the world

GOP Rivals To Debate On Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) - With new trouble appearing in the Middle East and the Pentagon facing possible budget cuts, the Republican White House contenders are debating for the second time in as many weeks how they would do better than President Barack Obama in protecting and extending America's national security.

Six weeks to the day before the first nominating contests in Iowa, the candidates were looking to use the pre-Thanksgiving holiday debate to build or - for former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich at the head of the pack — sustain momentum in the battle to pick a 2012 election challenger for Obama.

Businessman Herman Cain, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Reps. Ron Paul of Texas and Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania also were meeting in Tuesday night's forum put together by CNN, the Heritage Foundation and the American Enterprise Institute.

With unemployment stubbornly high and the economy sluggish to recover from recession, the candidates also were likely to drive the foreign policy discussion back to pocketbook issues at home.

A day earlier, the congressional deficit supercommittee declared an impasse, and that could trigger deep cuts in 2013 spreading across military as well as domestic spending.

Officer In Protest Incident Was Once Honored

DAVIS, Calif. (AP) - The riot-clad police officer who pepper sprayed a row of peaceful Occupy Wall Street protesters at a California university last week is a retired U.S. Marine sergeant who has been honored for his police work on campus, but also has figured in a previous discrimination suit against the university.

Lt. John Pike was hired onto the University of California, Davis police force in 2001. Now, as one of four lieutenants, he supervises more than one-third of the sworn officers on the suburban campus near Sacramento, including the investigations unit.

Pike has been honored twice for meritorious service, including a 2006 incident in which he decided against using pepper spray on a campus hospital patient who was threatening his colleagues with scissors

But an alleged anti-gay slur by Pike also figured in a racial and sexual discrimination lawsuit a former police officer filed against the department, which ended in a \$240,000 settlement in 2008.

Footage of Pike and another officer in riot gear dousing the demonstrators has sparked national outrage since it began circulating Friday night. Both officers and the police chief were placed on administrative leave over the weekend, and campus officials have promised a wide-ranging investigation into the incident.

Prosecutor Holds Talks With Libyans

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — The International Criminal Court's prosecutor held talks Tuesday with Libyan authorities on ensuring a fair trial for Moammar Gadhafi's son Seif al-Islam, who is being held by revolutionary fighters.

The prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, conceded the Libyans have the authority to try him at home but he wants judges from the Netherlands-based court to be involved. Seif al-Islam, once the face of reform in Libya and the leader of his father's effort to shake off pariah status, is charged with crimes against humanity by the ICC for the crackdown on an uprising that began in February and grew into a civil war.

"Seif is captured so we are here to ensure cooperation," Moreno-Ocampo told reporters after arriving in Libya. "If they (Libyans) prosecute the case, we will discuss with them how to inform the judges, and they can do it, but our judges have to be involved."

Libva's interim prime minister, meanwhile, announced the formation of a transitional government that will lead the oil-rich country until parliamentary elections are held by the end of June.

Prime Minister Abdurrahim el-Keib told a news conference in Tripoli that his focus was on forming a government that would represent all of Libya.

Psychologists: Being Thankful Improves Health

WASHINGTON (AP) — Count your blessings this Thanksgiving. It's good for you.

While it seems pretty obvious that gratitude is a positive emotion, psychologists for decades rarely delved into the science of giving thanks. But in the last several years they have, learning in many experiments that it is one of humanity's most powerful emotions. It makes you happier and can change your attitude about life, like an emotional reset button. Especially in hard times, like these. Beyond proving that being grateful helps you, psychologists also are trying to figure out the brain chemistry behind gratitude and the best ways of showing it. "Oprah was right," said University of Miami psychology profes-sor Michael McCullough, who has studied people who are asked to be regularly thankful. "When you are stopping and counting your blessings, you are sort of hijacking your emotional system.

EGYPT Military Ruler Moves Up Presidential Vote

BY HADEEL AL-SHALCHI AND MAGGIE MICHAEL Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's military leader promised to speed the transition to civilian rule, saying Tuesday that presidential elections will be held by the end of June 2012. But the major concession was immediately rejected by tens of thousands of protesters in Cairo's Tahrir Square, who responded with chants of "Leave, leave!" now.

Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi vowed that landmark parliamentary elections will start on schedule on Monday, the first vote since longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak was ousted in an uprising nine months ago. And he said the military was prepared to hold a referendum on immediately transferring power to a civilian authority if people demand it.

