

Congressman Pence's response to the President's budget and the budget passed by the Democrat-led Congress last night ( [despite](#) bipartisan [opposition](#) ) was noted in several news outlets:

FOX News: " [House Approves Democratic Budget Plan](#) "

House Republican Conference Chairman Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., called the bill "the most fiscally irresponsible budget in American history." New York Times: " [Budgets Approved, With No G.O.P. Votes](#) "

"Let's not do this to our kids," said Representative Mike Pence of Indiana, the No.3 Republican in the House. "Let's not borrow from the next generation of Americans."

Congressman Pence also [interviewed with](#) [National Public Radio](#) 's [Steve Inskeep](#) about the economy. You can listen to it

[HERE](#)

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*Steve Inskeep: Do you expect, as the Obama administration has predicted, that the economy will be growing at this time next year?*

**Rep. Mike Pence: Well, I hope the economy is growing this time next year, but if it's growing, it will be in spite of the prescriptions of the physician. It'll be evidence of the resilience of the American people. I mean, I think most Americans know we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing economy. And certainly, this is the strongest and most powerful economy in the history of the world. And my hope in Indiana and beyond is that we do see the glimmerings of recovery next year.**

*And I'll just mention we're in a rotunda of a House office building, where there's a baby crying in the background and many people going back and forth.*

**And I love the baby crying because, you know, the reality is that under the Democratic budget, we will double the national debt in five years, we will triple it in 10 years. We're passing it along to that little baby, my children and your children, a mountain range of debt, which independent experts suggest is going to lower their standard of living for generations to come. We can't do that. There's a moral issue here. We ought to be paying now and making sacrifices now to deal with the issues that we're challenging and not make the little baby pay for it.**

*Although, somebody listening is going to wonder, "Why weren't Republicans worried about that moral issue when they had the White House and Congress and there were record budget deficits even in good times?"*

**Right. Well, don't wonder. They're absolutely right. Republicans fundamentally failed in our commitment to fiscal discipline and reform and making the hard choices. We have to have a government again that lives within our means.**

*But isn't deficit-spending - or, as the White House would put it, investment-necessary in a time of economic trouble? I mean, even your budgets-Republican budget proposals that have been put out-include big deficits.*

**Is it necessary in a downturned economy? Well, to meet the needs and the commitments of the country for the national defense, for the underserved community, for the most vulnerable, there may from time to time be a necessity to run deficits. But they cannot become the established policy of the United States.**

*But just so I understand, how does this [economic debate] right now factor into your thinking about, say, the next election [in 2010]?*

**Look, you know, I really believe that what will matter in the next election is which party most connected with the core ideals of the American people and was willing to do what every American family, every small business and family farm, is doing in these difficult times. When I sit down around kitchen tables at farms, people are putting off till tomorrow what they don't have to spend today. They're maybe getting an extra job in town, trying to figure out how to get more revenue. I mean, people are cutting back. They're in survival mode during this difficult time. And I think the American people are going to reward the men and women in either political party that are willing to stand up for fiscal sanity.**

*You know, that kitchen table analogy is a great one, and I do wonder one thing about it: People do try to balance their budgets at home, but they also ... you borrow to buy a house, you borrow*

*to buy a car to get to work, you borrow to get your kid through college ... The administration casts its borrowing as investments. Would you acknowledge that at least some of that spending is an investment that could pay off in the long run?*

**Well, let me say, when people take out a mortgage to buy a house or a farmer takes out financing to buy a combine, they don't ask their kids to sign it. And you see what we're doing here really. We're doubling the national debt in five years. If we were acting in the right way within the budget window, we would be making the kind of investments to the nature of your question, but also the kind of sacrifices.**

*So, there are investments in your view, just not enough - not a high enough percentage of that debt?*

**Look, the purpose of this government is to provide for the common defense and promote the general welfare. We have obligations right now in this day and age and within the budget window that we have to meet. I don't question that. I'm not an anti-government person at all. The question is, who pays for it?**

Also worth a read today is [Investor Business Daily 's editorial](#) today entitled: "A Budget Plan Good Enough To Read" - which notes that

*The congressional Republicans' recovery plan makes 100 times more sense than the tax-and-spend excess the White House and Congress will steamroll into law.*