

Border, it is likely that illegal immigration along the California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas perimeter would rise.

Byrne Grants. A 32 percent reduction could mean that 1,500 fewer formula grants would be made by states from the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance program. These grants give states broad assistance with the functioning of their criminal justice systems—with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders—and with the enforcement of Federal drug laws.

REDUCING INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION

Federal-aid Highways. A 32 percent cut in this program would eliminate \$6.7 billion in federal assistance to the states for highway projects and improvements in 2002. In addition, to achieve a 32 percent cut in outlays in 2002, tight caps on obligations would have to be set by the Congress in the preceding years. Already, all levels of government are spending approximately \$15 billion less than the level necessary to maintain our highway system at its current level of performance. In addition, since the U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that each \$1 billion spent on transportation creates 40,000–50,000 jobs, a cut of this magnitude could result in the loss of approximately 300,000 jobs in 2002 alone.

Federal Transit Administration. A 32 percent cut in FTA funding would reduce the amount available for key mass transit programs by about \$1.5 billion. This could adversely affect many of our nation's public transportation systems, particularly the smaller and medium-sized systems that depend more heavily on federal assistance and have fewer resources at their disposal. Transit agencies would have to either raise fares or reduce service, or both, to try to deal with reduced federal assistance. In addition, funding for the purchase of buses and rail vehicles would decline significantly, and transit new starts would be delayed or abandoned. Congestion and air pollution in major urban areas would increase because, as transit service is reduced, commuters would revert to automobiles.

FAA operations. A 32 percent cut would severely harm FAA's ability to maintain safe skies. Airline traffic is expected to increase over the next few years, so FAA's increased workload will require more federal funding, not less. A cut of more than \$1 billion could result in a staff reduction of 10,000 employees, including many safety personnel (controllers, technicians, and inspectors). Efforts to modernize the air traffic control system could be harmed. The result could be much less frequent and less comprehensive inspections of aircraft and an insufficient number of controllers to handle current and projected volumes of air traffic.

CUTTING SCIENCE AND ENERGY RESEARCH

National Science Foundation. A 32 percent cut in NSF would be \$1.2 billion in 2002, and would result in the elimination of more than 6,000 research and education grants in science and engineering to universities and other research institutions.

Department of Energy. A 32 percent cut in the DOE would mean that civilian research-related activities performed at more than 20 Department of Energy's labs located throughout the country would be but by more than \$900 million.

HARMING OTHER DOMESTIC PRIORITIES

National Institutes of Health. A 32 percent cut in NIH in 2002 would mean a \$4.5 billion reduction in funds for medical research from a projected level of \$14.6 billion. This would be \$2.8 billion below the Fiscal Year 1997 appropriated level. The \$4.5 billion cut is equivalent to the entire budget of the National Cancer Institute.

Veterans Medical Care. A 32 percent cut in the Veterans Administration could result in closing more than 250 VA medical facilities and counseling centers, could deprive more than 800,000 veterans access to VA medical care and could add more than 3 weeks to the waiting time for a service-connected compensation benefit claim.

Housing. The Section 8 program provides basic housing assistance for America's poor, disabled, and elderly. A 32 percent cut in this program translates into more than 800,000 fewer housing units. That means approximately 2.2 million people would lose housing assistance, including approximately 760,000 elderly and disabled Americans.

CDBG. Community Development Block Grants are used by cities to help finance housing rehabilitation, economic development, and large-scale physical development projects. On average, every dollar spent for CDBG leverages \$2.31 in private and other investment. A 32 percent CDBG cut would bring funding down to \$3.5 billion in 2002, 27 percent less than 1997. For many communities, that would be a substantial cut.

Drug Elimination Grants. A 32 percent cut would mean that these grants, which are used to fight drugs and crime in public housing, would be reduced by \$107 million to \$224 million in 2002.

Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). WIC would be cut by \$1.4 billion under this scenario. Nearly 2.5 million fewer women, infants and children would receive benefits. WIC provides supplemental coupons for specialized foods to low-income families as well as nutritional, educational and health care referrals. Studies show that the WIC program improves birth outcomes and has reduced the incidence of childhood anemia.

Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program. A 32 percent cut in LIHEAP could mean that about 2.75 million households could find themselves without heating assistance. The LIHEAP program serves low income families and senior citizens who otherwise might not be able to afford heating in winter.

ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO PAY FOR REPUBLICAN TAX BREAKS

As explained above, this study has calculated the effect of the Republican tax breaks using the approach adopted by Senator Robert Dole in last year's presidential campaign. Senator Dole offset most of the costs of his proposed tax breaks by cutting nondefense discretionary spending. This approach seems likely to be adopted again, especially given strong public opposition to past Republican proposals for cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and other mandatory programs. However, considering their record in the past, it remains possible that the Republicans would choose other methods to pay for their large tax breaks.