Tantawi said he has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf's civilian government and politicians who attended a 5hour crisis meeting with the ruling generals said the military intended to replace Sharaf's cabinet with a "national salvation" government. It was not clear who might head the new Cabinet, but names of a couple presidential hopefuls were mentioned.

Sayed, a protester from the Youth Revolution Coalition and a candidate in the upcoming parliamentary election. "We want the military council to step down and hand over authority to a national salvation government with full authority." He also demanded that the commander of the military police and the Interior Minister, who is in charge of the police, be tried for the "horrific crimes" of the past few days, when 29 people were killed in clashes, most of them in Cairo.

The standoff culminated four days of clashes and demonstrations around the country that have constituted the most sustained challenge so far to nine months of military rule. It plunges the country deeper into a crisis that may only hamper the democratic transition the protesters are fighting for.

In Tahrir Square, the atmosphere was reminiscent of the 18-day uprising that toppled Mubarak, with jubilation over the large turnout mixed with the seething anger directed at the military. On Tuesday, the protesters had called for a million people to turn out and drew a massive crowd of tens of thousands.

The crowds carried an open wooden coffin with a body of a slain protester wrapped in white and held a funeral in the middle of

the square.

A stuffed military uniform was hung from a central light pole with a cardboard sign on its neck saying "Execute the field marshal," a reference to Tantawi, Mubarak's defense minister of 20 years. People cheered when the effigy was hung and state television showed some hitting it with sticks or shoes.

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Men in the square opened a corridor in the middle of the crowds and formed a human chain to keep it open, giving easy access to motorcycles and ambulances ferrying the wounded to several field hospitals in the square.

Sweet smells of popcorn and cotton candy mingled with tear gas and burning garbage.

As night fell on the square, thousands streamed in over a bridge across the Nile river. Men and women carrying blankets and boxes of supplies chanted: "Down with the field marshal.'

The latest round of unrest began Saturday when security forces violently evicted a few hundred protesters who camped out in Tahrir. The perceived use of excessive force angered activists, who began to flock to the square. A joint army and police attempt to clear the square on Sunday evening failed, leaving protesters more determined to dig in there.

Our demands are clear," said Khaled El-

Economy Grew At 2 Percent Rate In Third Quarter

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew more slowly over the summer than the government had earlier estimated because businesses cut back more sharply on restocking of shelves.

The Commerce Department said Tuesday that the economy expanded at an annual rate of 2 percent in the July-September quarter, lower than an initial 2.5 percent estimate made last month. The government also said after-tax incomes fell by the largest amount in two years, reflecting high unemployment and lower pay raises.

The downward revision was largely because weaker data on inventory building came in after the government's first estimate. Many businesses reduced their stockpiles over the summer, probably because they didn't anticipate the strength consumer and business spending.

A decline in inventories is not always a bad sign. Economists believe this could lead to stronger growth in the current quarter, if businesses foresee more demand and restock their shelves.

Economists predict growth will strengthen to around 3 percent in



the October-December quarter. Many raised their estimates after seeing encouraging October reports on retail sales and factory output.

"While this report is disappointing, it is a look back in time.' said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. "It is encouraging, to say the least, to see the October data coming in stronger, which is good news for the current quarter.'

Still, growth could be slowed if

consumers continue to earn less. After-tax, inflation-adjusted incomes fell at a 2.1 percent rate. That's steeper than the 1.7 percent decline initially estimated and the biggest drop since the third quarter of 2009, just as the recession was ending. It also marked the second straight quarterly decline.

Incomes are primarily wages and salaries, but they also include dividend and interest payments and government benefits. While the decline doesn't directly affect economic growth, income fuels consumer spending and that makes up 70 percent of economic activity. So if income continues to decline, consumers will likely spend less and slow growth.

And many Americans could take home even less next year if Congress doesn't extend a Social Security tax cut and emergency unemployment benefits. Both expire at the end of this year.

"For now the U.S. economy looks to be moving in the right direction," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, who predicts growth of more than 3 percent in the fourth quarter.

But the January-March quarter "could be a different story, particularly if the payroll tax cut isn't extended," Ashworth said.

The modest third-quarter growth is not nearly enough to lower the unemployment rate, which has been stuck near 9 percent for more than two years. And economists caution that their brighter outlook hinges on Europe's financial crisis, which could trigger a recession in that region and slow U.S. growth next year

The government makes three estimates of the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, each quarter with the revisions based on more complete economic data.

