



3 of 100 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2009 The Cincinnati Enquirer
All Rights Reserved
The Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)

July 4, 2009 Saturday

SECTION: NEWS

LENGTH: 452 words

HEADLINE: Boehner: Where are the jobs?

BYLINE: John Johnston

DATELINE: WEST CHESTER

BODY:

House Minority Leader John Boehner today sharply attacked President Obama's \$787 billion stimulus plan for not delivering on its promise to deliver thousands of new jobs.

Speaking to a breakfast meeting of the Rotary Club in his house district, Boehner echoed themes of other Republicans frustrated by government spending and continued high unemployment.

"When we started this discussion it was supposed to be about jobs, jobs and jobs," Boehner said. "It turned out to be nothing more than spending, spending, spending."

Boehner's remarks came one day after the Labor Department reported the jobless rate hit a 26-year high of 9.5 percent. Those unexpected numbers sent the stock market tumbling over fears the recession had not yet hit bottom.

"The big question I have been asking is, where are the jobs?" Boehner said.

Boehner urged the 100 Rotarians to check out his starring role in a new video in which a bloodhound is fruitlessly searching for all the new promised jobs.

Boehner leads a Republican caucus that has been at odds with President Obama and congressional Democrats over how to address the recession and control spending.

"We can't sustain trillion dollar deficits on average for as far as the eye can see," he said. "Most Americans, I don't think, believe Washington needs more money. We don't have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem."

Boehner didn't bring a bloodhound to the swanky Wetherington Golf & Country Club for Friday's talk, but he unleashed criticism of the energy-climate bill that the Democrat-controlled House narrowly passed June 26.

"At the end of the day, it's a national energy tax that is going to affect every single American that drives a car, flips on a light switch or works in an industry that uses energy," he said. What's more, "in my view it's going to ship millions of American jobs overseas."

The Republican plan calls for developing U.S. oil and gas reserves, encouraging use of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal and using nuclear energy.

The supportive audience included Gene Hendel of West Chester Township, who said he was generally pleased with the job Boehner is doing, and noted, "I think he's fighting a tough battle. Obviously it's all based on the votes."

The tanned Boehner, wearing a lime green tie and gray suit, spoke for half an hour, then took questions, including one about a round of golf he played Wednesday with Tiger Woods and Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo at the AT&T National pro-am in Bethesda, Md.

As thousands of people watched them play, "All I was trying to do was make contact (with the ball)," Boehner said. When he added that on the last three holes he shot par, birdie and par, the Rotarians applauded.

LOAD-DATE: July 5, 2009