To help explain an alternative scenario for offsetting GOP tax breaks, the table below shows the relative contribution of different categories of spending to the spending cuts in last year's budget resolution.

DISTRIBUTION OF SPENDING CUTS IN REPUBLICAN BUDGET: 1996

[Dollars in billions]

	Last Year's GOP Budget	
	Amount	Percent
Discretionary	—\$233	34
Medicare	—158	24
Medicaid	—72	11
Other mandatory	—195	30
Total	—657	100

If Republicans chose to distribute the additional cuts to these programs, in

addition to nondefense discretionary, both Medicare and Medicaid cuts would increase dramatically from the levels proposed by the President. Medicare would receive nearly one-quarter of any additional cuts, and Medicaid cuts would increase by 14 percent. The table below shows how dramatically the cuts in the President's budget for Medicare would rise under this scenario, over a five- six- and seven-year period.

DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL SPENDING CUTS TO MEDICARE AND MEDICAID, BASED ON PREVIOUS REPUBLICAN BUDGET

[In billions of dollars]

Medicare:	
President's budget	—88
President's plus Republican cuts:	
5-year (\$200)	—138
6-year (\$256)	—181
7-year (\$290)	—239

Note: President's budget cuts assume alternative policies that achieve a balanced budget under CBO assumptions.

With the additional cuts, the cumulative reductions in Medicare would grow from the \$88 billion in the President's balanced budget to \$138 billion over five years. Over six years, cuts would increase to \$181 billion and the seven-year total would reach \$239 billion.●

REV. DR. EDGAR L. VANN, JR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have the honor of paying tribute to a great civic and religious leader and a dear friend, Rev. Dr. Edgar Leo Vann, Jr. On April 13, 1997, Reverend Vann will be celebrating his 20th anniversary as pastor of the Second Ebenezer Baptist Church in Detroit, MI.

Reverend Vann has been a longtime champion of civil rights and social justice. He serves on the executive boards of numerous Michigan civic organizations, including the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, the Detroit Empowerment Zone Corp., the Michigan Commission of Human Rights, and the Detroit Urban League.

As a member of the National Baptist Convention USA and the President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Reverend Vann is widely recognized as a religious leader. He currently ministers to more than 2,000 people at two consecutive Sunday services. Under his leadership, the Second Ebenezer Baptist Church maintains more than 50 active ministries.

One of Reverend Vann's most noted achievements in recent years was the purchase of a new home for his congregation. The new sanctuary was purchased in 1993 and, after extensive renovations, held its grand opening less than one year later.

A religious and civic leader, Rev. Dr. Edgar L. Vann, Jr. has been an integral part of the Detroit community for many years and will continue to play an important role in the years ahead. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Reverend Vann on his 20 years as pastor of the Second Ebenezer Baptist Church, and in wishing him well as he continues at the

helm of this important Detroit institution.●

TRIBUTE TO JOAN K. STEVENS

● Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today in order to commend and acknowledge Ms. Joan K. Stevens, who is retiring from the White House Military Office after more than 25 years of dedicated service to her country. Ms. Stevens has loyally assisted six Presidents as a liaison to the military and has had the kind of impact on peoples' lives that demands respect and compels our sincerest appreciation. She has facilitated over 500,000 military inquiries from the public and it is because of individuals such as Ms. Stevens that a healthy communication endures between the Commander in Chief and our troops out in the field.

Ms. Stevens first began working in the Special Counsel's Office of the White House in July of 1972. She later spent time in the First Lady's Office in February of 1973. In November of 1974, however, Ms. Stevens found her calling and the WHMO, in turn, discovered an invaluable and faithful staffer. She has been there ever since, working diligently to perpetuate the idea that the men and women of our Armed Forces are indeed important and have a discernible voice in our government that must be heard.

Also noteworthy is the fact that Ms. Stevens has, for more than two decades, been the single point of contact for the thousands of Presidential condolence letters to the next-of-kin of active duty personnel who have tragically died in military related accidents. Paying tribute to America's fallen warriors is an obligation that begins with the leadership of this country. It is hard to imagine the responsibility and burden Ms. Stevens' has ultimately shouldered on behalf of a grateful nation.

