



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



Newsletter August 2011

General Meeting

Thursday August 4, 2011

6:30 for networking and snacks, 7:00pm meeting start

Guest Speaker: Kathy Long

Ventura county Board of Supervisors

816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo

Exit at the Camarillo Springs Rd. exit from the 101

There are a few Republican talking points that just "stick in my craw," forgive me for preaching to the choir this month – like that's something new – but I've just got to comment on these.

Tax increases are job killers

The first is the "tax increases are job killers" mantra of the Republicans. If you look at history and facts, this is an inaccurate red-herring. It makes a nice sound bite but it's just not true

The highest marginal tax rates this country has ever known came during the period from 1950 through 1963 when the top rate was 91%. During that time we AVERAGED 4.1% GDP growth and 2.0% payroll growth.

The next highest marginal rates were 75% - 80% during 1964, '68 & '69, the GDP averaged 4.6% growth and payroll growth was 2.55.

When the tax rates (all rates from here on reflect the top marginal rate) were between 69% & 75% (1965-1967 and 1970 - 1980) the GDP rose at a 3.3% rate and payroll growth averaged 2.5%.

50% tax rates (1982 – 1986) = 3.5% GDP and 2.1% payroll growth.

39.6% tax rates (1993 - 2000) = 3.9% GDP and 2.4% payroll growth.

38.6% tax rate (2001, 2002) = 2.0% GDP and 0.5% payroll growth.

35% tax rate (OUR CURRENT RATES (2003 - 2011) = 1.8% GDP and 0.0% payroll growth.

28% - 31% tax rates (1988 – 1992) = 2.6% GDP and 1.1% payroll growth.

Statistics from the Department of Labor and Michael Linden at "The Progress Report."

There is a qualifying phrase that is always used in economic modeling, that phrase is "all other things being equal". It's a "if A is true then B must be true, *all other things being equal*" kind of thing.

Now, the Republican mantra is right, ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, if you raise taxes you will probably kill some jobs.

The problem is, as we can see from our historical record, all other things are NOT equal. Almost exclusively, during the past sixty years, higher tax rates have been associated with higher growth in both GDP and payroll growth. Whatever the effects of higher taxes have been have always been offset by other factors. The biggest of which has probably been government spending!

The government doesn't create jobs, only the private sector creates jobs

The second Republican talking point I'd like to refute is this nonsense about the government doesn't create jobs, only the private sector creates jobs. This is utter nonsense. The government not only creates government jobs, it also creates private sector jobs. Want proof? Well, how much proof do you want? Don't all those Tea Party Congressmen and their staffs have jobs? Don't all the teachers, police and firemen have jobs? How about all the researchers at the National Institutes of Health? The FAA employees, the forest and park rangers, the bank regulators and on and on, don't those people all have jobs?

But I promised that the government also creates private sector jobs; let me say just two words: Space Program. When I was a young man, and for much of my adult life, the L.A. Times was two inches (or more) thick every Sunday with Help Wanted ads looking for engineers and technicians in order to build the various space programs – Mercury, Apollo, the Space Shuttle, etc. All those jobs were offered by private sector companies at the behest of contracts awarded by the government. Years and years of jobs that created not only our space programs but ultimately untold, unforeseen

advances in computers, electronics, materials and innumerable other disciplines that have paved the way for much of the technological that we take for granted today. All came, ultimately, from the Space Program that was fully funded by tax dollars.

We don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem

The final talking point I'd like to talk about is this strange point of view. As a matter of record, there have been precious few years in the last half a century when this nation hasn't run a deficit, and an ever increasing deficit at that, whether Congress was run by Democrats or Republicans. One of the very few deficit free years was the surplus budget that Bill Clinton left for George Bush's administration in FY 2001. And that surplus was projected to last for at least a decade, lowering the accumulated national debt by something like \$3 trillion dollars.

Wouldn't you think the Republicans would've thought they had died and gone to heaven? The very thing they railed about for years on end was finally theirs! We were finally able to have balanced budgets and smaller government! And what did they do with the lot they had been handed? Well, in his first year, George Bush pushed for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and immediately wiped out the surplus. Dick Cheney famously remarked that "deficits don't matter". Then we went into a war against a nation that had not attacked us on 9/11 and, worse yet, we refused to raise taxes to pay for it; that was the FIRST time in American history that we've fought a war that we hadn't bothered to pay for, we put it on the credit card! Same thing with the Great American Giveaway Subsidy for Big Pharma, I mean Medicare, Part D. This sop, supposedly to help seniors with exploding prescription drug costs, was actually a giveaway to the major pharmaceutical and insurance companies and it helped explode Medicare costs by not allowing Medicare to negotiate prescription prices with the suppliers.

