

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC":**
DRINKING THE DEBT
CEILING KOOL-AID!



By Stephen L. Bakke  October 22, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

Democrats and the liberal media continue to drink Obama's "kool-aid" regarding the debt ceiling debate. They are once again proclaiming the debt ceiling and budget process are totally different and must be deliberated separately. Establishment of a debt ceiling is one important legislative action taken by Congress for the purpose of having an orderly and responsible budget and funding process. The budget process, deficits, and debt ceiling are just like the old rhyme: "rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a tub!"

Here's my response:

Drinking the Debt Ceiling Kool-Aid!

The 10/20 editorial, "What is GOP's game plan for dealing with new 'fiscal abyss'?" continues the argument that the nation's debt ceiling is unrelated to budgets and deficits. Your consistent position has been that disputes about raising the "arbitrary" debt ceiling merely deal with the ability to pay the nation's bills, and that the GOP's hard line against increases is nothing more than holding the nation hostage for some ideological position.

Let me stipulate that at a point in time, it does boil down to a political argument and refusing a debt ceiling increase does not reflect well on our country's fiscal soundness. But that "point in time" arrives only because many democrats, in particular President Obama, refuse to debate debt ceiling plans and projections in the context of deciding on budget legislation. Dealing with budgets and debt levels separately inevitably leads to debt ceiling "gridlock."

A budget leads to spending, which leads to taxes and borrowing, which usually leads to a deficit, which leads to higher debt, which leads to a need to increase the debt ceiling – then we start this needless arguing. If these interrelated concepts are worked out together in the planning and budget process, we will avoid this predictable bickering.

The existence of a debt ceiling, and dealing with it in conjunction with the budget process is absolutely necessary if we are to bring fiscal discipline to the U.S. through an orderly and responsible budget and funding process.

They're all in it together!



*Rub-a-dub-dub,
Three men in a tub,
And who do you think they be?
(The budget, the deficit,
and the debt ceiling, that's who)*