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**How Did Your
Representative Vote?**

Average Cost Per Household	A VOTE FOR	
	LOWER TAXES and LESS Government	HIGH TAXES and BIG Government

1	HR 2800. FY2004 Foreign Operations Appropriations. Foreign aid bill includes \$1.4 billion to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa and \$800 million for the new Millennium Challenge Account. <i>Unconstitutional.</i> (Passed 370-50 on July 24, 2003, roll call #429.) Cost: \$17.1 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$150	★	
2	HR 2738. U.S.-Chile Trade-Passage. Implements a "free trade" agreement with Chile. A step toward a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) that would destroy our national sovereignty. <i>See inside.</i> (Passed 270-156 on July 24, 2003, roll call #436.) Cost: Sovereignty ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	Step toward regional government	DID NOT VOTE!	
3	HR 2861. VA-HUD Appropriations. Funds unconstitutional agencies, such as: \$37 billion for HUD, \$8 billion for the EPA, and \$480 million for the Clinton-initiated national service program, AmeriCorps. (Passed 316-109 on July 25, 2003, roll call #456.) Cost: \$122.7 Billion FY2004 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$1,076		X
4	HR 2989. Transportation-Treasury Appropriation—Election System Overhaul. Amendment to increase federal funding to states for updating voting systems. A dangerous intrusion by the federal government. (Rejected 186-228 on Sept. 4, 2003, roll call #471.) Cost: \$232 Million FY2004 ★ = Voted AGAINST this amendment X = Voted FOR this amendment	Endangers election integrity	★	
5	HR 2989. Transportation-Treasury Appropriations—Amtrak Routes. Amendment to prohibit subsidizing routes that are unable to generate revenue of at least 50% of the cost of operating them. (Rejected 130-282 on Sept. 9, 2003, roll call #482.) Potential Savings: \$100s of Millions ★ = Voted FOR this amendment X = Voted AGAINST this amendment	(Savings) Minimal, but sensible	★	
6	HR 253. Flood Insurance Reauthorization. Authorizes an additional \$450 million for flood insurance and flood-loss mitigation. Unconstitutional federal activity. (Passed 352-67 on Nov. 20, 2003, roll call #655.) Cost: \$450 Million FY2004-2008 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	Minimal, but improper		X
7	HR 1. Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit-Conference Report. Would establish a drug benefit under Medicare. Partial coverage up to \$3,600, then pays 95% of costs. Unconstitutional new entitlement program. (Adopted 220-215 on Nov. 22, 2003, roll call #669.) Cost: \$400 Billion FY2004-2013 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$3,509		X
8	HR 2673 Fiscal 2004 Omnibus Appropriations-Conference Report. Includes Labor, HHS, and Education (up 11.5%), Agriculture (up 8%), VA-HUD (up 4.4%). Omnibus bills hide increases and reduce accountability. (Adopted 242-176 on Dec. 8, 2003, roll call #676.) Cost: \$820 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$7,193	★	

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

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TO:

Deficits Explode. Federal Debt Tops \$7 TRILLION!

FTAA Targets Middle Class

If the current fiscal crisis were not enough (see inside), an even greater danger looms for 2005. Congress will be asked to expand NAFTA to a hemispheric **Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**. While it will be promoted under the misleading banner of free trade, the FTAA will actually:

1. Pile on additional layers of socialist bureaucracy that is already closing U.S. businesses and factories.
2. Transfer accountability to unelected hemispheric bureaucrats with no interest in U.S. prosperity.
3. Lead to open borders, as in the EU, enabling tens of millions to move into the U.S., thereby depressing wages and overwhelming our welfare system.

The Free Trade Area of the Americas is a scheme to merge our country with the other nations of this hemisphere into a continent-spanning mega-state modeled after the European Union.



Following in the footsteps of the EU, the member states will be pressured to modify their national laws and constitutions to accommodate the rulings of the FTAA. For more information and an action program to convince Congress to reject this outrage, see www.StoptheFTAA.org.

Your Congressman's Spending Report Card

Where will your congressman stand on the FTAA? See precursor vote #2 on the back page!

Constitution Corner

Most of the powers granted to Congress are enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. One such power is:

To regulate commerce with foreign nations...

Neither Congress nor the President has the authority to surrender this power to a foreign body of unelected bureaucrats, such as the various regulatory councils and committees of NAFTA or the World Trade Organization.

But because the U.S. has entangled itself with these organizations, Congress increasingly rubber stamps their mandates with implementing legislation. Our membership in these bodies also supplies Congress a plausible, but phony authority to intrude in areas reserved under the Constitution to state and local governments, or to the American people.

Tax Bytes



The administration has already raised its 10-year cost prediction for the new prescription drug benefit passed in November from \$400 billion to \$534 billion.



When Medicare was passed in 1965 its predicted cost for 2003 was \$26 billion. The actual cost was \$245 billion! Medicare's unfunded liability is now about \$40 TRILLION!



