

Make Deficits Great Again?

July 23, 2019

Is Donald Trump really “draining the swamp”?

It’s overflowing.

Stan Collender, writing last year in *Forbes*, noted just what a big spender the president really is. Now, an update: fiscal year 2019 sports a deficit of \$1.09 trillion, up considerably from the \$897 billion projected earlier this year; the next year is expected to nudge the deficit even higher, to \$1.1 trillion.

The whys aren’t a mystery: it is politically difficult to cut an expected benefit to any constituency. It looks stingy — though it is the very opposite. Spending other people’s money — including taxpayers’ — is not generosity. For a politician, it is naked self-interest. Buying votes.

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Worse than merely corrupt, it’s corrupting — since the People are increasingly tempted to look to government to supply *special* voting bloc advantages rather than the mutual, universal advantage of liberty and justice for all.

Collender speculated that a \$2 trillion deficit



is “definitely within view” because “Trump is demanding that federal spending and the government’s red ink be increased even further.”

Judd Gregg, writing yesterday for *The Hill*, summarizes current GOP fiscal policy as “now the most profligate and debt-driving party in the nation’s history.”

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Careful wording.

Republicans sometimes talk a good game, but are known to be big spenders when not opposing a Democratic president. The Class of 94 was effective against Bill Clinton. Under unified government in the aughts, though, under George W. Bush, they went on a spree.

Maybe Republicans just need a good *enemy*.

Bernie Sanders for President?

Perhaps any socialist Democrat will do.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.