



Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

When is America going to realize that our “live for today” way of life will eventually destroy us?

As we begin 2011, we are a nation beset by a serious array of challenges topped off by a persistently-ailing economy. Our government's massive spending has led to our nation accumulating a huge federal debt that will take generations to pay off. Right now the fiscal crisis in America ranks as the number one concern in every national poll.

What is so sad is that so many of our nation's leaders are acting – and “acting” is the key word here – shocked at the multi-trillion dollar deficits now appearing on the national ledger. Yet these are the very same leaders who spent freely to send the budget numbers spinning out of control.

America's fiscal crisis is a prelude to what is sure to happen when we confront our nation's ever-growing population crisis, which is another major balloon about to burst. Our so-called “leaders”, who have had every opportunity to take the steps necessary to forestall our ever-increasing population, will feign absolute amazement as to the problems that overwhelm our nation due to too many people.

How long are we going to put up with these political charades?

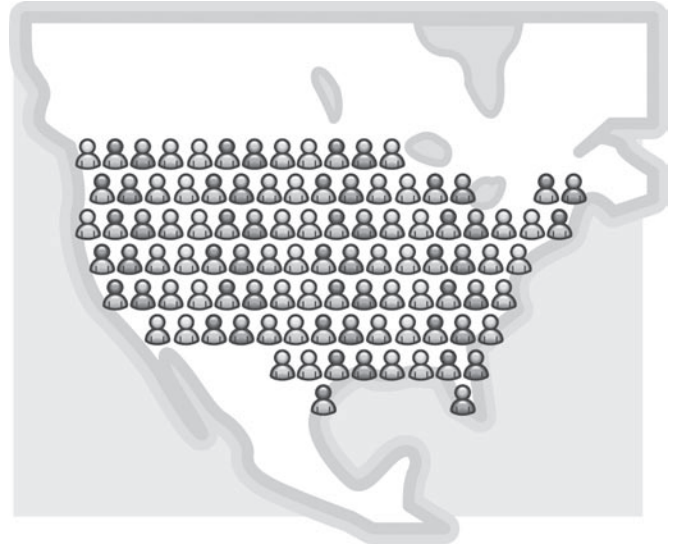
It is definitely good news that our nation has finally awakened to the huge financial threat that

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CENSUS NUMBERS

The U.S. Census Bureau spent billions of dollars last year to gather a broad array of information about the American people and has finally presented a list of the current population numbers in the various states. For now, that's about all we're going to get from the 2010 data, along with a breakdown of age, sex and ethnicity. The rest of the rich trove of data gathered by hundreds of thousands of census-takers going door-to-door across America this past year will be analyzed bit-by-bit by the Census Bureau and released in various forms in the coming months and years. In all, it will give us a better insight into the demographic make-up of our nation and an intricate look at the different characteristics of our population. In a November briefing, Dr. Robert M. Graves, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Census, noted that “the American people have an insatiable appetite for data.” NPG will be diligent in reporting on this data.

Census officials are quick to release the population numbers of the various states because governing bodies across the nation, especially state legislatures need them to start the reapportionment process, which must be completed before the 2012 elections get underway. (That means most states will work to have the new legislative district lines in place by the end of 2011.) In 1913, the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives was set at 435



and reapportionment will dictate that some states gain and lose valuable Congressional representation. It appears that Texas will benefit most from the 2010 Census results by picking up at least 4 new House seats. Florida will also be a winner, gaining two new seats. Other states in line to gain some Congressional clout include Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington. At the same time New York and Ohio will lose two seats each and Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania will each lose one. The number of House seats a state has also impacts the number of electoral votes they will be able to cast in the 2012 elections. In addition to changing the geographic makeup of the U.S. House of Representatives, the 2010 Census numbers will be used by states, counties, cities and other representative jurisdictions to redraw legislative boundaries. They will also serve as a basis for distribution of federal dollars.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(Continued from page 1)*

looms over our future and that our newly-elected officials hopefully are ready to tackle it head-on.

But the question must be asked: How can America ever resolve its long-term fiscal crisis without simultaneously tackling the growing population crisis?

