

Dear _____

April 1, 2013

How are you? I hope and pray you are well! Below is about two pages of thoughts. Another one of my "Tenants Newsletters" I guess.

As you know, I have been in Helena serving in the state legislature. For those that are not aware of what that is exactly, it is a meeting that lasts for about 4 months every other year where 150 men and women, elected from all around the state come to make state law. The laws we pass actually do affect the people of the state in terms of taxes we pay, salaries we earn, healthcare we receive, childcare we need and more.

I'm writing you today because as one of my tenants, you are on my mind a lot. As you know, I want for you the best life you can find and have. But there are cultural currents afoot that you may not be aware of that I feel will strongly effect the way we live in the not too distant future. It is about these currents that I write you today. I guess I am writing you with a warning.

The root, or foundation of the problem and you may be aware of this, is that as a nation we have been living beyond our means. That is, we have been spending money that is not real, it is merely printed money, and this practice has created for us a life-style that is not real. You have heard about the national debt and the national deficit, and this is what I am talking about. It is a problem and at some point in time your life and mine will become harder. It will become harder, because the money we have become accustomed to having or receiving is going to decrease. If it is hard for you to pay your bills now, it is going to become harder. The day is not too far down the road that you are going to have to work more overtime than you do, you will have friends and family that are out of work and loosing their place to stay. Government assistance, in whatever form, SSDI, SNAP, TANF, VA benefits, etc. is going to shrink, or not increase according to your expectations.

Why is this? Well, as a government, and this includes members of both parties, republican and democrat, we have been stimulating the economy, that is, we have been pumping money into the national economy that was not earned through any kind of production. It was just printed. Much of the problem stems from the public demanding that the government provide services, in the form of healthcare, food, housing, unemployment compensation, etc. and the government has merely printed the money needed to meet these demands. This has given all of us in this country an inflated life-style. In short, all of us enjoy services and luxuries that we have not earned by our own hard work.. Every one of us is living a bit of fairly-tale life-style.

Many people understand this much better than I do, but I am with that group of people that believes that our lives cannot go on this way forever. Additionally, I feel it would not be loving of me not to warn you about the impending problems this very stupid public policy is going to bring to all of us.

One of the ways this problem has become real to me is that in Helena, I am being asked to vote for many bills that spend money from the Federal government for programs and services that are in fact real to all of us in the neighborhood. These would be bills that provide free healthcare services at Riverstone Health, more money for food in schools for the kids, more money to help pregnant single moms stop smoking, more money to help elderly people get out of nursing homes and get individualized care in their own homes, etc. There are literally dozens and dozens of government programs to help people who have health issues, transportation issues, housing issues, criminal issues, addiction issues, etc. And though it could be argued that the intentions of these

programs are good, the practice of printing money to pay for these programs, in my opinion, is a very bad practice.

Among the many reasons it is a bad practice is that it creates in the mindset of the people a dependency on the government to meet all their needs. It creates a mindset that, if I have a premature baby, the government should spend whatever it takes to keep it alive. It creates a mindset that if I have committed a crime while on drugs, the government should give me a treatment program rather than send me to prison. It creates a mindset that if I have kids and their dads are dead-beats, the government should buy my groceries and help me get a job while they provide day-care for my kids and send me to school to educate me so I can get a better job. It creates a mindset that the government should get my mom out of the nursing home and pay someone to watch her in my home. It creates the mindset that even though I was the one who choose to smoke my whole life, the government should pay for my cancer treatment at the local hospital. It creates the mindset that since I only know how to cook Hot n' Ready for supper, the government should give my kids a nutritious breakfast and lunch at school and feed them throughout the summer in South Park.

Another reason printing money is a bad practice is that it tells the "rich" people in our culture that they don't have to help those in need because the government will do it. This policy encourages the people who are smart and healthy who can make a lot of money to spend all their money however they would like, especially on large homes, expensive clothes, trendy recreations and etc. Oh, they might throw a couple bucks to the "Will work for Food" sign guy, but largely, "the poor" are not their problem. They reason to themselves that is why they pay taxes. But in fact, the taxes they pay do not come close to paying the bill for the services our government provides, not even close.

So, the problem our national debt and deficit has created is both a level of lifestyle for the poor and the rich and everyone in between that we have not earned. This is a problem because these lifestyles are completely unsustainable except that we keep printing money to pay for them.

My recommendation is this:

- First, you accept that not everyone, including yourself, needs to live as long as they currently do, or as "comfortably" as they currently do.
- Second, you accept the fact that you and your neighbor are going to have to work harder than ever, maybe take a second or third job and live on less.
- Third, that you plan to take your own health seriously and assume it is your responsibility to be healthy by getting more exercise, watching less TV, and eating cleaner, cheaper, healthier food than you have been.
- Forth, that you manage the relationships in your life by removing those friendships that are abusive and destructive.
- Fifth, that you begin taking into your life those family members who need help even if you could pawn them off on the government.

I respect you, esteem you and am grateful to be your Landlord. I hope your Easter weekend was restfull.

Dave

