

Article 239 of the Honduran Constitution states: "The citizen who has already held executive power"—that would be the President—"may not be President or designee. Anyone who violates this provision or proposes its reform and supports those who do directly or indirectly, must immediately cease the discharge of their duties, and shall be disqualified for 10 years from the exercise of any public function."

Those are pretty simple words. It sounds like the Constitution prevents Zelaya from trying to hijack the government.

The self-governing people of Honduras set forth in their Constitution that a tyrant could not abuse the process and become a dictator. They set rock solid term limits to one term for President. These good people legally removed Manuel Zelaya, the man who would be dictator, a tyrant, and a special friend of Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. Now that's special.

Here's how the people acted legally. After several attempts by legal means to prevent Zelaya from staying in power, the Office of Public Prosecutor filed a criminal complaint. The charges were treason, abuse of authority and usurpation of power in violation of the Honduran Constitution. The Supreme Court of Honduras agreed with the charges and issued an arrest warrant for the armed forces to arrest Manuel Zelaya. So Zelaya was legally arrested. And because he violated the Constitution, he was exiled from the country.

We should be applauding the people of Honduras for following their rule of law. In America, we honor the rule of law. We believe in self-determination and constitutional limits on government power, but we picked the wrong side in this case. We took the side of the tyrant versus the people of Honduras.

Now why would we do that? We cut off foreign aid to Honduras. We have refused to recognize the interim government that followed the rule of law. This is a Honduran Government that is doing everything despite America's interference to make sure that their elections take place as scheduled, to make sure their democracy survives according to the Constitution.

In the meantime, Zelaya, who was exiled, has slipped back into the country. He's holed up in the Brazilian Embassy. He's being funded by guess who? The Communist dictator, Hugo Chavez. Zelaya's thugs are targeting select groups with violent acts, including attacks on Christians. Zelaya is attempting to create chaos, but the popular will does not exist to return this would-be dictator to power. The people want their free elections to take place as scheduled.

One of our Senate colleagues, Senator DEMINT of South Carolina, recently returned from Honduras. He said that the only person he found in Honduras interested in putting Zelaya back in power was guess who? The American ambassador.

Mr. Speaker, it is a moral imperative that we back the rule of law, that we honor the decision of the democratically elected institutions of Honduras, that we support the elections in November, and that we recognize the new government, whoever wins the race.

Why do we, as a Nation, say we believe in self-determination but deny self-determination to Honduras? Why do we say we believe in a constitutional government but bash the nation of Honduras for following their own Constitution? Why do we support the likes of a deposed ruler like Zelaya? And how is it any of our business to determine who should be President of Honduras anyway?

Honduras has been an ally of the United States, yet appears to be another example of how we treat our allies worse than we treat our enemies. We are on the wrong side of things when we stand by the bandit dictator Hugo Chavez and his buddy, Manuel Zelaya.

And that's just the way it is.

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

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

LET AMERICA'S HUMANITARIAN VALUES SHINE IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan appears to be headed for a runoff election in the next few weeks. The United States must insist and we must expect that a credible, democratic Afghan government emerges from this political process because so very much is at stake. A democratically elected government in Kabul that has the trust of the Afghan people is necessary because it's our best weapon in the fight against violent extremism in Afghanistan.

Such a government, a stable, honest government, would stabilize the country. It would encourage Afghanistan's neighbors to engage in a regional diplomatic effort. And it would be the strong partner America needs to deliver humanitarian and economic aid to the Afghan people. Afghanistan desperately needs this aid. It has seen two foreign invasions in the last three decades and years of political turmoil.

Afghanistan is also very, very poor. By some measures, it is just about the poorest country in the world. The United Nations issued its annual Human Development Index earlier this month, Mr. Speaker, and it ranks the countries of the world on criteria such as life expectancy, literacy, school enrollment and gross domestic product. Afghanistan ranked 181st out of 182 countries—next to the last.

