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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 3030. Community Service Grants—Unemployment Benefits. Temporarily offers 13 weeks of federal unemployment benefits to laid-off workers who have exhausted their 26 weeks of state assistance. <i>Unconstitutional!</i> (Passed 227-179 on Feb. 4, 2004, roll call #18.) Cost: \$5.8 Billion FY05 ★ = Voted AGAINST this amendment X = Voted FOR this amendment	\$51	★	
2	HR 3873. Child Nutrition Programs. Extends funding through FY2008 for federal programs for school lunch and breakfast, child and adult care food, and after-school snacks. <i>Not a federal responsibility.</i> (Passed 419-5 on March 24, 2004, roll call #82.) Cost: \$226 Million FY2004-8 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	Minimal, but improper		X
3	HR 254. North American Development Bank—Concur with Senate Amendments. Would allow this bank established by NAFTA to serve an <i>expanded</i> area in Mexico and offer <i>below-market-rate</i> loans. (Passed 377-48 on March 25, 2004, roll call #87.) Cost: Uncertain ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	More foreign aid		X
4	H. Con. Res. 393. Fiscal 2005 Budget Resolution. Authorizes total spending for FY2005 of \$2.4 trillion (up 3%) for largely unconstitutional purposes, with a <i>\$550.7 billion planned deficit</i> . Irresponsible. <i>See Inside.</i> (Adopted 215-212 on March 25, 2004, roll call #92.) Cost: \$2.4 Trillion ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$21,053		X
5	HR 3550. Surface Transportation. Authorizes \$284 billion for federal highway, mass transit, safety and research programs. A huge increase with \$11.1 billion for 3,000+ projects that “bring home the bacon.” (Passed 357-65 on April 2, 2004, roll call #114.) Cost: \$284 Billion FY04-9 ★ = Voted AGAINST this bill X = Voted FOR this bill	\$2,491	★	
6	HR 2844. Continuity of Congress. Would require special elections to fill vacant house seats within 45 days of a catastrophe that kills at least 100 congressmen. Derails a dangerous constitutional amendment to <i>fill seats by appointment</i> . (Passed 306-97 on April 22, 2004, roll call #130.) ★ = Voted FOR this bill X = Voted AGAINST this bill	Protects “elected” representation	★	
7	HR 4181. “Marriage Penalty” Relief. Would make permanent the standard deduction and the current upper limit of the 15% bracket for <i>married couples</i> at double the levels for singles. (Passed 323-95 on April 28, 2004, roll call #138.) Savings: \$105 Billion FY2005-10 ★ = Voted FOR this bill X = Voted AGAINST this bill	\$921 (savings)	★	
8	HR 4275. Ten Percent Tax Bracket. Would permanently set the upper limit of the 10% income tax bracket at \$7,000 for individuals and \$14,000 for couples. Would otherwise revert to \$6,000 and \$12,000 in 2005. (Passed 344-76 on May 13, 2004, roll call #170.) Savings: \$218 Billion FY05-10 ★ = Voted FOR this bill X = Voted AGAINST this bill	\$1,912 (savings)	★	

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

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TO:

Are Medicare and Social Security Cuts Inevitable?

No Security in Social Security!

A salesman approaches you with a new insurance offer. He won't tell you what the future premiums will be, because they are subject to change. He won't tell you what the benefits will be, because these too are subject to change. If you sign up for the program, you will not be allowed to drop out. Even after you die, your kids will have to keep it up. What would be your reaction?

The answer is obvious. But that, in essence, describes the Social Security program. How much a worker pays, what he receives when he retires—even the age at which full benefits can be received—is at the whim of Congress. That's what Congress bought into for the American people in 1935, while the country was reeling from the Great Depression.



Ever since, the politicians have been unwilling to tame the growing monster they created. And now even Fed Chairman Greenspan says a crisis looms. *More inside.*

Your Congressman's Spending Report Card

Did your congressman vote for a planned deficit of \$550.7 billion? See vote #4 on the back page!



