

## Mark's Remarks to DFL Central Committee

These are hard times in Minnesota, and Governor Pawlenty wants to make them even harder. He says everyone in government has to cut spending. So, he's leading by example, right?

Wrong.

Where is the Governor this weekend? He's in Germany, at an international security conference, "hobnobbing with world leaders," according to the Star Tribune, at taxpayers' expense.

Last December, after he proclaimed state agencies would have to tighten their belts, he flew off on an international trade mission to Israel. Small potential benefit to Minnesota . . . Big political benefit to Tim Pawlenty.

Evidently, everyone is supposed to cut their spending, except Governor Pawlenty. Everyone is supposed to be accountable, except him.

Well, if Tim Pawlenty wants to run for President, he ought to pay for it himself . . . not make taxpayers fly him over to a

conference in Germany – for the second year in a row – so he can try to look better qualified than Sarah Palin.

I think Governor Pawlenty owes taxpayers an apology . . . and a refund.

And, speaking of taxpayers, I have been the first candidate for Governor to say that we must raise taxes on the rich in Minnesota. It's wrong that our wealthiest citizens are not paying their fair share of state and local taxes. And it's wrong that no one's doing anything about it.

I don't need to hold hearings around Minnesota to know what's right to do . . . raise taxes on the rich. Raise enough revenues to fund education – early childhood, K-12, and higher education – and health care, and other essential services.

It's time for DFLers to stand up for Minnesota. To stand up for our people and our principles. To stand up against a Governor, who doesn't even want to be here . . . who preaches austerity for everyone else and then flies to Germany for a weekend of resume building at our expense.