

The famous author Gore Vidal once said: "It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail." It seems this is the Republican motto this Congress. To me and to most Americans, putting politics ahead of this country's economic future is so far outside of the mainstream, it is barely on the map. That is where the Republicans have headed.

Republicans have been candid about their goal this Congress. My friend the minority leader said:

The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term President.

Defeating job-creating legislation, defeating the economy, and defeating the President—that is how Senate Republicans measure success. But it is not how Republicans in the rest of the country measure success. The rest of America doesn't share those out-of-touch values. Like Democrats, the rest of the country believes there are some things more important than politics, even in an election year. Creating jobs is that most important thing.

To Democrats and the vast majority of Americans, there is no goal more important than getting our economy humming once again. That is why Americans overwhelmingly support our plan to retain or rehire more than 400,000 teachers and put more cops and firefighters back doing the things they do to keep our communities safe.

In Nevada, this legislation will provide an additional \$260 million to keep teachers in the classroom and maintain class size. It will support 3,600 jobs in my State and pump much needed money back into the economy.

Seventy-five percent of Americans believe we should help State and local governments put teachers, police, and firefighters back to work, and 76 percent of Americans agree that the wealthiest people in this country should help get our economy back on track. I repeat, three out of four Americans—actually, it is a little more than that: 76 percent—including two-thirds of Republicans, support the Democrats' Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act.

Republicans in Congress aren't just out of touch with America, they are out of touch with other Republicans. Fifty-four percent of Republicans support the Democrats' plan to create jobs building roads, bridges and schools. Fifty-eight percent of Republicans support our plan to extend the payroll tax for American workers and businesses. Sixty-three percent of Republicans support our plan to put teachers in the classroom and police officers on the beat. Fifty-six percent of Republicans even support our proposal to ask millionaires and billionaires to contribute their fair share—one-half of 1 percent—to pull our Nation out of this terrible recession.

The trend is clear: Americans overwhelmingly support the Democrats' plan to create jobs, even with Republicans supporting our ideas by a wide margin. Yet my friend the Republican

leader said this yesterday on the Senate floor:

There's a growing bipartisan opposition to trying the same failed policies again. And there's bipartisan opposition to raising taxes, especially at a time when 14 million Americans are out of work.

Well, I say to my friend the Republican leader, you are entitled to your own opinion but not to your own facts. There is not bipartisan opposition to legislation that will create and save jobs for teachers and first responders. On the contrary, there is bipartisan support for the legislation. I have just gone over those numbers. Republicans, like the rest of Americans, do not oppose our proposal to ask millionaires to contribute their fair share. On the contrary, they support that proposal—a one-half of 1 percent surtax on people making more than \$1 million a year. It is only in Congress that Republicans oppose job-creating legislation and fair tax policy for the sake of politics.

In the rest of the country, Republicans, like other Americans, are focused on where their next paycheck will come from and how they will make their mortgage payment. Like Democrats, they are tired of Republicans in Congress rooting for the economy to fail instead of working with us to secure our economic future.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the previous order, at 12 noon the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 272, 273, and 274; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally

divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Calendar No. 272 and Calendar No. 274 be confirmed and the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on Calendar No. 273; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session, with 2 minutes of debate equally divided between Senators MCCAIN and BOXER or their designees prior to the vote in relation to McCain amendment No. 739, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I ask that the quorum call be rescinded and that I be allowed to speak in morning business, although I believe we are in the Republican time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEMA

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, in some ways, I hate to come to the floor and talk about this because I very seldom do, but I am announcing to all my colleagues and to the administration that I am putting a hold on all Treasury Department nominations until I get something resolved.

Let me back up and tell the story. Some of my colleagues are familiar with this story because this has come up a few times before and I have already spoken on the floor a couple times about this and certainly in the Homeland Security Committee I have spoken about this.

A few years ago, in Arkansas, we had some floods. In this one particular area around Mountain View, AR, some people's houses were flooded. FEMA came in. In one particular case—in the Guglielmas case, which is a family there—they talked to this couple. They are on Social Security. They talked to this couple about how they are entitled to some FEMA recovery money to repair their home. FEMA was actually in the home, took pictures, helped them fill out the paperwork, walked them through the entire process, and they ended up getting \$27,000 in FEMA money for disaster recovery. The Guglielmas did everything absolutely by the book. They followed all of