



# Listen to reason, not politicians

Posted: Tuesday, October 10, 2017

“The federal government ran a \$668 billion budget deficit for the just-completed 2017 fiscal year,” Andrew Taylor noted in last Sunday’s paper. “That’s \$82 billion more red ink than the government produced last year.”

“The national debt is \$20 trillion and the Congressional Budget Office projects it would grow to about \$30 trillion within 10 years,” he continued. “Many analysts worry that the nation’s deficit path is unsustainable.”

Duh.

I believe most Americans are not oblivious to the apocalypse that lies ahead if we do not deal realistically with our ever-expanding financial commitments – but many seem to be in denial. The fundamental laws of economics are as applicable to the United States as they are to any country and dubious fiscal policies often precipitate catastrophic consequences.

There are only three ways to deal with the deficit: increase revenue, decrease spending, or some combination of these two approaches. Lowering tax rates on corporations and/or the wealthy will not lower the deficit – it will in fact make the situation much worse, as Taylor explains: “Lawmakers are also working toward a round of tax cuts that could add \$1.5 trillion in debt over 10 years on top of the already grim prospects.”

Yes, I know the argument. Lower tax rates stimulate economic growth. But if this were indeed the case, the much mythologized Reagan tax cuts of the 1980s should have translated into increased economic activity and job creation on a biblical scale. Instead, the deficit grew by some \$1.86 trillion during his administration.

The writing is on the wall. We need to stop paying attention to politicians who promise the impossible and start listening to the voices of reason. We desperately need leaders who have the courage and foresight to make the hard decisions that will be in our long-term collective best interests.

**Aaron W. Hughey**  
**Bowling Green**

[www.bgdailynews.com](http://www.bgdailynews.com)