

Community Comment Fiscal Responsibility

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As another political season is upon us and as we consider the state of the nation and the economy, I would like to draw attention to the need to call our government back to fiscal responsibility. You know those basic money management skills that we all learned with our first check book. Our government seems bent on ignoring these basic principles spending over 30,000 per each household in 2010. Did that number miss you? The government could have bought each household a new Mazda MX5 convertible in Racing red. Not a fan of the convertible, my wife isn't either, but don't worry you can get something that suits you this year, next year and every year after that. Can this really be sustainable? Our national debt is over 15 trillion dollars, that's over \$181,000 per family or over \$48,000 for each and every citizen from my 2 year old son to my 82 year old grandma. Despite the enormity of these numbers, as a nation we have gotten used to government in every area of our lives guarding, providing for and regulating it's a hard drug to get off of. We look to the government for everything. What happened to the family. The church. The community.

This political cycle wouldn't it be great to get a candidate who was a leader standing up for what's necessary rather than furthering our addiction to government. The austerity measures in the European nations that led to riots in the streets is nothing in comparison to the complete failure modern governments are headed for if they don't reign themselves in.

Some might ask why don't they just print more money. It is sad to say that many American have bought the lie that it is really greedy business men who are driving inflation rather than a government who doesn't have the courage to tell their constituent no. The Budget Super Committee couldn't even come up with a way to save 1.2 trillion over the next ten years. Despite the expected deficit for this

year alone of 1.65 trillion, our elected officials would rather fight about raising the debt limit and spend a trillion dollars that they don't have to prove to the voters back home that the government really can fix all our problems. When the government prints more money every dollar in America is worth less. This is inflation. How's your grocery bill? Mine too... it's ridiculous. Bailing out banks, saving businesses too big to fail, giving food stamps to 47 million Americans it all has a cost. Whether the government taxes more or prints more money to cover the cost, every American suffers maybe not immediately but it's coming. Government addicts beware this spending is unsustainable and you should not be surprised when your benefits stop. There is a silver lining to this dark cloud when the government can't do what we have grown to expect we will have to recover family, church and community but the transition will hurt.

Think about the ways you and your extended family have gotten used to the government's help. It might surprise you. We must get our financial houses in order in our homes and our government. There is Hope for Humboldt. This is Robert Upton for Community Comment.