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How Did Your Representative Vote?			
A VOTE FOR			
	Average Cost Per Household	LOWER TAXES and LESS Government	HIGH TAXES and BIG Government
1	<b>UNESCO subverts education</b>	★	
2	\$16 (savings)	★	
3	\$734		X
4	\$11 (savings)		X
5	\$170	★	
6	\$4,356		X
7	\$7,018		X
8	\$3,407		X

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**TRIM  
BULLETIN**

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**Lower Taxes through Less Government**

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## **Deficit Spending Induces Monetary Inflation Digging the Dollar's Grave**

The worth of our dollars is shrinking, thanks to politicians who merely pay lip service to constitutional limits on government. Since its inception, the Federal Reserve has been given illegitimate authority to **increase the quantity of currency** (inflation's true definition) to compensate for government's overspending.

In the two years ending December 2004, the Fed pumped over 800 billion more dollars into the economy. Each of those new dollars stole value or potential purchasing power from existing dollars and anything denominated in dollars, such as savings, pension funds, and insurance policies.

Our government is expected to create another **HALF TRILLION DOLLARS** in red ink *this* fiscal year! The dollar's disease is monetary inflation, brought on by a government addicted to



overspending and meddling that it cannot afford without the Fed's printing press. (*More inside.*)

## **Your Congressman's Spending Report Card**



## Constitution Corner

The Constitution's very first sentence states:

**"All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States...."**

Therefore, the Supreme Court can't make law and Presidential Executive Orders can't make law. But both the judicial and executive branches of government have for many years been usurping powers granted solely to Congress by the Constitution.

Now consider the words "herein granted." They mean that Congress possesses power to make law only in those areas *specifically named* within the body of the Constitution. Therefore, the Constitution grants no power to Congress to fund foreign aid programs, or to permit the federal government to have any presence whatsoever in such fields as education, welfare, housing, health, transportation, safety, and environment.



## 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 includes significant unconstitutional or excessive spending; or 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 correct vote) are earned for the wrong reason, such as when a rep. opposes an excessive spending bill because it allegedly does not spend enough. In addition to votes on final passages, we also report on amendments that separate 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. These costs will be born through personal taxes and various forms of *indirect taxes* such as monetary inflation.



*Interest on accumulated debt is already the third largest item in the federal budget—more than \$1,000 for every man, woman, and child in America.*



*The huge appropriations bill passed by Congress in November 2004 included a \$100,000 grant to develop the Punxsutawney Weather Discovery Center near the home of the legendary weather-predicting groundhog.*



*This same appropriations bill included a grant of \$709,000 to Penn State University for milk safety research, and \$121,250 for renovations at a Philadelphia ballet school.*



*A year ago the estimated cost of the new Prescription Drug benefit was raised from \$400 billion for 10 years to \$534 billion. New estimates are \$720 billion and up.*

## Facts Every Taxpayer Should Consider

### National Debt Is Skyrocketing

During the first four years of the "conservative" G.W. Bush administration, the national debt rose by \$1.7 trillion. That figure is twice the accumulated federal indebtedness from 1776 to 1979. U.S. government debt currently stands at a nearly incomprehensible \$7.75 trillion dollars.

### Congress Lacks Self-Restraint

On November 18, 2004, Congress approved an \$800 billion boost in the national debt ceiling. Giving fedgov's spenders a higher debt ceiling is like giving an alcoholic the key to the liquor supply. (See Vote #7 on Page 4.)

### Where the Buck Stops

The sickness of the dollar has been induced both by Democrats and Republicans who compete for popularity with voters and special interests by throwing money at an array of unconstitutional programs. Rather than fight the disease of monetary inflation, many politicians facilitate it through increasing the debt ceiling, making promises to expand the welfare state, and ignoring manipulation of interest rates and financial markets.

*"By a continuous process of inflation, governments can confiscate, secretly and unobserved, an important part of the wealth of their citizens." — John Maynard Keynes, the infamous father of deficit spending, *Economic Consequences of the Peace*, 1920.*

### About the votes on the back page ...

**More on Vote #7:** Similar congressionally approved debt-ceiling increases enabled the federal government to boost the national debt during the first four years of the Bush administration by a fiscally irresponsible 28 percent, from \$5.95 trillion to \$7.63 trillion! In 1980, the national debt had not reached \$1 trillion.

**More on Vote #8:** The increasing use of omnibus bills to combine several major appropriations bills into one giant bill makes it virtually impossible for a conscientious citizen to evaluate his congressman's performance. Such bills mask many unconstitutional activities of the federal government!

### What Congress Should Do

★ **End deficit spending** that supports the hidden tax of inflation.

★ **End foreign aid.** The world's largest debtor nation should *not* be dispensing foreign aid! The Bush administration plans to spend \$19.4 billion for foreign giveaways during this fiscal year.

★ **Phase out programs never authorized by the Constitution.** The federal government should never have created costly programs such as education (currently spending \$57.7 billion), housing (\$37.3 billion), and transportation (\$59 billion).

★ **Retire existing debt.** Current debt adds the crushing weight of interest payments on the backs of already beleaguered taxpayers.

★ **Perform its constitutional duty** to make the decisions about whether to go to war and then to *declare war* before making war. Enforce the Constitution's separation of powers, which is violated when Congress delegates its power. Imagine the savings if our nation went into battle *only after* Congress formally declared war!