The net effect of just these three expenditures, all Republican in origin, has been to explode the deficit and the national debt. I seriously beg to differ with the Republicans on this one, put back the revenue that you took away with the series of Bush tax cuts and over half of the deficit goes away.

It's downright hypocritical for the Republicans to talk about "a spending problem" when they are the ones who created the spending problem in the first place. Man up Republicans! Pay for the bills you've run up, but don't pay for them by taking services away from the poorest, most vulnerable members of society; pay for them by raising revenue on those who are making most of the money. Put the progressive back in our progressive income tax system. I'll guarantee you won't be "killing jobs", you'll more likely create them.

Hardy Hayes

Letters to the Editor

Letter to the VCStar 7-13-11

Thanks To All

Thanks to The Star for the information on July 11th on the Georgia's anti-immigration law. Thanks to Mary Currie Dodd for the letter on July 8th on the wonderful diversity of Oxnard. Thanks to Adam Foxman information on July 12th referring to these people stuck on Santa Cruz Island as "undocumented immigrants", instead of "illegal aliens".

All this kind of information educating to public is the best way to erase the fears we seem to have in our county. If we keep demeaning each other, we will not grow and we'll keep these fears alive. I have lived in Ventura County since 1946 and like Ms. Dodd, praised our diversity. I see this as a way to really get a fair immigration reform bill passed. I hope our Rep. Elton Gallegly is reading our newspaper and will help unite us.

Sheila Smith

Letter to the LA Times (7-14-11)

Re "G.O.P. Bid to Void Light Bulb Law Fails" (July 14, 2011)

This most recent Republican failure reminds us of the old joke: How many G.O.P. Congresspersons does it take to screw up a light bulb Bill? More than 233, since they need two-thirds or more to pass. Remember the Republican cry before they were elected 7 months ago? JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! They've not presented one Jobs Bill. However, the deceitful new GOP Governors have laid off over 500,000 state employees and the "job creators," the U.S. Corporations have hired hundreds of thousands of workers overseas, as we can recall. We should recall.

Jerry Drucker

Letter to the LA Times 7-15-11

The article states: "US Federal law contains character requirements for holders of licenses for television and radio stations". I guess the character part of the requirement doesn't necessarily mean good character because all we see and hear on FOX News is lies, distortions, disrespect for the

Presidency, misinformation, bigotry and racism. If this is what describes necessary character to be granted a license or to renew an existing license, then Murdoch has nothing to worry about.

Carolyn Crandall

Letter to LA Times 7-15-11

Textbooks to include gays' achievements

Thank you Governor Brown for being intelligent, courageous and compassionate on behalf of our LGBT brothers and sisters by signing SB48. I agree with State Senator Mark Leno that this should help decrease the bullying that gay students endure every day. Education is the cure. I have a somewhat different take on the Republicans' aversion to this law and to the gay community in general. If they really believe that being gay is a choice and not genetic, then what they really must believe is that these are straight people acting out on an urge that can be corrected via treatment, as some advocate.

If this is the case, then they should have no issue with our children being taught about straight people who have chosen a different lifestyle. Edgar Allen Poe was a heroin addict, Ernest Hemingway was an alcoholic, Betty Ford was addicted to prescription drugs and alcohol, and Johnny Cash was addicted to drugs and alcohol and spent time in prison, so should our children not be taught about their contributions because they chose a different lifestyle? Just asking.

Carolyn Crandall

Letters home from Viet Nam by Steve Crandall

Chapter 9 – Suppose They Gave a War and Nobody Came

More and more we are being scrutinized in one way or another by the upper command and it's beginning to feel like the battle is between headquarters and us, and not the enemy. Outside inspection teams have been brought in to review our loading procedures and with them came an attitude of superiority. Okay, I admit that we took some short cuts but I also felt we knew what we were doing and our mission was to get the planes turned around as quickly as possible to support our buddies on the front lines. I was a number two man (cockpit man) on a four man weapons loading team. My job was

to simulate the pilot's job of releasing the various weapons like the bombs, rockets and gun firing from the cockpit while the guys on the ground tested to make sure the voltage to release these weapons got to the proper destinations. I know it takes eight pins placed in an F-4 ejection seat to make it totally safe but I also know it only takes a few to keep me from being splattered against the inside roof of the concrete revetment. We weren't the only ones taking short cuts and risks. The pilots, in coordination with their maintenance crew chiefs, flew planes with failing equipment. Those in charge didn't seem to care how we got the mission done until now. Was their war getting out of control?

