



U.S. DEBT IS GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATION

Guest Opinion by U.S. Senator James E. Risch

America has faced many major crises during its 235 years of existence, but none as dangerous as the spiraling debt now confronting us. This year the federal government will spend \$3.8 trillion. For every dollar spent, 40 cents of that dollar will be borrowed. Put another way, the Treasury Department has to borrow more than \$4 billion dollars every day. That's more than Idaho's annual budget! That borrowing is real and it takes place every day. I physically went to the Treasury to watch and it is frightening to see. This spending of money we do not have must end.

I opposed the last two continuing resolutions (CR) to keep government operating for two and three weeks respectively and have also opposed virtually all government spending. I do not do this because I want to shut the government down, but because we must adopt a real and comprehensive plan to live within our means now while working our way out of debt over the long term.

Many here in Congress were pleased with the cuts they made in each CR. But the \$10 billion cuts equal only about two and a half days of borrowing! While I appreciate any cuts, the actual size of those made is miniscule and gives the misleading appearance that something is actually being done.

So how do we create a plan to cut spending?

First, the President must take a leadership role in the discussion. To date, he has not. His leadership cannot be lip service, but must be a hands-on, serious approach to deficit reduction. In mid-March, 64 U.S. Senators signed a letter to the president asking him to engage. So far, there has been no response. In fact, he has not even given an enthusiastic embrace to the plan adopted by his own deficit reduction commission. Without his engagement, little will happen. Second, the approach must be bipartisan and wide-ranging. A comprehensive deficit-reduction package needs to include not only discretionary spending cuts, but also entitlement and tax reform. We must also cut the waste and bloat that has crept into our defense spending. A bipartisan effort to accomplish that has begun with a small group of senior senators that includes our own Senator Mike Crapo.

Finally, in order to avoid a collapse like Greece (our numbers are worse than theirs, in many respects), Idahoans must be prepared for the harsh reality that cuts will likely occur to their favorite program or institution. We have no choice but to look at every program. Without it our government is doomed to fail and our economy cannot recover. It is past time we put our fiscal house in order and reduce the \$46,000 of debt each of us owes

THE PERFECT STORM-WHAT WILL REPUBLICANS DO NOW!

A storm had been brewing for many years. Like whirl winds that innocuously drift across open fields, one may watch for awhile at its amazing form, then shrug it off and forget about it. Then, a perfect storm hit. The economy was healthy and we, weren't paying attention. Obama's presidency and control of Washington by the liberal left came upon the American scene. It was the perfect storm. Poised with their long awaited progressive agenda dozens of czars emotionalized, advertised and promoted their vision for a more perfect America (under Statism).

We should not, nor should our politicians have been taken by surprise. There was information available regarding Fannie and Freddie, Acorn and the community organizers, ad infinitum. Where were you? Honestly, where were we?

The positive side, is that it didn't take Americans long to respond to the left attack. Tea Parties were organized in most communities across America. They were made up of angry citizens who had lost their life savings, their homes and businesses due to the criminal actions funded by Washington. Last November, within 2 years of the left attack, Republicans, thanks to the tea partiers, regained a majority in the House.

Now what are the Republicans going to do? Will we have to endure the insult of words-no action? This is war! Which party is armed with the personal constitution, courage, intelligence and leadership to win?

by Nancy Armstrong

AN OPEN LETTER TO IDAHO'S DELEGATION

By John Anderson

REPUBLICANS' ONE CHANCE IS HERE

Courage has been missing among politicians for many decades and it is arguably much worse today than ever before. That said, Republicans promised much last fall in order to convince the electorate to give them one more chance to do the right things for America. The time is now. The enemy of America is before us and there is no place to retreat to if you are a member of the House or Senate today. Doing what is right for America will no doubt risk your very job in 2012. Doing the right thing for America will require you to say "No" to many things that the people have become accustomed to getting from their government.

Because of these risks, courage is not only needed, it is essential if America is to be saved from absolute ruin. We, the people know it and so do you. I'm only one American, but I have a stake in what you do or don't do in the next few months. My circumstance is pretty representative of the challenges you face in shrinking our debt, reducing the size and scope of the federal government, and balancing our national budget. If you don't act now, even at your own political peril, you guarantee two things. One is that you will not be given another chance to do it right, ever! Two, you sentence me, my children and my grandchildren to a future that at best, exalts mediocrity in all things, and at worst, makes us all slaves to an all powerful State tyranny. Allow me to help you to help all of us, by supporting things that need to be done, whether it is politically expedient or not.

