

Paying Off the National Debt

By Hap Hansen

The national debt is now nearly 20 trillion dollars and increasing at the rate of about 700 million dollars each year. Let's peer into our forward looking time machine. Eliminating the increasing annual national debt and reducing the overall debt requires radical thinking. So we need a radical forward-looking time machine. Since there appears to be no way from stopping politicians from continuing 'pork barrel' projects, perhaps it is time to have a gigantic garage sale on some of the things the government owns. Let's start with selling the buildings that house the perpetrators of high deficit spending: the Senate and the House of Representatives office buildings in Washington. Some real good could come from this sale. First, let's give wheat and corn farmers first chance at the purchase. Those buildings would hold millions of bushels of corn and wheat. Problem is, where would the grain subsidies then come from?

Second, with the Senate and House buildings full of grain, politicians would then have no place to go but home, thus saving us taxpayers billions of dollars because no new tax increase laws could be passed. The national debt would decline and every taxpayer would start to smile.

Next, the Pentagon. Who needs a five-sided building anyway? Our future time-machine could turn the tables on the bureaucrats and instead of receiving all their garbage they've been putting out all these years, we'll return garbage ten-fold and make it the world's first and largest garbage dump! Millions of people would pay a fortune to haul their garbage across the country and dump it on Washington! I read that the Federal government owns 650 million acres, or 29 percent of the total acreage in the United States. These figures include 44 million acres in California, 24 million in Colorado and 30 million on Wyoming. The list of government land ownership is far too extensive. Let's do this with our future time machine: sell Wyoming! If we could get a thousand dollars an acre, that cash would pay for a substantial amount of this year's national debt. Getting a thousand bucks an acre could be tough to do though. Much of the grazing land in Wyoming wouldn't bring much more than a few hundred dollars per acre. But the Teton Mountains could bring substantially more. Maybe we should sell California first, before the big earthquake sends it out into the Pacific Ocean!

Let's see now, as we gaze into our future time machine: fees coming in from wheat and corn storage, stiff charges on the world's most unique garbage dump, no new tax laws being passed and big dollars coming in from selling a few of our states. Is anybody listening? I hope not!