In the first six months of the year, the economy grew at an annual rate of just 0.9 percent. It was the weakest growth since the recession officially ended, which stocked fears over the summer that the economy could be on the verge of another downturn.

The stronger growth in the July-September quarter helped calm those worries. Still, Americans spent more while earning less, and they dipped into their savings to make up the difference. At the same time, businesses invested more in machines and computers, not workers.

Without more jobs and higher pay raises, consumers are unlikely to be able to sustain those gains.

In N.H., Obama Pushes For Payroll Tax Cut Extension

BY JULIE PACE Associated Press

The president said "in the spirit of Thanksgiving," Democrats in Congress would otter Republicans another chance next week to consider a plan to extend and expand the cut in payroll taxes that fund Social Security. Obama said it would save the typical middle class family about \$1,000 in taxes. "Don't be a Grinch. Don't vote to raise taxes on working Americans during the holidays,' Obama said. Even as he sought to draw a bright line with Republicans over taxes, Obama was reminded about the unhappiness among some in the Occupy Wall Street movement. As he began to speak, Obama was briefly interrupted by protesters who screamed, "Mic check!" and then chanted, "Mr. President — over 4,000 pro-testers, over 4,000 protesters, have been arrested.

the protesters with chants of "Obama!" Working the crowd after the speech, Obama was handed a note from the protesters that amounted to a script of their chant. Captured in photographs, the note said peaceful demonstrators had been arrested while "banksters" destroy the economy "with impunity.' The note urges Obama to stop the assault on protesters' First Amendment rights and says his 'silence sends a message that police brutality is acceptable." Presidential hopeful Mitt Romney, meanwhile, was airing his first TV ads in the Granite State, a spot sharply critical of Obama's economic record. The former Massachusetts governor also ran ads in New Hampshire

newspapers that say to Obama, "I will be blunt. Your policies

Search Is On For Missing Orlando Woman

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) - Police in Florida are searching for an Orlando woman who went missing after appearing with an exboyfriend on an episode of "The People's Court."

Family members told the Orlando Sentinel on Monday they believe 33-year-old Michelle Parker was carjacked shortly after her appearance on the show last Thursday. Parker sent a text message to a family member later Thursday afternoon indicating she was in Orlando's Waterford Lakes area. Her SUV was found Friday in Orlando.

Parker has an 11-year-old son. The father of her 3-year-old twins is the ex-boyfriend who appeared on television with her.

Orlando police spokesman Jim Young says they are investigating all leads. He urges anyone with information to contact police.

Yvonne Stewart has made numerous pleas over the past few days for her daughter's return.

Congress' Next Fights Over Jobless Aid, Taxes

WASHINGTON (AP) - Congress' failed deficit-cutting supercommittee has faded away, but a stack of expensive economic problems facing lawmakers has not.

By the time they quit town for the year around Christmas, Congress has to decide whether it will extend payroll tax cuts for more than 120 million families plus benefits for millions of long-term jobless people.

Lawmakers also have to figure out how to avert a mid-December government shutdown, and how to avoid deep cuts that will otherwise occur in Medicare payments to doctors.

All of this could cost \$200 billion or more. Yet Republicans and some Democrats are not in a mood to add that much to federal

MANCHESTER, N.H. - Confronting Republicans, President Barack Obama on Tuesday dashed into the home of the nation's first presidential primary, urging GOP lawmakers to sup-port a payroll tax cut next week and stand by their own pledges not to increase taxes.

Obama sought to steal the spotlight from Republican presidential contenders who have blanketed the political battleground with anti-Obama messages while tending to a state expected to be heavily contested in the next year's general election.

"The next time you hear one of these folks from the other side ... talking about raising your taxes, you just remind them that ever since I've got into office, I've lowered your taxes, haven't raised them," Obama said at a high school gymnasium. "That's worth reminding them.³

Obama paused to let the demonstrators speak. "No, no, no. That's OK," Obama said. The crowd then sought to drown out

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nave falled.

Traveling to New Hampshire, White House spokesman Jay Carney swiped at the ad, which plays audio of Obama from the 2008 presidential campaign declaring "if we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose.

Obama, however, was quoting the campaign of Republican presidential candidate John McCain, a distinction the ad doesn't make and that alters its meaning. In fact, the Romney campaign statement announcing the ad includes Obama's full quote: "Sen. Mc-Cain's campaign actually said, and I quote, if we keep talking about the economy, we're going to lose.



