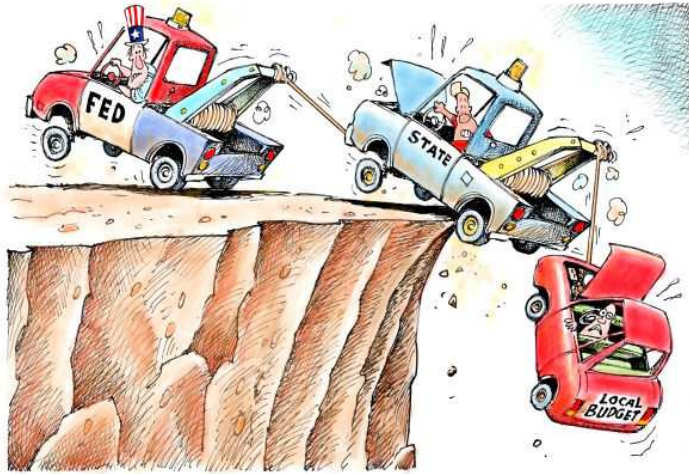


The Wars vs The Budgets

Source: "The Battle of the Budgets: New Fronts in the Afghan and Iraq Wars" by Amy Goodman, TruthDig.com, 3/2/2011



"Federal, State and Local Budgets" by Dave Granlund, Politicalcartoons.com (2/22/11)

Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Idaho ... these are the latest fronts in the battle of budgets, with the larger fight over a potential shutdown of the U.S. government looming.

These fights are occurring against the backdrop of the two wars waged by the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan.

No discussion or debate over budgets, over wages and pensions, over deficits, should happen without a clear presentation of the costs of these wars—and the incalculable benefits that ending them would bring.

The U.S. is spending about \$2 billion a week in Afghanistan alone. That's about \$104 billion a year — and that is not including Iraq. Compare that with the state budget shortfalls. According to a recent report by the nonpartisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, **"some 45 states and the District of Columbia are projecting budget shortfalls totaling \$125 billion for fiscal year 2012."**

The math is simple: **The money should be poured back into the states, rather than into a never-ending state of war.**

This has been the deadliest period for civilians and U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan since 2001. And there is no sign that the U.S. will end the occupation of Iraq. Our government continues to pour money and troops into these endless wars, amid the Great Recession at home.

At the protest in WI, Mahlon Mitchell, president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, explained why the unionized firefighters were there, even though their union was one not targeted by Gov. Walker's bill, **"This is about an attack on the middle class."**

By shutting down the attacks on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan, we can prevent these attacks on the poor and middle class here at home.



Rockland Coalition
for Peace & Justice

Join our 433rd Peace Vigil to end the wars!
Every Saturday, 1-3 pm, at Rte. 59 & Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY

For info: www.rocklandaction.org

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