

Opinion articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Portland Observer. We welcome reader essays, photos and story ideas. Submit to news@portlandobserver.com.

# OPINION



**New Prices Effective May 1, 2010**

## Martin Cleaning Service

**Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning Residential & Commercial Services**  
 Minimum Service CHG. \$45.00  
 A small distance/travel charge may be applied

**CARPET CLEANING**  
 2 Cleaning Areas or more \$30.00 Each Area  
 Pre-Spray Traffic Areas (Includes: 1 small Hallway)  
 1 Cleaning Area (only) \$40.00  
 Includes Pre-Spray Traffic Area (Hallway Extra)

Stairs (12-16 stairs - With Other Services): \$25.00

Area/Oriental Rugs: \$25.00 Minimum  
 Area/Oriental Rugs (Wool): \$40.00 Minimum

Heavily Soiled Area: Additional \$10.00 each area (Requiring Extensive Pre-Spraying)

### UPHOLSTERY CLEANING

Sofa: \$69.00  
 Loveseat: \$49.00  
 Sectional: \$109 - \$139  
 Chair or Recliner: \$25 - \$49  
 Throw Pillows (With Other Services): \$5.00

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- Area & Oriental Rug Cleaning
- Auto/Boat/RV Cleaning
- Deodorizing & Pet Odor Treatment
- Spot & Stain Removal Service
- Scotchguard Protection
- Minor Water Damage Services

**SEE CURRENT FLYER FOR ADDITIONAL PRICES & SERVICES**  
 Call for Appointment (503) 281-3949

## Invoking Fake Job Creators to Cut Taxes

### Squandering an opportunity to rebuild America

BY ROBERT L. BOROSAGE

Conservatives like House Speaker John Boehner say the government can't raise taxes on millionaires and billionaires because they are "job creators." Instead, House Republicans are once more calling for trillions in more tax cuts for the richest Americans.

That's a big mistake. The "job creators" that Boehner doesn't want to tax aren't creating many jobs. Big corporations already are reaping record profits, sitting on trillions of dollars in cash, and shipping jobs abroad. Small businesses lack customers, not confidence.

But with 24 million people still in need of full-time work, and the wealthiest 1 percent capturing a staggering 93 percent of the growth in income in 2010, most customers aren't willing or able to spend more. In these circumstances, we'd be far better off investing in rebuilding the country and paying for it with higher taxes on the rich and the corporations. They aren't putting their money to work, so we should do it for them.

This basic conservative belief in tax cuts is a theology based on faith, not evidence. When taxes were raised during Bill Clinton's presidency, conservatives predicted a deep recession. Instead, the economy boomed and private investment took off. When taxes were cut under President George W. Bush, private investment and job growth were disappointing. But conservatives won't let the facts get in the way of their gospel.

Conservative Republicans also claim that cutting government spending creates jobs, even in the midst of a recession. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor said, "All of our efforts are centered around jobs — starting with cutting spending and federal regulations — to grow the economy so that people can get back to work."

But this is just more nonsense. Cuts in government spending at the state level have killed hundreds of thousands of jobs as teachers, cops, and firefighters are laid off and contractors lose their contracts. Those layoffs not only hurt the economy, they slash services we rely on.

Conservatives argue that if we make wrenching cuts in spending, fire civil servants, force seniors to pay more for their health care and students to spend more on tuition, and promise never, never, never to raise taxes, busi-

nesses will gain the confidence to invest, despite the resulting government layoffs. But with high unemployment and stagnant incomes, businesses look to increase profits, not by adding workers, but by cutting costs. Instead of creating jobs, they're firing workers and investing in cheaper labor abroad.

This conservative theology is squandering an extraordinary opportunity to rebuild America. Interest rates are near record lows, the construction industry is flat on its back, and our decrepit infrastructure — everything from roads to public transit to sewer

systems — must be rebuilt.

We'll never have a better opportunity to borrow money and make the investments we can't avoid — and put people back to work at the same time. But instead of a major initiative to rebuild the country, the conservative Congress had a hard time even passing a small, short-term extension of a job-friendly transportation bill. No "job creator" would make that choice.

Robert Borosage is president of the Institute for America's Future and co-director of its sister organization, the Campaign for America's Future. ourfuture.org.

The Portland Observer Established in 1970 is "Committed to Cultural Diversity"

Diversity Works at The Portland Observer



Joyce Washington  
 1937-1996  
 Co-Founder

The Portland Observer  
 4747 N.E. Martin L. King Jr. Blvd.  
 Portland, Oregon 97211

P.O. Box 3137  
 Portland, OR 97208  
 www.portlandobserver.com