

BANKRUPTING AMERICA

A PROJECT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Budget And Spending Fact Sheet: What They're Saying Editorial Boards & Op-Eds on the Budget Deficit

David Brooks, *The New York Times*: “These days, debt-fueled government spending doesn’t increase confidence. It destroys it. Only 6 percent of Americans believe the last stimulus created jobs, according to a New York Times/CBS News survey. Consumers are recovering from a debt-fueled bubble and have a moral aversion to more debt.” (David Brooks, Op-Ed, *The New York Times*, 7/6/10)

***Chicago Tribune*:** “Washington already has bequeathed to our descendants a national debt of \$13 trillion and rising. Americans understand that the recovery is slow, and no one wants to short-circuit it. That said, a huge amount of federal spending remains in the pipeline from the original Obama stimulus package. That should be enough federal grease for the economy; stimulus spending's beneficial economic effect is overrated, anyway.” (Editorial, *The Chicago Tribune*, 7/1/10)

***Washington Examiner*:** “Voters are right to think our addiction to federal deficit spending is killing our economy. A thorough new study from Carmen Reinhart of the University of Maryland and Kenneth Rogoff of Harvard University takes a look at the relationships among rising debt, inflation and economic growth for 44 developed and developing countries. The findings bode poorly for a spending-crazy Washington.” (Editorial, *The Washington Examiner*, 6/21/10)

Alan Greenspan, *The Wall Street Journal*: “Fortunately, the very severity of the pending crisis and growing analogies to Greece set the stage for a serious response. That response needs to recognize that the range of error of long-term U.S. budget forecasts (especially of Medicare) is, in historic perspective, exceptionally wide. Our economy cannot afford a major mistake in underestimating the corrosive momentum of this fiscal crisis. Our policy focus must therefore err significantly on the side of restraint.” (Alan Greenspan, Op-Ed, *The Wall Street Journal*, 6/18/10)



BANKRUPTING AMERICA

A PROJECT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The Washington Times: “It is easy to "create jobs" when one uses the Treasury as an unlimited checking account where the bills never come due. As we are now seeing in the economic collapse of European nations like Greece, the summertime party will come to an end.” (Editorial, *The Washington Times*, 6/18/10)

Boston Herald on more stimulus spending: “The president is asking Congress to support billions in new emergency federal spending to prop up the nation’s economy and keep hundreds of thousands of teachers, cops and firefighters from losing their jobs. That’s right, folks - it’s Groundhog Day in the nation’s capital! ... Hoyer on Sunday said that Congress should consider redirecting unspent funds from last year’s stimulus to assist states. Once we get past the shock that such funds exist, we have to conclude that at least for the Medicaid bailout it is better than the alternative - more whistling past the deficit graveyard.” (Editorial, *The Boston Herald*, 6/15/10)

Andrew Busch, BMO Capital Markets: “As the Australians call it, the global financial crisis has struck the whole of Europe with a force that has reverberated here with a 14 percent drop in the U.S. equity markets. The main cause: uncertainty over fiscal deficits and the ability of governments to address the mess. ... There has been little serious action taken by Congress or the White House on reducing the massive US fiscal deficit. There has been speculation D.C. will wait until a Greek-like crisis develops before the political will to engage in unpopular policies of cutting spending and raising taxes occurs. ” (Andrew Busch, Op-Ed, *The Hill*, 6/16/10)

USA Today: “it's time to start making choices about what's vital, and for those programs that are, paying the bills instead of borrowing. You'd think that with the soaring national debt emerging as a major issue in this fall's elections, congressional leaders wouldn't need this kind of reminder.” (Editorial, *USA Today*, 5/26/10)

The New York Times: “It is important to cut waste, but cutting waste is not enough. If the public is encouraged to believe that discretionary spending is the main problem — and cutting it is the real answer — there will never be adequate political support for the tough decisions ahead.” (Editorial, *The New York Times*, 5/25/10)

