FOIA Number: 2006-0467-F

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Speechwriting

Series/Staff Member: Jeff Shesol

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19944

FolderID:

Folder Title:
Social Security / Medicare Tucson, AZ 2/25/99 [2]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	91	6	9	2

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Christopher Jennings to Jeff Shesol at 6:04pm. Subject: Re: Pls Ok. [partial] (1 page)	02/24/1999	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 19944

FOLDER TITLE:

Soc. Sec./Medicare Tuscon, AZ 2/25/99 [2]

2006-0467-F
vz1291

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

ORSZAG_J @ A1
02/25/99 05:28:00 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:
Subject: CLINTON DRUMS UP SUPPORT AMONG ELDERLY FOR MEDICARE PLAN

Date: 02/25/99 Time: 17:05
CClinton drums up support among elderly for Medicare plan

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) President Clinton turned to senior citizens Thursday for help in pressuring reluctant Republicans to support his plan for mending the ailing Medicare insurance program with billions of dollars in budget surpluses.

He said Republicans agree with his idea to reserve surpluses for fixing Social Security, but ``we're not there on Medicare yet. ... The people of this country need to make a decision.''

Before an enthusiastic crowd, he dropped biting remarks from his prepared text about Republicans ``rethinking their indiscriminate tax cut that would squander our surplus'' and favoring tax cuts that would ``crowd out Medicare.'' Aides said his draft speech was only a guideline.

In this traditionally GOP Republican state, Clinton received a rousing welcome two weeks after being acquitted in his Senate impeachment trial. An overflow crowd of 2,000 people, many of them elderly, jammed the Tucson Convention Center music hall, and many more waited outside under a hot sun.

Arizona Republican Rep. Jim Kolbe, who voted for three of the four articles of impeachment against Clinton in the House, drew loud boos from the audience when he was introduced to speak before the president. Asked later if he still felt Clinton were unfit for office, Kolbe said, ``Impeachment's over, let's talk about Social Security.''

Outside, a handful of protesters criticized administration policy toward Iraq and the president's personal behavior. One woman carried a sign referring to accusations against Clinton. It said, ``I believe Juanita and Paula and Kathleen.''

Clinton's long day was ending in San Francisco at a $1 million fund-raiser to help Democrats battle to regain control of the House and Senate. The ``Majority 2000'' dinner at the Fairmont Hotel was the first of nine such events in an effort to raise $9 million toward next year's congressional campaigns.

Clinton paid tribute to the fact that Arizona is the first state to have an all-female line of succession, from governor to superintendent of public instruction. He said he told his wife, Hillary, that he was going to begin his speech by saying Arizona is the mirror of the future.

``She said, yeah ... the women are in charge at last,'' the president said.

Clinton's seven-hour stop in Tuscon was the city's first presidential visit since Gerald Ford dropped by 25 years ago. Tucson and surrounding Pima County are Democrat-dominated. The county was instrumental in helping Clinton in 1996 become the first Democrat to carry Arizona in 48 years.

``I'm very grateful for that,'' Clinton said.

Opening a six-day trip blending business with vacation, Clinton urged support for his proposal to earmark 62 percent of expected surpluses to shore up Social Security and 15 percent to overhaul Medicare.

With tensions still frayed by the impeachment struggle, Clinton and Republicans are seeking the upper hand in a high-stakes contest over how to carve up $4.8 trillion in expected budget surpluses over 15 years. While Republicans are wary of Clinton's plan for Medicare, however, they remain divided among themselves over what tax cuts to pursue.

Clinton said there appeared to be ``some movement toward reaching some consensus about the nature of tax cuts, if they ought to be targeted and benefit the people that need it most, and try not to get in the way of saving Social Security.''

After his speech, the president stopped by an arts and crafts fair. He also visited the spring training camp of the Arizona Diamondbacks as they prepare for their second season in the National League.

On Friday, he will deliver a foreign policy address in San Francisco and fly to Los Angeles for a $175,000 fund-raiser for the Democratic National Committee.

