

Obama To GOP: No Other Issues On Payroll Tax Bill

BY ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama raised the threat of a veto Wednesday if Republicans try attaching controversial oil pipeline or other language to a bill renewing payroll tax cuts and unemployment coverage, intensifying their year-end partisan showdown.

Obama's warning — which prompted an immediate and equally bellicose response from the GOP — signaled that there is no easy end in sight as the two sides maneuver over renewing tax reductions and jobless benefits that without congressional action expire Jan. 1 — just as the 2012 election year begins.

Top House Republicans are laboring to overcome conservative resistance to GOP legislation extending this year's 2 percentage point reduction in the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax for another year.

Their bill would also renew benefits for the long-term unemployed, though for fewer than the current maximum of 99 weeks, according to Republicans who spoke on condition of anonymity. It would also impose new rules on unemployment programs, such as granting states waivers to use some funds to experiment with programs like job training, the Republicans said.

To lure votes, House GOP leaders

have planned to add a provision easing the way for construction of the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the Midwest, a plan that is backed by industry and unions but opposed by environmentalists.

"Any effort to try to tie Keystone to the payroll tax cut, I will reject," Obama told reporters at the White House.

In an effort to nail down rank-and-file GOP support, party leaders have also discussed including provisions blocking some Obama administration pollution rules and paying for nearly half the roughly \$180 billion package by extending the current pay freeze on federal workers through 2015.

Without being specific, Obama added, "My warning is not just specific to Keystone. Efforts to tie a whole bunch of other issues to what's something that they should be doing anyway will be rejected by me."

Mike Steel, spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, fired back within minutes.

"We are working on a bill to stop a tax hike, protect Social Security, reform unemployment insurance and create jobs," Steel said. "If President Obama threatens to veto it over a provision that creates American jobs, that's a fight we're ready to have."

A 2 percent payroll tax cut would

save \$1,000 for a family earning \$50,000 yearly.

House Republicans planned to meet Thursday morning in hopes of uniting behind a measure that the chamber could vote on next week.

Boehner's goal is to win the 218 House votes needed for passage from the chamber's 242 Republicans, no easy task in a year in which several dozen conservative and tea party Republicans have not hesitated to oppose party leaders. That is important because it lets them avoid compromising with Democrats until the measure reaches the Democratic-led Senate.

Some conservatives were continuing to show resistance to the payroll tax package this week.

"It spends too much and it doesn't cut enough," said Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz.

"The speaker's challenge is as it has been all year," said Rep. Steven LaTourette, R-Ohio, who is close to Boehner. "You've got 42 people, 48 people who are not reluctant about leaving the reservation on some of these more difficult votes. So the math is to get to 218 and he's working it and he's working it hard."

Across the Capitol, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., signaled flexibility in how to pay for extending the payroll tax cut.

His Senate Democratic bill would, as Obama has proposed, trim the payroll tax for 160 million workers

to 3.1 percent next year, though it would not provide tax cuts for employers as well. To pay for it, Democrats would slap a 1.9 percent surtax on income exceeding \$1 million, a levy that most Republicans oppose, saying it would curb job creation.

Democrats have used that opposition to try painting Republicans as favoring the rich over the middle class.

But when asked by reporters whether he would accept spending cuts to pay for the bill, Reid only ruled out reductions in federal agency budgets, which have already been sliced twice this year.

"We're ruling nothing out, okay?" Reid said, other than agency budget cuts.

Reid was still planning a show-down vote later this week on a Democratic version of the bill that was pre-ordered to fall to GOP opposition.

He also threatened to keep senators working through the Christmas holidays until legislation was on its way to Obama's desk. Lawmakers have been hoping to quit town for the year by Friday Dec. 16, though that seems unlikely.

"Republican leaders have two options," Reid said. "They can work with us to forge a compromise that will pass, or they can move even further to the right to appease the tea party, because that's what this is all about."

Survivors

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a statement proclaiming Wednesday as "National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day." The attack brought the United States into World War II.

"Their tenacity helped define the Greatest Generation and their valor fortified all who served during World War II. As a nation, we look to December 7, 1941, to draw strength from the example set by these patriots and to honor all who have sacrificed for our freedoms," he said.

Also this week, five ash scattering and interment ceremonies are being held for five survivors whose cremated remains are returning to Pearl Harbor after their deaths.

On Tuesday, an urn containing the ashes of Lee Soucy was placed on his battleship, the USS Utah, which is lying on its side near the place where it sank. The ashes of Vernon Olsen, who was on the Arizona during the attack, will be placed on his ship late Wednesday.

The U.S. lost 12 vessels that day, but the Arizona and the Utah are the only ones still sitting in the harbor.

The ashes of three other survivors will be scattered in the water in separate ceremonies this week.

USS Utah survivor Gilbert Meyer said he comes back each year to see his shipmates entombed in the battleship which rests not far from where it sank off Ford Island.