The two issues go hand-in-hand. We certainly can't make much progress in slashing government deficits if we fail to have a serious debate on population size and growth. We can't continue to add tens of millions more people (who will only drive the spending up to new record levels) to our population each decade.

Our nation's birthrate is on an upward trend. Our borders remain unsecured. Amnesty/citizenship for millions of illegal aliens remains a contentious issue. And there is constant pressure to raise the limits on the number of legal immigrants allowed to enter our country.

Yet, just as our nation's leaders willingly ignored the soaring federal deficit, they are blithely willing to continue to turn a deaf ear to the demands of millions of Americans to address the population crisis by creating a national population policy that can slow, halt and eventually reverse our ever-increasing numbers. Without action on this critical issue we face the reality of dealing with an additional 140 million more people in just 40 years!

If you and I can see this crisis coming at us like a locomotive going at full-speed, why can't our leaders? It's time they stop following a "live for today" philosophy and lying to us – and to themselves – by believing that everything is going to be just fine in the future.

Those in government are surely aware that you can't slash population levels like you can budget numbers. Tens of millions more people will place huge demands on the government and trigger massive new spending. It will definitely take time, serious long-range planning, and yes, political courage.

I'm encouraged by the fact that the 112th Congress has 113 new members who won election by pledging to confront and resolve our nation's most serious problems. They campaigned on the promise to bring bold, new ideas and new thinking to Capitol Hill. And they vowed to put America on a new path toward prosperity. Let's hope there's a solid group of these new leaders with stiff political spines who can help launch our nation on a course to a more responsible, less-populated future.

NPG is going to be hard at work in the coming months seeking to educate these legislators regarding our mission and our goals. We need to make sure they keep their eyes wide open to the population crisis and begin to initiate responsible programs that can help our nation reach a sustainable population level.

While this will surely be our priority in 2011, it will be just part of our overall effort to meet our mission that includes continuing our research, expanding our educational programs, spreading our message and increasing our membership. We can succeed on all of these fronts only because generous friends like you continue to provide essential financial help. If you have not already renewed your NPG Membership for 2011, please act today to return a generous contribution. Thank you.

NPG ANNOUNCES 2011 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Thousands of students nationwide compete each year in our NPG National Scholarship Contest which last year awarded \$3,500 to five students (two \$1,000 and three \$500 scholarships). We recently announced this year's challenge which is:



The 112th Congress includes over 100 members who are new to Capitol Hill and must be educated about the critical issues of population growth and illegal immigration. Students are requested to provide NPG with a proposal which includes a three to five-point plan that outlines how we can best convince these freshman legislators to slow, halt and reverse today's out-of-control population growth. Submissions should be between 500 and 750 words.

The deadline for NPG to receive scholarship submissions is April 22nd. Scholarship winners will be announced on August 15th. Visit our website at www.npg.org for additional information.

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY DON'T ALWAYS ADD UP

Almost ten years ago, Eben Fodor won positive reviews for his book *"Better Not Bigger"* in which he advanced the argument – and backed it up with solid statistics – that urban sprawl is not only environmentally harmful and costly, but that our nation's pattern of municipal growth, especially land-intensive city-edge growth, consistently costs more in public services than it pays in taxes.

Fodor's information helped to explode the classic myth that a growing city, county or town greatly benefits from urban sprawl which supposedly produces rich rewards for its populace. Instead, his evidence showed that in the majority of cases, growth consistently costs more in public services than it pays in taxes. Yes, folks end up with dream homes and new shopping centers – but there is a big price to pay to build the roads, sewers, and schools, that make it all possible. In the long term, there's an even bigger, never-ending price to pay in taxes to maintain this infrastructure and the costly services that come along with growth.

Just recently, Fodor challenged another core assumption: The one that holds that growth is inherently beneficial and that more and faster growth will benefit local residents economically. His research is quite revealing.

In a study that looked at the 100 largest U.S. metro areas (representing 66% of the total population), using the latest data for the 2000-09 period, Fodor compared the average annual population growth rate with the unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate using graphical and statistical analysis.

His findings include:

Faster-growing areas did not have lower unemployment rates.