On Saturday, Clinton heads to Park City, Utah, where he and his wife will join daughter Chelsea to celebrate her 19th birthday at a ski resort. Clinton will return Tuesday.

APNP-02-25-99 1723EST

Message Sent To:

Melissa G. Green
Jeff B. liebman
Richard L. Siewert
Jeffrey A. Shesol
Jonathan A. Kaplan
Natasha F. Bilimoria

Jonathan Orszag 02/25/99 05:18:52 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:
Subject:

Clinton Urges Republicans Move His Way On Medicare

By Steve Holland

TUCSON, Ariz. (Reuters) - President Clinton praised Republicans Thursday for wanting to save much of U.S. budget surpluses for Social Security and backed away from attacking them for not embracing his proposal to keep Medicare from running out of money.

Clinton began a six-day Western tour in this desert oasis, his first extended trip since his Senate impeachment trial ended in acquittal. He was also to make stops in San Francisco and Los Angeles, then fly to a ski resort for a long weekend in the Utah Rockies with daughter Chelsea, who turns 19 Saturday.

Speaking to a crowd at the Tucson Convention Center, many of them senior citizens, Clinton welcomed signs that Republicans are moving away from proposing a 10 percent tax cut that he says would mostly benefit the wealthy, in favor of less costly, targeted tax cuts which Democrats prefer.

He said he was encouraged that more members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats alike, were in agreement with him that 62 percent of the $2.8 trillion in budget surpluses forecast for the next 15 years should be set aside to ensure the survival of the Social Security benefits system until 2055.

But Clinton said Republicans should also embrace his proposal to devote a further 15 percent of the surplus $4.47 trillion expected over the next 15 years to strengthen the Medicare medical insurance program for senior citizens until 2020.

``There seems to be now some movement in the Republican majority away from having a large across-the-board tax cut that would take away from the surplus' ability to save Social Security,'' he said.

``We don't yet have that kind of agreement on setting aside some of the surplus for Medicare and I think we should. I am pushing for that because I think it's important. But I think we have to have both Social Security and Medicare fixed by the end of this year,'' he said.

His speech as delivered softened the tougher language from speech excerpts released by the White House beforehand in which he said Republicans were moving away from an ``indiscriminate'' broad tax cut and said their targeted tax cut proposals would ''crowd out'' allocating part of the surplus for Medicare.

White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Clinton still felt that way but simply used different words to express his views.

Still, Clinton's softer language appeared to reflect his attempt to work with the opposition party to get some bipartisan business done this year in the aftermath of the impeachment saga.

Outside the convention center, several dozen protesters provided a reminder of Clinton's 13-month scandal ordeal. ``Jail to the chief,'' they shouted.

Some held up signs remembering Juanita Broaddrick, the Arkansas woman who claimed Clinton sexually assaulted her 21 years ago, Paula Jones, whose sexual harassment lawsuit triggered the Lewinsky scandal, and Kathleen Willey, a former White House volunteer who said the president groped her.

``I believe Juanita, Paula and Kathleen,'' said a sign held up by a woman.

Inside the hall Arizona Republican Rep. Jim Kolbe, a moderate who accompanied Clinton on Air Force One from Washington, was booed by the largely Democratic audience when he was introduced. He had voted for Clinton's impeachment in the House. ``We love you Bill,'' some in the crowd yelled.

Republicans, whose impeachment drive against Clinton was a loser in public opinion polls, are divided on the issue of tax cuts. They indicated this week that they had put on hold their plans for a broad tax cut -- although Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi said after congressional leaders met Clinton Tuesday that he still favored one.

Various proposals circulating among them call for targeted tax cuts, such as wiping out the so-called ``marriage penalty tax'' in which couples are taxed more than singles.

After the speech Clinton squeezed in a taste of America's national pastime -- baseball -- by dropping by the spring training camp of the Arizona Diamondbacks, the state's new major league baseball team.

He then was flying to San Francisco to help raise $1 million for Democratic congressional candidates at a $12,500-a-plate dinner Thursday night.

