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NEWS

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TAX & SPEND CRUSADE

**NEW CLINTON P.R. BLITZ WON'T SELL TAX & SPEND LIBERALISM:
TIME TO LOOK AT THE FACTS, START OVER BY CUTTING SPENDING FIRST**

President Clinton has taken his tax and spend crusade to California, heading West while his poll numbers go South. So far, the American people have heard some pretty interesting excuses and explanations for his big tax, little cut policy. Well, as Ronald Reagan used to say, "there he goes again."

His West Coast public relations blitz is just another political makeover to try to convince people he's cutting spending, when he's really breaking all world records for tax increases. Now, the President doesn't like it when some of us tell it like it is, that his economic plan is nothing but tax and spend liberalism. He calls this kind of criticism a "myth," but the only myth is that he is a so-called "new Democrat."

"I Don't Like Taxes"

In San Diego last night, President Clinton reportedly declared "I don't like taxes...". The problem is, if he doesn't like taxes, he must really hate spending cuts.

Let's face it, notwithstanding the President's considerable salesmanship skills, he can't sell a package that raises taxes \$3.23 for every dollar in spending cuts. He can't convince us that the American people's concerns are merely a "myth." And he can't hide behind the 1980s gimmick to tax and spend America to its knees.

Instead of trying to tell the taxpayers that he knows best, the President ought to listen to the American people instead, listen to their cries for real spending cuts, listen to members of his own party appealing for fiscal restraint, listen to Ross Perot, and even listen to Republicans who proposed to reduce the deficit as much as the President by cutting spending, not raising taxes. But it's clear, the only people he's listening to these days are his slick campaign consultants who are telling him he only needs to do a better job of false advertising, when he really needs to pull the product off the market.

Let's look at the facts.

The Painful Truth for President Clinton

Where are the President's spending cuts? Aside from the President's assault on the Pentagon, he comes up with only \$15 billion in net cuts during the next five years. That averages to only \$3 billion in cuts per year, out of a more than \$1.5 trillion budget. Those net non-defense cuts amount to a paltry 4% of the deficit reduction his plan provides. His \$75 billion in new defense cuts account for 20% of his deficit reduction. Now, let's see, 20 per cent plus 4 per cent equals 24 per cent. So where does the other 76% of the deficit reduction come from? You guessed it, new taxes and user fees. And these aren't my numbers, these aren't Republican numbers, they're the numbers provided by the Congressional Budget Office that the President insists we use.

Retroactive Tax Hikes, Promised Spending Cuts

And as for the President's proposed new spending cuts, 80% of them don't come until after the 1996 election. But you won't have to wait for your taxes to go up -- you may not know it, but you may already be paying, because the President's proposed tax rate increases are retroactive to January 1st, 1993. Let me repeat, if President Clinton has his way, many folks' taxes went up nearly five months ago. Unfortunately, all Americans will have to wait nearly five years for some disappointingly small spending cuts. As much as President Clinton would like to believe otherwise, these are the facts, not myths. The most important fact is this: the American people know the President has it backwards -- they want to cut spending first.

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