

TRUTH IN GOVERNMENT

THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR FISCAL INTEGRITY AND HONEST ACCOUNTING

HON. JOSEPH J. DIOGUARDI, CPA
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October 3, 1991

Dear Fellow Westchester Resident:

Some people get very excited about their first American Express Gold Card because it gives them a \$10,000 credit limit. Others need to have a Platinum Card and its \$100,000 credit limit to feel powerful.

But as a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I held a plastic card that puts those two to shame -- my Congressional Voting Card.

Imagine a charge card with no credit limit. One that sends you only one statement a year. And, if you can't pay the balance, don't worry. You can postpone payment until the next year -- or the next century.

And talk about spending power!

Just by inserting my card into a computer terminal, I could spend \$5 million on a water project in Mississippi -- \$30 million on an Air Force jet -- or \$100 million on a federal pork barrel program -- regardless of whether the country could afford them!

Simply put, the Congressional Voting Card is the most expensive credit card in the world. The only catch is that you -- as an American taxpayer -- have to foot the bill.

That's why I'm writing you today.

The **\$27,500.33 CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD INVOICE** I've enclosed calls for immediate payment of your share of the monumental debt, expenditures, and interest that Congress has irresponsibly charged to your account.

As an active member of The Westchester Taxpayers Alliance, I'd like to ask you to review this document very carefully -- and then do what any fiscally responsible taxpayer would do....

... take out your scissors and cut the enclosed CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD in half, then return it to me as a symbol of your outrage at the "spend now, pay later" credit card mentality of the U.S. Congress!

As the only practicing Certified Public Accountant ever to serve in Congress, I can tell you that the overwhelming economic problems facing our country today stem directly from Congress's reckless spending habits.

Since 1980, Congress has increased its spending limit by 233%, to just over 4 TRILLION DOLLARS. Your share of the national debt has grown from \$9,675 to \$27,500 -- an increase of almost \$18,000!

If these figures scare you, they should!

In addition to putting you -- and every other American taxpayer -- deeper and deeper in debt, Congress's insatiable spending appetite is sapping our nation's private savings, forcing us to depend on foreign loans to fund our deficit.

And if that's not bad enough, according to report after report from the General Accounting Office, faulty and antiquated accounting and financial management systems cost you and me BILLIONS of dollars each year.

To give you just a few of the worst examples:

- * 25% of Federal agency bills are paid late, costing taxpayers millions of dollars in interest penalties,
- * the Department of Defense can't account for over \$600 MILLION in advances paid by foreign customers for U.S. weapons,
- * sleight-of-hand accounting procedures let Congress "borrow" the money we pay in Social Security taxes to mask the true enormity of the budget deficit
- * and if that isn't bad enough, the Federal government has failed to collect more than \$24 BILLION in non-tax debt!

You don't have to be a CPA to realize that unless we can force Congress to clean up this financial fiasco right now, America is going to be looking down the barrel of an economic catastrophe of unprecedented proportions -- turning our once mighty country into a second rate nation.

That's why I'm calling on you to give me hard evidence of your personal outrage at Congress's phenomenal financial fumbling by cutting the CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD in half and returning it to me today.

Take it from me, Congress is a tough bunch to convince. They're so wrapped up in their power and privilege, that they've actually forgotten that the billion-dollar charges they rack up on their Congressional "Credit Card" have to be paid for by hard-working taxpayers like you -- or even worse, by our unsuspecting children and grandchildren -- plus interest!!

I'm confident that once the American public takes a good look at Congress's real spending priorities, they'll raise such a deafening outcry, there will be no other choice than to bring the special-interest, Congressional vote-buying gravy train to a screeching halt!

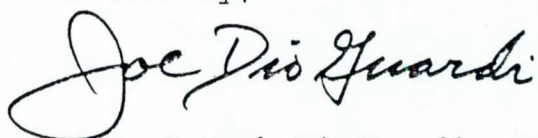
Are you with me? Then here's what I'd like you to do today:

1. Review the CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD INVOICE I've enclosed. Once you see what the spend-aholics in Congress threw away your money on, I'm positive you'll be more than happy to...
2. Complete the section marked PAYMENT DISPUTE and then, cut the enclosed CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD

As someone who truly cares about this country I know you agree the time has come to give the U.S. Congress a lesson in Accounting 101.

With your support, we can cut up Congress's Billion Dollar Credit Card and put an end to more than thirty years of overspending our credit limit. I urge you to join me in supporting this very special "Spotlight on Congress" project today.