That's why the United States must put far more emphasis on economic de-

velopment, reconstruction, humanitarian aid and improved governance if we are to succeed in Afghanistan. To do this, we must redouble our efforts to bring a "civilian surge" of aid workers to Afghanistan. In fact, President Obama announced this initiative 7 months ago with a great deal of fanfare, but the results so far have been disappointing.

An adviser to General McChrystal, our commander in Afghanistan, told *The New York Times* last week that "our entire system of delivering aid is broken and very little of the aid is getting to the Afghan people." Another adviser said that the effort has been a "nightmare" and that "vast amounts of aid money have been wasted."

One of the reasons for this problem, Mr. Speaker, is the violence in the country. The aid workers who are on the ground now in Afghanistan are brave and truly dedicated. But some of them are understandably reluctant to leave the relative safety of Kabul and venture out into the countryside.

There are several ways to improve this situation. Some American military personnel could be directed to protect the aid workers. The United States could step up its efforts to train the Afghan army and police so that they can provide local protection. The White House must also provide better benchmarks for measuring the progress of our civilian effort.

We must prove that we are doing a better job of delivering American humanitarian aid, and this can be accomplished with three extremely important goals: it would improve the lives of the Afghan people and give them a reason to reject violence. It would demonstrate that America offers the Afghan people a better future than the extremists offer them, and it would help to remove the impression that the American Army is an occupying army.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to succeed in Afghanistan, we must let America's humanitarian values shine through. That's the best way to help build a stable Afghanistan that can't be used by the Taliban or other extremists to threaten our security, their security, and the peace of our world.

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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.)

TAKE A LESSON FROM PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Obama administration, led by its Council of Economic Advisors, indicated that if we spent \$1 trillion with

the stimulus bill, that we would create 3.5 million new jobs. Well, here it is, what, 8, 9 months later, we've spent a great deal of the stimulus money, and instead of creating 3.5 million new jobs we've lost 3 million jobs. That's a 6.5 million job swing.

Yesterday, Dr. Christina Romer, the Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, said that the economic stimulus package, \$1 trillion—and remember, we're \$1.4 trillion in the hole this year—that the economic stimulus package at \$1 trillion wasn't going to work anymore for the next several months and we should expect the economy to continue to drift downward, with unemployment reaching 10 percent. The reason I bring this up is because 49 out of the 50 States have lost jobs while we spent \$1 trillion to create the jobs.

Now, just stop and think about that. We're throwing money at this situation as rapidly as possible, the government is getting its nose into every aspect of our economy, moving toward a European socialist-type economy, and the economy continues to drift downward. And why is that? Because we're taking more and more money and spending it that we don't have, number one. And number two, they're going to tax us to death at a time when we're suffering economic calamity in this country.

What should we be doing? Well, Ronald Reagan came into office back in 1980 when Jimmy Carter had 12 percent unemployment—worse than now—and 14 percent inflation—worse than now—with a misery index of 26 percent. And they said you had to raise taxes because we had such problems, we had to have more money. Ronald Reagan said, well, I think we ought to cut taxes. And so they cut taxes across the board, and he was criticized severely for it.

They said, well, there is going to be a shortfall in money coming into the Treasury. We were bringing in \$500 billion a year in taxes at the time, and 4 years later we were bringing in \$1.3 trillion. Do you know why? Because when you cut taxes, you give people more disposable income, business has more money to invest. And so business invests, people buy more products because they have more money, because of that they produce more products, more jobs are created, and the economy expands. It makes common sense; if you have more money, you're going to be able to spend more money.

And so what happened was we had the longest period of economic expansion in the history of this country because we had a President that could see what really needed to be done—let the free enterprise system work and let people have more of their money to spend. Cut government spending and cut government taxes. Well, Reagan did the job.

So what are we doing today? We've got a government that thinks they should control everything, and they're moving toward a socialist economy very similar to what you see in France

and England and other parts of the world that are really suffering and continue to suffer through economic chaos.

