

Robin Smith: All Guilty Of Overspending

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To disarm critics who want to blame one President or Party over another, references will show that blame lies with all who've refused to stand against the government explosion.

Accept my apologies for all the figures. At least there are no liars to figure on this one.

In January 2001, the national debt was \$5.768 trillion with that total almost doubled to \$10.626 trillion eight years later. The national debt rose an average of \$607 billion a year from 2001-2008. The national debt has risen from \$10.626 trillion to \$14.688 trillion in less than 1,000 days with the debt rising at a pace of \$5 billion per day.

To offer perspective: If you began spending \$1 million per day on the day Jesus was born of the 365-day year, you would spend one trillion dollars by October 2737.

So, hopefully, we're able to agree, the U.S. government's spent too much and everyone's guilty. Now, a few more places to cut.

According to the CATO Institute in a 2010 report, the U.S. taxpayer gave \$91 billion in direct payments to farmers, research funds, high-tech companies, and even corporations to promote their products in foreign nations. This figure does not include tax breaks and loopholes that need to be closed. Bottom line, the taxpayers provide the capital and hold the risk, while the companies enjoy the profits without the risk.

Agencies overpaid an estimated \$98 billion in 2010 alone. Isn't that so comforting when the request for more "sacrifice" is the cry from these same folks? The top offender was Health & Human Services overpaying to the tune of \$55 billion with the Department of Labor only guilty of \$12.3 billion overpayment in unemployment benefits. Surprisingly, the Department of Defense had overpaid only \$849 million but this was a report of only overpayment...not fraud or waste.

Then, we have the U.S. government holding \$1.2 trillion in unused federal property. In just one example, a vacant post office in Chicago requires \$2 million annually to maintain.

While we need to cut spending, obviously, the revenue needed to run an efficient government has to come from job creation to infuse our economy with spending, not from the redistribution of wealth or government spending. Instead, individuals need to spend their own money to drive services and goods in a competitive market.

Iconic Coach Vince Lombardi nailed it: "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." America works best when Americans are working.

Respectfully submitted,
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