

## Cutting waste could end US debt

Our [national debt](#) is more than \$17 trillion.

According to the [Cato Institute](#), since the Lyndon Johnson administration, \$15 trillion has been spent on welfare in America. The [Heritage Foundation](#) figures America's costs for public welfare even higher.

It doesn't take a math whiz to figure out if so much had not been spent on welfare before, we would not have a national debt crisis now.

I am not for eliminating public welfare for those who truly need it.

What I am for is eliminating the waste and fraud by allowing the states to be totally in charge. For example, instead of the food stamp program, there would be a food distribution center network. The Mormon Church does this with their needy with very good success.

How many of us personally know of able-bodied people on public welfare who just choose not to work? I know of one young man, very able-bodied, on full welfare benefits, who was so lazy he would not get out of bed to urinate. He had his elaborate computer set up next to his bed so he could play his computer games without ever getting out of bed. As could be predicted, he developed bed sores.

A large portion of our national debt includes the cost of corporate welfare waste like the Solyndra debacle.

Another obvious waste of tax money is CRP (Crop Reduction Program), which supposedly pays "farmers" to not grow crops. Why would the government pay anyone not to work? In the case of CRP, does anyone really think there is too much food in the world?

The reality is a goodly portion of CRP money goes to people who have never been a farmer and have no intentions of ever farming. These non-farmers purchase land they fully intend to use for hunting and collect the CRP payments to make their mortgage payments. Yes, taxpayers are buying these people's private hunting land!

The bottom line is, if the federal government quit spending money on welfare fraud and waste, there would be enough money to pay off the national debt in perhaps 20 years.

If the federal government would only spend money on what the U.S. Constitution provides for, the national debt could be paid off in 10 years.

Article I, Section 8 outlines all the federal government is authorized to spend money on.

It doesn't take an English whiz to figure out the federal government has been spending money on a lot of things it has no authority or business spending money on.

Amendment 10 states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." It is actually unconstitutional for the federal government to be spending money on most of its programs, even if the money were not wasted.

If this great United States is to survive we are going to have to follow the U.S. Constitution to the letter.

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