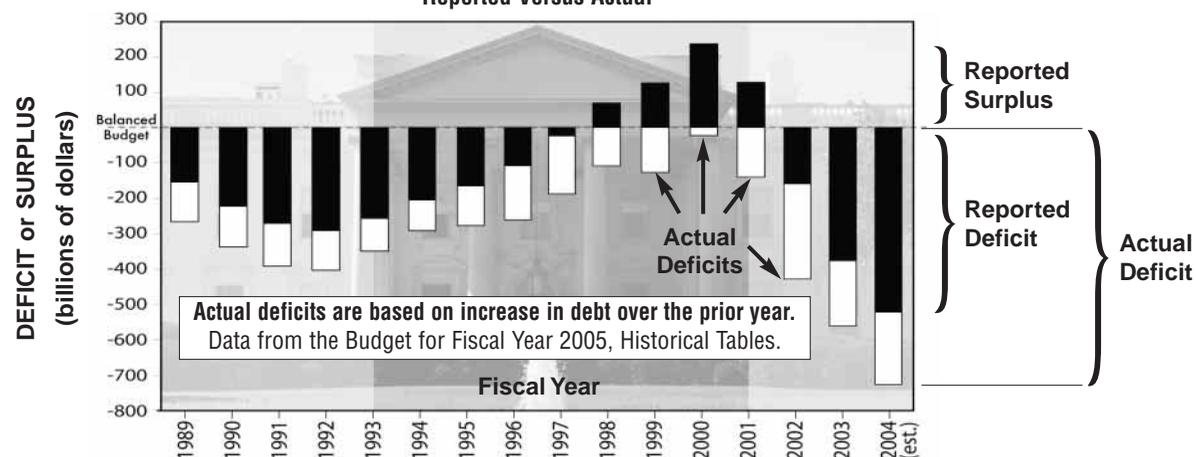
According to the Social Security Administration, by 2018 Social Security taxes will not cover the payout of full benefits. Yet, talks continue about making citizens of Mexico who work here, both legal and illegal, eligible for Social Security benefits!



A Cato Institute poll shows that 3/4 of young voters support changing Social Security into a privatized savings plan.

Only Congress Can Fix This Fiscal Crisis. Only Constituent Pressure Can Fix Congress!

Federal Surpluses/Deficits
Reported Versus Actual



Congress has created a fiscal crisis! The national debt will have grown from \$5.8 trillion in 2001 to a projected \$7.5 trillion by the end of fiscal year 2004. The annual federal deficits will have grown from \$141 billion in 2001 to an estimated \$726 billion in 2004.

For a comparison of the reported deficits versus the actual deficits over the past 16 years, see the graph above. Two immediate observations: (1) the reported surpluses of 1998 to 2001 were a myth; and (2) the actual deficits have always been much larger than the reported deficits.

Congress has created the present fiscal crisis. Only Congress can fix it. However, members of Congress will never solve this problem until their constituents convince them that they must vote constitutionally, not opportunistically. Since most current federal spending is not authorized by the U.S. Constitution, there are plenty of programs to cut without neglecting the legitimate functions of government. Now, more than ever, congressmen must be held accountable. Tell your congressman your opinion of his or her votes and also enlighten others.



About the TRIM Bulletin

TRIM, a nonpartisan, nationwide program of The John Birch Society, seeks to inform the electorate so that it will demand from the House of Representatives *lower taxes through less government*. The word "trim" is a verb, meaning "to remove the excess." The TRIM Bulletin reports on legislation that: **1.** includes significant unconstitutional or excessive spending; or **2.** indicates a desire, or lack thereof, to restore constitutionally limited government and curb the welfare state.

The "Star" and "X" columns on the back page reflect the "impact" of votes on the bills listed. Occasionally stars (indicating a right vote) are earned for the wrong reason, such as when a rep. opposes an excessive spending bill, because it allegedly does not spend enough. Clear-cut amendments to a bill are often reported that separate the big-spenders from those who champion limited government.

Average Cost Per Household expresses incomprehensibly huge spending costs in units that more clearly reflect personal impact. The total cost of a bill or amendment (over the next fiscal year or the life of the bill, as stated) is divided by the approximate number of households in the U.S. Households will bear these costs through personal taxes and various forms of indirect taxes such as monetary inflation.

About votes on the back page ...

More on Vote #2: In a signing ceremony for the Chile and Singapore Free Trade Agreements on September 3, 2003, President Bush remarked, "I signed this legislation today fully expecting to sign many more free trade agreements.... We're working with 33 other nations in our hemisphere to create the free trade area of the Americas." These bilateral agreements facilitate the granddaddy power grab — the FTAA!

More on Vote #7: The approval of this huge, new, unconstitutional entitlement program for prescription drugs is Exhibit A for fiscal irresponsibility. Too many congressmen, knowing the fiscal disaster they have created in recent years, as depicted in the graph above, still chose to "buy" votes rather than reduce the deficit.