June 14, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

It's been raining for the last two days now. I was taking a bomb loader over to have it fixed because the side frame was bent and wouldn't retract. A couple of lifers jumped all over me for driving the loader with the frame out. They didn't even let me explain that I was taking it to be fixed and that it wouldn't retract. All they have is simple minds with nothing else to do. On top of all this our crew was decertified yesterday. They said we were unsafe. Yet our crew was in first to be the crew of the month.

For some reason I didn't write home about what came next. We joined forces with the maintenance crews in protest of the heavy handed, better than thou, attitude of the upper echelon. My new weapons loading crew chief, a young lifer, challenged the commander when we didn't receive the proper loading equipment. He followed the check list verbatim and reminded the commander that the check list was signed by the Secretary of the Air Force. The commander didn't know what to do. Planes were grounded (Red X'd) by the maintenance crew chiefs because parts needed to be replaced and weren't available, so missions were missed because we followed the rules as established by the authority. Within days a Four Star General's car showed up in front of operation headquarters. The shit hit the fan and later that afternoon we were called into the shop by the OIC (Officer in Charge) and told to continue our work as before but to please be safe.

While we were banning together and protesting the rules of the establishment the stateside protest slogans were making their way to Vietnam. There was a new air of enthusiasm amongst the maintenance and loading crews that was propelling us to join forces for a common goal. Meanwhile my feelings about the war were emerging in my artistic talent for painting. We also needed to start locking up our stuff so we acquired a wooden fuse box, hinged the top of the box, used bomb lanyards to create a cable stop / table and mounted it on the wall. This fuse box became my canvas to express my feelings about the war.

June 16, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Well today's my day off. I got some poster paints and paint brushes at the hobby shop. I painted some signs on the front of our wooden cabinet. One's a peace sign and the other one is a flower drawn in stick design and it says "War Is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things. I'm doing another one right now that says "Suppose they Gave a War and Nobody Came". It really surprised me that I still had the patience and talent for painting. Everyone has been telling me how great my paintings look.

You never know what the day might bring in a war zone. A 2,000 lb. bomb can make a pretty big hole in the ground when dropped by a plane but the devastation it can make if it were to go off while sitting on a bomb trailer with another 2,000 lb. bomb right next to it would be unbelievable. The officer standing beside me shared my concern but apparently knew nothing about weapons when he suggested we move back a few feet. We could have moved back 100 feet and we would still be well within the kill zone. For some reason I didn't care all that much. The excitement of watching the bomb being de-armed was overwhelming.

June 18, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

We had a little excitement around here yesterday. A crew went to load two 2,000 lb. bombs when they noticed one had an armed tail fuse. What happened is another crew down-loaded it and forgot to take out the tail fuse.

When they pulled the arming wire the vain spun and armed it. They didn't notice it so the bomb has been to the bomb dump and back to the flightline armed. I guess I'll go to the dentist tomorrow. I have to have one of my wisdom teeth pulled. I can't brush back that far anyway. I guess that's why they pull them. I'm trying to catch up on my letter writing later, I get behind when I get in a slump.

In the states I was threatened with an Article 15 (punishment at the sole direction of the First Sgt.) for going on sick call when I could have made an appointment. But over here I don't seem to really care about punishment. They can't do much more to me than I have already done to myself by volunteering for Vietnam.

June 20, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I went ahead and had my tooth pulled today. They were going to pull it out on the 25th but it bothered me so I went in on sick call today. I didn't even know it was out. It came out so easy it's a wonder it didn't fall out. The next two are going to be a bit rougher. They won't be coming up anymore. He said if I let them go there would be a good chance of infection. He said I could wait until I get back to the states but I figure I might as well get it over with. I got duty excuse so I am back at the barracks.

When the VC rockets aren't hitting the base they are hitting downtown. The word around base was that the rockets are set up on timers and the VC are long gone by the time the rockets are launched. So when the big guns starting unloading rounds into the surrounding hills and valleys there is no reassurance that they are actually killing any VC. The barracks shake with each shell that is fired from the canons and the sound is deafening. The cannons have now become more annoying than the rocket attacks.

