



LETTERS; The Stimulus America Really Needs

Published: December 29, 2008

To the Editor:

Thomas L. Friedman is right that it is time to reboot America, but not in the way he describes.

Sure, America has its problems, but most of them, if not all, were created by excesses of government, with government schools, government roads, government hospitals, government research, government loans, government housing and so on.

Mr. Friedman says, "We've indulged ourselves for too long with tax cuts that we can't afford." The money Mr. Friedman wants to watch flow into government coffers is not produced by government, but by private thinking that leads to production and trade.

The question is not whether there should be more taxation, but whether we can continue to afford a gigantic, bloated government that strangles the life-blood out of the creative and productive process that caused America to be the economic engine of the world for the last century.

It is time to return to America's founding principles: individual rights, property rights and the pursuit of happiness, with government only in the form of military, police and courts.

Stated another way, America needs to return to capitalism. Mark A. Hurt

Creve Coeur, Mo., Dec. 24, 2008