

Editorial

Action needed now to reduce the deficit

The stock market's greatest plunge in history focuses new attention on the negligent economic policies of the Reagan administration toward reducing the federal budget deficit.

According to Wall Street analysts, the market's crash has been caused partially by a large trade deficit and by a huge, out-of-control budget deficit — a deficit that has increased dramatically during the Reagan administration.

The mendacious Reagan administration can no longer make the empty rhetorical promise that it will take measures to reduce the deficit and balance the budget, a promise Reagan made an integral part of his 1980 presidential and 1983 re-election campaigns.

If the administration is to help the market recover fully, it not only must pledge to take action, but also must do it. Furthermore this action must take the form of an increase in taxes and a decrease in military spending.

For the administration, it can no longer be business as usual; it's time to rethink the economic policies that landed the market in such an unfortunate predicament.

In previous years, the administration has refused to raise income taxes; instead, it made across-the-board cuts in domestic welfare spending.

The savings incurred from these cuts, however, have been offset by wasteful, unnecessary increases in military spending and foreign policies requiring an excessive proportion of the federal budget.

By attempting to stamp out the red threat in the Third World, the administration's foreign policies have contributed to placing the budget further in the red.

The Reagan administration's 1988 budget proposal, for example, calls for increasing defense spending by about \$14 billion to \$312 billion and international affairs spending by \$2.9 billion to a total of \$18.1 billion. The administration, however, proposed spending only \$28.9 billion on education, jobs and social services.

Nevertheless, after pressure from Monday's crisis, Reagan has considered meeting with legislators at an "economic summit" to discuss policies for reducing the deficit.

At this domestic economic summit, if it indeed takes place, the Reagan administration must compromise with congressional democrats if it is to solve the current crisis and avoid a future one.

So far, however, the administration has refused to compromise, placing the blame on Congress for its own incompetence toward reducing the deficit. The result of this reluctance to compromise resulted in an economic crisis that poses the possibility of a new recession.

America currently faces a crucial choice: either accept a tax increase now or accept the economic costs of a deficit-induced recession later.

If the American public accepts the latter, or is forced to accept it by the continuing negligence of the Reagan administration, then the long-run costs of the deficit in terms of a recession will outweigh significantly the short-run reduction in wealth from an income tax.

Without a tax increase and appropriate spending cuts, Americans will further suffer from economic neglect and mismanagement.

Life Expectancy Statistics in Haiti:



CITIZENS: 40 YEARS

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES: 6 MONTHS

Letters

Unfair seating

If all students are required to pay a fee along with tuition that is to go toward free admission to University athletic events, shouldn't everyone who pays have access to the free tickets?

With only 6,000 football tickets reserved for more than 17,000 students, 11,000 or more students are paying for nothing.

There must be a better way to allocate these tickets. I realize that the incidental fees charged at registration are reasonable for anyone who plans to attend a few events. Maybe it would be better to charge a higher incidental fee to students who want free tickets, but not require that everyone pay if they do not plan to use the free tickets.

The students who pay the fee would have free tickets available to them if they want to claim them, and those who don't pay the fee would have to pay for general admission tickets if they decide to attend.

What really upsets me about this plan is the seating arrangements at the football games.

Students who get free tickets are restricted to certain seating sections, while other students who pay for their general admission tickets must sit in another area.

I went to the USC football game Saturday with five stu-

dent friends, but only two of us were able to get free tickets. The other four paid for general admission tickets. We tried to get seats in the student section, but the ushers would not let the people who purchased general admission tickets sit in that area.

So we went to the general admission section, walked past an usher who did not check our tickets, and sat down.

During the first quarter, I left my seat to get a drink. When I tried to return to my seat, the usher asked to see my ticket. I showed him my "student" ticket, and he told me that I could not return to my seat... I would have to go to the student section.

I think that charging a one-time per-term fee for free admission to athletic events is a great idea, but everyone who pays this fee should have access to free tickets.

If we can't work out a fair allocation system, students who get free tickets should at least be allowed to sit with those who are unable to get their tickets for free.

Tom Johnson
Student

Confronting

Local humanist, Laurence F. Hawkin's letter, "Faith vs. reason" (R-G, Sept. 23), describes Sir (and "Saint") Thomas More's suggestion in his book "Utopia" that a "young couple wishing to marry should be compelled to confront each other naked, lest either find the other unattractive."

Newspaper reports lead us to know that not only did several of our Christian presidential candidates follow that suggestion, but as one could expect, found it as difficult to "look but don't touch," as it is to "show but not tell."

Humanists who know the history of American social mores are inclined to smile indulgently at the sanctimonious posturing of Christian moralists in this regard.

Ethnologists may find it of interest to know that for many hundreds of years, until but a few generations ago, it was the custom in many Slavic countries for rural bachelors to gather together naked on the

frozen surface of local ponds and rivers in mid-winter, in the presence of area maidens and their mothers, to plunge into the icy waters in a riotous display of vigor and courage. The women thereafter discussed the qualities of prospective suitors; it was believed that surprises thereafter were apt to be pleasant.

Women were exempted from this ordeal. Polish gallantry recognized the blush of the maiden belonged on the upper cheeks and not the lower.

Bert P. Tryba
Eugene

Needed service

Sunday afternoon, at approximately 4:30, I was headed northbound on I-5 when I was driven off the road by a semi-truck that obviously thought it too much trouble to look before changing lanes.

After gathering my wits, I managed to get the license number of the truck and report the offense. Later I called the police back to find out if anything had come of my complaint. Absolutely nothing!

The officer was very sympathetic, told me that there had been numerous complaints that day about truck drivers, but there was nothing they could do. There was only ONE patrol car available between Eugene and Albany and it was already tied up!

I'm not angry with the police. They did all they could. But I find it appalling that the citizens of this, and other areas, do not find it necessary to support those organizations which are essential to the welfare of our communities.

Time after time, we fail to pass budgets which are badly needed in order for these organizations to function effectively. The police department is one such organization.

I am angry because a careless driver got away with almost causing a very serious accident. Please...the next time the police department needs money, PASS the budget!

Julie N. Rawland
Student

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