Message Sent To:

Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP
Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP
Jeff B. Liebman/OPD/EOP
Natasha F. Bilimoria/OPD/EOP
Jonathan A. Kaplan/OPD/EOP
Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

[redacted] 02/25/99 08:28:39 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:
Subject: MSNBC.com Social Security Story

Clinton touts entitlements plan

In Tucson to discuss Social Security, Medicare refinancing

By Tom Curry, MSNBC

Feb. 25 — President Bill Clinton went to Tucson Thursday to drum up support for his plan to use hoped-for federal budget surpluses over the next 15 years to rearrange the finances of Social Security and Medicare. "Until we agree to use the surplus to strengthen Medicare, we cannot say we have met the test of future generations," Clinton declared.

CLINTON SAID Republicans and Democrats agree on reserving 62 percent of the anticipated budget surpluses to fix Social Security.

But, Clinton added, "We're not there on Medicare yet. And the Medicare problem will come sooner."

Clinton wants to use most of any future budget surpluses to buy Treasury securities that would be entered in Social Security ledger books as the federal government's promise to pay future benefits out of future tax revenues.

Clinton proposes to use another 15 percent of any surplus to bolster Medicare, the insurance plan that helps pay medical costs for 40 million older Americans.

As Clinton spoke in Arizona, a key Republican legislator told an audience in Washington that Clinton's refinancing plan was more cosmetic than substantive. "It doesn't have substance, it isn't really meaningful, but give this guy a podium and he does well," said Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Calif., co-chairman of a bipartisan Medicare reform commission.

Both Medicare and Social Security face financial stresses in the next few decades as the Baby Boom generations reach retirement age and become eligible to collect benefits.

Clinton has not proposed cost-saving measures such as raising the eligibility age or requiring the well-to-do elderly to pay higher premiums.

SHIFT IN ELDERLY INSURANCE

In Washington, Thomas's Medicare reform commission is wrestling with a plan to subsidize older Americans' purchase of private insurance as an alternative to the current system. Commission co-chairman Sen. John Breaux, D- La., said it may extend its Monday deadline to issue its blueprint for overhauling Medicare.

The commission is considering a fundamental change in Medicare. Instead of directly paying the medical bills of elderly patients, Breaux proposes to give patients the money to buy insurance coverage from private health plans.

The Breaux concept — called "premium support" — would reduce Medicare spending but faces opposition from Democrats who fear it would shift costs to the elderly and jeopardize the 34-year tradition of taxpayer-paid health insurance for older Americans.

The Medicare program is growing rapidly: In 1980, spending on Medicare benefits was $31 billion, or a bit more than 5 percent of all federal outlays. By 2004, assuming there are no changes in current law, spending on Medicare will total 14 percent of all federal outlays.

Medicare's Hospital Insurance Fund, which pays in-patient hospital expenses, will be depleted by 2008. But Clinton says his plan to reserves 15 percent of the projected surpluses for Medicare would keep the program solvent until 2020.

A NEW ENTITLEMENT?

Clinton also has urged Congress to create a new prescription drug benefit for Medicare beneficiaries. Breaux's 17-member commission is trying to reach an accord on whether taxpayers should provide this new entitlement and, if so, how to do so in cost-effective manner.

While 65 percent of Medicare beneficiaries already have a prescription drug benefit either from their former employer's insurance plan or from Medigap insurance, the 35 percent who do not have a drug benefit must use their own money to buy prescription drugs.

"Yes, [the new entitlement] will be more costly on the front end, but over the long run it is bound to save money," Clinton recently said. "It will keep people out of the hospital.

It will keep people away from more expensive medical procedures. It will lengthen life and it will lengthen the quality of life.

And there's the rub: better medical care, including Clinton's proposed drug benefit, lengthens life-spans, meaning that on average elderly folks will be around longer to collect their Medicare benefits, adding to the burden on future taxpayers.

FUND-RAISING EVENTS

From Arizona, Clinton flies to San Francisco, where he'll mingle with donors at a $12,500-per-person dinner at the home of philanthropist Gordon Getty, son of oil mogul J. Paul Getty. The Getty event is designed to raise $1 million to boost the Democrats in their quest to win control of Congress in next year's elections.

