

**By SAM HATCHER**

Conversation at lunch today (Tuesday) was whether or not congress and the president would come together and solve or at least mend the country's lingering debt crisis.

Although I don't feel real warm and fuzzy about it, I'd bet that there will be a deal made and that we'll escape the immediate problem for the time being.

That doesn't mean the problem will go away, but at some point Washington heads will come together and work out a deal that will get us by for the short term and then hopefully will place a priority on their agenda to get a handle on the nation's debt for the long haul.

I personally don't understand why this group of highly competent public servants can't get along.

I don't give a rat's rear end about whether or not they are Republicans or Democrats.

And frankly I'm fed up with the finger-pointing, the rudeness, the mean-spirited politically partisan attitudes and all the other side shows that serve only to detract from what needs to be done.

I think a Will Rogers type of personality would likely say something like "Fellows it's time for us to roll up our sleeves and figure out what we're going to do. It's time to go to work."

Our national government in Washington needs now more than ever real statesmen.

It's fine to disagree.

But disagreeing doesn't mean being disrespectful.

Statesmen respectfully listen to their opponents. They act for the common good. They put what's best for the country first on their agenda. Statesmen genuinely care about those they represent. And statesmen are not "I" people but rather "We" people.

Surely our leaders in Washington will come to their senses and get a firm grip on this ailing problem.

After all, that's what we elected them to do.

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