



Entitlements are jeopardizing the future of this country and strangling our ability to compete. The US debt is at \$5 Trillion and the American public & congress are squeamish about cutting it. The interest on the debt alone is \$204B while we only spend \$50B on education. Medicare costs are out of control; it'll be insolvent in seven years and expenditures, which were \$7B in 1970 (6% of the federal budget), are \$159B now (35% of the budget). The current republican plan for "cutting" Medicare means it will *grow* by only 43% over the next seven years! Social Security is just as bad, it takes 3½ workers to subsidize one retired couple who pull \$160,000 more out of social security than they put in. The only way to keep this country solvent is to either cut spending or raise taxes. Do I stand alone when I say I care about the children, the next generation, and the macro economic health of this country? We don't have to throw our elders out on the street, after all, they made us the super power we are today. However, everything they've accomplished is for not if we leave our children bankrupt, impoverished, and without opportunity.

Meanwhile, we're entering the information age that's going to make the PC revolution look insignificant. We're currently the world leader in hardware, software, manufacturing, and marketing. Furthermore, we're one of the few who has the infrastructure, innovation, and finance to make it happen. All of this is required to initiate a revolution that will, once again, change America and then the world. The millennium is rapidly approaching and it's time to secure our competitive position in the world for decades to come. Technology will enable us to dwarf all of the accomplishments of the late 20th C. It's time to get our economic, social, & international agenda's in order. The government must promote education and R&D, while encouraging exports and providing incentives to future growth industries. We are the only ones that can pull this off. After all, only the US can claim fame for the light bulb, the PC, the airplane, and the telephone.

As for myself; I'm still in electrical engineering at TRW in Sunnyvale, CA. No, I'm not yet married and don't ask when - as soon as I know, rest assured, if you got this card, you'll be the first to know. I'm still at the same address:

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He who rests upon his past accomplishments alone is doomed to failure. The cowards never start, the weak die on the way, only the strong survive. There is not one person who will receive this letter that does not have the potential to effect enormous change. Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Mark A. Cottrell

Where Your Tax Dollar Goes....