We can disagree on some details, but I suspect many in America will agree with me on these fundamental issues and solutions. 1. Do not shrink from your promise to cut at least \$61B from the current fiscal year's budget, even if it means shutting the government down. If a little emotional drama from the liberals and some bad press is enough to send you running away like cowards, there is no hope of ever getting at the real changes that we need. It's time to fight, win or lose. I'm there with you. 2. The Debt Commission had some great ideas. Use them. Start by putting everything on the table for cuts. No sacred cows, including mine. Please! 3. Raise the age of eligibility for Social Security by two years for all Americans that are younger than 50 years of age today. This keeps the promise for seniors who banked on Social Security and are too old to fill the gap if those payments are lost. It also gives younger taxpayers enough time to make plans for this new system. 4. Medicare has to be dealt with. I'm 62 years old and retired, but if I have to pay a reasonable deductible and co-pays for Medicare, as long as they are means tested appropriately, I'm happy to do it. Better yet, give me some choices where I can select coverage that make sense for me based on my health needs and cost and I'll make good fiscal choices. Eliminate the one size fits all mentality for Medicare. It's ridiculous and we simply can't afford it any longer. 5. Transition federal dollars out of the Medicaid equation over a five year period, returning a portion of the money to the states in block grants. Then let the states create innovative ways to insure their less fortunate citizens. It's their job anyway. 6. Introduce and fight for a Balanced Budget Amendment. Without champions willing to risk it all to do the right thing, our financial future is doomed. If states can balance their budgets with tough decisions, so can Congress and the President, regardless of party. 7. I am a Disabled Veteran and I can tell you personally that the VA, though wellintentioned, and with many dedicated professionals helping veterans every day, is completely and irreparably broken. Take on the politically charged issue of streamlining and reforming the VA right now. We veterans will ultimately benefit. There are several straightforward steps that could make enormous improvements to the VA mission. Take the time to talk to veterans more about what they need, rather than scheduling photo-ops of you handing a check to them. 8. Cut the number of federal employees by 15% over an 18 month period and make it mandatory across the board, with the sole exception of the armed forces. This step will help you get around the politics of cutting this sacred program or that one. Each Cabinet Secretary will have to cut their number of employees by 15%, as will Congress with their staffs, and the Administration with its staff. That will provide the incentive for each bureaucracy to cut wisely, keeping essential services, but cutting duplicate or ineffective services. By the way, corporations do this all the time, in exactly the same way and it works just fine. It's time to grow up like the rest of us. You can do it! 9. Eliminate things that continue to drain our budgets, yet provide little or no benefit to the American people, our economy

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or our future as a sovereign nation. To wit, include at least the following:

- a. Stop this idiotic war in Libya immediately, or cut its funding. Our troops don't need more combat. Our wallets are empty. We don't know if the new government there will be worse than the current one. We don't depend on Libya for much. Don't shed a single drop of American blood in this wasteland.
- b. Set the stage for withdrawal from the United Nations. Do it in 2012 if you take back the Senate and the White House. I am a citizen of the United States, NOT a "Global citizen". My tax money should stay at home unless I want to donate it elsewhere. Our Constitution is sacred. Nothing trumps it, including the U.N.
- c. Begin to question our strategy in Afghanistan. America can no longer be a nation builder, even though we may want to help that way. If we want to keep the Taliban from taking over again, there are cheaper ways to do it than having tens of thousands of American soldiers in harms way. Bring them home.
- d. Make up our minds on Iraq. If we're done, bring the troops home. If we need the oil protected from Iran, then make that our mission and use only what is necessary to accomplish that. Be honest about why we are still there. How about having Iraq pay us back for some of the money we've spent saving their country from a tyrant.
- e. Remember, anytime you politicians get together and decide to get involved in this conflict or that one, maybe you should "ruck up" and shoulder a weapon like the rest of us do every time you get a whim to go soldiering with another man's life at stake. In Vietnam, guys and gals like you got good men killed every day, for absolutely nothing. You are doing the same thing today in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya. Stop it!
- f. Cut foreign aid in a very big way, including NATO. If countries want America to be their security blanket, they need to fully pay for that service. America is not a charity and we have lots of bills to pay. Most of the countries we give money to should be paying us, not the reverse.
- g. Get solid business people to negotiate trade agreements. Get politicians, bureaucrats and academics out of the room. If you have never managed a P&L or had to meet a payroll, you have no business negotiating anything. Knowing what needs to be done and doing it are very different things. Do what you promised to do, right now, no matter the political consequence. If America is as stupid as to punish you for getting our fiscal house in order and getting us out of costly and counterproductive foreign engagements, then we, the people deserve the tyranny that we will inevitably get. You do your part and my guess is that we will do ours by showing our faith in you in 2012.