All I can say, if I were talking to the President, is, Mr. President, get real. Wake up. Forget this socialist nonsense. Take a look at the history book and look at what Ronald Reagan did. And if you would do that, and instead of raising taxes cut taxes, you would stimulate economic growth, put people back to work, and get this economy heading in the right direction.

I don't know if the President pays attention to what we're saying around here, Mr. Speaker, but if he does pay attention, I hope he'll listen and look at the history books and check out what Ronald Reagan did.

WALL STREET, WE ARE WATCHING YOU

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this week, The New York Times reported that Credit Suisse, the largest Swiss bank, stated how it will overhaul compensation for its banking executives. The changes go into effect in January and include their compensation for 2009 and 2010.

Importantly, Credit Suisse ties compensation and bonuses to the firm's future performance and return on equity. In other words, if your decisions yield solid performance, you will be rewarded on that, not on arbitrary bonuses taken just because you can. I'd like to commend Credit Suisse's experience to other big banks in our country. We should follow suit in an even more rigorous reimposition of discipline.

By contrast, in a speech on September 9, 2009, Goldman Sachs' Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Blankfein put forth some principles on compensation. We asked when Goldman Sachs was going to implement those changes; we haven't heard back. But Credit Suisse already did it; they did it in line with the principles established by the G-20 in Pittsburgh earlier this year.

In their press release, Credit Suisse reaffirms the bank's commitment to fair, balanced, performance-oriented compensation policies that align long-term employee and shareholder interests.

So, once again, Wall Street could have led the charge and embraced, for the sake of our Nation, reforms of employee compensation which rewarded short-term gains and encouraged excessive risk-taking as well as increased moral hazard. Instead, Wall Street stood up only for themselves again, first, last, and always. They simply have too much power.

Moreover, Credit Suisse's approach claws back bonuses if the banks perform poorly. Why should America accept that if a bank performs poorly,

that bonuses should be paid out when our taxpayers' money is propping them up and at risk? In particular, if the government saved your bank and therefore your pay despite your poor performance, why should you get a huge bonus? It makes no sense.

Congress and the administration, by allowing huge bonuses in the wake of huge bailouts, have ceded our people's power to Wall Street. These individuals are making three, four, five, six—10 times as much as the President of the United States.

Today, Obama pay czar, Kenneth Feinberg—who was not vetted by the Senate through normal procedures—is supposed to address this situation for our country. Feinberg is expected to cut the average pay only of the top earners at the seven bailed out firms, AIG, Bank of America, Citigroup, General Motors, Chrysler, GMAC, and Chrysler Financial. Remember, the American taxpayer saved them all—for example, they saved Citibank from its downfall. So their jobs were saved, their companies were saved by us, yet they get bonuses?

Some say we would be a lot worse off if this lopsided approach had not been imposed, but far too many Americans find it hard to imagine that as they have lost their jobs, their homes, their access to credit, their sense of hope, and their self-respect. Meanwhile, they see Wall Street titans enriching themselves even more and the biggest banks getting even bigger. That's what is happening across our country.

Wall Street should have been leaders for our republic, helping the Americans whose money saved them, but their culture of ordinary greed continues to stampede forward. They simply don't care about the rest of us. The distance between those elites and our people are growing, and with each step the have-nots suffer more and pay for those that have far too much.

Amidst the compensation fiasco is the core problem: These megabanks are too unaccountable and too big—some call them “too big to fail.” As many have said, those institutions too big to fail are actually too big to exist. It's time to break up the biggest banks, sell off their healthy parts, and never let another bank or financial institution become too big to fail. Wall Street comeuppance is long overdue.

Main Street USA is paying close attention to your shenanigans. We don't intend to take the spotlight off until justice prevails and the stampeding bulls are put back in very tight cages.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 21, 2009]

CREDIT SUISSE OVERHAULS COMPENSATION

(By Graham Bowley)

As Wall Street looks forward to a new era of blowout bonuses, the unthinkable is happening, at least at Credit Suisse, the big Swiss bank. It said on Tuesday that it would radically change the way it paid its employees.

In a break with longstanding industry practices, Credit Suisse intends to alter the