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Georgia Senator Johnny Isakson Believes that Current Deficits are Pushing America to the Tipping Point.



was Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA) a businessman, a public servant and family man whose common-sense approach and conservative values have made him a leader in Georgia for over 30 years. The Senator proposed that the new federal budget is "the wrong budget at the wrong time, and is pushing America past the tipping point. It will lead to over leveraging that will create inflated dollars and deflate the value of America's assets."

The \$1.3 trillion dollar proposed federal deficit got Senator Isakson thinking about getting a handle on this huge number. He put one trillion in perspective by suggesting that it would take 31,708 years for one trillion seconds to elapse.

"America needs to conduct its business like a family gathered around the kitchen table. We have to save responsibly and spend responsibly, holding off things we can't afford," suggested Senator Isakson.

This is the impetus for the Senator co-sponsoring the "Pay It Back Act," which is a bipartisan initiative that mandates that when the TARP funds are returned, they will be used exclusively for paring down the deficit. He can't envision any member of Congress voting against this, but is wary that some will.

As for healthcare, Senator Isakson said he doesn't know what is in the "new-new" healthcare bill, but knew what was in the "old-old bill," which contains provisions that he strongly disagrees with, such as taking one-half trillion dollars out of Medicare to help pay for the proposed healthcare program. He does not think it is fair for

people who have paid into Medicare over the course of many years, to see that money pay for other people's coverage. He also does not want to see funding disappear for home healthcare, which he thinks greatly reduces the cost of caring for seniors.

"The way that the current bill is structured, the Medicaid costs for the State of Georgia are going to go from \$2.1 billion to \$3.3 billion. In essence, costs are being passed from the federal side to individual states. This, despite the fact that nobody wants the bill being proposed. I just held an on-line Town Hall Meeting with 3,800 Georgian citizens, and out of the 15 calls I took, all were opposed to the bill. But Nancy Pelosi is still telling Democrats to vote for the bill no matter what their constituents feel about the program," contends Senator Isakson.

This naturally led to a discussion of job creation, which is being delayed because uncertainties in the marketplace are creating an environment not conducive to encouraging entrepreneurs to take risks. Senator Isakson said that small business will not deploy any jobs if they think that taxes will go up, regulatory regimens will add additional costs and if they can't predict their employee healthcare costs. The Senator suggests that if the government

Once again, the proposed trillion dollar federal deficit lead the discussion on the nationally syndicated "The Neal Asbury Show" on WZAB-AM, where host Neal Asbury was broadcasting from the Republican National Committee headquarters studio on Capitol Hill. Neal contends that the Obama administration's approach to deficits is leading the nation "down a dark and dangerous road on which the American people don't want to travel." He added that "any government that dismisses the will of its people does so at their own peril. People want the government to create jobs, not create a bigger government." It's part of Asbury's hunt for The Truth for America.

Making a return appearance on the show



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wants to see jobs created, keep taxes low and don't raise the costs for employers who want to hire.

Part and parcel of job creation is opening up new ports for American exporters, the Senator contends, and wants to see President Obama keep the promise that he made during his State of the Union Address in which he proposed that he wants to double exports by opening up trade. This includes passing the Colombian, South Korean, and Panama Free Trade Agreements, which are stalled in committees.

"We have no barriers for other countries to export to the US, but US exporters pay large tariffs to other countries. We need a level playing field and that means passing free trade agreements for American entrepreneurs and small business exporters. We are the greatest nation on Earth, and what helped make it great was entrepreneurs. I know we're facing tough times today, but I am confident that we can overcome them," concluded Senator Isakson.

Also joining the show was A. Paul Anderson, the former commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission, who appears on the recurring "Anderson Report." He introduced Neal's final guest, Ron Kaufman, Former White House Political Director and Massachusetts Republican National Committeeman, who today is Chairman of Dutko Worldwide. He has served as an advisor over the last 25 years to Republican Presidents, Governors, Members of Congress and a host of elected and appointed officials at every level of government.

Kaufman, making a return appearance on The Neal Asbury Show, admitted to Anderson and host Neal Asbury that he's never had more fun than he has now as

he looks at the outlook for Republicans in the mid-term elections.

The fun started, according to Kaufman, when Scott Brown won the senatorial seat in Massachusetts, long held as a Democratic bastion by the Kennedys. Kaufman marveled at the \$14 million that Brown raised two weeks before the election. It was then, according to Kaufman, that he sensed that Brown could win.

"Brown was a great candidate and he had a great team. If you spent time with him, he told you that he could win. He wasn't being cocky. He knew that the people in Massachusetts were sick and tired of the way Washington was conducting business. Scott was a fresh voice," said Kaufman.

His belief in Brown was cemented when the Brown campaign came into Hyannis, which defined the Kennedys, and 5,000 people in mid-January turned out to meet Brown.

Paul Anderson joined the discussion and asked Kaufman if he had ever sensed so much public anger among the electorate. And whether he agreed that the anger was mixed with great hope as people began looking toward the mid-term elections.

"Yes, I'm seeing anger, and concern for our children and grandchildren. People are scared for the future. They are looking for a positive message, like the one that Scott Brown used. If the motto for 2008 was Change the motto for 2010 is going to be Confidence," predicted Kaufman.

He admitted that the Republicans were "fired" in 2008 for stepping away from their platforms. People wanted to punish Bush for the way he was running the country

and punished the Republican Party with it.

"We learned a lesson. When we get back in power, I promise you that the way the House operates will change," said Kaufman.

Anderson noted that the new buzz word is "common sense," but the common sense as perceived by most Americans is just not the same common sense practiced by Congress. "America wants the truth," contends Anderson.

Kaufman rejoined the discussion to talk about some up and coming Republican national political candidates, which included Jeb Bush, Mitch Daniels and Haley Barber. He also would like to see Mitt Romney get into the fray, who recently wrote a book entitled "No Apologies: the Case for American Greatness," which will focus on 12 key issues and their solutions.

"I think 2012 will be the most important election since Ronald Regan took office. I think it will be bigger than 1994 when the Republicans caught a wave and won back the House. And I think we're ahead of where we were in 1994. In Massachusetts alone, we're seeing 57 new Republican candidates. If we catch the wave again we have to make sure we keep it through 2012," said Kaufman.



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