Meyer, 88, recalled his ship rolling over after being hit by a torpedo and seeing Japanese planes dropping bombs. When the planes began showing machine gun fire, he knew it was time to move.

"That really got my attention so I got in the water and swam ashore," he said.



Celebrating OUR SAVIOR



Schedule of Holiday Services

St. John's Lutheran Church

1009 Jackson, Yankton, SD • 665-7337

Sun., Dec. 18th	10:30 a.m.	Christmas Cantata, featuring Vocal & Handbell Choirs
	3:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas service
Sat., Dec. 24th	4:30 & 7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with communion
Sun., Dec. 25th	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service with celebration of Jesus' Birthday cake & Holy Communion

FEEL THE WARMTH


We warmly welcome you to join the St. Benedict's family for our Christmas services! Come enjoy the excitement, warmth and love of the holiday season with us.

Saturday, Dec. 24th
Mass 4:00, 6:30 & 10:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25th
Mass 8:30 & 10:30 am

St. Benedict Catholic Church

1500 St. Benedict Dr.
Yankton, SD





Calvary Baptist Church

2407 Broadway, Yankton, SD • 665-5594

Sun., Dec. 11th	10:30am	Worship Service
	6:30pm	Preschool & Elementary Sunday School Christmas Program
Sun., Dec. 18th	10:30am	Worship Service
Sat., Dec. 24th	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun., Dec. 25th	10:30am	Worship Service (No Sunday School)



Riverview Reformed Church

1700 Burleigh St, Yankton • 665-9204

Sunday, December 11th
Potluck Dinner – 11:30 a.m.

Children's Christmas Musical – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day Celebration Worship – 9:30 a.m.

Celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord!
All are welcome!

Sacred Heart Church

509 Capital St, Yankton
665-3655

Sat., December 24	4:00 p.m.	Mass (Childrens Choir – Music begins at 3:30p.m.)
	6:00 p.m.	Mass (Adult Choir – special music begins at 5:30 p.m.)
	10:00 p.m.	Mass
Sun., December 25	8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.	Mass
	2:00 p.m.	Spanish Mass, Confessions 1:15pm

All masses at Sacred Heart Church



Cornerstone Evangelical Church

Christmas Eve Service
Sat., Dec. 24th
5:30pm



Stewart Elementary School
208 W. 21st, Yankton



Sacred Heart Monastery

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Monastery invite you to services at Bishop Marty Chapel

Christmas Day, December 25
10:00 a.m. – Mass

New Years Day, January 1
10:00 a.m. – Mass

Have a Blessed Christmas!

Peace on Earth

United Church Of Christ (Congregational)

5th & Walnut, Yankton, SD
665-7320



Dec. 11	10:00 a.m.	Musical Worship Service by the Adult Choir
Dec. 18	10:00 a.m.	Children's Christmas Program "God Gave, We Give"
Dec. 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
Dec. 25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Service Celebrating Carols

Trinity Lutheran Church

403 Broadway, Yankton, SD • 665-7415

We invite you to attend one of our December 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Time are 4:00, 6:30 & 10:00 pm

Sunday School Christmas program is 3:00 pm December 18th

Communion will be served at all services.



Peace Presbyterian Church

206 East 31st Street, Yankton, SD 57078 • 665-0448

Reverend Dr. Nelson Stone • Reverent Marilyn Stone



Sunday, Dec. 18th	10:00 A.M.	Christmas Pageant
Christmas Eve		
Sat., Dec. 24th	7:00 P.M.	Lessons & Carols
Sunday, Dec. 25th	10:00 A.M.	Worship Service



Christ Episcopal Church

517 Douglas, Yankton, SD

Dec. 11	9:00-9:30 a.m.	Serenity (Meditation)
	10:15 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist (And a visit by St. Nicholas)
Dec. 18	9:00-9:30 a.m.	Serenity (Meditation)
	10:15 a.m.	The Holy Eucharist – Children's Christmas Pageant
Dec. 24 "Christmas Eve"	5:00 p.m.	Candlelight Holy Eucharist
	11:00p.m.	Candlelight Holy Eucharist

First United Methodist Church

207 West 11th St, Yankton • 665-2991

Our Mission: To grow disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for ministry in the world.

Rev. Ron Johnson, Pastor • Pastor Bob Cappel, Associate Pastor

Sunday, December 18th

6:30 PM	Sunday School Christmas Program followed by a Birthday Party for Jesus
	Sunday, December 11th & 18th
8:30 AM	United Methodist Hour on KYNT, 1450 AM
9:00 AM	Worship Service, Contemporary; childcare provided
10:15 AM	Sunday School for all ages; childcare provided
10:30 AM	Worship Service, Traditional; childcare provided
	Christmas Eve, December 24th
4:30 PM	Worship Service, Candlelight Service
7:00 PM	Worship Service, Candlelight Service
	Christmas Morning, December 25th (one service)
10:30 AM	Worship Service, Childcare Service Available

