

CHALLENGE TO CONGRESS

Members from both sides of the aisle have taken aim at President Clinton's budget for not being aggressive enough in reducing federal spending and reducing the deficit. The argument of the President that the deficit is now under control because it has shrunk by \$100 billion over the past two years has not been well received. The President did not identify deep spending cuts for the new leadership in Congress, and in a sense his budget challenges them: "It's your turn, show me where you're going to cut the budget."

The big question now is what the budget of the new congressional leadership will look like. We may not know for another few months. The leadership's strategy seems to be to keep everything very quiet and secret and then spring a surprise on the country and the interest groups that might be affected. It remains to be seen whether Congress will be serious about eliminating the deficit.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

The good progress that has been made on deficit reduction in the first two years of the Clinton administration seems to be replaced by a strategy of deficit control. The President and Congress were right to attack the budget deficit in the last two years, and the reasons for doing so are still compelling today. The key issue here is the country's future standard of living. The deficit preempts investment that would otherwise go into expanding the economy. That is one major reason for the stagnation of wages and incomes for many Americans since the mid-1970s.

I believe that any serious effort to cut the deficit will inevitably have to deal with health care costs. The political judgement behind the President's budget is that the electorate offers little thanks to those who make a serious run at deficit reduction. Many Members of Congress continue to play on the overwhelming belief among the public that the budget can be balanced just by cutting out waste, fraud, and abuse, and that all it takes is cutting foreign aid, taking young mothers off welfare, and ending congressional perks. At some point we will have to be honest and specific with the American people. Difficult choices are needed, and anyone who takes a hard look at the budget knows it. One of the most important things that has to happen in this country is improving public understanding about the budget.

Too many Members of Congress favor a balanced budget but are unwilling to offer any specifics. Indeed many go in the opposite direction. They want larger tax cuts and more spending on defense and other popular programs. They list only the spending they will not cut, like Social Security. They also try to assure the governors and mayors that they will be held harmless in the process. I do not want to repeat the experience of the 1980s when the country was told it was possible to cut taxes and balance the budget by cutting domestic spending. The spending cuts were never found and the national debt, as well as our interest payments, quadrupled.

TAX CUTS

Basically I believe that for the sake of our children we should cut the deficit first and then cut taxes, not the other way around. At the same time, I am prepared to support tax cuts that are deficit neutral—cuts that are offset with spending reductions so there is no impact on the deficit. I would target tax cuts to savings and investment because that is what the country really needs to grow and to increase standards of living.

I am inclined to think the tax cuts are being oversold to the American people. Middle-class Americans are in economic pain, but I doubt the tax cuts being proposed are

a genuine cure for their afflictions. And unless offset by equivalent reductions in government spending, the measure might end up costing middle-class taxpayers more money in the form of higher interest rates on their mortgages, credit cards, and loans.

CONCLUSION

A President's budget is simply the opening ante in an annual game between Congress and the President. President Clinton's budget comes to a hostile Congress. It is not a dead-on-arrival budget, but a document for bargaining. Congress understands that. Significant changes are expected in the weeks and months ahead.

THE SPRATLY ISLAND GRAB

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was alarmed but not surprised to read in Saturday's Washington Post that Communist China used its growing military strength to take over a large area of disputed territory in the Spratly Islands.

Many of our friends in that region, including our important Filipino allies, have been warning us of the dangers of understating the People's Republic of China [PRC] military buildup as a moderate modernization program. As anyone knows who seriously studies the issue, the PRC's military budget, recent acquisitions, technology transfers—legal and otherwise—and their expanded espionage program in the United States is a cause for the highest concern.

The Spratly Island grab occurred just 2 days after the Wall Street Journal reported that the PRC raised tensions in the region by buying four Russian submarines. The PRC already has over 100 submarines. Taiwan has only two and yet our State Department will not allow our democratic friends on Taiwan to purchase any submarines from the United States.

Time and time again the Communist leaders have refused to work with the ASEAN nations to defuse the Spratly tensions. All attempts to get Beijing to address specific issues such as: A regional arms registry, maritime surveillance, various military transparency proposals, and contentions regional security and territorial disputes have been ignored. The result is that Beijing's rulers incrementally grab what it wants and without a peep from the State Department.

Some 40 years ago, when the Communists sought to create a buffer between themselves and democratic India, it expanded its territory by swallowing up Tibet, a country the size of Western Europe. In 1989, when the Communists felt threatened by a possible democracy emerging on its border with Burma, it sent \$1.4 billion in military assistance to the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] in Rangoon. Due to SLORC's rule, opium production has doubled and perhaps quadrupled in Burma and New York's streets are awash in cheap, almost pure heroin.

