

Mr. Lord,

Concerning your article, "Boehnerism": will Speaker's Attack on Jordan Backfire?, I have a few thoughts.

Is it not the duty of a Congressman to represent their district's constituents? Shouldn't his votes reflect the promises he campaigned on and the wishes of the people who put him in office? Therefore, if that representative knows that his principles and those of his constituents are not reflected in a particular policy supported by the Speaker of the House, shouldn't that representative honor his constituent's wishes? Shouldn't that representative adhere to his values instead of voting with the Speaker because he dictates him to do so? And if that representative breaks promises he campaigned on, he certainly should be held accountable to his constituents, shouldn't he? And if all representatives of a particular party are supposed to vote lock step with their House leader, then why bother dividing states into individual districts and electing all our representatives? Why don't we simply do away with Congressional districts and elections and have a member of each party make all the decisions? If all Republicans must vote with John Boehner, and all the Democrats with Nancy Pelosi, then why have any representatives at all? Of course, I am fully aware there are some minor policies that Republicans and Democrats can be expected to support in unison. But our government's current spending and debt problem is not one of them! And I'm sure you know that it is our politicians' uncontrollable, wasteful spending and their increasing subverting of our Constitution that has created this problem, and hence, the Tea Party movement.

As middle class America, we work hard for our incomes, and have expenses and budgets that must be balanced. We are appalled that politicians in Washington do not have the discipline and integrity to be as responsible with our tax money. Can you tell me, Mr. Lord, what was the year and on which day did our elected officials lose all respect for their fiduciary responsibility?! When did they decide that the Constitution was no longer relevant? It therefore became time, (actually, way past time!) for average citizens to do what Washington refuses to do. Since Washington had become so reckless, we citizens felt compelled to take action. We marched on DC by the thousands. We volunteered, campaigned, supported, funded, and voted for conservatives (at least that's what they told us they were) last November-- on their word that once elected, they were going to take serious steps to eliminate the debt and repeal Obamacare. And now eight months later, little has been done to repeal or defund Obamacare, and this week we see Congress not decreasing spending, but increasing it! We've been conned, Mr. Lord. We feel like Charlie Brown flat on his back when Lucy pulls the football away. We realize now that Republican voters were suckered in last November by a lot of GOP politicians who had no intention to make substantive changes. We had taken them at their word. We worked darn hard to give them their majority, and now when they're in power, just like Lucy, they're pulling the football away from all of us.

So, Mr. Lord, when I see a few honorable Republicans in the House of Representatives, who want not only to keep their word to their constituents, but try to put serious cost cutting measures in place, now, not ten years down the road, I salute them for their integrity and commitment! That, Mr. Lord, is leadership. Leadership is not demanding that a man give up his principles to vote with his boss. Leadership is not telling him to get his "ass together" and vote the party line. Leadership is not threatening to take away his seat by having cronies in the state capitol rearrange his district. Leadership is not whining, "I stuck my neck out a mile to get an agreement with the president of the United States." (Is John Boehner serious?! Are we supposed to be impressed?) What kind of agreement does he think is possible with a man who lies with every other sentence out of his mouth?--a man, who Mr. Boehner, a week ago said negotiating with him was like "dealing with Jell-o?"

Mr. Lord, leadership is keeping your word to the people who worked so hard to give your party the majority. Leadership is being proud to pass a serious deficit-reducing bill (HR2560), and then holding firm on it no matter what the Democrats do after that. And most of all, Mr. Lord, leadership is twenty-two brave, unwavering Republicans who have stood up to GOP bullies, lobbyists, Democrats, mainstream media, and *so-called* conservative pundits and publications, in order to put their country above their party and themselves.

Respectfully yours,

Ellie Nape
Akron, Ohio