On Friday, Clinton will go to Los Angeles to appear at a $250-per-person reception expected to raise $175,000.

END

Message Sent To:

02/25/99 08:18:08 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: CNN.com Social Security Story

Clinton stumps for Social Security bailout plan

February 25, 1999

Web posted at: 5:02 p.m. EST (2202 GMT)

TUCSON, Arizona (AllPolitics, February 25) -- President Bill Clinton, on the road to build support for his administration's plan to shore up Social Security and Medicare, said the nation will be glad 10 to 20 years from now that it made the hard decisions now needed to save the two programs.

"I know it'd be a lot more popular to say, 'We've got a surplus, it's your money, I'm just going to give it back to you,'" Clinton told an audience at the Tucson Convention Center. "Then you could all cheer and I could go home. We'd go watch baseball or do something else."

But Clinton -- on a western trip to talk policy, raise campaign funds for Democrats and celebrate his daughter Chelsea's 19th birthday -- said the wiser course is to resist the temptation for sizable across-the-board tax cuts.

Instead, Clinton said, the nation should use its federal budget surpluses to pay down the debt and make sure Social Security and Medicare can withstand the onslaught of aging and retiring Baby Boomers.

"We have a responsibility to the future," Clinton said. "This country's still around here after more than 200 years because whenever the chips are down and we had to make a decision about what kind of country we were going to be and what kind of future we were going to have, we did the right thing and we kept going forward."

Clinton said there is support in Congress for earmarking funds for Social Security, but there is no agreement on Medicare yet. He said he wants solutions to both problems this year.

"I think we have to have both Social Security and Medicare fixed by the end of this year," he said.

Medicare, the health plan program for the elderly, is expected to run out of money in about 10 years if no changes are made. If lawmakers don't agree on changes for Social Security, which provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, that program will run out of money in about 30 years.

Clinton wants to use about two-thirds of federal budget surpluses expected over the next 15 years to pay down the government's debts to private investors who hold Treasury bonds, which many economists believe would help the economy expand.

The administration would put IOUs in Social Security's trust fund based on the expectation that more money would flow from a bigger economy and could be used to pay off those IOUs. But analysts from the Congressional Budget Office and some Republicans have pointed out that is different than actually setting aside hard dollars to make sure the government can pay people's retirement benefits in future years.

During his Arizona stopover, Clinton also planned to visit the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team at their spring training camp. From there, he will go to San Francisco for "Majority 2000" fund-raising dinner for House and Senate Democrats.

His trip also includes a foreign policy address Friday in San Francisco and vacation time beginning Saturday at a Park City, Utah, ski resort to celebrate his daughter's birthday. The first family will be there through Tuesday.

END

Message Sent To: ________________________________

Jonathan Orszag 02/25/99 05:24:24 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:
Subject: He always softens the language when Republicans are around....

Clinton Brings Platform West

By KEVIN GALVIN Associated Press Writer

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - Sensing an advantage in the debate over Social Security and taxes, President Clinton today pressured Congress to abandon calls for a broad tax cut and adopt his proposal to shore up Medicare.

Clinton said Republicans appear to be moving away from the idea of across-the-board tax cuts toward targeted tax breaks that ``benefit people that need it most.'' And he said Republicans and Democrats alike agree on reserving 62 percent of expected budget surpluses to fix Social Security.

But, he added, ``We're not there on Medicare yet. And the Medicare problem will come sooner.'' Clinton wants to reserve 15 percent of the surpluses for fixing Medicare.

The health plan program for the elderly is expected to go bankrupt in about a decade if no changes are made. If Social Security is not fixed, it would run out of money in about 30 years.

``Until we agree to use the surplus to strengthen Medicare, we cannot say we have met the test of future generations,'' said Clinton, who wants to overhaul the program to extend its life to 2020.

