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**How Did YOUR
Representative Vote?**

FL 06

AVERAGE COST PER HOUSEHOLD	VOTED FOR:	
	LOWER TAXES and LESS Government	HIGH TAXES and BIG Government

1	HJ Res 2: Fiscal 2003 Omnibus Appropriations. Combines 11 unfinished spending bills from the last Congress. <i>The Omnibus approach evades accountability! Details inside.</i> (Passed 338-83 on Feb. 13, 2003, roll call #32.) Cost: \$397 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$3,649		X
2	H Con Res 95: Fiscal 2004 Budget/Democrat Substitute. Authorizes a deficit of \$376 billion. Adds a \$528 billion prescription drug benefit for 2004-2013. (Rejected 192-236 on Mar. 20, 2003, roll call #81.) Cost: \$1.87 Trillion ★ = Voted AGAINST this amendment X = Voted FOR this amendment	\$17,150	★	
3	H Con Res 95: Fiscal 2004 Budget Resolution. Authorizes a deficit of \$498 billion. Provides \$400 billion for a Medicare overhaul and a prescription drug benefit. <i>Perpetuates out-of-control spending.</i> (Passed 215-212 on Mar. 21, 2003, roll call #82.) Cost: \$1.84 Trillion ★ = Voted AGAINST this resolution X = Voted FOR this resolution	\$16,883		X
4	HR 6: Energy Plan/Oil Consumption. This amendment targets the popularity of higher fuel consumption SUVs by imposing stricter fuel economy standards. <i>Unconstitutional meddling.</i> (Rejected 162-268 on April 10, 2003, roll call #132.) Cost: Higher Priced & Lighter SUVs. ★ = Voted AGAINST this amendment X = Voted FOR this amendment	Limits buyer choices	★	
5	HR 1350 Special Education. Authorizes increasing grants to defray part of the state cost of educating special education students, from the current 18% to 40% by 2010. (Passed 251-171 on April 30, 2003, roll call #154.) <i>Unconstitutional.</i> Cost: Over \$50 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$459		X
6	HR 1298 AIDS Relief. Authorizes \$3 billion annually for five years to fight AIDS in Africa. Five times the amount considered last year! Empowers a new UN bureaucracy. <i>Unconstitutional.</i> (Passed 375-41 on May 1, 2003, roll call #158.) Cost: \$15 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$138	★	
7	HR 2 Tax Cuts. Calls for \$550 billion in tax breaks over 11 years to individuals and businesses. Reduces the tax on dividends and capital gains. Tax relief for married couples. Expands the 10% tax bracket. (Passed 222-203 on May 9, 2003, roll call #182.) Savings: \$550 Billion ★ = Voted FOR this bill X = Voted AGAINST this bill	\$5,050 (Savings)	★	
8	HR 2185 Unemployment Benefits. Temporarily offers 13 weeks of federal unemployment benefits to some laid-off workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of state assistance. <i>Unconstitutional.</i> (Passed 409-19 on May 22, 2003, roll call #223.) Cost: \$7.9 Billion for '03 & '04 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$73		X

TRIM® reports on the same votes for all members of the House of Representatives.



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 — a nationwide movement to promote
**Lower Taxes through
Less Government**

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TO:

Tax Breaks with More Spending:

Congress Plans for Red Ink!

In May, Congress cut taxes. While lowering taxes is good, to actually reduce government's burden on the economy, the *overall size and cost of government must also be reduced.* Unfortunately, Congress plans to *increase* the size and cost of government *despite* the tax cuts!

The Fiscal 2004 Budget Resolution, passed by the House, provides for a \$498 BILLION "on-budget" deficit! To accommodate its spendthrift ways, Congress increased the federal debt limit by almost \$1 TRILLION to \$7.4 trillion!

To fund its operations, the federal government can tax us, borrow existing money (competing for available capital), or print new money out of thin air through the Federal Reserve System. Inflating the money supply is the ultimate tax. It *unobtrusively* dilutes the value of dollars in circulation, leading to rising prices and erosion



Mike Lane - Permission by Cagle Cartoons

of savings. Americans will pay for out-of-control federal spending one way or another.

