

We can solve our problems, but will we?

The writing is on the wall – in great big neon letters.

Note the following warning from a Chicago Tribune editorial recently published in the Daily News:

“If Americans want to avoid the fate of today’s Greece, they had better do what the Greeks failed to do: scale down what they demand from the government and accept the need to pay for what they get.

Otherwise, our future will bear a grim resemblance to Greece’s present.”

Earlier this month, Robert Samuelson echoed this sentiment in one of his insightful columns.

“Virtually every advanced nation, including the United States, faces the same prospect,” Samuelson observed. “Aging populations have been promised huge health and retirement benefits, which countries haven’t fully covered with taxes.

The reckoning has arrived in Greece, but it awaits most wealthy societies.”

Finally, David Gergen, in a recent Parade magazine article, added his voice to the growing list of those who are rightfully concerned about the growing federal deficit.

“The Tax Foundation estimates that 60 percent of all Americans now receive more in income benefits from government than they pay into government, and that with new policy directions, the number will grow closer to 70 percent.”

The implications are very clear. We need to stop listening to politicians who promise the impossible and start paying attention to those who have the courage to tell the truth. We desperately need leaders who have the fortitude to make the hard decisions that are in our long-term collective best interest.

Most Americans are not blind to the dangers that lie ahead if we do not get government spending under control; but many seem to be in denial.

As Gergen points out, “We clearly have the means to solve our problems; what is less clear is whether we have the collective will.”

Aaron W. Hughey
Bowling Green