In delivering his speech, Clinton pulled back from harsher language in his prepared text that ridiculed the Republicans' ``indiscriminate tax cut that would squander our surplus.''

He also discarded a remark that the Republican alternative package of tax cuts ``apparently will still crowd out Medicare.'' White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Clinton still holds that view, although he did not express it directly.

``He made the same points with slightly different language,'' Toiv said.

Today's speech to an audience composed largely of senior citizens at the Tucson Convention Center was the first piece of a six-day presidential trip through Western states that will mix business with political fund raising and some vacation time.

With Bachman Turner Overdrive's ``Taking Care of Business'' blaring over the speakers, Clinton spent more than fifteen minutes greeting well-wishers at the front of the crowd. He received hugs and kisses from several women in the front and reached deep into the crowd to shake hands. Before leaving, he bounded onto the stage and waved goodbye to the crowd.

Outside the hall, about three dozen protesters holding signs critical of administration policy towards Iraq and the president's behavior concerning Monica Lewinsky chanted: ``Character does matter!''

Like much of Arizona, Tucson is a haven for retirees. In the winter, seniors from colder climates flock to Tucson for the sunshine and golf courses.

While Arizona is considered a Republican stronghold, Tucson and surrounding Pima County are Democrat-dominated. The county was instrumental in helping Clinton in 1996 become the first Democrat to carry Arizona in 48 years.

Later in the day, Clinton planned to visit with the Arizona Diamondbacks at their spring training camp before flying to San Francisco, where he was to be guest of honor at a fund-raising dinner for House and Senate Democrats.

The Majority 2000 dinner at the Fairmont Hotel was the first of nine such events the Democratic committees planned to hold this year in an effort to raise $9 million toward next year's congressional campaigns.

Clinton was making a foreign policy address Friday morning in San Francisco before traveling to Los Angeles for a fund-raiser to benefit the Democratic National Committee's efforts to reach out to younger voters and women.

On Saturday, Clinton was heading to Park City, Utah, where he and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and were celebrating daughter Chelsea's 19th birthday at a ski resort. The first family planned to remain at the resort until Tuesday.

Message Sent To:

Melissa G. Green/OPD/EOP
Richard L. Siewert/WHO/EOP
Jonathan A. Kaplan/OPD/EOP
Jeff B. Liebman/OPD/EOP
Natasha F. Bilimoria/OPD/EOP
Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

as they rethink their approach to tax cuts across-the-bd

say so

Draft 02/24/99 1:30pm

Taxpayer dollars –

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER MUSIC HALL
TUCSON, ARIZONA
February 25, 1999

Acknowledgments: Governor Jane Hall TBD; Reps. Ed Pastor and Jim Kolbe; Mayor George Miller TBD; County Executive TBD; senior TBD

In my State of the Union Address a month ago, I talked about one of the greatest challenges facing our nation: the aging of America. I want to talk a little more about that today, about saving Social Security and strengthening Medicare for the 21st Century. But first, I want to say how pleased I am to see so many here who are already meeting the challenges of older Americans -- as representatives of senior groups, as volunteers at senior centers, as members of retirement communities. I have always believed the people of this state have a special sensitivity to issues like the ones we're discussing today, because Arizona -- with its natural beauty and terrific weather, its opportunities for healthy living -- attracts so many Americans in their retirement years.

So many challenges to prepare ed for livability – then... seniors

Well, the appeal of Arizona is only going to increase. Here in Pima County alone, the number of people over 65 has more than doubled since 1980. And nationally, the number of people over 65 will double by the year 2030. The retirement of the Baby Boomers -- all 76 million of us -- will change not only Arizona but the face of America.

The aging of America means that, more than ever, we must think about and plan for and save for the future. Families and public figures, communities and states and the national government, we must all plan for the future. And we must do so in a way consistent with our national values -- a way that renews our shared responsibility to one another, across generational lines. Because the decisions we make today about what to do with the budget surplus, and about how to save Social Security and Medicare, are every bit as important to younger Americans as they are to older Americans.

