

## You're paying for it

Russell C. Fette

April 19, 2016

At least Gene Robke acknowledged ideology over party affiliation in “Reagan Bush created debt problem.” Conservatives don't blame Obama for the national debt, they blame him for contributing even more at an accelerated rate.

On Dec. 14, 1962, President Kennedy gave a speech to the Economic Club of New York, which outlined his intent to cut tax rates to increase federal revenue. He did so, because the formula works.

The problem isn't the amount of revenue coming in, it's spending. When JFK increased revenue it was before Lyndon B. Johnson's “Great Society,” and War on Poverty.” None of which is outlined in the Constitution as federalism's responsibility. That was 50 years ago and Democrats (liberal/progressives) controlled the House — and the purse strings — 39 of those 50 years.

The Cato Institute stated that in those 50 years our government has spent \$16 trillion on the war on poverty. When LBJ started, 19 percent were living in poverty, today it's 15 percent. Children in poverty then 23 percent, today 22 percent. The federal government has 126 separate anti-poverty programs.

It isn't just that it's not a federal government enumerated responsibility, it's what liberal/progressives have done with their alleged social safety-net. Imagine, beyond anti-poverty, all the bureaucrats involved within all their other programs in federalism. For too long they've wanted to be judged on intent and not results. With such a bureaucracy, does waste, fraud and abuse come to mind? You're paying for it.