EPA-GROW ITS TENTACLES OR REDUCE THEM?

THE SENATE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE WEDNESDAY ON SEVERAL AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD AFFECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S (EPA) ABILITY TO REGULATE CARBON DIOXIDE (CO2) AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

REPORT ON AMMENDMENTS IN NEXT ISSUE OF TEA PARTY BOISE NEWSLETTER.

BOOKS

TEA PARTY GOES TO WASHINGTON by Rand Paul-the newly elected senator and self-described "constitutional conservative" explains why his party has to stand by its limited government rhetoric and why the federal government must be stuffed back into its constitutional box. Given the problems our nation faces, these are not mere suggestions, but moral imperatives.



MARTYRDOM WON'T WORK FOR THE DEMOCRATS

Overview of Democrat tactics to avoid budget cuts:

- In February Wisconsin (40) and Indiana (14) Democrat lawmakers disappeared into Illinois to avoid addressing union issues that have created serious fiscal problems in their states. Hiding in their hotel rooms, the Democrats professed to be “working” while avoiding the business at hand, that of balancing their state budgets. Their actions were an immature and irresponsible ploy to blackmail the Republicans effort to reduce debt. Integrity, no.
- In Washington, the House would not pass a budget resolution as they ignored this basic mandated responsibility. Rather than work towards budget cuts that would begin to curb big government spending, liberals in Congress chose to ignore it.
- House Republicans budget cut spending by \$61 billion. It passed the House some 39 days ago. The Senate has done nothing to move that bill forward. In the meantime, the House has passed two stopgap spending measures to temporarily fund the government. In other words, if they can't spend they won't play! Like children not getting their way.
- According to The Washington Examiner, Schumer, instructed his fellow Democratic senators to tell the reporters that the GOP is refusing to negotiate and “told the group to make sure they label the GOP spending cuts as ‘extreme.’”
- Yesterday, former Democrat National Committee (DNC) Chairman Howard Dean told the audience at a National Journal Insider's Conference: “If I was head of DNC, I would be quietly rooting for it...I know who's going to get blamed – we've been down this road before.” Dean continued: “From a partisan point of view, I think it would be the best thing in the world to have a shutdown”.
- As it stands today, Congress has until April 8 to reach an agreement on a long-term budget through the end of FY 2011”

If anything makes ‘politics’ a dirty word, these games bring it down several notches. Is there any question who these politicians work for? It is clear that this is politics at its lowest, for greed and positioning. This is not about the voice of the people, or the fiscal welfare of this country. At a time when ‘trillions’ are a part of our everyday language, it is obvious that \$61 billion is not the issue. It is the ‘riders’ the main one being healthcare. Reid's inaction indicates a strategy to box the Republicans into a corner. He wants nothing more than to look like the hero or is it a martyr?

More than 2,000 tea party members gathered outside the Capitol on Thursday.

Republican Rep. Michele Bachmann told Fox News, “They're not interested in a practical solution, and I think people all across the United States are tired of political games,” the Minnesota Republican says.

Reports have circulated in recent days that Boehner might compromise with Democrats on a budget offering \$33 billion in spending cuts. That would be far short of the \$61 billion in cuts that more than 80 freshmen members of Boehner's caucus, who were elected on grass-roots conservative platforms, have demanded.

“We are telling Boehner and Congress that we want Obamacare defunded and for them to follow through with their campaign promise,” Tea Party Patriots leader Everett Wilkinson tells Newsmax. “The tea party is providing backbone to Boehner and members of Congress to stand up to the ‘extremist’ Democrats that want to shut down government and continuing the out of control spending.” “We face a serious debt crisis and the fight is just beginning. The tea party will continue to push for a fiscal responsible government,” he says.

