



'Everyone Gets a Fair Shot'

President Barack Obama said during Tuesday's State of the Union Address that he envisions an America "where everyone gets a fair shot."

'A Fair Shot'

President Sets Goal Of Economy for Long Run

By CALVIN S. SCRIBNER
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—The president pledged on Tuesday night to use government power to balance the scale between his continued leadership toward an economy "built to last" and a Republican argument that the country would benefit from less federal intervention.

In his State of the Union Address at a critical moment of his presidency, President Barack Obama showcased the extent to which he will try to contrast, as he campaigns for reelection, his core economic principles with those of his Republican rivals in a time of deep economic uncertainty.

With many Americans disappointed with the state of the economy and the president's handling of it, he sought to persuade Americans that his proposed solutions remain more in tune with independent voters than much of the Republican platform.

Ordinary Americans, the president, have the right to expect, if not a helping hand from their leaders, then at least a field in which everyone plays by the same set of rules.

"You can call this class warfare all you want," President Obama said. "Most Americans would call that common sense."

He characterized the looming choice as one between whether "s shrinking number of people do really well while a growing number of Americans barely get by" or his own vision—"where everyone gets a fair shot."

In returning to his 2008 campaign motif of these being "not Democratic values or Republican values, but American values," and presenting a long list of domestic economic proposals, President Obama's address was meant to show a president still interested in governing and a leader putting the interests of the American middle-class at the top of his agenda.

Many of his proposals centered on changes to the tax code, including limiting deductions for companies that move jobs overseas, rewarding companies that



First Lady Michelle Robinson Obama is applauded at the State of the Union Address Tuesday night.

return jobs to the United States and increasing taxes on wealthy Americans.

Taking aim at financial institutions that engaged in risky lending practices that many believe tipped the country into financial crisis, the president said he was asking Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. to create a special unit of federal prosecutors and state attorneys general to expand investigations into abusive lending.

The new unit, he said, "will hold accountable those who broke the law, speed assistance to homeowners and help turn the page on an era of recklessness that hurt so many Americans."

President Obama also proposed a new trade enforcement unit that would add to the number of government investigators pursuing unfair trade practices and that would be responsible for lawsuits against foreign countries, namely China.

He called for new legislation to make it easier for Americans to refinance their homes if their interest rates are above market rates.

And he proposed a bound-to-be-contentious way to allocate

any savings from ending the war in Iraq and winding down the war in Afghanistan: by using half of the war savings on infrastructure projects and the other half to reduce the deficit.

"We will not go back to an economy weakened by outsourcing, bad debt and phony financial profits," President Obama said.

Though his advisors have vowed a campaign against Congress, the president expressed a willingness to "work with anyone in this chamber" and said he would "oppose any effort to return to the very same policies that brought on this economic crisis in the first place," a line cheered by Democrats but met with mainly silence from Republicans.

The president's address was mostly aspirational—some things he could do by executive action, but a great many of his proposals would require congressional approval during a time when political partisanship and its accompanying gridlock have never been deeper.

The president addressed the divide in another proposal not likely to be realized—that the

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Kelly Charged With Felony in DUI Case

Arresting Officer Says Councilman Used Slurred Speech

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

The northeast Oklahoma City councilman was charged with a felony on Monday following an early-morning incident last weekend that resulted in his arrest.

City Councilman Ronald "Skip" Kelly (Ward 7) was arrested at about 12:15 a.m. Friday morning on a driving under the influence complaint.

The 62-year-old city councilman was charged in county district court with a felony DUI count, and a misdemeanor count of failure to devote full time and attention to driving.

The Ward 7 councilman pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor DUI in a 2009 case.

If he is convicted on the felony charge, Councilman Kelly, a lawyer, would be required to resign from the City Council.

A police report said an officer found Councilman Kelly sitting in a car that had jumped a curb and crashed into a fire hydrant.

The officer reported he was on routine patrol when he came across a wrecked vehicle at about 12:15 a.m. Friday.

According to Capt. Dexter Nelson, a spokesman for the Oklahoma City Police Department, the car was running and the driver was inside.

The driver was later identified as Councilman Kelly.

The officer asked if the councilman was O.K. and Councilman Kelly answered yes.

The officer said Councilman Kelly told him a driver pulled out from NW 63rd Street and N. Shartel Avenue, and the councilman tried to avoid the vehicle and ran up on the curb, hitting a fire hydrant and knocking it over.

Councilman Kelly's car was heavily damaged and was leaking oil, the officer said.

Officer Adam Moore reported that Councilman Kelly



Ronald "Skip" Kelly
City Councilman

Councilmen Supportive Of Kelly Suggest He Needs Help

By JOHN W. SIMMS
Special to the Chronicle

Members of the council voiced support for City Councilman Ronald "Skip" Kelly (Ward 7), called upon the public to be supportive, too, and suggested he seek help after his second DUI arrest in three years.

Councilmen Ed Shadid (Ward 2) and Pete White (Ward 4) suggested at this week's council meeting that Councilman Kelly has a problem with alcohol and should get

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swayed back and forth, and took small steps "so he could keep his balance" as he walked to the rear of his car after being asked to get out of his car.

The officer said he smelled an odor of alcohol coming from Councilman Kelly's car, and noticed the councilman's speech was slurred, and he had blood shot, watery eyes.

Councilman Kelly told officers he had "a couple" of glasses of wine at one point and "just one glass" at another point, according to a probable cause affidavit filed with the charge on Monday.

Capt. Nelson said Councilman Kelly refused a breathalyzer and blood test, but agreed to do a field sobriety test.

The officer then performed a field sobriety test and arrested Councilman Kelly on suspicion of driving under the influence, the police spokesman said.

The sobriety test was designed to see if Councilman Kelly's vision and ability to visually track objects was impaired, Officer Moore said.

The test involves the officer moving his finger across a person's field of vision, and the person must track the finger using only his eyes and not by moving his head.

Councilman Kelly kept turning his head to follow the finger, and performed the test correctly only after Officer Moore repeated the instructions a number of times, according to the police report.

The police report said that Councilman Kelly's initial story was inconsistent with evidence at the scene.

Officer Moore concluded the councilman's car left the road well before reaching the intersection, according to the police report.

There was fresh damage to the curb on the south side of NW 63rd about 60 ft. west of Shartel.

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On the Road

After giving his State of the Union Address, President Barack Obama took his case on the road. Here, he speaks to a crowd on Wednesday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

