



Harry Reid and Paul Ryan Agree “The Deficit is Going to Bury Us”

Comments of Former US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

April 23, 2019, C-SPAN Conversation with Harry Reid and John Boehner

([Find the following remarks in the linked video at 00:35:59](#))

“I believe, and this may sound unusual coming from a Democrat with the voting record that I had, I think we’re arriving at a tipping point. And what is that tipping point? We have taken our eye off of one of the big problems facing this country. We’re not talking about it at all. We are driving ourselves into bankruptcy. We’ve got to do something. We have, and it’s coming more quickly than we think, this huge deficit. We could wind up having a trillion-dollar deficit in one year. And remember, we are only paying the interest on the debt. And interest rates are going to go up.

“There’s no question that of all the programs that we have that are fixtures in our budgets, we have to look at them and change them. But I am saying now, I repeat, the deficit is going to bury us. And we are going to feel this. And it’s going to be something that members of Congress and the leaders in Congress cannot ignore. They are going to be forced to do something about these huge deficits. Otherwise, we will never, ever have money to take care of the deteriorating infrastructure we have.”

Comments of Former US House Speaker Paul Ryan

December 19, 2018, Farewell Address at the Library of Congress

([Find the following remarks in the linked video at 00:30:00](#))

“We all know what needs to be done. Strong economic growth, which we have, and entitlement reform to address the long-term drivers of our debt. Our revenue is about to return to its 50-year average. What continues to plague us is a mandatory spending system that is deeply out of balance and unsustainable.

“This was the case when I came here 25 years ago and is the case today. Not too long ago, few were willing to recognize the scope of this problem, let alone engage on solutions. Our government wasn’t even inclined to examine our long-term fiscal picture. It didn’t even work that way. We had to go about changing the debate before we could begin to even try and change people’s minds. Look, I’m proud that every year I was Budget Chairman, we passed in the House a Roadmap to balancing the budget and paying off our debt...

“So, we have come a long way and we are closer than people realize. And ultimately, solving this problem will require a greater degree of political will than exists today, and I regret that. But when the time comes to do this, and it will because it must, the path ahead will be based on the framework that we have laid out to solve this problem. We can get there. We really can tackle this problem before it tackles us.”