



LETTER: Radical measures

2011-08-15 09:22:43

Radical measures will be needed to regain fiscal equilibrium, but destroying America's social safety net should not be among them.

Today, America spends almost as much on "national defense" as does the rest of the world combined. With the Cold War over, it's time for a fundamentally different foreign policy. We can no longer afford to be the world's police.

Huge savings can be realized by immediately ending the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. And curtail any plans to attack Iran.

Beyond that, there's no need to maintain a U.S. military presence in more than 100 countries around the world. We still have tens of thousands of troops in Germany and Japan. Thousands more in Korea. After more than 50 years, it's time to cut those countries free.

The Pentagon can also save by reducing new weapons system buys. Do we really need 2,443 F-35s at \$156 million each? Why are we spending \$185 billion to upgrade our nuclear arsenal?

For more, see the CATO Institute report at http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id12151.

At the same time, we've got to increase revenue. Which means raising taxes. Whether done with a new flat tax, a national sales tax or by restructuring IRS rates so those now skating by are forced to pay their fair share, it must be done.

Bottom line: End elective wars, cut back on unneeded Pentagon expenses, and revamp our tax system to capture a fairer share of personal and corporate profits before we even THINK of touching Medicaid, Medicare or Social Security.

— BOB REID

Niceville

© Copyright 2011 Freedom Communications. All Rights Reserved.
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Site Map](#)