

ACCORD

AMERICAN CITIZENS COMMITTEE ON REDUCING DEBT
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October 31, 1992

Dear Friends:

As indicated therein, the *In ACCORD* enclosure was mailed to media just before election day. I am beginning this in late October and will not have changed this portion due to any knowledge of the winner. We have passed a resolution directed to whomever fills the next Presidential term to the effect that he is held accountable for any lapse in leadership, as described in the bulletin.

We do not intend that our nonpartisanship will handcuff our ability to be forthright in holding him particularly accountable for a lack of courage. That does not absolve Congress, of course.

We will not presume that a President will ever actually see one of our messages. Our target is news media, although we have gotten little feedback on our impact there. We note happily that debt and deficits are getting much more "press" now, not because of us. We will see if that translates into action.

We recognize that the brief "Homespun Tale" enclosed is difficult reading, despite many rewrites. It is confusing and boring to try to follow a string of figures and our first task was to lay out all the figures that the government tangles together and then try to untangle them. If the government simply stated deficit, interest, etc. for the general fund and did so straightforwardly, it would be quite simple.

In that regard, we have a couple of suggestions on how you might help. The first is to send me any bylined articles originating from what I will call a major league city newspaper (from a city that has a major league team in baseball or football), or from any major nationally distributed publication. Assuming that the writer uses figures from the "unified budget" as described in the bulletin (all that I have read do so), I will write said individual and advise him/her of the error of his/her ways, and am preparing a background enclosure which goes to greater length than the bulletin. If you don't know if the writing is based on the unified budget, send it along anyhow.

We are concentrating on that approach as the most effective for bringing about a change. We have used "letters to the editor" at times to criticize "pork barrel" and our second suggestion to you is to do the same. Specifically when there is publicity about how a congressman has gotten federal money spent in the locality, it would be appropriate to shame him/her for seeking political gain and charging the bill to the children. It really doesn't make any

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