

Letter to the Editor: The Pundit Speaks

By Randolph M. Howes, M.D., Ph.D.

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“A New Year's Resolution from Dr. Howes to You”

Our accumulated United States national debt has passed an unprecedented eighteen trillion dollars, and shockingly, our unfunded liabilities are between ninety and one hundred trillion dollars. Politicians are the only people who have the audacity to create problems and then campaign against those problems. Actually, one hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one President, and nine Supreme Court justices constitute the 545 human beings, out of over 300 million, who are directly, legally, ethically, and individually responsible for most of our domestic problems that are suffocating our once great Constitutional republic. Lobbyists have no legal authority and are excluded. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a President to do one darn thing. I don't care if they offer a politician millions of dollars, the politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes. When things go downhill, those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did was not their fault. They spout the mantra that our overall decline is not due to them, regardless of party. The speaker of the House and the President can approve any budget they want. If the President vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto, if they have the votes or the will to do so. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist. If we are in debt up to our eyeballs, it is because they want us hopelessly indebted. If they cannot come up with a balanced budget, it is because they do not want a balanced budget. If we are in multiple, endless wars, it is because they want us in continual wars. If politicians get Cadillac healthcare, while the public gets clunker care, it is because this is the way they want it. If we are being taxed to death, it is because they want it that way. Get it? These 545 select people control our fate and the destiny of our country and we are the ones who put them in their positions of such great power. However, we are the ones who can take those great powers away from them. How sad it is that more people follow the Super Bowl than who actually vote in our elections.

In the America that I love, we should make a New Year's resolution to truly participate in the elective process...or quit complaining about our problems. Please get involved. And many thanks for supporting my columns throughout the years. It is deeply appreciated.

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