

The Rammell Plan

Harry S. Dent, an accurate economic forecaster for the last twenty years said, "The first and last depression you will experience in your lifetime is just ahead." By the middle of 2010 he is predicting America will be in a full blown depression, which will last for a decade.

The leadership of Idaho can continue to act as if this is not true by balancing the budget with nearly depleted state emergency funds, loans from the federal government that must be paid back and budget holdbacks and cuts to vital services. Or we can elect new leadership that will be proactive and establish new policies that will stimulate Idaho's economy and minimize, possibly, the worst fiscal crisis in Idaho history.

How will we do this? If I am the next governor of Idaho, I will make my case and advocate to the Idaho legislature that an immediate and historic tax cut be implemented. Four times in the last century American presidents have faced recessionary economies and have turned the tide with tax cuts. One time an American president, FDR, faced a recession and instead of cutting taxes to stimulate the economy he raised taxes and turned the recession into a decade long depression.

I will propose for an immediate stimulus to Idaho's economy and to prevent the catastrophic consequences of a depression, that personal and corporate income taxes be eliminated completely. Wyoming and Nevada have no personal or corporate income tax and rank 2nd and 4th in the United States as having the best business tax climate. Idaho currently ranks #1 in the Northwest and #13 in the United States in highest state and local tax burden. This must be changed to not only entice out of state businesses to come to Idaho, but to keep Idaho businesses solvent and in existence.

In order to balance Idaho's budget without personal and corporate income tax revenues, I will propose another historic move in Idaho policy by advocating that public education, k thru 12, be moved out of state control back to the local districts. Funding at the local level will be accomplished by revenue sharing of the state's sale tax receipts and local budgeting, using monies provided by the elimination of personal and corporate income tax. It is a well established and accepted Republican principle of government, that the closer government is to the people the higher the quality and the more efficient. Programs like NCLB and state mandated tests, along with their bureaucratic expenses, will be eliminated. Idaho's education system is top heavy and inefficient. By moving the responsibility back to local level, our quality of education for our children will be greater and the expense less.

And while we're changing things, it is also time to change the way we take care of the poor and unfortunate. One out of every four Idahoans is receiving some kind of welfare. This must be stopped. Our citizens are becoming slaves to our government. They are forgetting how to take of themselves. We must teach our people how to become self reliant. By making Idaho one of the most business friendly states in the union by elimination of our personal and corporate income tax, employment opportunities will be created for many of our citizens who currently are living off welfare. For the citizens who cannot work and still need help we must shift this responsible to the local level. This responsibility rightfully belongs to our local charities. I believe the compassion of the people will not fail our most vulnerable citizens. Our goal must be the elimination of the need for welfare from the government.

And finally, something a governor has needed to do since Idaho became a state. If you will elect me to be your governor I will challenge the federal government on the rightful ownership of our public lands. Their withholding of state ownership and control over our public lands has been the greatest states' rights violation in American history. Public lands belong to the people of the

state. I will be relentless until the day when Idaho is completely independent and sovereign from the federal government. I promise you I will force them to respect our 10th Amendment state's rights.

By moving K thru 12 education and welfare away from federal and state government control, we will eliminate most of the need for state taxes. By gaining control over our public lands more jobs will be created, our forests will be healthier, and our big game herds magnificent. Our greatest problem in the future, if I am your governor and the legislature will act upon my bold and novel ideas is Idaho will have to deal with a mass migration into our state. People will flock to Idaho to live in a state where taxes are low, government is limited, and people are free and prosperous.