June 21, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

We got another rocket attack early this morning. I heard one rocket killed 7 people and injured 19 when it hit a home downtown. I got two letters from you today. I got still another award besides the one that you read about in the paper and that's a Missileman's badge. I tried to

do some painting last night but every time I'd start to paint a straight line they'd shoot off that big gun. I saw a couple of barrels for that gun yesterday on the back of a semi-flatbed trailer. The barrels extended 10 to 12 feet beyond the end of the trailer.

I was noting on the calendar that I have 217 days to go. As of Thursday I'll have been here 5 months. Sometimes seem to go pretty fast then all of a sudden it seems to stop.

P.S. Happy Father's Day.

I've been here five months and without any hint of open locker inspections. So what is going on now? The consensus is that the command leaders are trying to get even with us after our show down that happened earlier in the month.

June 26, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

This morning started a little different. A captain woke me up saying that this was a shake down and for me to open my locker. There was no mention as to what they were looking for. Probably just more harassment.

It's raining again today. We had to walk through 4 inch deep water to load a plane. I carry my wallet and other important things in a plastic sack. We got off early tonight so I did my wash. I'm rinsing my clothes about three times to make sure I get any soap out of them. Well I've passed the 5 month mark. 212 days left to go. 12 more days and I will be in the one hundreds. It won't be long now.

The Air Force finally caught up on my back pay. Hell, it's only been five months. A month or so ago I ordered a tape deck and had it shipped to Danang. But now that I've got some bucks I can do some serious planning as to which pieces of stereo equipment I want to order and shipped home. I've got to make sure I order an 8-track tape recorder so I create my own tunes for cruising in that '67 SS Chevelle that is waiting for me when I get home.

June 29, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm at work right now. I was just trying to see if I couldn't do some writing between loads. I got paid \$482 this month. That is for buck Sgt. over two years and all my back pay I was owed. I'll be able to order all the rest of my stereo

equipment and still have \$254 left. I have the day off tomorrow and hope to be able to sleep in if it is cool. What usually wakes me up in the morning is when I start sweating. I didn't think I would have time to finish this letter at work. They're trying to push our crew at work. We have a new supervisor at work and he is a really great guy. The lieutenant accused him of giving our crew the most loads. He told the lieutenant that who ever gets load crew of the month is going to have to load for MSET, an evaluation team, and that we were the only crew capable of doing it. All the line chiefs stuck up for us too. My bunkmate just came back from playing cards. He's been playing cards since we got off at midnight and it is 10:00 in the morning. Well I have to go to chow and then the BX.

Here is what the Tea Party and our Congressman, Elton Gallegly, are advocating for to raise the debt ceiling; amending the Constitution for a balanced budget. Here that process:

To Propose Amendments

- Two-thirds of both houses of Congress vote to propose an amendment, or
- Two-thirds of the state legislatures ask Congress to call a national convention to propose amendments. (This method has never been used.)

To Ratify Amendments

- Three-fourths of the state legislatures approve it, or
- Ratifying conventions in three-fourths of the states approve it. This method has been used only once -- to ratify the 21st Amendment -- repealing Prohibition.

The Supreme Court has stated that ratification must be within "some reasonable time after the proposal." Beginning with the 18th amendment, it has been customary for Congress to set a definite period for ratification. In the case of the 18th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd amendments, the period set was 7 years, but there has been no determination as to just how long a "reasonable time" might extend.

Of the thousands of proposals that have been made to amend the Constitution, only 33 obtained the necessary two-thirds vote in Congress. Of those 33, only 27 amendments (including the Bill of Rights) have been ratified.

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

Plato

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.

Ernest Benn

Talking Points Memo - 7-7-11

Republican presidential candidates going through Iowa will now be asked to take new marriage vows -- that is, a pledge to uphold traditional marriage.

David Brody at the Christian Broadcasting Network reports, the actual title of the document is "The Marriage Vow -- A Declaration of Dependence Upon Marriage and Family." It is being put forward by the social conservative group the Family Leader, headed up by 2010 gubernatorial candidate and 2008 Huckabee state campaign chair Bob Vander Plaats.

Among the points for candidates to pledge are personal fidelity to his or her spouse, opposition to gay marriage and support in legal fights for the Defense of Marriage Act, opposition to sex trafficking and pornography, and opposition to "anti-women" Sharia Islamic law.