Taiwan, Tibet, the Philippines, India, New York—people all over the world, including the United States, have good reasons to be concerned about the PRC's aggressive acts. Regrettably, the State Department does not have any strategy for dealing with it other than to

enhance its trading capacity in the hopes that its economic growth will bring about positive political changes. In the meantime, the PRC uses its booming economy fueled by its exports to the United States to make bold and substantive strategic gains.

The basic lesson that some policy makers in the State Department have yet to learn is that if you give in to a bully he will keep coming back for more.

CRIMINAL ALIEN DEPORTATION
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 10, 1995

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 668) to control crime by further streamlining deportation of criminal aliens.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 668, the Criminal Alien Deportation Act. This legislation represents title VIII of the Taking Back Our Streets Act, one of the 10 points of the Republican Contract With America, and continues our efforts here in the House to address our Nation's crime problem.

The legislation we consider today makes several amendments to the Immigration and Nationality Act and other immigration laws to address the problem of aliens who commit serious crimes while they are in the United States, and gives federal law enforcement officials additional tools with which to combat organized immigration crime.

The most significant provisions of H.R. 668 are intended to accomplish one or both of two broad goals. First, the bill strengthens the Government's ability to efficiently deport aliens who are convicted of serious crimes. Second, the legislation adds immigration crimes to those crimes that the Federal Government may investigate under the Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization [RICO] law, and adds certain other crimes to the definition of "aggravated felonies," thereby expanding the number of criminal aliens who can be deported. The bill makes it clear that expedited deportation procedures that currently apply to nonresident aliens also apply to aliens who have been conditionally granted permanent residence.

Finally, in an effort to identify criminal aliens who may flee jurisdiction to avoid deportation, the bill directs the Criminal Alien Identification System, formerly the Criminal Alien Tracking Center created by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, to assist Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in identifying and locating criminal aliens who may be deported.

Mr. Speaker, the passage of proposition 187 in California in 1994, was indicative of the frustration of the American people with the number of illegal aliens in this country. Ironically, under the California law, a 7- or 8-year-old child can be deported, yet the Federal Government still has difficulty deporting some criminal aliens. Under current law we may not deport aliens who have been convicted of

crimes such as serious bribery, counterfeiting and forgery, perjury or bribery of a witness, or trafficking in stolen vehicles. In addition, aliens who have been sentenced to 5 or more years in prison, but have not served a full 5 years may not be deported. Sometimes they have been released early simply because of prison overcrowding. Furthermore, the INS may not initiate deportation proceedings against a criminal alien in prison until he has served 5 years, which means that sometimes, the criminal alien is released before the deportation order is ready and cannot be captured to be deported.

The costs to States for incarcerating these criminal aliens is a serious matter for our consideration as well. Yesterday, the House, with my strong support, approved an important amendment which would reimburse States with large immigration populations for these costs. The provision, approved as part of our crime legislation, sets aside a total of \$650 million annually for the next 5 years. My State of Florida houses over 5,500 criminal aliens within its correctional system. Consequently, criminal aliens are approximately 10 percent of the near 57,000 inmates in Florida's 50 correctional centers. Under this plan, Florida will be eligible to receive more than \$80 million to offset these costs.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we took the first step in paying for the costs incurred by States to house criminal aliens. However, many aliens who commit serious crimes are released into American society before even serving out their sentences—where they continue to pose a threat to the American people. Today we provide our Nation with the means to remove these individuals from our society altogether, and I urge support for this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 1995, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 90. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" to this substitute amendment that would have allowed a simple majority approval vote to override a Presidential line-item veto.

On February 10, 1995, I was absent for rollcall vote No. 118. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of final passage of H.R. 668, the Criminal Alien Deportation Improvements Act.

ISCC AWARDS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to some very special people in Virginia's 11th District. These are individuals who put the good of their community above their own needs. These people will be receiving awards from the Springfield Inter-Service Club Council ISCC on February 15, 1995.

The Inter-Service Club Council of Springfield, Virginia was established in 1986 to coordinate the good works of the numerous service clubs and civic organizations in the community. Today there are more than 60 clubs, groups, organizations and agencies from Springfield, Franconia, Annandale, Burke, Lorton, and Fairfax Station affiliated with the Inter-Service Club Council.

Since 1987 the ISCC of Springfield has honored individuals for their exceptional service to the community. On Wednesday, February 15, 1995, eight outstanding citizens of "Greater Springfield" will be awarded honors for their distinguished service.

