

Editorial

Trent Lott's suicide pact

Young children must be reminded, not to play with matches. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), and like-minded fanatics, should be reminded, that if Lott's proposed balanced-budget amendment had been in force during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidency, Nazi Adolf Hitler would have won World War II, and the U.S.A. would not have recovered from former President Calvin Coolidge's "Great Depression" of the 1930s. We are not implying that Senator Lott wishes to bring back Hitler—or, even Newt Gingrich, for that matter; but, the boy who insisted on his right to play with matches, did not intend to burn up his family, either.

During the recent international bankers' conference at Davos, Switzerland, the proceedings were dominated by discussions of an imminent international financial collapse. That is the worry among top levels of finance and economics, in most parts of the world. The leading bankers say, that the continuing shake-ups of the world's monetary and financial system are at the verge of a grand smash-up; however, they also say, "Just don't discourage the suckers from continuing to invest—for the time being—in the stock, options, and indexes markets."

Under these conditions, should Lott's proposed amendment pass, perhaps about 40 millions Americans who think they have pensions or similar investments in today's markets, would wake up one morning, soon, to find they had lost virtually everything; there would be nothing the U.S. government could do to save tens of millions of Americans, who suddenly discovered that senior citizens and the poor generally, but also the tens of millions of others, would be suddenly plunged into desperation, under Lott's law, the month the presently onrushing, global credit-collapse hits.

The fellows from whom you should not buy a used car, will say, "But, the last national election was a democratic mandate for a balanced-budget amendment." First of all, the fact is, that the Republicans lost the Presidential election; second, the Republican majority in the Congress represents, at most, not much more than a quarter of the eligible voters, while more than half the eligible voters reacted to the performance of both parties as if to say, the policies of neither were worth voting for; third, a fellow might like the smell of bitter almond, but that is not a "mandate" to poison his food with cyanide.

Just because the customer likes the intentionally deceptive label on the outside of the package, does not mean that he will not condemn the salesman who lured him into buying the package.

Buyer beware! What Lott & Company are peddling, is political snake-oil. The suckers are told, not only that balanced-budget herb brew will cure about every ill known to mankind, but that this medicine won't cost the taxpayers a single red cent. What the suckers are not told, is, that the amendment means that most of the few still-surviving U.S. farmers will be wiped out, and that the "savings to the taxpayer" will be measured in greatly increased unemployment-rates, lower incomes for every household in the bottom 90% of the income brackets, accelerated death-rates among senior citizens and the chronically ill, and increased disease-rates for all, especially for people whose complexions are of a darker pigmentation than the majority. In short, what Lott & Company are peddling, is a leading contender for the title of the biggest consumer fraud of the past thirty years.

The fact is, there are chiefly four causes for the up-spiralling deficits which piled up during the (mostly Republican) Carter, Reagan, and Bush administrations: 1) Beginning thirty years ago, a continuing shift, away from the successful model of the U.S. economy, emphasizing government investment in infrastructure and government-fostered investment in scientific and technological progress, into "post-industrial" utopianism, instead; 2) the post-1971 shift to the speculative lunacy of a "floating exchange-rate" monetary system; 3) the 1978-1982 shift into the Mont Pelerin cult's radical "free market" monetarism; and, 4) the post-1988 shift into the ruinous "globaloney" of one-worldism. Measured in physical purchasing power per employed member of the labor-force, the U.S. economy is half as productive today, as before these successive changes took over U.S. government policy, thirty years ago.

Don't smash the car's engine; fix what is broken. Go back to the successful, pre-1966 economic-policy traditions which our nation has, so foolishly, abandoned. There is no need to live through a new Great Depression, if *EIR* succeeds with its repeated insistence on a return to the American System of political-economy.