

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, while my statement mimics a well-known seasonal classic, it is shared in all seriousness and with a sense of greatest urgency.

'Twas the week before Christmas when all through the House,

A cry echoed much louder than a roaring mouse.

Don't raise our taxes, on us please be fair,

or our middle class will be lost in despair.

The majority was plotting a thought in its head,

We should staunchly oppose what from the President was led.

Millionaires should be spared, not a penny we sap,

But Keystone pipeline we will never ever scrap.

When outside the Chamber there arose such a clatter,

The public was disgusted and shouted: we matter!

Away to offices lawmakers flew in a flash,

A change in this bill or else it will crash.

End of year coming and no jobs plan to show,

They said no regulations was the best way to go.

Then what to our debate should suddenly appear,

But a sentiment from the public those in office should fear.

Come on Congress, be fair and be quick.

Don't be deceiving, and don't be so slick.

More rapid the calls and emails they came,

"No pipeline" said Senator I won't name.

So let's get to work and not be grinch this season,

The economy and middle class are clearly the reason,

We should have a straight vote, not this 400-page show,

And help America's middle class and small business grow.

Let's spring into action and get this bill done.

We have other work; in fact, there's a ton.

Spending bills, doc fix, unemployment and more,

Before the year ends, they must all come to the floor.

We serve our constituents and our Nation first.

For jobs and opportunities, many of us thirst.

Clean air and clean water should not be rolled back.

Deregulatory riders ours bills should well lack.

Thus we go forward to end of the year,

Good tidings and joy this Congress must steer.

Working together with all of our might,

Happy Holidays to all, and for fairness let's fight.

GENOCIDAL SUDANESE GOVERNMENT HIRES LOBBYIST

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I was appalled and outraged to learn yesterday that the genocidal government of Khartoum has hired a lobbyist to represent its interests here in Washington.

On December 10, a publication called "Africa Intelligence" reported that the Sudanese Government has put a lobbyist on retainer with the express purpose of trying "to lift American sanctions against it."

The article further reported that the law office of Bart S. Fisher would be paid \$20,000 a month plus expenses to represent this genocidal government, a government which literally has blood on its hands.

I don't know how Mr. Fisher sleeps at night. Considering the follow: Sudan's president, Omar Hassan Bashir, is an internationally indicted war criminal. Bashir is accused by the International Criminal Court of five counts of crimes against humanity—including murder, rape, torture, and extermination—and two counts of war crimes.

But Khartoum's crimes are not simply a thing of the past. In a recent hearing before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a witness with the NGO Human Rights Watch testified about the situation on the ground in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile states in Sudan, saying: "According to witnesses we interviewed and other sources, government forces shelled civilian areas, shot people in the streets and carried out house-to-house searches and arrests based on lists of names of known Sudan People's Liberation Movement supporters in the first weeks of fighting."

My office has received regular, reliable reports from individuals on the ground echoing these claims. We have learned of ongoing aerial bombardments in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states. We have heard of nightmarish accounts of extrajudicial killings, illegal detention, disappearances, and indiscriminate attacks against civilians. Furthermore, evidence gathered through satellite imagery by the Satellite Sentinel Project shows at least eight mass graves found in and around Kadugli, the capital of Southern Kordofan.

Literally thousands have fled the violence, which begs the question, Who is their lobbyist? They are in desperate straits having left behind their entire lives. Who is their lobbyist? They are facing malnutrition and prolonged displacement. Who is their lobbyist?

To put a human face on these questions, consider this picture taken by a Voice of America photographer of a malnourished child with a feeding tube inserted in his nose in an attempt to get him the sustenance he so desperately needs. He is one of roughly 25,000 people in the Yida refugee camp that have fled the fighting in Sudan and crossed the border in South Sudan.

I ask Mr. Fisher, the lobbyist: Where is the child's lobbyist, the lobbyist for this child?

Today I am sending a letter to President Obama, the State Department, the Justice Department, and the Treasury Department seeking immediate clarification on what appears to be an indefensible situation.

According to news report and the Foreign Agents Registration page of the Department of Justice Web site, Mr. Bart Fisher is representing the Government of Sudan. Was he granted a license from the Office of Foreign Assets Control at Treasury, as is required to represent the genocidal country of Sudan given the U.S. sanctions which are in place against it? If not, is his representation a violation of law? If so, why would the Obama administration allow this to move forward?

There are many questions which demand answers. But one thing is clear: it appears that Mr. Fisher's contract with the Government of Sudan went into effect in November. If he has received one penny from the Government of Sudan, he should return it immediately; or better yet, he should donate it to one of the NGOs seeking to serve the suffering Sudanese people in Yida refugee camp who have been brutalized by their own government, i.e., Mr. Fisher's client.

[From the Africa Intelligence, Dec. 10, 2011]

KHARTOUM HIRES A LOBBYIST IN U.S.

The Sudanese government has just taken on a lobbyist in Washington, United States to try to lift American sanctions against it. The Law Office of Bart S. Fisher summarised the contract in a letter to the Sudanese embassy in Washington dated November 1, stating that its work would be carried out within the limits of the Sudanese Sanctions Regulations, for a fee of \$20,000 a month plus expenses. Bart Fisher is a longstanding lobbyist for China and for Chinese companies, combining the legal defence of its clients and lobby activity. In the case of Sudan, he will advise Khartoum on how to obtain the reduction or cessation of U.S. sanctions and the removal of the country from the State Department list of State Sponsors of Terror. It will also aid the Sudanese Embassy in Washington in the requisite legal procedures. Fisher will have work to do, since the contract was signed on 10 November just as military tension is growing on the border with Southern Sudan and a coalition of 66 organisations in the United States, Act for Sudan, recently asked President Barack Obama to impose a no fly zone over Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile, to prevent Khartoum from attacking the civilian population.

□ 1040

PAYROLL TAX CUTS

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, once again we are presented with a false choice today. In the Alice in Wonderland world of the House, Republicans oppose payroll tax cuts unless they can be used as a vehicle to cut unemployment benefits. According