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Entitlements Accelerating Under Obama, But Didn't He Inherit a Country in Dire Straits?

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Food stamps up 45 percent and the right wing continues to blame President Obama for a trend that started years ago. The explosion of entitlements started in the 1960s and has continued to gain steam since. They claim Obama is accelerating this trend, never mind the fact that he inherited an economic nightmare from a Republican president. We haven't seen this many people unemployed, under-employed or have just given up looking for work in a long time. This year, more than 46 million will get food stamps. That's twice as high as the average for the previous 40 years, Investor's Business Daily reports. Again, that's being driven in large part by the recession. This isn't just an Obama problem. It's a Washington D.C. problem.

Here's an excerpt from the Investor's Business Daily:

Direct payments. The amount of money the federal government hands out in direct payments to individuals steadily increased over the past four decades, but shot up under Obama, climbing by almost \$600 billion - a 32% increase - in his first three years. And Obama's last budget called for these payments to climb another \$500 billion by 2016, at which point they would account for fully two-thirds of all federal spending.

People getting benefits. According to the Census Bureau 49% now live in homes where at least one person gets a federal benefit - Social Security, workers comp, unemployment, subsidized housing, and the like. That's up from 44% the year before Obama took office, and way up from 1983, when fewer than a third were government beneficiaries.

Corporate welfare. Prior to Obama, the federal government was already dishing out \$92 billion in corporate welfare programs - in the form of subsidized loans, special tax breaks, bailouts and the like - the **Cato Institute** found. Obama added tremendously to this largesse. Federal grants to the energy sector, for example, quadrupled to over \$18 billion in 2009, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts' Subsidyscope.

I have little trust in elected leaders to fix what ails this country. No matter which party they are affiliated with, each goes to Washington D. C. with his or her own agenda and not their constituents' agenda. From a historical context, this love affair with entitlements didn't start with President Obama and it won't end with him either. I am for lifting myself up by my bootstraps and depending on no-one but me, but there comes a time when you can fall flat on your face through no fault of your own, such as now.

President Obama summed it up best: "First of all, I don't put people on food stamps. People become eligible for food stamps. Second of all, the initial expansion of food-stamp eligibility happened under my Republican predecessor, not under me. Number three, when you have a disastrous economic crash that results in 8 million people losing their jobs, more people are going to need more support from government." What are you to do with these people?