Boehner stepped up Thursday to douse any speculation that there's daylight between the GOP leadership and the grass-roots conservatives who helped propel it back into power with its historic midterm sweep in November.

Bachman indicated on Fox News that Boehner will stand his ground. (We'll see).

Legislative measures that the GOP attached to its funding bills, include:

- * Provisions to cut funds for the Planned Parenthood organization recently caught up in a scandal over facilitating abortions to under aged girls thought to be involved in prostitution.
- * It would defund the implementation of the president's healthcare reform initiatives.
- * It would limit the EPA's ability to impose regulations on greenhouse gas emissions.
- * And it would block an FCC effort to regulate rules related to the price structure of traffic on the Internet.

Schumer has said that any of those riders would be deal breakers.

If martyrdom is the Democrats goal, only the Republicans can give it to them.



**TEA PARTY BOISE NEWSLETTER INVITES
YOUR COMMENTARY.**

We reserve the right to publish and edit. Please keep submissions up to 350 words. Send to : contact@teapartyboise.com

Articles written for and included in the Tea Party Boise Newsletter are perspectives on various issues and are the opinions of the writers.

The threat against the very essence and core of what the United States of America exemplifies, is real. Our Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights were written to prohibit political and judicial manipulations that bespeak oppressive i.e. big government. This is a Republic (A state in which supreme power is held by the people---). We are a nation suffering a threat from within.

If we, in our home towns, our state and nation, are subjugated by the government, our dollar weakened, property diminished, and spirit depressed, does it not indicate that we must act with stronger resolve and greater passion to dismantle the foes of freedom. Contact your congressmen and senators in Idaho. Let them know how they are doing and what you believe will promote freedom from big government. Invite them to join us at Tea Party Boise. Encourage your friends to do the same.

- WRITE AND CALL STATE REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS
- CONTACT THE GOVERNOR
- SUPPORT WITH YOUR REOURCES ORGANIZATIONS THAT IMPACT PUBLIC OPINION.

SIGN UP AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME
TO SUPPORT LIBERTY.

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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN AT TEA PARTY BOISE

THERE ARE THREE VOLUNTEER OPEN POSITIONS AT TEA PARTY BOISE, WITH ALL THREE OF THESE POSITIONS REPORTING TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. INTERVIEWS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ONE OF THESE POSITIONS, PLEASE SEND YOUR NAME, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOUR EXPERIENCE TO JANE@TEAPARTYBOISE.COM.

THE POSITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

INBOX ADMINISTRATOR:

TAKE CARE OF ALL INCOMING EMAILS FOR INFO@TEAPARTYBOISE.COM AND CONTACT@TEAPARTYBOISE.COM. YOU WILL EITHER RESPOND TO THE MESSAGE YOURSELF OR FORWARD IT TO THE PRESIDENT DEPENDING ON NATURE OF QUESTION. FORWARD OTHER MESSAGES TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AS NEEDED. APPROXIMATELY 20 TO 30 MINUTES A DAY.

DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR:

MAINTENANCE OF TPB DATABASE WITH BELUGAMAIL SYSTEM. ADDING OF NEW MEMBERS FROM EMAILS RECEIVED FROM THE WEBSITE OR BOARD MEMBERS AND CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESSES FROM THE MEMBERS. SENDING OUT A NOTIFICATION/FIRST GREETING EMAIL WHEN A PERSON HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE DATABASE. SENDING OUT ALL (AND OCCASIONALLY WRITING) EMAIL BLASTS TO MEMBERS USING THE BELUGAMAIL SYSTEM. ALSO, SENDING OUT VOLUNTEER REQUEST EMAIL BLASTS. USUALLY YOU WILL WORK IN THIS SYSTEM ABOUT TWICE A WEEK FOR ABOUT A TOTAL OF ONE HOUR A WEEK (SOMETIMES MORE DEPENDING ON THE EVENTS GOING ON).

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR:

WORKING WITH THE WEB MASTER TO MAINTAIN THE WEBSITE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWSLETTERS. ALSO, MISCELLANEOUS WEBSITE DUTIES. PROOFING OF THE NEWSLETTER EACH MONTH BEFORE IT COMES OUT. THIS REQUIRES ABOUT 30 MINUTES A WEEK DEPENDING ON THE EVENTS GOING ON DURING THE MONTH.

THANK YOU!