

VIEWPOINT

February 2004

\$ 1,000,000,000,000

On Sunday, February 1st, the Super Bowl will be watched by millions of people. Not only for the sport but also for the anticipation of the commercials that will be shown for the very first time to consumers like you and me. But there will be one ad that you won't see on CBS. Please take this link to the website of Local 4250: <http://www.cwalocal4250.org/news/> and scroll down to 1-23-04 to view the commercial.

The National Debt is the total amount of money owed by the government; the federal budget deficit is the yearly amount by which spending exceeds revenue. When you hear politicians say, "The deficit is down" don't be fooled. Reducing the deficit just means we are adding less to the debt than we did last year.

According to the National Debt Clock, the outstanding Public debt as of January 29, 2004 at 5:44:34 am is \$ 7,024,115,239,007.21 and climbing. The estimated population of the United States is 239,153,590 so each citizen's share of the debt is \$ 23,960.53. The National Debt has continued to increase as average of \$2 billion per day since September 30, 2003

Not let's try and put this into perspective. One trillion equals one million million. The country has not existed for a trillion seconds. Western civilization has not been around a trillion seconds. One trillion seconds ago – 31,988 years – Neanderthals stalked the plains of Europe. If you stacked up a trillion dimes you would have 3 stacks that reach the moon and have plenty left over. A trillion pennies weigh 3,125,000 tons, and when stacked will reach 986,426 miles and if laid flat would cover 89,625.2 acres.

Who will Pay for President Bush's Trillion Dollar deficit?

Please respond by e-mail to lizvanderwoude@cwalocal4250.org no later than February 20, 2004.

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January 2004 Responses

How Will I Make A Difference in 2004?

I plan to make a difference in 2004, by being and thinking more positive. Whether it's contributions, challenges or life itself. I anticipate on realizing that life is a temporary assignment and a reminder that everything that goes along with life is the same. We were created for God's glory and not our own. It all starts with the Almighty Creator and we were in His care before we were born! May your 2004 be better than your 2003. Peace and Love!!!!

(Submitted by K. Russey-Starnes, Rolling Meadows)