Receiving certificates for their distinguished service to the community are:

Karen and Bill Brown, Rotarian Bill Brown and his wife Karen have dedicated themselves to helping children of the community in need at Christmas. Their efforts, in memory of their daughter Kristi who died in a tragic automobile accident, bring joy and giving to disadvantaged children of the community. The Breakfast Rotary, the Springfield K-Mart, and Student Volunteers from West Springfield High School assist in this project.

The Central Springfield Little League, the Central Springfield All Star Team are recognized for their remarkable advance to the Little League World Series in 1994. Their exceptional abilities, their team spirit, and their high degree of sportsmanship was an inspiration to all and a credit to the community.

Jerry Corbin, as the president of the Springfield Plaza Merchants Association, Jerry has been instrumental in the organization of the Springfield Days Weekend and the annual Halloween Parade for Children. Jerry's leadership and ability serves as an inspiration to a corps of volunteers and has been instrumental in attracting thousands of participants to these fine community activities. An active member of the Central Springfield Area Revitalization Committee [C-SPARC] and the Springfield-Franconia Midday Lions, Jerry is always helping people with his guidance, resources and funds; however he gives the credit to others.

The Springfield-Franconia Host Lions Club, for 40 years, our Host Lions have been raising money for charity, supporting sight and hearing programs, supporting the youth programs of Hayfield and Lee High Schools, and supported ECHO and Kolonia.

Honored as people of the year for 1994 are:

Kari Colburn, local business leader, and member of the Springfield Rotary Club, Kari has been instrumental in leading the efforts of the Rotary Club in service to the Fairfax County Women's Shelter for abused women and their children.

Captain Frederick E. Ellis, Fairfax County Police Department. In addition to the stellar leadership that Captain Ellis has provided as the chief of the Franconia Station FCPD, he has served our community as a volunteer leader in Boy Scout Troop 1343. In 1994 he served as the chairman of the Scouting for Food Drive conducted by the George Washington District, National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America. Under his leadership the Scouts collected more than 70 tons of food for the less fortunate citizens of the Washington area. Through his leadership our streets are safe, our homes secure, we enjoy an atmosphere of fair play and citizen's rights, and our hungry are fed.

Beth Smith, a member of the Friends of Pohick Regional Library, Beth has been personally responsible for coordinating and performing all landscape maintenance for the Pohick Regional Library since the summer of 1993. Stepping in as a volunteer, in the face of the severe cutbacks in county funding, Beth recruited a corps of volunteer labor, attracted the efforts of five Eagle Scout candidates, and inspired an entire community. The results of Beth's effort have brought prominence to the Burke-Springfield area by proclaiming to the world that our citizens care about their public facilities and are willing to maintain them, without using public funds.

John Sustar, a Knight of Columbus, John has served many years as an outstanding volunteer in Boy Scouts, youth sports, and in his church. A community leader, John has organized joint contracting for driveway and roofing repairs, and led the effort to install natural gas lines in this neighborhood. He is a former Grand Knight and is the editor of the monthly newsletter.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating these fine citizens on their outstanding work. It is citizens like these, scattered across America, that provide this country with our margin for excellence, in providing services to those in need, keeping our communities clean and beautiful and restoring the American dream to our young people. The Springfield Inter Service Club Council and its member organizations deserve our thanks and efforts.

IN HONOR OF WARREN FLOWERS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to honor Warren Flowers of Gainesville, Cooke County, TX, who recently announced his retirement as publisher of the Gainesville Daily Register following 58 years of service to the newspaper. I join his many friends in Gainesville in paying tribute to his distinguished career and to the many contributions that he has made to his community.

Warren Flowers was born in Shattuck, OK, on August 3, 1922, the oldest of six children born to Charlie and Hallie Flowers. His family moved to Texas when he was 4, and 9 years later, at the age of 13, he began his career at the Register as a paperboy. He later worked in the pressroom for 10 cents a day and, by his senior year in high school, he was the city circulation manager.

A graduate of Gainesville public schools and Cooke County College, Warren met his wife, Quade Little, while in college, and they were married September 1, 1942. He joined the Army Air Corps in October of 1942 and served with Archie Bunker and others in World War II until 1946. Warren then returned to the newspaper as circulation manager, a position he held until 1976, when he took the publisher's job.

Donrey Media Group purchased the Register in 1973, which resulted in the newspaper beginning to update its printing process. Warren watched the paper progress from an 8-page flatbed printing press that printed off hotlead type to its current 24-page electronic