

**Can Government Help our Economy?**

Without a doubt, everyone has recently noticed the rising prices of gasoline and food.

Currently, there is a debate on whether or not we are in a recession. Either way, we are in an economic slide and it is picking up speed.

Through out U.S. history, every recession has had its own unique trait, different from other recessions, like the 70's and 80's. Recessions, nevertheless, do carry some common factors. Since the Great Depression, most Americans believe that our government has a hand in an economic slow down. And most Americans believe that government should fix the country's economic problems.

Obviously, that type of reasoning is one-dimensional for a very complex subject.

But, before we can decide on any viable and practical solutions, we should understand what our recession is made of.

The obvious components are the rising costs of fuel and food. Inflation with a weak dollar is another typical component and add the trade and budget deficits.

Remember the Savings and Loans tragedy in the late 1980's? Deregulation of our financial industry will also help trigger a recession. And today, the mortgage meltdown has prompted many lenders and homeowners to file for bankruptcy. Add in the high cost of health care, shrinking pensions, the outsourcing of quality jobs overseas and an increase in personal debt are contributing factors to the recession.

Yet, there are plenty of ideas and theories of how our government should reverse our recession. Over the past few years, we have seen the Feds cut our interest rates. But, so far, the short-term fix has done little to help the average American and this week, the Feds will again cut interest rates.

Another fix is the right-wing ideology of deregulation and cutting taxes. For thirty years, we have been hearing how that is only way of helping an economy. Of course deregulation in the financial world brought us the Savings and Loans problems and now we have the mortgage meltdown. And the so-called "trickle down" theory of cutting taxes has not worked either. When the top one-percent of the most affluent Americans are the only ones receiving those tax cuts, the tax burden is then shifted to the average, working family. The Republican war on the middle class will only lengthen our recession. By the way, letting Bush's tax cuts expire is not "raising taxes", unless of course you are in the top one-percent.

What we need is our government to invest in our youth with better education and job training.

We also need government to improve our infrastructure and roads. And we need to stop Republicans from bullying the Middle Class.

And we need all of us to be more involved in government. As Abigail Adams once said, "You cannot be...an inactive speaker. We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them".

This year, we can vote for the Republican ideology of higher taxes on the Middle Class or we can elect Democratic candidates who promote hope and opportunity.

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