

Charge and Response: President Obama's Press Conference

This morning, President Obama took to the White House podium for a national news conference to discuss debt limit negotiations and predictably called for higher taxes and more spending to spur economic growth and job creation. Instead of putting forth a sensible plan to reduce our job-crushing debt and restore certainty for our nation's job creators, President Obama seemingly blamed loopholes for corporate jet owners and oil companies for our debt crisis. Those claims are strikingly similar to yesterday's [blog post by Paul Krugman](#), who [believes](#) the president's trillion-dollar stimulus package [failed](#) because it actually [didn't spend enough money](#).

Below please find a rough transcript of some of the [president's claims](#) and responses to help you correct the record.

Charge: "I'm proposing we get rid of tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, tax breaks for oil companies, and hedge fund managers and corporate jet owners. ... I think it would be hard for the Republicans to stand there and say, 'The tax break for corporate jets is sufficiently important that we're not willing to come to the table and get a deal done.'"

Response: The House Republican budget ends loopholes and complicated deductions that are often used by wealthy individuals and corporations and devotes the revenue to deficit-neutral tax reform that will broaden the tax base and create jobs. It would prevent the largest tax increase in history and repeal those mandated by the Democrats' government takeover of health care. Our plan will make our tax code fairer, flatter and simpler in order to help U.S. businesses compete and create jobs.

Furthermore, it's worth noting an [AP article from February 18, 2009](#) on President Obama's stimulus bill which reported the following: "Just a few months after lawmakers scolded auto executives for flying to Washington in private jets, Congress approved a tax break in the stimulus package to help businesses buy their own planes. The incentive -- first used to help plane makers recover from the 2001 terror attacks -- sharply reduces the up front tax bill for companies who buy assets like business planes."

Charge: "If you are a wealthy CEO or a hedge fund manager right now, your taxes are lower than they've ever been. They're lower than they've been since the 1950s, and you can afford it. You'll still be able to ride on your corporate jet, you'll just have to pay a little more."

Response: According to [this chart](#) from the Tax Foundation, federal individual income rates were lower in the late 1980s and early 90s. Nonetheless, the president has repeatedly called for raising the top two individual tax brackets by 9 percent and 13 percent, respectively. According to the president's budget, this would increase taxes by \$709 billion over the next ten years. While the president argues that these taxes would primarily hit ultra-wealthy Americans, studies show that nearly 40 percent of those paying these increased rates would be small business owners paying their business taxes as individuals. This would, as a result, hinder job creation.

Charge: "I've said to some of the Republican leaders, 'You talk to your constituents ... and ask them if they're willing to compromise their kids' safety so that some corporate jet owner continues to get a tax break,' and I'm pretty sure what the answer would be. ...My belief is that the Republican leadership in Congress will hopefully, sooner rather than later, come to the conclusion that they need to make the right decisions for the country."

Response: The Democrats insist that any deal must include tax increases, which are not supported by the American people and will not receive support in the House. Last week, Senate Democrats called for *even more* [government spending](#) as a part of the negotiations to follow up on their [failed trillion-dollar stimulus](#). No nation can spend, tax, borrow, or bail-out its way to prosperity and job creation. To create jobs and save our country from national bankruptcy, *we must stop spending money we don't have.*

Charge: "There are also things that Congress could do right now that will help create good jobs. ... There are a number of steps that my Administration is taking but there are also a number of steps that Congress could be taking right now."

Response: The president should have a talk with his former colleague, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Below is a list of jobs bills that have passed the House and are waiting for Senate action. Additionally, the president called for passage of the three pending trade agreements, which House Republicans call for in the [Plan for America's Job Creators](#). It's President Obama who is playing politics by insisting the export agreements include Trade Adjustment Agreements (TAA), when the House has made clear that these will be brought up separate from TAA.

Jobs Bills Waiting for Senate Action

Empower Small Business Owners and Reduce Regulatory Burdens:

H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act

- Introduced by Rep. Bob Gibbs (OH) on March 2, 2011

- Passed the House by a vote of 292-130 on March 31, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act

- Introduced by Rep. Fred Upton (MI) on March 3, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 255-172 on April 7, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

H.J.Res. 37, a Resolution of disapproval regarding the FCC's regulation of the Internet and broadband industry practices

- Introduced by Rep. Greg Walden (OR) on February 16, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 240 to 179 on April 8, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

Encourage Entrepreneurship and Growth:

H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act

- Introduced by Rep. Lamar Smith on March 30, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 304-117 on June 23, 2011
- Currently pending in the Senate

Maximize Domestic Energy Production To Ensure An Energy Policy For The Twenty-First Century:

H.R. 1230, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act

- Introduced by Rep. Doc Hastings (WA) on March 29, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 266-149 on May 5, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act

- Introduced by Rep. Doc Hastings (WA) on March 29, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 263-163 on May 11, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act

- Introduced by Rep. Doc Hastings (WA) on March 29, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 243-179 on May 12, 2011

- Senate has taken no action to date

H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act

- Introduced by Rep. Cory Gardner on May 26, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 253-166 on June 22, 2011
- Senate has taken no action to date

Pay Down America's Unsustainable Debt Burden and Start Living Within Our Means:

H.Con.Res. 34, a Resolution establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021

- Introduced by Rep. Paul Ryan (WI) on April 11, 2011
- Passed the House by a vote of 235-193 on April 15, 2011
- Senate has not yet considered a budget of their own