



Congressman Mike Rogers Affirms That Obama has Created Deficits Greater Than the Combined Deficits of Every President since George Washington.



Firing up his nationally syndicated "The Neal Asbury Show" on WZAB-AM, Neal Asbury opened the show by suggesting that the decision by Indiana Senator Evan Bayh not to seek re-election represents a "tectonic shift" in Congress. Neal characterized Bayh as one of the last moderate Democrats who was a voice of reason in the Senate and sought bi-partisan agreement. In fact, Neal believes that Bayh would have been a better VP choice for President Obama than Biden. Asbury also expressed disappointment that the 54 Blue Dog Democrats and 16 in the Senate who were moderates, have sided with the liberal administration on

nearly every issue; and those that pushed back on policies of the Democratic Party are the politicians that are quitting rather than conform to current party decisions. He also reminded listeners that the label "Blue Dog," originated from politicians who thought that moderate Democrats were being "choked blue" by extreme liberal Democrats on the left.

Neal's first guest was Mike Rogers (R-MI), who represents Michigan's 8th congressional district, and who made a return appearance on the show. Congressman Rogers has been aggressive in Congress on a number of issues, including measures that strengthen the economy and help build a stronger jobs base for Michigan communities, including more investment in developing alternative fuels to help get America off its dependence on foreign oil, and a focus on issues that will make health care affordable and accessible to all Americans.

"If you would have told me a year before President Obama was elected that we'd be voting on rationing healthcare I would have laughed at you. Nobody would ever consider something that crazy," said Congressman Rogers. "I didn't sign up for the govern-

ment to get between me and my doctor, and nobody else will either."

Congressman Rogers maintains that people are angry and frustrated which has manifested itself in the grass roots movements such as the Tea Party and packed Town Hall Meetings. He attended several Tea Party rallies and was struck by the ordinary citizens – even mothers with young children – who came out for the rally, most of whom were never politically active. Yet, he is unhappy that the mainstream media ignores the movement, or demeans the gatherings.

"People don't get worked up over most things that happen in Washington. But when we're talking about healthcare, people recognize that 'they're talking about ME now. They are trying to change my way of life,'" said Congressman Rogers. "People don't want to see rationed healthcare, and women in their 40s need to know that their mammograms will be covered by insurance. People don't want the fed-



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eral government to force them to buy health insurance, and then tell them which insurance plan they have to buy"

Congressman Rogers can't understand how some Democrats admit that they hate the healthcare bill, but voted for it after being promised money for their states. "No votes should be for sale. It goes against the principles of our country. It's offensive to suggest that as the Democrats have, that this is a common occurrence and everybody does it. They don't," he said.

Congressman Rogers suggested that when you see moderate Democrats leaving the party, it's because they recognize that Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and the president's advisors have no tolerance for anyone but liberals and progressives who buy 100% into their policies.

"Think of this. We're facing a \$1.6 trillion dollar spending deficit. If you add it up, it's more than the combined deficits of every president since George Washington. We owe so much money to other countries, like China, that we have lost our leveraging power. We have given away some of our independence as a result of our debt," maintained Congressman Rogers.

He is as frustrated as anyone over the

inability of the stimulus package to create jobs. In his state of Michigan, while the administration maintains they have created 42,000 jobs (which Congressman Rogers describes as "leased jobs"), the state actually lost more than 200,000 jobs in 2009.

"This deficit spending and crushing debt is pushing out small businesses, and putting new pressure on banks to expand reserves, which means they have less money to lend. As a businessman, I have never been so frustrated in my life. All I want is for the federal government to get out of the way, and at the same time, let the banking industry get back on its feet so they can start lending money again to entrepreneurs and small business," concluded Congressman Rogers.

Joining the program was David J. Theroux, Founder, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Independent Institute, a non-profit, non-partisan, scholarly research and educational organization that sponsors in-depth studies of critical social and economic issues. The mission of the Independent Institute is to boldly advance peaceful, prosperous, and free societies grounded in a commitment to human worth and dignity.

"The huge costs imposed on the US economy in the form of debt are

depriving American society of capital, since this money is being taken by the government to fund the stimulus package and to support nonviable businesses. There is nothing left to carve out money for American entrepreneurs," said Theroux.

Theroux sees some corollaries between government policies today and those of the 1930s following the Great Depression. He labels what is going on now as "regime uncertainty," essentially creating an environment of uncertainty among small businesses (in addition to their regular business uncertainties) in which business can no longer predict what will happen and how it will impact them, even if they are successful.

"In the 1930s, the federal government set out on a policy to take economic measures, and if they failed, they just tried another measure. They didn't let the economy adjust without interference. The Depression of the 1920s was exacerbated because the government stepped in to try and fix an economic downturn. It got worse. But when FDR and Truman recognized that not intervening in the economy would have



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benefits, the resulting recovery took only 8 months," related Theroux.

While most people think that World War II got America out of the depression, the reality is that the economy was in shambles due to government involvement in the economy to the point that they set price controls and micromanaged businesses. It was only when millions of GIs came home after the war and the government eliminated wage and price controls, and government spending dropped by one-third, that the economy rebounded, according to Theroux. He suggested that if Obama followed that course, or even froze government spending, it would make a significant change in the economy.

Theroux recognizes that there are a number of capable economic advisors on Obama's staff that have economic sense, but that he thinks they are afraid to criticize the president's policies – and that goes for media, too.

"If President Obama wants to succeed, he has to adopt some market-based approaches. He thinks he is an historic figure that will turn the country around by adapting the socialist philosophy of old-time social activist Saul Alinsky. But the President's programs are amoral, and most people don't buy into his programs," said Theroux.

Theroux has been studying the grass roots movements characterized by the Tea Party, Town Halls and Ron Paul. What they have in common, according to Theroux, is they are against big government, and are tired of liberal leftists in Washington.

"People just aren't buying the Washington agenda. They aren't willing to trade in their American values. They are reacting to unsustainable policies, corruption, and the misinformation coming from the government. It actually started under Bush, with unrest about the war, but soon spread to concerns over spending, cronyism and the TARP program. They voted for Obama thinking that the government could only get better. It didn't, it got worse," contends Theroux.



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