Hmm.....a strict Sharia adherent would also oppose gay marriage and pornography, and likely demand the legal defense of DOMA. Oh well.

The GOP/Tea Party Relationship

NBC/Wall Street Journal Poll - October 2010

	Republicans Divided Into Thirds:		
	GOP /Non Tea Party	GOP & Tea Party	
	ID More	ID More	
	%	%	%
Hold Obama responsible for economy	31	57	78
Government should do more to solve problems/meet needs	30	18	4
or			
Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals	65	80	92
Self-reported ideology:			
Very conservative	14	32	46
<u>Somewhat conservative</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>37</u>
Total conservative	48	70	83

Source: Bill McInturff, tblog.pos.org, February 2011

Let's be very honest about what this is about. It's not about bashing Democrats, it's not about taxes, they have no idea what the Boston tea party was about, they don't know their history at all. This is about hating a black man in the White House. This is racism straight up.

Janeane Garofalo

The Susan B. Anthony List's 2012 Pro-life Presidential Leadership Pledge

The Pledge:

I PLEDGE that I will only support candidates for President who are committed to protecting Life. I demand that any candidate I support commit to these positions:

FIRST, to nominate to the U.S. federal bench judges who are committed to restraint and applying the original meaning of the Constitution, not legislating from the bench;

SECOND, to select only pro-life appointees for relevant Cabinet and Executive Branch positions, in particular the head of National Institutes of Health, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health & Human Services;

THIRD, to advance pro-life legislation to permanently end all taxpayer funding of abortion in all domestic and international spending programs, and defund Planned Parenthood and all other contractors and recipients of federal funds with affiliates that perform or fund abortions;

FOURTH, advance and sign into law a Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to protect unborn children who are capable of feeling pain from abortion.

SIGNED: Michele Bachmann, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Rick Santorum

NOT SIGNED: Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson, Mitt Romney

The Taxpayer Protection Pledge

The Pledge:

In the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, candidates and incumbents solemnly bind themselves to oppose any and all tax increases.

SIGNED: Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Gary Johnson, Ron Paul, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum

NOT SIGNED: Jon Huntsman
EXPECTED TO SIGN: Tim Pawlenty

The Cut, Cap, and Balance Pledge

The Pledge:

I pledge to urge my Senators and Member of the House of Representatives to oppose any debt limit increase unless all three of the following conditions have been met:

1. Cut - Substantial cuts in spending that will reduce the deficit next year and thereafter.
2. Cap - Enforceable spending caps that will put federal spending on a path to a balanced budget.
3. Balance - Congressional passage of a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution -- but only if it includes both a spending limitation and a super-majority for raising taxes, in addition to balancing revenues and expenses.

SIGNED: Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul, Tim Pawlenty, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum

NOT SIGNED: Michele Bachmann, Jon Huntsman, Gary Johnson

Why do the Republicans need pledges and the Democrats don't?

FOX News' take on the News Corp scandal
7-15-11 (first day they have even mentioned it)

- 1) The "public" and the "media" are "piling on" News Corp., and that needs to stop.
- 2) The scandal is no big deal because the Pentagon and other major corporations have been hacked.
- 3) News Corp. has done "all the right things" in response to the scandal.
- 4) We've got "serious problems in this country right now," so why is the media "talking about this?"
- 5) This happened years ago, so what's the big deal?
- 6) Everyone just needs to "move on and deal with the important topics of the day."

7-8-11

Michael Arcuri (D) (Former NY Congressman)

The auto dealers and car manufactures didn't complain when America went into debt to pass Cash For Clunkers Program because it was needed to give the American automobile industry new life. The construction contractor's didn't complain when America went into debt to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Bill) because they saw much needed replacement funding for road and highway projects abandoned by the states for lack of revenue, because they knew it was necessary to keep America's infrastructure safe, and good for their companies as well.

So why is that so many of these same wealthy Americans who asked for help when they needed it in their industries and were not concerned about debt reduction when they needed help now want debt reduction. What really makes this troubling is not the fact that we need debt reduction, everyone agrees on that, it's the fact that it is coming on the backs of people who can afford it the least and were the least responsible for the debt problem. While those who benefited most from it, the wealthiest Americans who can easiest afford to contribute to the debt reduction plan, do not want to contribute what they can easily afford. It's not about the debt reduction, it is about who most benefited from the debt and who is not fairly contributing to its reduction.

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