Constitution Corner

For decades, federal courts have ruled on matters strictly reserved to Congress and state legislatures, often stretching or even contradicting the meaning of the law, much to the delight of social revolutionaries.

Now the traditional definition of marriage is threatened. Rather than amending the Constitution, Congress should use its power under Article III, Sections 1 & 2 to protect marriage against federal judicial activists.

By simple statute, a courageous Congress can eliminate the jurisdiction of federal courts and the appellate jurisdiction of the U.S. Supreme Court over specific issues such as the constitutionality of state laws defining or regulating marriage.

The goal should be to keep issues out of the hands of the courts, not to amend the Constitution, thereby giving the courts opportunities to create more constitutional havoc.



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.



Tax Bytes

The first beneficiary of Social Security, Ida Fuller, paid a total of \$22 into the plan before retiring in 1940. By the time she died in 1975 she had collected over \$20,000 in benefits.



More young people believe in UFOs than think that Social Security will be able to supply their scheduled benefits.



Government employees are petrified at the suggestion that they be included in the Social Security System.



Per the Washington Post there is political support in D.C. to “put tens of thousands of Mexicans onto the Social Security roster and send hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits south of the border.”



Originally, if a qualified worker died before reaching 65, his estate was supposed to receive a refund of his Social Security taxes. In 1939 Congress reneged on the promised refunds.

Important Facts About Social Security

No Trust Funds

Contrary to what most Americans have been led to believe, there are not and never have been any Social Security trust funds! In 1940 the U.S. Supreme Court declared:

“The proceeds of both the employee and employer taxes are to be paid into the Treasury like other internal revenue generally, and they are not earmarked in any way.”

Essentially, the Social Security program is a giant Ponzi scheme (or chain letter) in which early entrants benefit handsomely, because they are funded from the taxes paid by later entrants. Without the force of government to support them, such scams eventually fall apart once the growth in contributions from new entrants fails to match the increasing claims against the program.

Baby Boomers Fuel Crisis

In February, Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the House Budget Committee and

warned that changing demographics threaten to burst the Medicare and Social Security bubble: “In 2008—just four years from now—the first cohort of the baby-boom generation will reach 62, the earliest age at which Social Security retirement benefits may be claimed and the age at which about half of prospective beneficiaries choose to retire; in 2011, these individuals will reach 65 and will thus be eligible for Medicare. This dramatic demographic change is certain to place enormous demands on our nation’s resources—*demands we almost surely will be unable to meet unless action is taken.*” [Emphasis added.]

The only genuine solution is to recognize that the program is fundamentally flawed and must be phased out in favor of private alternatives, as was done successfully in Chile during the 1970s. However, this phase-out will not be easy. How the nation got into its present bind must be understood if getting out is ever to be accomplished. For more information visit:

www.TRIMonline.org/topics/social_security

Private Alternatives to Social Security

To illustrate the enormous contrast between private investing and the Social Security program, the Washington-based Cato Institute looked at the future for a 35-year-old earning \$33,200 annually in 1998. Social Security promised him a return of \$1,559 per month upon retirement at age 67. Had he been able to invest his Social Security taxes in bonds, he would receive \$2,671 per month when he retires. If he were free to invest in a mixture of stocks and bonds, his return would increase to \$5,002 per month. And if he relied on investments totally in stocks, he would be able to purchase annuities paying \$9,575 per month.

About vote #4 on the back page ...

This budget resolution projects significant cuts in the deficit (from \$376.8 billion in fiscal 2005 to \$234 billion in fiscal 2009); however, according to a Congressional Quarterly Fact Sheet, these projected deficits are deceptively low due to an accounting sleight-of-hand whereby “these deficits are calculated by using the surpluses in the [so-called] Social Security trust funds to offset spending on other programs.” If the Social Security surpluses are not counted, the projected deficits would be \$550.7 billion in FY 2005 and \$471.8 billion in FY 2009.