

March 02, 2011

Boehner on Growing Pro-Union Protests: I'm Proud of These Governors Who Are Doing Their Job | On the Record

Special Guests | House Speaker John Boehner

BOEHNER: I don't think he said when, but he made it clear in the State of the Union that he wants to deal with this.

VAN SUSTEREN: Well, I think, though, that we sort of hear this all the time from everybody. You know, for years, ever since I was in college, I heard about waste and fraud in Congress and how, you know, different politicians say, I'm going to go...

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BOEHNER: In Congress?

VAN SUSTEREN: No, I mean, throughout the government is what I meant. I think there's a lot of criticism of people that -- about waste and fraud, and you know, when someone's going to get to Washington, he or she going to clean it up, and it doesn't get cleaned up.

BOEHNER: It's hard to get your arms around, and again, mostly driven by the fact that we've got agencies that in

some cases do a lot of the same things. And why do we have this other agency doing the same thing another agency is doing? And we've got committees here. There are 122 job -- or math and science programs that are in 23 different agencies.

Now, listen, we're all interested in having more mathematicians, more scientists, but this makes no sense. I took this project on when I was the chairman of the Educational Workforce Committee. It's time to bring this down. But I only had jurisdiction over a couple of them. All the other committees had them. And this is where we get into this problem, too many committees with overlapping jurisdiction.

VAN SUSTEREN: So you're going to get rid of that?

BOEHNER: Got a plan in mind.

VAN SUSTEREN: Plan in mind? OK, good! All right, now, in terms of the plan, the GOP plan, in terms of cutting, Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke said today that the House GOP spending plan would likely cost a couple hundred thousand jobs, a number he said he -- (INAUDIBLE) not trivial and he didn't have exact number. Mark Zandi of Moody's says -- he's an economist -- says that it would slash 700,000 jobs, and Goldman Sachs -- they say that the GOP plan is going to cut the GDP by 2 percent. That seems rather bleak.

BOEHNER: These are all of the people who thought the stimulus plan two years ago was a great idea and would help create jobs in America. It hasn't happened.

VAN SUSTEREN: So they're dead wrong?

BOEHNER: I've got John Taylor of Stanford University and 47 other economists suggesting that cutting spending will lead to a better environment for job creation in

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America. Listen, we've got a spending problem. We've got to cut spending. The more spending we cut is the more money that's available in the private sector to help create jobs.

VAN SUSTEREN: Do you think the president think there's a spending problem, I mean, when you sit down and talk to him, or does he have a different ideology...

BOEHNER: I talked to him yesterday.

VAN SUSTEREN: And what'd he say?

BOEHNER: I think he understands that we have a spending problem.

VAN SUSTEREN: So did he have an idea? Did he say, Mr. Speaker, this is what I think we should do?

BOEHNER: No, we didn't get that specific, but I -- while don't want to get into the details of my conversation with the president, I do think he understands there's a spending problem.

VAN SUSTEREN: How often do you talk to the president?

BOEHNER: Oh, every couple weeks or so.

VAN SUSTEREN: How about to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid?

BOEHNER: A little more often.

VAN SUSTEREN: Like, daily?

BOEHNER: Not quite yet.

VAN SUSTEREN: Is it warm and fuzzy or is it cold and chilly?

BOEHNER: I've got a very good relationship with the Senate Democrat leader. He's got a tough job to do. I understand he's got a tough job. I got my own -- I got my own issues over here in trying to get things done. But I'm hopeful that we'll be able to get last year's work finished so that we can get on with this year's work.

VAN SUSTEREN: The Defense of Marriage Act -- the president has said that he's not going to enforce it or is not going to -- he's not going to fight it in the courts, the challenges to it. You or at least the GOP on this side has said that you may hire a special counsel to do the job that the federal government -- the executive branch won't do. Are you going to hire someone?

BOEHNER: DOMA is the law of the land. It passed overwhelming in both the House and the Senate. And I think it's outrageous for the president to say, Well, we're not going to enforce it. It's the law of the land. It's the job of the Justice Department to defend the work of our government. And I just think it's outrageous. We're looking at our options, what's available to us to intervene. The short -- the long and short of this is that we are going to intervene. The question is how do we do it.

VAN SUSTEREN: Have you had any conversations with the executive branch, with the attorney general or the president about that?

BOEHNER: No.

VAN SUSTEREN: So everyone's going to find out when, later this week, what...

BOEHNER: I'm hopeful we'll have an answer here in the next couple of days.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

VAN SUSTEREN: Now, you aren't finished hearing from Speaker John Boehner. Straight ahead, the speaker talks **WISCONSIN, UNIONS** and war. Yes, he says it is a war in **MEXICO**. No sugarcoating from the speaker on that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

VAN SUSTEREN: We continue with Speaker of the House John Boehner.

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(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

VAN SUSTEREN: I take it you're watching what's going on in the state of Wisconsin.

BOEHNER: I am.

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