Your Congressman's report card!

Did your representative vote against a monstrous spending bill? See vote #1 on the back page!

Constitution Corner

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution lists many of the specific powers of Congress. One such power —

To borrow money on the credit of the United States

— has been severely abused. The main responsibility for our huge \$6.5 trillion National Debt clearly rests with Congress. For many years, virtually every member of both the House and Senate talked the “balanced budget” talk, but pitifully few were willing to walk the walk. Now, most congressmen argue that budgets can only be balanced several years down the road.

But years go by, the debt grows, and a balanced budget remains an empty promise for the future. In the meantime, politicians encourage the Fed to finance their deficits by inflating the money supply — a hidden tax. And the interest on the National Debt mortgages the future of generations yet unborn.

Tax



Bytes

On Feb. 13, 2003 the House approved H.J. Res. 2, an omnibus appropriations bill, which granted:

\$280,000 for asparagus technology and production



\$125,000 for the International Storytelling Museum in Jonesborough, Tenn.



\$145 million to protect biodiversity in developing countries.



\$30 million for the UN's war crimes tribunals.



\$500,000 for the “1st Tee” program to “impact the lives of young people around the world by creating affordable and accessible golf facilities...”



\$202,500 for construction of the National Peanut Festival Agricultural Arena.

Who Will Solve Out-of-Control Federal Spending?

If our congressmen would faithfully follow the Constitution, the federal government would shrink to approximately 20 percent its size and 20 percent its cost.

— John McManus, “Stand by Your Oath,” *The New American*, January 9, 1995

With no fanfare President Bush signed a bill on May 27th to increase the National Debt ceiling by a record \$984 billion. Only one year ago, Congress had increased the debt ceiling by \$450 billion. Why did Congress raise the debt ceiling by nearly a trillion dollars this year after last year's half-trillion dollar increase? The answer: nearly half-trillion dollar annual deficits!

A budget bill (H. Con. Res. 95) authorizing a fiscal 2004 deficit of a half-trillion dollars was passed by the House on March 21, 2003 by 215-212, essentially a party-line vote with the majority Republicans prevailing (vote 3 on page 4). Just the day before, the Democrats had offered their substitute amendment for this bill. Their amendment would also have authorized an increase in the debt ceiling of nearly a trillion dollars and a deficit of

nearly a half-trillion dollars. The Democrat amendment was rejected 192-236, with 191 of the yeas coming from Democrats (vote 2 on page 4).

Since the vast majority of both Republicans and Democrats in the House are on record as favoring huge debt increases, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that most members of Congress are certifiably irresponsible. Although a dozen or so representatives from each major party did the right thing by not supporting either version, we need 218 such stalwarts to restore fiscal responsibility. Who will solve this out-of-control federal spending?

There are plenty of unconstitutional federal programs that can be cut to balance the budget. However, the politicians will never adhere to the Constitution on their own. Rather, organized, principled programs must inform sufficient numbers of Americans so that they will pressure their congressmen to vote constitutionally. Widespread distribution of the triannual TRIM Bulletin voting records contributes toward this goal. You can help! For more information, visit www.TRIMonline.org. And sign up for our e-mail alerts to monitor how your rep votes.

About the votes on the back page ...

TRIM reports votes that: **1.** include significant unconstitutional or excessive spending or **2.** indicate a desire, or lack thereof, to restore Constitutionally limited government and curb the welfare state. **Note:** ALL House members are scored on the same votes — we play no favorites.

More on Vote #1: This “omnibus” bill contains massive unconstitutional spending. Many spending programs (thousands!) were combined for a single vote. The omnibus method of legislating is irresponsible and evades clear accountability. A vote to pass such a bill is often excused because of “must-pass” elements that are sure to impress a representative's constituency. However, an important bill within a rejected omnibus bill would be quickly reintroduced as a separate bill. Encourage your congressman to vote against any omnibus bill!

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TRIM is a nonpartisan network of educational committees and individuals organized by **THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY** to trim big government. The word “trim” is a verb, meaning “to remove the excess.” We invite you to join our crusade!

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