Faster-growing areas tended to have lower per capita income than



slower-growing areas. Per capita income in 2009 tended to decline almost \$2,500 for each 1% increase in the growth rate.

Residents of faster-growing areas had greater income declines during the recession.

Faster-growing areas tended to have higher poverty rates.

In comparing the 25 slowest-growing and 25 fastest-growing areas, Fodor found that the 25 slowest-growing areas outperformed the 25 fastest-growing in every category and averaged \$8,455 more in per capital personal income in 2009.

Another interesting finding was that stable metro areas (those with little or no growth) did relatively well. Statistically speaking, residents of an area with no growth over the 9-year period tended to have 43% more income gain than an area growing at 3% per year. Fodor sums up his research by noting that it "offers a ray of hope that stable, sustainable communities may be perfectly viable – even prosperous – within our economic system." The full study is available at www.fodorandassociates.com.

TAKING OUR MESSAGE TO CAPITOL HILL IN 2011

As the 112th Congress gets down to business you can be assured that members will hear often from NPG. That's because we must keep our message about the critical need to enact responsible population and immigration policies front and center in the national debate. We constantly send our newest research papers, National Voter Survey results, citizen petitions, newsletters and other information directly to Senate and House offices. Our elected leaders can also count on confronting an NPG issue ad every few months in *The Hill*, *The Washington Times Weekly*, *E-Magazine* or other national newspapers and publications.

Just last week we delivered an NPG Welcome Packet to 15 new Senators and 98 new members of the U.S. House of Representatives that contained a letter from NPG President Donald Mann seeking support for our agenda and background information explaining NPG's mission and goals. In addition, we are making a special request to each Member of Congress to designate a specific staff member that will serve as our liaison to their office to handle our interactions with them.



AMNESTY, AMNESTY AND MORE AMNESTY

When and Where Do We Draw the Line?

National columnist Michelle Malkin has been an ardent foe of bending our nation's rules to accommodate illegal aliens. In a recent column she spelled out the absurdity and the dangers of the DREAM Act and outlined a number of Congressional actions in the past 25 years that have provided mass pardons and citizen benefits to various groups. The list includes the following:

- 1986:** The Immigration and Reform Control Act that gave blanket amnesty to an estimated 2.7 million illegal aliens;
- 1994:** The "Section 245(i)" temporary rolling amnesty for 578,000 illegal aliens;
- 1997:** The Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act for nearly one million aliens from Central America;
- 1998:** The Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act for 125,000 illegal aliens from Haiti;
- 2000:** Extension of amnesty for some 400,000 illegal aliens who claimed eligibility under the 1986 act;
- 2000:** The Legal Immigration Family Equity Act, which included a restoration of the rolling Section 245(i) amnesty for 900,000 illegal aliens.

The above numbers do not include the tens of thousands of Iraqi and Afghan refugees who have been permitted entry into our country in recent years.

Malkin summed up her argument against the DREAM Act by stating: "At a time of nearly double-digit unemployment and drastic higher education cutbacks, a \$20 billion special education preference package for up to 2.1 million illegal aliens is not and should not be a priority in Washington. It certainly isn't in the rest of America. And it certainly shouldn't be a priority for federal immigration and homeland security officials, who have a 400,000 deportation fugitives problem, a three-year naturalization application backlog and borders that remain in chaos."

QUOTABLE:

The following quotes are excerpted from entries to our 2010 NPG Scholarship Contest where students were asked to create a print advertisement to highlight the population problem.

*...It only takes one person to start a trend.
Will it be you?*

*...The more people the planet holds, the
more the gifts of the Earth are depleted
and the beautiful environment destroyed.*

*...It's time to do your part to help save
our small blue marble.*

...Raise a family, not a colony!

*...It is necessary to reduce population growth
before it is too late and the consequences are
irreversible.*

...We must cease the epidemic of expansion.

*...We can't forget that human life is priceless;
the numbers we have aren't disappearing, but
the numbers to come can be lowered.*



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Population Perspectives is a quarterly publication by Negative Population Growth, a national non-profit membership organization dedicated to educating Americans about the devastating effects of overpopulation on our environment and quality of life.

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