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Press release : 2004 : 02 : 18 : Business Dean Weighs In at Roundtable

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Business Dean Weighs In At Roundtable

By: [John Husfield](#) | Source: Holly Kickliter
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[Ron P. Hill, PhD](#) Ron P. Hill, PhD, dean of the college of business, joined business leaders and U.S. Rep. Jim Davis Tuesday to discuss the nation's blooming deficit. The one-hour roundtable was convened by Davis, a supporter of a coalition to reduce the deficit.

Members of the business community were invited to discuss the current state of the federal budget and some of the budget issues being debated in Congress. The group discussed Tampa Bay employment opportunities, how a variation in interest rates might impact the local business economy and how typical families measure fiscal soundness.

As reported in Wednesday's *St. Petersburg Times* by Business Columnist Robert Trigaux, the group concluded that short-term, the deficit isn't a big business worry. However, long-term, deficits could drive up interest rates. Such climbing costs could stall growth and stun Americans who have come to rely on the low cost of debt.

Hill described a dividing of the U.S. economy between workers with low tech skills and modest wages and those with higher tech skills and higher compensation. He also warned that debt-strapped consumers could be forced to cut back in critical areas such as health care and education.

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