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**Opinion Leaders Discuss the U.S. Fiscal Dilemma at  
“Avoiding a Government Debt Crisis” Conference**

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**February 17, 2010**

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The “Avoiding a Government Debt Crisis” conference convened yesterday by the Peterson-Pew Commission on Budget Reform brought together leading economists and opinion leaders to discuss the nation’s looming fiscal crisis and the need for action to avoid it.

The event featured remarks by Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank President Thomas Hoenig, and former Comptroller General of the United States David Walker. Three all-star panels examined the need for a fiscal goal, the perspective of markets and lessons from abroad, and the political challenges involved.

“The conference underscored the dire consequences if we do not act now to right our fiscal course,” according to Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas. “The message could not have been clearer. Policymakers should take note of the important warning issued by Kansas City Fed President, Tom Hoenig, that the United States must get its fiscal house in order.”

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