



Re your 9/19 cartoon and Samuelson piece: In the words of my political hero Ronald Reagan, “there you go again!” You repeat the oft-quoted, but illogical, myth that increasing taxes and cutting spending are head and tail of the same coin of deficit reduction.

Here is the myth-refuting logic. Increasing tax rates and/or government spending transfers money from the private sector to the public sector. Conversely, lowering the tax rate and/or reducing public sector spending keeps money in the private sector, thereby both constraining the growth of government and stimulating economic growth.

Considerable empirical evidence supports that logic. History demonstrates conclusively that in general the more money the private sector invests, hires and spends, the more likely will economic growth result. And that growth has fueled deficit reduction, while increasing growth of government correspondingly increases the deficit.

Common-sense tests that logic. Who can better utilize your money—Harry Reid and Nance Pelosi, or you yourself? More individual freedom, or more government? Who is more likely to develop new products and approaches to wealth creation—private sector entrepreneurs or government bureaucrats? Which policy is more likely to reduce the economic uncertainty that currently constrains bank lending and corporate investment—greater government regulation of business, or less?

Let’s close as we began, with Ronald Reagan, *A Time for Choosing* (1964): “There is no such thing as a left or a right. There is only up or down. Up to man’s age-old dream, the maximum of individual freedom consistent with order [i.e., limited government; no one advocates anarchy], or down to the ant heap of totalitarianism.”