

NATIONAL TRIM! BULLETIN

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**Lower Taxes through
Less Government**

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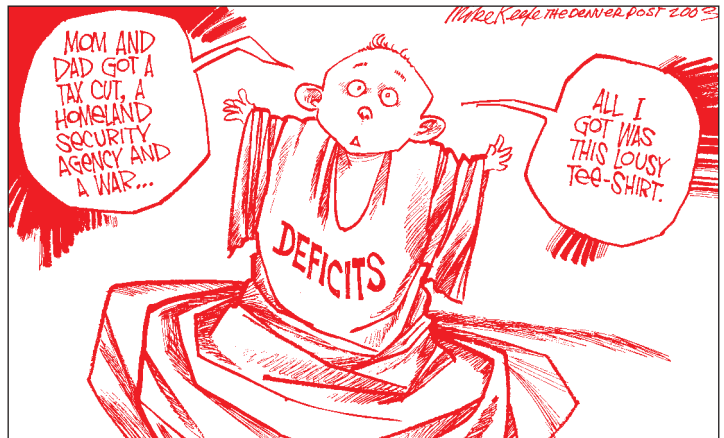
TO:

Treasury Department to Congress:

Mr. Speaker, Send Money!

Only last year, Congress increased the debt ceiling by \$450 billion — to \$6.4 trillion. Yet on Christmas Eve, Deputy Treasury Secretary Kenneth Dam sent a letter to “Santa” warning: “Due to the ongoing response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and the economic slowdown ... the Administration now projects that debt ... may reach the statutory ceiling in the latter half of February 2003.” (It did!)

Dam continued: “I am writing to request that Congress act promptly next year to ensure the government’s ability to finance its operations.”



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What is obvious to every bill payer is apparently not obvious to our government officials: If you can’t pay your bills, spend *less*. Many in Congress, unfortunately, would rather leave the bills for our children.

Your Congressman’s report card!

Did your representative shirk responsibility to decide war? See vote #5 on the back page!

Constitution Corner

Most of the enumerated **powers of Congress** are found in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, such as:

To declare war ...

To raise and support armies ...

To provide and maintain a navy ...

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces....

Although Article II, Section 2 designates that

The President shall be commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States ...

no one man — not even the President — has the authority to make war. Sadly, recent Presidents have routinely *usurped congressional powers* and put American troops at risk in undeclared wars and foreign “peacekeeping” interventions.



*Learn more about **TRIM:***

Call (800) 775-TRIM

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!

Please have someone contact me about **TRIM**.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

(Send to the **TRIM** address on the front page.) 107-6

Visit us on the internet at TRIMonline.org

Tax Bytes



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

\$7 million to support democracy in Burma



Up to \$3 million to preserve cultural traditions and promote conservation in Tibet



\$2.5 million for the Orangutan Foundation



\$750,000 for the Baseball Hall of Fame



\$350,000 for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame



\$90,000 for the Cowgirl Hall of Fame



A congressman joked that he would propose a Pork Barrel Hall of Fame, but he was afraid that Congress would fund it!

New Homeland Security Dept.

Is it Constitutional? No. It is, of course, constitutional for the federal government to protect the nation from terrorism and restructure its agencies. But this new mega-agency unconstitutionally shifts power from Congress to *one* person. It is also intended to fund and coordinate state and local police forces, inevitably reducing their independence, a significant step toward a police state.

Was the bill rushed through Congress? Yes. One congressman complained: “Now we are prepared to vote on a nearly 500-page bill that increases federal expenditures and raises troubling civil liberties questions. Adding insult to injury, this bill has not been made readily available to most members, meaning this Congress is prepared to create a massive new federal agency without even knowing the details. This is a dangerous and irresponsible practice.”

Will it increase our security against terrorism? According to a U.S. Government Accounting Office (GAO) report for January 2003, “GAO has designated the implementation and transformation of DHS [Dept. of Homeland Security] as a high risk.... Generally, successful transformations of large organizations, even those undertaking less strenuous reorganizations and with less pressure for immediate results, can take from 5 to 7 years to achieve.”