In recognition of her efforts and devotion, Ms. Stevens was recently awarded the Secretary of Defense Public Service Medal. It is clear Ms. Joan Stevens will be missed dearly. Still, as a fellow Virginian, the State Ms. Stevens has called home for over 26 years, I am truly honored to have the opportunity today to congratulate her on a remarkable career and salute her commitment to the President, the Armed Forces of the United States, and most importantly, to the American people. Mr. President, I ask that you join me, our colleagues both here and in the White House, and the family and friends of Ms. Joan K. Stevens, in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to this exemplary public servant.●

TRIBUTE TO MS. ARLENE DESEMONE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I pay tribute to a proud member of the Rhode Island community, Ms. Arlene DeSemone, who, sadly, passed away on March 11, 1997.

A leader in the insurance industry, Ms. DeSemone served as president of the Rhode Island Life Underwriters Association in 1992. She was president of the National Association of Insurance Women of Rhode Island from 1988 to 1990 and was named professional woman of the year by this organization in 1994. Ms. DeSemone received the R. Kelly Sheridan Award in 1996, as the outstanding life insurance professional of the year. In addition, Ms. DeSemone received the Lloyd Saunders Award for professional dedication to her clients and the industry, and served on numerous committees, including the first Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation Continuing Education Advisory Board.

Perhaps the greatest of Ms. DeSemone's contributions was her work in the fight against breast cancer. Despite her own personal struggle with the disease, Ms. DeSemone led the way in encouraging research efforts to find a cure for breast cancer. Ms. DeSemone cofounded the Rhode Island Breast Cancer Coalition in 1993, an organization whose initiatives received national praise and were recognized by President Clinton and the First Lady. The coalition continues to benefit from her efforts to raise consciousness about breast cancer.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Ms. Arlene DeSemone for her many contributions to Rhode Island and selfless dedication to helping others. Certainly, Ms. DeSemone embodied the strength and determination we all seek to find in ourselves.●

RETIREMENT OF BILL BREW

● Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to note the impending retirement of Mr. William E. Brew, who currently serves as the minority general counsel of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. As of April 4, his retirement date, Bill will have served 19 years and 1 day as a loyal and dedicated staff member of the U.S. Senate.

A veteran of the Vietnam war, Bill has held increasingly important positions of responsibility on the staff of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Since he was hired by Senator Alan Cranston in 1978, Bill has served as associate counsel, associate general counsel, minority counsel, deputy general counsel, general counsel, and most recently, minority general counsel to the committee.

Through the many political changes in the administration and Congress in his nearly two decades on Capitol Hill, Bill provided institutional continuity, serving as a source of reliable information and wise advice on legislation, policy, and procedure for Members of both parties.

Bill was closely involved in developing all of the major veterans initiatives that were enacted by Congress during this period. Among his major accomplishments are legislation relat-

ing to agent orange compensation, establishment of judicial review of veterans claims, establishment of the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals, and creation of programs relating to the readjustment needs of Vietnam and post-Vietnam veterans.

In addition to these special accomplishments, Bill worked hard to become the Senate's foremost authority on veterans health care matters. He served as an invaluable resource to members of the committee on the medical needs of the diverse, 27 million-strong veterans population as well as on the legal, administrative, and structural nuances of the hundreds of Department of Veterans Affairs' hospitals, outpatient clinics, nursing homes, and domiciliaries.

Bill is well known for his logical, analytical, and deliberative mind. His patience and fairness are legendary, and few have been as adept at working in the heated, give-and-take atmosphere of the legislative process. His adherence to the very highest personal and professional standards has been a credit to the U.S. Senate. In short, Bill has been the veteran's veteran, that special individual whom Senators, professional staffers, administration officials, and veterans advocates have trusted to render an objective assessment on any particular veterans issue or to undertake any worthy cause in behalf of those who served.

Mr. President, I believe that I have a special insight into the qualities of this outstanding individual. In the days and months immediately following my appointment to the U.S. Senate in 1990, Bill Brew was one of the experienced hands who helped indoctrinate me in the complexities of veterans policy and the doings of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. Since then, I and my staff have relied on him for advice on issues major and minor. Whatever success I have had in the way of veterans legislation is in great measure due to his assistance.

Indeed, no one worked longer or harder to improve the condition of Hawaii's 120,000 veterans than Bill Brew. It was his experience and energy that fueled a series of committee investigations revealing VA's historical neglect of the Aloha State's veterans. As a consequence of these inquiries, VA established four new primary care clinics and readjustment counseling centers in Hawaii; tripled the size of the Honolulu outpatient clinic; began preparations to construct a VA medical center on Oahu; and, established a unique residential treatment center for Pacific-area veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

So, Mr. President, it is with great reluctance that I extend Bill a fond farewell. I offer him my deep gratitude for the service he has rendered me and other members of this body over the last two decades. No one has worked harder to advance the public interest than this stellar public servant. I wish him well in all his future endeavors.●