighty move of conviction and salvation in government and religious leaders. Cry out for all who influence our culture and laws.**

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7*

## **CHINA BUILDING ELECTROMAGNETIC WEAPON**

Portions of a National Ground Intelligence Center study on the lethal effects of electromagnetic pulse (EMP) and high-powered microwave (HPM) weapons revealed that the arms are part of China's so-called "assassin's mace" arsenal - weapons that allow a technologically inferior China to defeat U.S. military forces.

The declassified intelligence report, obtained by the private National Security Archive, provides details on China's EMP weapons and plans for their use. Annual Pentagon reports on China's military in the past made only passing references to the arms.

"For use against Taiwan, China could detonate at a much lower altitude (30 to 40 kilometers) ... to confine the EMP effects to Taiwan and its immediate vicinity and minimize damage to electronics on the mainland," the report said.

The report, produced in 2005 and once labeled "secret," stated that Chinese military writings have discussed building low-yield EMP warheads, but "it is not known whether [the Chinese] have actually done so."

"The DF-21 medium-range ballistic missile has been mentioned as a platform for the EMP attack against Taiwan," the report said.

According to the report, China's electronic weapons are part of what are called "trump card" or "assassin's mace" weapons that "are based on new technology that has been developed in high secrecy."

"Trump card would be applicable if the Chinese have developed new low-yield, possibly enhanced, EMP warheads, while assassin's mace would apply if older warheads are employed," the report said.

According to the report, China conducted EMP tests on mice, rats, rabbits, dogs and monkeys that produced eye, brain, bone marrow and other organ injuries. It stated that "it is clear the real purpose of the Chinese medical experiments is to learn the potential human effects of exposure to powerful EMP and [high-powered microwave] radiation."

The tests did not appear designed for “anti-personnel [radio frequency] weapons” because of the limited amounts of radiation used. However, the report said another explanation is that the Chinese tests may have been research “intended primarily for torturing prisoners,” or the tests may have been conducted to determine safety or shielding standards for military personnel or weapons.

The medical research also appeared useful for China's military in making sure that EMP weapons used against Taiwan and “any vulnerable U.S. [aircraft carrier] would not push the U.S. across the nuclear-response threshold,” the report said.

“China’s [high-altitude] EMP capability could be used in two different ways: as a surprise measure after China’s initial strike against Taiwan and other U.S. [aircraft carrier strike group] assets have moved into a vulnerable position, and as a bluff intended to dissuade the United States from defending Taiwan with a CVBG,” the Pentagon acronym for carrier strike groups. (Contributor: Washington Times)

### **Pray for God’s hand of protection over our military and over the nation of Taiwan.**

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18:2*

The Congressional Prayer Caucus, an official caucus of the U.S. House of Representatives, is a bipartisan group of over 80 Members dedicated to preserving our religious heritage and protecting religious liberty in America.

### **PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATORS WANT TO ADDRESS TEACHERS WEARING RELIGIOUS**

**SYMBOLS** - Two Pennsylvania state representatives are hoping to change a law enacted in 1895 that prevents public school teachers from wearing religious symbols in the classroom. A 2003 case challenging the law was ultimately settled, but the judge in that case said the policy showed “hostility toward religion” and likely violated teachers’ free speech rights.

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/news/2011/07/end-urged-pa-ban-teachers-religious-garb#ixzz1SXspSCq5>

**OHIO SCHOOL BOARD BANS COMMUNITY GROUP FLYERS** - Ohio school board bans distribution of all community group flyers, rather than allowing distribution of religious flyers. A school board was sued for prohibiting a group from distributing flyers about an after-school Christmas story hour to elementary school students, while allowing the distribution of flyers from other community groups. The school board agreed to change its policy, banning distribution of all flyers instead of permitting distribution of religious ones.

<http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/4996>

### **The Parable of the Job Creator**

By Al Kamen, Tuesday, July 26, 9:55 PM

In Washington, when you’re in crisis mode, when your back is to the wall, when no solution is in sight, you . . . meet.

So every interest group in Washington is meeting these days — with Obama, House Speaker Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Reid, House Majority Leader Cantor and House Minority Leader Pelosi, or with other groups, to influence the debt-ceiling debate.

Perhaps the most unusual of the meetings was one Obama had last week with a coalition of Christian religious leaders who urged him not to hammer the poor in trying to reduce the national debt.

It is, one participant said, “an unprecedented coalition,” including leaders from the Episcopal Church, the Salvation Army, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ.

It’s unprecedented because “we don’t agree on much else,” said John Carr of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development.

The coalition focuses on those Jesus called “the least of these” (Matthew 25:45), which speaks to obligations to look to the less fortunate. One goal is to get lawmakers to consider “What would Jesus cut?” (Actually, to ask the question is probably to answer it.)

The religious press has covered the coalition, which is called the “Circle of Protection,” but the lamestream media generally hasn’t written much about its activities, which have included prayer vigils on the Hill and fasts, some for 27 days. The group has been working the issue hard.

“Poor people don’t have an office on K Street,” said Galen Carey of the National Association of Evangelicals. “They don’t have lobbyists, so their voice is muted. That’s why it’s important for people of faith to step into the void.”

So how have the meetings on the Hill gone? “Most people say, ‘Yes, that’s a good point,’ ” Carey said. “We haven’t had anyone say that the goal is to take food out of hungry children’s mouths.” Well, that’s hopeful.

“A budget is a moral document,” said Jim Wallis, president of Sojourners, a Christian social justice group. “We’re making choices,” he added, such as whether to cut \$8.5 billion for low-income housing or whether to retain a similar amount in tax deductions for mortgages on vacation homes for the wealthy.

Everyone is watching the budget battle, Wallis said, including Wall Street, the private-jet industry, the banks and so on. (To read entire article: [click here](#) ) (SOURCE: Washington Post 7/27/2011 Written by Al Kamen)