

## Independent Presidential Candidate Calls Raising the Debt Limit

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Hartford -- Connecticut Today, Independent Presidential candidate Webster Brooks called Treasury Secretary John Snow's warning that the federal government risks going into default if the federal debt limit is not raised, "a national disgrace." Snow's concerns came as the national debt has exploded to \$7.8 trillion, and President Bush's FY 2007, budget could push the debt over the \$8.2 trillion statutory limit that would force Congress to raise the debt limit, or default on paying the nation's bills.

Confronted with the embarrassment of raising the debt limit in an election year, the Republican Congress is scrambling to cobble together a last minute deficit reduction package to conceal their out of control spending. Brooks said "Once again, the Bush administration and Congress are resorting to gimmicks to mask a growing fiscal crisis and unprecedented debt. It is the American people who will suffer from their proposed cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Education. Meanwhile, Bush's sacred tax cuts that will increase national indebtedness are being preserved."

In addition to Congressional Republicans proposing an "austerity budget" to cut \$560 billion over the next five years, President Bush is asking for a line item veto to help control spending. "This is a travesty," stated Brooks. " Bush has presided over the largest spending increases in history and hasn't vetoed a single spending bill in six years. Now he wants to the line-item veto to control his own party's outrageous pork barrel spending. These antics are even lower than Bush's approval rating."

Brooks also cautioned that the Democrats have been no better than the Republicans. "They have been cowed and intimidated by Bush, and offered little resistance to his running up record deficits, while proposing spending increases themselves."

The "Independent America" team that Brooks leads has vowed to restore sanity to the government spending policies. Their early start for the 2008 presidential campaign aims to bring independents into understanding and acting upon the importance of restoring sound fiscal policy. Joseph Oddo, the Brooks campaign manager summarizes their efforts, "We know one of every four tax dollars goes to the Pentagon. As long as there is no auditable accounting system in the Department of Defense, waste, fraud and abuse will continue. It is up to us as independents to impose discipline on government spending that has run amok."

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In March 2006, Presidential candidate Webster Brooks united as Vice Presidential running mate with Daniel Imperato to offer a viable and authentic Independent ticket.

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