

Livni, and Defense Minister Ehud Barak, for orchestrating genocide. For a Nation that for 94 years has practiced widespread genocide denial of the killing of 1.5 million Armenians, hypocrisy runs deep today in Ankara.

Last week, I expressed my concerns regarding Turkey's recent rash of anti-Semitism, but this probe is going too far. Israel did not commit genocide, but this has not stopped Ankara's chief prosecutor from launching this war crimes probe.

The probe out of Turkey will investigate Israel's actions in the Gaza conflict to see if they amount to "genocide, torture and crimes against humanity." If the prosecutor finds evidence against the Israeli leaders, under Turkish law, they can be detained if they enter Turkey.

The absurdity of this probe and of the fact that Turkey is issuing that it must be exposed. Israel did not commit genocide. Israel was not attempting to eliminate the Palestinian people. Israel was protecting itself from the hundreds of bombs Hamas has been shooting into its cities.

Mazlum-Der has no ground to stand on, and Turkey has no ground to stand on. Neither this NGO nor the Turkish Government has ever attempted to discuss the truth of the Armenian genocide, nor has Turkey or Mazlum-Der taken action against the present genocide that continues to rage in Darfur.

While Israelis are defending themselves against constant attacks from Hamas, Mazlum-Der insists this is genocide. How can this organization accuse Israel of committing genocide when it has yet to categorize the thousands of killings in Darfur as genocide?

The Turkish people need to step back and question their skewed understanding of genocide. Look in the mirror. Look at your own history. Come to terms with the fact that 1.5 million Armenians died and that, when contemporary genocides, like Darfur, take place, they should be denounced.

Instead of denouncing it, Turkey's relationship with Sudan is strong. Last year, Turkish President Abdullah Gul warmly welcomed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to Ankara. Yet al-Bashir continues to preside over a genocidal regime responsible for the deaths of 300,000 Sudanese people in the Darfur region of the country.

Today, 2.7 million Darfuris have lost their homes since the conflict and now live in internally displaced persons' camps. While all of this happens, President Gul of Turkey has said that the situation in Darfur adds up to a "humanitarian tragedy" caused by economic difficulties.

Now, this watering down of state-sponsored government killing is an affront to the thousands who have perished in Darfur. Yet a Turkish organization is investigating genocide in Israel? What hypocrisy.

President Gul greeted the Sudanese leader with a military guard of honor only bestowed on Turkey's closest al-

lies. While the international community fiercely works to contain al-Bashir's government, Turkey embraces it. Both governments have a long history of genocide denial.

Mr. Speaker, the Republic of Turkey has had 94 years to recognize the Armenian genocide perpetrated on their soil in 1915. Like the Sudanese Government, the Turkish Government's state-sponsored ethnic cleansing of the Armenians in the early 20th century left 1.5 million Armenians tortured, murdered and displaced. Yet, to this day, the Republic of Turkey continues to deny the slaughter of the Armenians—instead, launching an absurd investigation into Israel.

If Turkey and its NGOs want to take a stand against genocide, they should not be pointing at Israel, nor should Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan be threatening Israel with comments like these:

"Allah will sooner or later punish those who transgress the rights of innocents."

Well, if Turkey wants to move closer to the West, it should practice some self-reflection on its own history regarding the Armenian genocide and help to end the genocide in Darfur.

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DOES CONGRESS KNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. You know, the Chamber is empty, the voting is over. But as regards to the stimulus bill that was in front of us today, I had a request from Greg, who lives in Milford in my district, if I could read a part of his letter to me regarding that bill.

"Dear Congressman McCotter, I spoke with you on WJR Friday morning. I couldn't get out everything I wanted to say because of my frustration. I would love to talk before Congress and the Senate. I would like to talk to them about the deplorable, reprehensible, and egregious waste they are considering with our tax dollars. I'm sorry this is long, but I want them to see what I see. And I want to ask them a few questions.

"You see, I just lost my job. The company I worked for is eliminating 700 sales positions nationwide, about 15 will be affected in Michigan.

"I would like to ask the Congress and Senate if they know what it's like to sit at the dinner table and tell your 11-year-old daughter that she can't get a school yearbook because we need the money to buy groceries. Do they know what it's like to see the tears in your wife's eyes when you tell her the conference call you were just on eliminated your position?

"Do they know what it feels like to tell your father-in-law that the daughter I married and promised to provide for that you just lost your job?

"Do they know what it feels like to return the shirts you just bought for work on clearance, because you really needed new shirts, and now you don't even have a job?

"Do they know that when I told my 7-year-old son we just had to make cuts, and he responded, 'Can we still have our donut on Sunday morning before church?' That's all he said he wanted. I had to tell him we'd try our best.

"Do they know we've made sacrifices but you haven't?

"Do they know what it's like to speak with someone who was in tears over losing their job because they think they will lose their house? How about the always upbeat guy who sounded depressed that he could lose his house because he had just lost his job?

"Do they know what it's like to have another coworker lose their job and are worried their spouse's job could be next?

"Do they know how fearful it is to turn your heat down at night to 59 degrees and 65 in the day when your child is asthmatic and it can flare up from the cold?

"Do they know about the guy I just met whose entire company just took a 20-percent pay cut so they wouldn't have to lay off employees?

"Congressman McCotter, why doesn't the Senate have the guts to reject the pork spending portions of this bill and start over? Why don't you get off your ivory tower, pork barrel, earmarked, pet project behinds and do what we need you to do?"

And Greg finished, "The wasteful spending they are considering is unconscionable to me. What jobs in the U.S. does that create?"

