

How I Would Fix the Economy

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Some folks have indicated that they would like to hear how I would fix the economic / budget mess.

Unfortunately, fixing this would require that several corrections be made almost simultaneously. The current intelligentsia will say this is impossible and the current vested parties will say it is unreasonable. The newspaper, like the last time, will say I am out of touch with the issues.

So what are the issues?

Congress, using the Commerce and Welfare Clauses are too close to the economy and too unrestrained when spending federal money (tax dollars).

The nutshell version of how to fix this is to:

1. Decouple Congress from money.
2. Erect new relationships designed to maintain both commerce and the economy.
3. Let free enterprise take its course.

Adding a bit of detail we find that to accomplish the above we must:

1. More clearly define Commerce and Welfare.
2. Redefine the linkage between congressmen and congressional financing.
3. Limit congressional control of money and commerce by reinvoking the constitutionally defined federal responsibilities with respect to Commerce and Welfare.

So. Here goes. Remember, all these need to be in place or the weasels will just figure out new means to screw things up.

Without going into a tremendous amount of detail, let's stipulate that Mark Levin stated it clearly when he wrote, "The Commerce Clause is limited to the importance of a national commercial system without internal barriers." This is a far cry from the micro-management undertaken today. The Welfare clause is clear to anyone with a rudimentary comprehension of phraseology. Article 1, Section 8 states that Congress is to provide for the "general Welfare (meaning well-being) of the United States" not each and every individual living within the United States.

If you can't get past these stipulations, either go back and work it out or throw this plan in the trash.

Step Number One is completed. Now to the relationship between congress and congressional financing.

First, the Constitution says that Congress is to be paid from the Treasury. The rate of pay is to be set by law. The US Supreme Court has rules that no state can define or add to the qualifications of senators and representatives. If, however, each state had the ability to set the rate of pay for the congressman and his office (aids, etc) and if accepting that rate was part of the qualifying criteria to be elected from that state, and each state donated an appropriate amount to the Treasury then Congress and their offices would be once again working for the people who

sent them there. So, here we would need a constitutional amendment allowing the states to add, not substitute, qualifying criteria.

Second, if campaign donations were restricted to natural people who are citizens actually residing in the district in which a candidate had declared his intent to be elected, then corporations, parties, PACs, Super PACs, Unions, would be out of the influence loop. Congressmen would actually be more likely to represent the people of their district.

Third, if excess campaign funds, from winning and losing candidates, were to be donated to the general fund of the governing entity for which a seat was sought, war chests would be eliminated and donations might increase because people would know it would ultimately end up in a good place.

Congress is now decoupled from monetary issues that extend beyond the constitution.

But we are not done.

Now we need to re-couple Americans with the American economy (and congressional spending) and decouple the American economy from the International Economy.

First, legally define an “American Corporation” as one in which all the shares are held by natural people who are American Citizens. This alone would identify who’s who in the global economy. It also means that one corporation cannot own another. This is really, really desirable, but too complicated to go into here. Maybe later.

Second, restrict Treasury Bonds and other investments in government to natural people who are also American Citizens.

These two changes would establish a dynamic in which the American people have a direct and profound interest in how well American government and American corporations are doing.

Finally, adopt a balanced budget amendment. Variations on this are many. Most recognize that we cannot go from where we are to balanced overnight, but the number of years to make the transition varies. I would go a step or two further.

To the balanced budget amendment I would add that an actual budget must be prepared each year. That each department and each program area, grant, award, or project is to be adopted by separate vote. These are to be considered in order of preference: Defense, Administration, ...well you get it. List the stuff identified in the Constitution and nothing else.

Now, if Congress can’t do that, then after the deadline, all recesses for the legislature shall be suspended and the legislature shall consider no other legislation before the adoption of a new budget. This action would shut down government until an actual budget was passed.

Closing: There are several more repairs that can and should be made. These have been culled from the list to answer the specific question.