



Conservatives think differently?

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It is my habit to peruse the letters to the editor of the Yuma Daily Sun each morning as I enjoy breakfast and prepare to go to work. As I review the writings of other community members I often feel grateful for the efforts that some of them go to as they seek to edify my befuddled liberal mind.

This gratitude most recently warmed my innermost being while I read an account ("Liberals think in different way," Feb. 17) of how liberal politicians are quick to spend billions of dollars taxed away from hard-working folk on making government ever larger.

Reflecting on this information later in the day I was struck by the awesome truth of this observation. After all, it was not long ago that President George W. Bush and the Republican-controlled House and Senate squandered away the budget surpluses left by the Democrat Clinton administration on ill-advised schemes like a drug benefit for older Americans.

This profligacy left us with the crushing budget deficits that President Obama and the Democrat-controlled House and Senate are attempting to deal with today.

Wait ... the Republicans are the conservatives, flinty-eyed and dedicated only to protecting me and my fellow Americans from spendthrift liberals. Maybe a different example would illustrate the point more effectively.

Now I remember. It was during the 1980's that the gallant conservative Ronald Reagan cowed the Democrat-controlled Congress and put a halt to the big-government legacy left by Jimmy Carter.

The libertarian, conservative Cato Institute documents how President Reagan forced the Democrat Congress to cut marginal tax rates, thereby ending the growth of government and freeing the economy to grow at unprecedented rates. This even included increasing overall government spending by more than half - 69 percent to be exact.

Wait ... conservatives shrink government and liberals grow government. Right?

Well, I for one, am going to completely disregard the fact that conservatives have been spending the tax dollars of hard-working Americans faster than liberals. At least we can count on the patriotism of conservatives. Remember when, in the terrifying aftermath of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, George W. Bush uttered those stirring words, "Get down to Disney World in Florida."

Wait ... OK, that might not be the best example.

Still, no one can deny that John F. Kennedy rallied the country to the cause of the Cold War with the phrase, "Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country."

Wait ... well, I guess liberals do think differently than conservatives.

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