So the decisions we make today, we must make wisely -- if we're going to make good on the truly historic opportunity before us. And it is an unprecedented opportunity. We live in a time of economic renaissance, the longest peacetime expansion in American history. Since I took office we have ~~created~~ nearly 18 million new jobs; the lowest peacetime unemployment ~~is at its lowest point~~ since 1957; and wages are rising at more than twice the rate of inflation. Opportunity is abundant. America is working again.

Orszag

It should not surprise us if at times like this, at times of profound prosperity, some Americans might wish to relax, to coast, to let the future take care of itself. But I do not believe

that any of us have worked this hard for this long to leave our children, and our grandchildren, with our own unfinished business.

That is why, in my State of the Union Address, I proposed that we invest the budget surplus in saving Social Security and strengthening Medicare. Saving 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security for 15 years, and investing a modest portion in the private sector, will not only increase the rate of return but will keep Social Security a rock-solid guarantee for 55 years. And ~~if~~ we must work together ~~and~~ to make the tough choices, and ~~we can~~ extend the life of Social Security for 75 years, while doing more to reduce poverty among elderly women and lifting the limit people on Social Security can earn.

I am encouraged that more and more members of Congress, members like Jim Kolbe and Ed Pastor, on both sides of the aisle, are pledging to put first things first. Even in the majority party, there is agreement that setting aside the lion's share of the surplus to save Social Security is the right thing to do -- and that we should do it right now. I am also pleased that Republican leaders are moving away from an indiscriminate, across-the board tax cut that would squander our surplus, and are instead moving toward the kind of targeted tax cuts proposed in my State of the Union Address ~~and paid for in my balanced budget~~. as they shrink

& challenge GOP for each # they use ~~to strengthen~~ tax cuts

Put this # to med

GOP quiet

So there is some common ground in our great debate. There are signs, welcome and promising signs, that we can make the right choices for our future in a bipartisan way. But I hope both sides will bring the same spirit into the discussion of Medicare, which runs out of funds in 2008. That's just nine years away. Now, we want any solution to be bipartisan, but make no mistake about it: we must save Medicare. Then we can talk about the rest of the surplus.

That's what my plan does + that's the way to strengthen Medicare.

By setting aside 15 percent of the surplus for 15 years, as I have proposed, we can strengthen Medicare for the next 20 years. And we should aim higher. If we work together, we can provide coverage of prescription drugs for seniors. As many of you can well attest, affordable prescription drugs are seniors' greatest growing need.

Topic sent. we ~~start~~ must cont. search for common grd. to use surplus

So we have agreed to save Social Security. We are approaching agreement on using surplus **sensible, targeted tax cuts** for **that maintain our fiscal discipline. But until we have agreement** to use surplus to ~~help~~ strengthen **on saving Medicare, we cannot say we have met the test of future generations.**

Now, some of the younger members of this audience may feel a little left out of this discussion: We are talking about retirement benefits; we are talking about health care for the elderly. But the decisions we make about Social Security and Medicare are critical to the future of every young person in this room and every young person in America. Here is why: we have a debt. A national debt. And either we are going to pay it down, or our children ~~are~~.
we will leave it as a burden on...

Let me put it in simple terms. When I took office in 1993, America was spending 14 cents of every taxpayer dollar in interest on the debt -- 8 times more than we were spending on education and training. Just on the interest. Now, if we do nothing to pay down the debt itself, ~~the burden on~~ our children and grandchildren ~~will only grow~~. But if we save Social Security now, and strengthen Medicare in the way I proposed, then in 15 years we will be paying only 2 cents of every tax dollar, and by 2018 we will completely erase the national debt.

int rates wd be ↑ + our econ wd be weaker for

higher up?

There is more we must do for our children. My budget also makes historic investments in education -- from quality teaching to school modernization, from the afterschool programs that keep kids safe to the summer school programs that keep kids learning.

