

BUDGET BATTLES: FIG LEAF FOR CORPORATE CONTROL

Today, a dangerous charade is going on. It is called the battle for the budget. As in any battle, the first thing is to scare the hell out of friend and foe. Make your friends blindly follow you for fear of the alternative and disarm your foe in fear of your threats. The boogiemanager is that the USA is broke. "It is broke because the poor people are living too high on the hog. Only the rich can save the country if they get more of your money! We have to cut the entitlements! The alternative is worse than 1931."

Who do they think they are kidding? We can ask questions like "Who made off with the \$16,000,000,000 in funds for Iraq that the government says is unaccounted for?" Some body got that money.

Here is a tiny glimpse of what the corporate stooges in the government recently gave to their benefactors:

\$1.2 million to study the breeding habits of the woodchuck.

\$1 million to study why people don't ride bikes to work.

\$219,000 to teach college students how to watch television.

This was your money. No wonder they are screaming "broke"!

Just a little more:

The government watchdogs several years ago reported that "There will be unmelted snowballs in Hades before this Congress agrees to cut out the pork in the farm bill, so President Bush should get his veto pen ready. At an estimated cost of at least \$285 billion over ten years, this will be the most expensive and regressive farm bill ever."

Nothing is new! Been going on for years and they are still crying "Broke!"

Let's take a look at corporate welfare: "The \$150 billion for corporate subsidies and tax benefits eclipses the annual budget deficit of \$130 billion. It's more than the \$145 billion paid out annually for the core programs of the social welfare state"—*Boston Globe series on Corporate Welfare*.

America is still the richest country in the world. The problem is that the richest individuals and corporations have stolen most of that money. They are now reorganizing the police, the CIA, the FBI, the Justice Department and all the rest of the gun totters to protect them from the people when they wake up to what they have done and are doing.

It is going to take more than just "voting the bums out." The entire structure is so rotten and corrupt we must think in terms of making public property out of the private property that keeps them rich and powerful and keeps us poor and weak. Taxing the rich is the place to start.

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