What is the bottom line? The hasty restructuring to create the massive Homeland Security Department could actually decrease our nation’s ability to defend against terrorism during the next few years. Politicians were more interested in impressing the voters with image rather than substance.

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.

The eight votes on page 4 include no large appropriations bills, because Congress deferred the votes on most of those bills until the new Congress convened in 2003.

More on Vote #4: *In 1954 Senator Lyndon Johnson pushed a little-noticed law through Congress that prohibited churches with a tax-exempt status from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This bill would reverse that prohibition so long as political campaign activities are not a “substantial part” of a church’s work.*

More on Vote #6: *This Election Overhaul bill establishes another dangerous precedent for federal control of state-managed elections. Our Founding Fathers understood that federal control of elections could result in far greater abuse than any mismanagement by the states.*

For additional background information on the votes, visit our website: TRIMonline.org



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**How did YOUR
 Representative
 Vote?**

FL 06

		EFFECT	VOTED FOR:	
			LOWER TAXES and LESS Government	HIGH TAXES and BIG Government
1	HR 5203: Education Tax Break. Would make some tax breaks permanent that provide education savings incentives and extend them to home schools. (Rejected 213-188 on Sept. 4, 2002, roll call #371. Failed on a motion requiring a 2/3 majority.) ★ = Voted FOR this bill ✗ = Voted AGAINST this bill	Tax relief	★	
2	HR 1701: Rent-To-Own Contracts. Sets federal standards for rent-to-own contracts. Preempts some state laws. Invades areas of exclusive state jurisdiction. (Passed 215-201 on Sept. 18, 2002, roll call #395.) ★ = Voted Against this bill ✗ = Voted FOR this bill	Usurps state powers		✗
3	HR 4691: Abortion Service Refusals. Clarifies that health care entities such as hospitals, HMOs, and health insurance plans may refuse to perform or pay for abortions without losing federal money. (Passed 229-189 on Sept. 25, 2002, roll call #412.) ★ = Voted FOR this bill ✗ = Voted AGAINST this bill	Freedom to act on conscience	★	
4	HR 2357: Churches and Campaign Activities. Would allow tax exempt religious organizations to politically campaign within limits and still retain their tax exemption. Details inside. (Rejected 178-239 on Oct. 2, 2002, roll call #429.) ★ = Voted FOR this bill ✗ = Voted AGAINST this bill	Restores free speech	★	
5	H J Res 114: Use of Military Force Against Iraq. Authorizes <i>President Bush</i> to decide to go to war with Iraq and enforce U.N. resolutions. <i>UnConstitutional</i> . (Passed 296-133 on Oct. 10, 2002, roll call #455.) Min. Cost: \$20 Billion if war ★ = Voted AGAINST this resolution ✗ = Voted FOR this resolution	Congress shirks its duty		✗
6	HR 3295: Election Overhaul. <i>UnConstitutional</i> . Authorizes funding over three years for states to overhaul election procedures and meet new federal standards. Details inside. (Passed 357-48 on Oct. 10, 2002, roll call #462.) Cost: \$3.9 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill ✗ = Voted FOR this bill	Expands federal control		✗
7	S 1533: Community and Rural Health Care. More <i>UnConstitutional</i> federal funding for health care. \$1.3 billion in 2002. Plus \$9 billion for community health centers, 2002-2006. (Passed 392-5 on Oct. 16, 2002, roll call #466.) Cost: \$10 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill ✗ = Voted FOR this bill	\$93 avg. cost per household		✗
8	HR 5710: Homeland Security. Consolidates 22 federal agencies into a gigantic cabinet-level department. A step toward federal control of local police. <i>More inside</i> . (Passed 299-121 on Nov. 13, 2002, roll call #477.) Cost: \$4.5 Billion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill ✗ = Voted FOR this bill	Dangerous increase in executive power		✗