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The Arena

Is Paul Ryan harming congressional candidates?

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We're running trillion-dollar deficits and are about to hit \$16 trillion in national debt. Not to mention about \$100 trillion in unfunded liabilities for entitlement programs. Our politicians have made promises that our taxpayers can't keep. Putting Paul Ryan on the ticket is a bet that voters are willing to face up to that problem. Are they? It may well be a better bet in any given election that they're not. With increasing numbers of Americans being recipients of government transfers, it's hard to persuade a majority that these trends can't continue forever.

Republican keynoter Chris Christie says, "I'll try to tell some very direct and hard truths to people in the country about the trouble that we're in and the fact that fixing those problems is not going to be easy for any of them." That's the right keynote, because that's what Romney and the Republican party have now committed themselves to doing.