Earlier today we heard the Speaker ask Members of this body to remember the people at home and feel their hand upon theirs as they cast their vote upon this bill. I did not need to feel the hand upon mine. I felt their pain in my heart because I saw it every day in our Michigan neighborhood, our Michigan community.

And the reality was that the bill before us was a trillion-dollar mistake that will harm working families like Greg, deprive them of hope, and damage our already recessed economy.

So before today's vote, I called Greg and I talked to him. He was as set in his position as he was when he wrote me this letter. And Greg thanked me for voting against it. And the fundamental reason was this: I live in Lavonia, Michigan. I live with people who are suffering. And they sent me here to work for them to try to make things better.

And when I go home, after a vote, to my wife and children, I go home to the people who are suffering as well; and I will have to look them in the eye and tell them whether this trillion-dollar bill helped them or not. And with God as my witness, I will at least be able to tell them the truth that it will not.

And I will tell them that we will keep trying until we do right by them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

INDIVIDUALS ARE SUFFERING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Following up on the very thoughtful remarks of my friend, Mr. MCCOTTER, I'd like to say that we all have instance after instance of individuals who have been suffering greatly.

I, this morning, as we opened this debate, talked about a great tragedy, that being the fact that a man called my office saying that his young son's best friend had just informed him that his father had committed suicide. That's clearly the most painful story you can hear of the impact of what we're feeling now with this economic downturn.

It has been absolutely devastating. Friends who've lost their homes, lost their jobs, lost their savings; we are dealing with what obviously is a very, very difficult time. That's the reason that there is such passion on this debate.

Now, I quoted earlier during the debate the words of Henry Morgenthau who was the Secretary of the Treasury under Franklin Delano Roosevelt who, in 1939 after going years through the New Deal, said the following before the House Ways and Means Committee in testimony. He said, "We have tried spending money. We're spending more than we have ever spent, and it does not work. I say after 8 years of this Roosevelt administration, we have just as much unemployment as when we started, and an enormous debt to boot."

Now, Mr. Speaker, that is the reason that we feel that we can't just say "no." We know that that is not the panacea that many people believe that it is, and instead we need to focus on what works. And instance after instance, Mr. Speaker, has shown what does work.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy—and this underscores this great quest for bipartisanship—delivered a speech to the Economic Club of New York—actually it was a year later in 1962. And in that speech, he said "to increase demand and lift the economy, the federal government's most useful role is not to rush into a program of excessive increases in public expenditures, but to expand the incentives and opportunities for private expenditures."

Now, those are the words, Mr. Speaker, of Democratic President John F.

Kennedy in the early 1960s. He had just brought about broad, across-the-board, marginal rate reduction.

Let me tell you what that brought about, too. It brought about an increase in the flow of revenues to the Federal Treasury. In fact, the top income tax rate was cut from the 90 percent to 70 percent, and revenues to the Federal Government increased by 62 percent. It actually grew revenues to the Treasury by reducing those rates.

Also at that same period of time, tax collections from the top bracket, those in the top bracket, grew by 57 percent, meaning those who had marginal rate reduction at the top end actually paid more in taxes because of the economic growth and that was juxtaposed to tax collections all the way across the board from the Kennedy tax cuts which only grew revenues by only 11 percent.

And then, Mr. Speaker, I was very privileged to come here following the 1980 election, and we had the last serious economic downturn that we faced as a Nation, nearly three decades ago, and Ronald Reagan pursued the same policies that were pursued by John F. Kennedy. He brought about sweeping marginal rate reduction; and Mr. Speaker, that grew the flow of revenues to the flow of Treasury nearly doubling that flow of revenues.

And the share of tax payments by the top ten percent—again, the top 10 percent of wage earners in this country grew from had 48 percent to more than 57 percent. That means those in the top ten percent of income levels actually had an increase of nearly 10 percentage points, nearly 10 percentage points in the flow of revenues that came in from the Federal Treasury—or actually they were paying more in taxes, from 48 percent to 57 percent while the share that was borne by the top 1 percent—the very rich—grew even more dramatically, 17 percent to nearly 28 percent, thus, the flow of tax payments that came from those people who were the very richest in this country.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, we are arguing that the economic stimulus working group that was put together by Leader BOEHNER and shared by our distinguished whip Mr. CANTOR used these models of proven examples, not the failed policies that were pointed to by Secretary Morgenthau in 1939, but the success following the 1961 cut and the 1981 cut. That's why we're not simply saying "no," Mr. Speaker. We are saying, let's put a positive economic growth package together. We're going to continue to fight on behalf of that.

IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today we took a historic step toward economic recovery, and four financial giants took another important step in

announcing that they will impose a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures.

In response to a request from Congress during hearings chaired by Chairman FRANK, CitiGroup, Morgan Stanley, J.P. Morgan, and Bank of America today announced plans to suspend foreclosures for the next few weeks or until the President's new plan is in place.

These actions create breathing space to allow the new administration to develop and the private sector to implement a new plan to reduce foreclosures and to help Americans stay in their homes.

We cannot solve our economic crisis until we solve our housing crisis. And leaders of our financial sector have the ability and responsibility to help lead our recovery.

As a representative from the State of New York, I applaud these New York financial institutions for being the first to step forward and take up this challenge. And I urge all other mortgage institutions to follow their example, to take similar steps to help Americans stay in their home.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to really underscore the importance of the vote, the historic vote that we had a chance to vote on today. And I cast a ballot to help create 3.5 million new jobs and give tax credits to 95 percent of working Americans. This was a chance to begin to move our country forward by investing in and modernizing our health and education systems, and we can do it in a way that is accountable and transparent, as the legislation required. And as I noted, the private sector is also playing a crucial and important role.

If we work together, we can put America back to work.

Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CASSIDY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)