Sincerely,



Hon. Joseph DioGuardi, CPA
Member of Congress 1985-1989

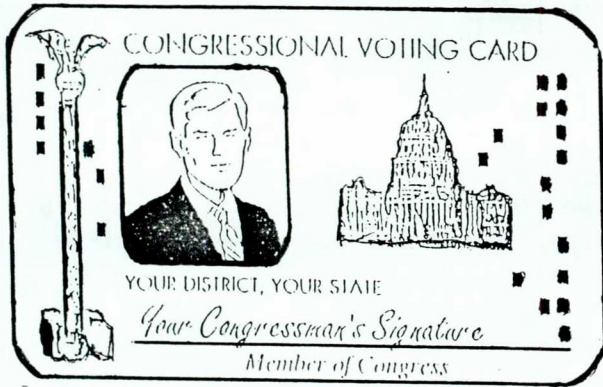
P.S. Unlike Congressmen, numbers don't lie! When you look at your INVOICE you'll see that because of Congress's chronic fiscal irresponsibility your share of the interest on the national debt comes to \$1,670.81.

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CONGRESSIONAL CREDIT CARD INVOICE

Charged To:

PAYMENT DISPUTE



No way, I won't pay! Congress recklessly charged these items to my account knowing full well they couldn't be paid.

To protest their gross fiscal irresponsibility, I've cut Congress's "Credit Card" in half and am sending it to -
TRUTH IN GOVERNMENT's

Spotlight On Congress project so they can tell America how Congress's credit card fraud is bankrupting the country.

Billing Period:

Fiscal Year 1990
(October 1, 1989 - September 30, 1990)

DESCRIPTION

CHARGES

PAYMENTS

Previous Balance Due (Your Share of the National Debt beginning of the year)	\$25,538.83	
Your Share Of Purchases:		
Social Security and Medicare	3,087.82	
National Defense	2,665.65	
Income Security and Welfare	1,311.90	
Health	513.89	
Education, Training, Employment	342.89	
Agriculture, Natural Resources	259.17	
Transportation	262.74	
Administration of Justice	89.06	
Other	974.35	
Your Share Of Payments Received		
Individual Income Taxes		\$4,158.21
Social Security Taxes and Contributions		3,384.82
Other		1,643.48

TOTALS

\$9,507.47

\$9,186.51

Finance Charge

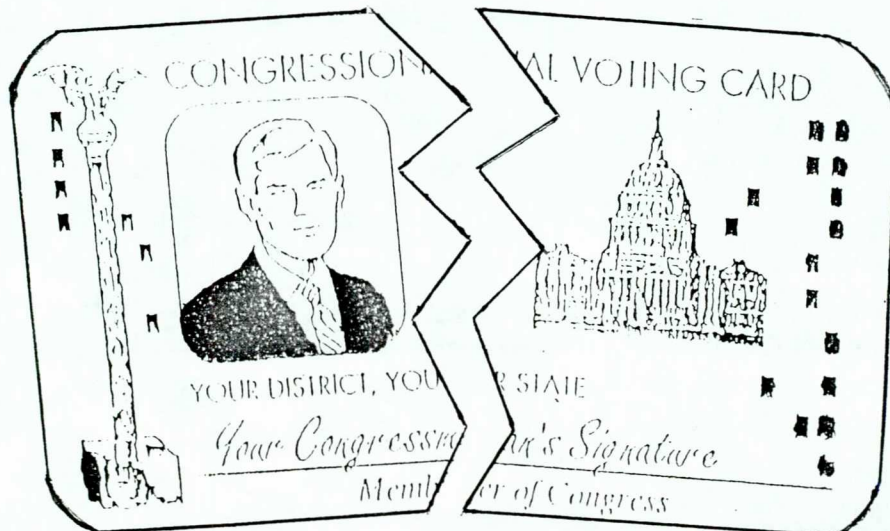
(Your share of interest on the National Debt)

1,640.54

Previous Balance	Purchases	Finance Charge	Payments	Balance Due
\$25,538.83	\$9,507.47	\$1,640.54	\$9,186.51	\$27,500.33*

Source: Final Monthly Statement of Receipts and Outlays of the United States Government, Department of the Treasury.

* **NOTE:** This figure is arrived at by using "lenient" Federal Government accounting principles. CPA's estimate the true figure to be three times as high or higher.



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The Federal Government Doesn't Need More of Your Money

The last thing you need is a bigger tax bill from Congress.

The truth is, we have a budget deficit because Congress spends too much, not because you pay too little in taxes. In fact, a recent study showed that for each new dollar in taxes raised by the Congress, it turns around and increases spending by a dollar and fifty cents.

