

Weller

March 6, 1995

C-Span
400 North Capitol Street, NW
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Brian,

This morning's Washington Journal was another good program, probably better than most since your guest correspondents were able to discuss issues without becoming emotionally involved and there were current, meaty issues to discuss. However, a key national issue continues to be a non-issue. That issue is how will the government deal with the national debt if the deficit is not brought under control.

The discussion touched several times on the failure to pass the balanced budget amendment and the continuing deficit. But, you missed two good chances to raise the key question. First, there was a very good op-ed piece in the NY Times this morning by Taggart Murphy (The Crash of '98?) and second, you asked a two part question of both the guests and when neither answered the second part you failed to follow up. Your question was to the effect *"Will either party be able to do anything about the budget without the amendment and, what happens if they can't?"* At this point I tried to call you but could not get through.

I did not hear any interest expressed in the Murphy article. Why? Do your guests, even those who have some depth of understanding, ever consider what will happen if the public debt becomes too large? The guest from Newsweek answered your question by saying that the Democrats were concerned with keeping their programs going. No consideration of the debt question. Why?

History teaches us that when a nation's debt becomes unmanageable, the debt is monetized. This is the national equivalent of personal bankruptcy except that it also takes down all the private citizens who have any savings or pension benefits. We are not too far from that point now as the Murphy article implies. And, as history also teaches, debt problems accelerate beyond control once past a certain point. It's not a direct comparison, but where will we be if the dollar falls at some future date like the peso has in the last 60 days?

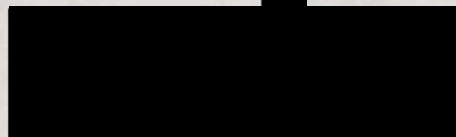
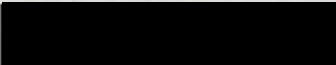
Where is the effort to educate the public on this problem? It is my opinion that a lack of understanding of these problems is why we see opinion polls which support a balanced budget but where support is watered down when cuts to specific programs are considered. I also believe that the same lack allows elected officials to deflect any serious consideration of our debt problems

by hiding behind potential cuts to popular programs. I do not understand how the AARP neglects this issue since the primary losers when the debt is monetized are those no longer able to sell their services or labor to the marketplace (senior citizens).

I recognize that C-Span is apolitical. That's good. But, if one of your objectives is to educate the public on matters which effect the governance of the nation, why do you not ask questions which lead to a discussion of this very serious problem?

Good luck with your future programs.

Very truly yours,

A large rectangular black box redacting the signature of the sender.A rectangular black box redacting the first line of the address.

Upper St. Clair, PA 15241