**Issue 16: Are Spending Cuts the Way to Balance the Governments Budget?**

Every day we are hearing more about how badly balanced the nation's budget is, but we never hear anything about possible solutions to correct the imbalances. Trillions of dollars are being spent on everything from welfare programs and infrastructure maintenance, to bank bailouts; but where is this money coming from? Well, that is a good question. It is available in the form of a loan from a foreign source of income. Our nation is spending more than it can afford to pay back and the deficit is ever-expanding on a daily basis. The burning question now is whether spending cuts are the way to balance the government's budget.

Representing Chris Edwards, Brandon Ellis believes that spending cuts are absolutely the way to balance the government's budget. He stated that the current overspending in our government is the cause of the massive debts that we are seeing. He believes that although there are other possible methods for balancing the budget such as raising taxes, this is the better of the options. Edwards shows that by raising taxes more people will avoid paying them, it will slow the overall economic growth, and it will also lead to lower reported income. This is a major problem because the same problem will come back and will be followed by an endless loop of raising taxes. Brandon and Chris both seem to strongly believe that spending cuts are the best solution to the current imbalances.

Representing Charlie Stenholm, Oliver White believes that spending cuts are not the appropriate action to take. Stenholm urges that one single action is not enough, but that "everything should be on the table" (301). Oliver believes that this is also the best solution because just cutting spending would mean massive cuts, by doing a combination of revenue increasing and spending cutting you reduce the extreme amounts of both, and have several more subtle changes. In addition to this, instead of trying one method that may not work, many can be implemented and if one works better than the other, than it can be relied upon more heavily. Regardless of your standing on the best method to correct the deficit problem it can be agreed on that the issue should be attacked from all angles, instead of just one.

The national debt is a touchy subject for many, especially those who would be directly affected by any changes in government spending. It is necessary to find a way to reduce the deficit most effectively without causing a massive disturbance in government run programs and tax levels. In my opinion only cutting government spending is *not* the answer to our growing problem, but it is indeed one method that should be implemented. It is necessary to mix and match the various solutions in order to properly address and resolve the ever expanding issue of our nation's debt.