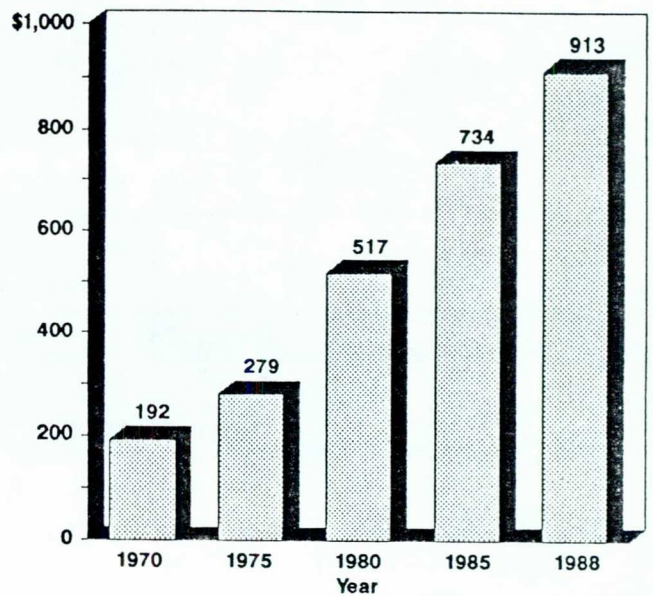
The fact remains that with responsible spending restraint, we can reduce the deficit without raising taxes.

Finally, if history has taught this nation anything, it is that raising your taxes and putting more revenues in the hands of government bureaucrats is a prescription for economic disaster. Tax increases will lead to economic stagnation and plunge our nation into a deep recession, actually giving us bigger deficits!

The American taxpayer should not be forced to foot the bill for Congress's inability to make the choices they were paid to make.

Since 1970, the Federal Government Has Increased Taxes by 476%...

Federal Revenues (Billions)



Fighting Government Waste Through Budget Reform

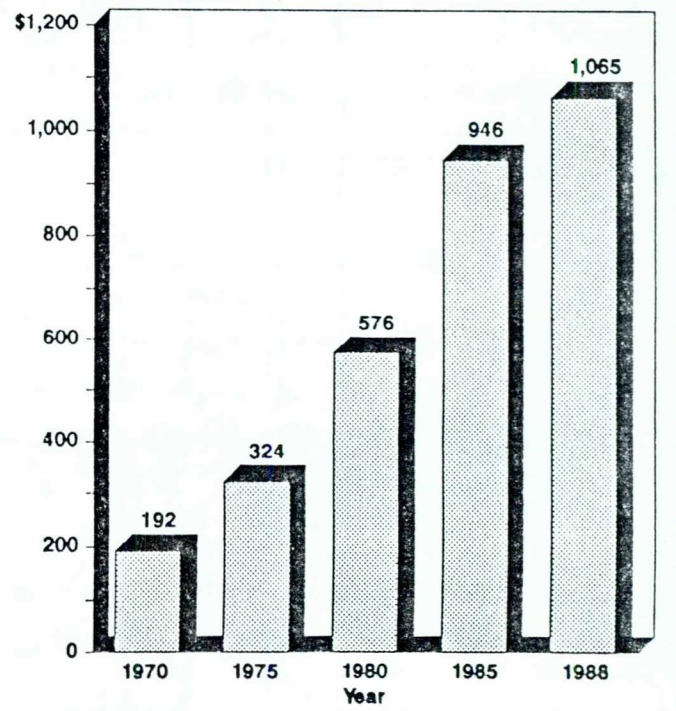
As a Certified Public Accountant, getting underneath the numbers and rooting out government waste had been one of my top priorities in Congress. Unfortunately, no amount of training as a CPA could prepare anyone for the shocking abuses they would find when examining the Federal budget. Quite simply, if you thought the \$600 toilet seat bought by the Pentagon was bad news, that's just the tip of the iceberg. The sad truth is that thousands upon thousands of similar wasteful abuses are occurring each day in virtually every component of the Federal budget.

The main culprit behind this waste and abuse is an outdated and unreliable system of Federal financial management. According to the General Accounting Office, Congress's watchdog over all Federal programs, antiquated budgeting, accounting and payment systems are costing American taxpayers billions each year. Worse yet, these systems also mask billions of dollars in future obligations that big spenders in Congress have chosen to keep off the books in order to hide their wasteful ways from the public's eye.

And guess who gets stuck with the tab when all these bills come due? That's right—you, the taxpayer.

...But Congress Has Increased Spending by an Astonishing 546%!

Federal Spending (Billions)



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