But by saving Social Security. . . strengthening Medicare. . . and paying down the debt, we will meet the critical first tests of the 21st Century. And these are the same challenges that Americans, over the coming months and years, should meet together -- across lines of party and generation. Because none of us wants the choices we made yesterday -- or defer today -- to burden our children tomorrow. Instead, the decisions we make here and now should empower our children, should give them the strength and freedom to make <u>their</u> time even better than our own. Thank you.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker
Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	Christopher Jennings to Jeff Shesol at 6:04pm. Subject: Re: Pls Ok. [partial] (1 page)	02/24/1999	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Speechwriting
Jeff Shesol
OA/Box Number: 19944

FOLDER TITLE:

Soc. Sec./Medicare Tuscon, AZ 2/25/99 [2]

2006-0467-F
vz1291

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.
PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Christopher C. Jennings
02/24/99 06:04:15 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc: sarah a. bianchi/ovp @ ovp, sarah a. bianchi/ovp @ ovp

Subject: Re: pls OK...

ok. I am fine on this. The only thing that comes to mind is whether you need an insert that describes why the surplus is needed for Medicare (i.e., every independent analyst confirms that the Medicare Trust Fund cannot be extended for any length of time WITHOUT additional outside revenues UNLESS excessive provider and beneficiary cuts are assumed.) [Perhaps Sarah can suggest some language OR you can look at our past stuff on this?] If you decide to add something, please give me a heads up. Thanks.

[redacted] P5 [001]

cj

That's even sooner

w/o Med

Complex prob — more than SoC.

Saved for 10 yrs. in '97 ~~[illegible]~~, budget,

but we said

[illegible]

Elliot J. Diringer
02/24/99 02:10:32 PM

Record Type: Record

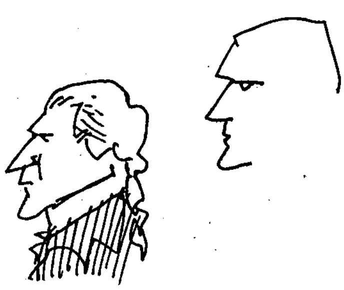
To: Jeffrey A. Shesol/WHO/EOP

cc: Fred DuVal/WHO/EOP, Beth A. Viola/CEQ/EOP
Subject: sprawl langauge for Tuscon

A strong community is a livable community. It's easy to see why so many people are moving to southern Arizona -- where else can you play golf 365 days a year? But as you're seeing, new growth brings new stresses and strains. Traffic congestion. Overcrowded schools. The challenge -- the same challenge being faced by communities across the country -- is to grow in ways that ensure a high quality of life and strong, sustainable economic growth. And I'm pleased to see the remarkable efforts under way here to meet that challenge -- to accommodate new people and new growth, while preserving the extraordinary landscapes that are so much a part of your history and culture.

We're committed to helping you meet that challenge. Vice President Gore and I have proposed a new Livability Agenda, to give communities new tools and resources to reduce traffic congestion, save green space, and promote smart growth. Working in partnership, we can build livable communities for the 21st century.

Next wk, med comm.
— I believe that we can work



Draft 02/24/99 12:45pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE
TUCSON CONVENTION CENTER MUSIC HALL
TUCSON, ARIZONA
February 25, 1999

Acknowledgments: Governor Jane Hall TBD; Reps. Ed Pastor and Jim Kolbe; Mayor George Miller TBD; County Executive TBD; senior TBD

In my State of the Union Address a month ago, I talked about one of the greatest challenges facing our nation: the aging of America. I want to talk a little more about that today, about saving Social Security and strengthening Medicare for the 21st Century. But first, I want to say how pleased I am to see so many here who are already meeting the challenges of older Americans -- as representatives of senior groups, as volunteers at senior centers, as members of retirement communities. I have always believed the people of this state have a special sensitivity to issues like the ones we're discussing today, because Arizona -- with its natural beauty and terrific weather, its opportunities for healthy living -- attracts so many Americans in their retirement years.

Well, the appeal of Arizona is only going to increase. Here in Pima County alone, the number of people over 65 has more than doubled since 1980. And nationally, the number of people over 65 will double by the year 2030. The retirement of the Baby Boomers -- all 76 million of us -- will change not only Arizona but the face of America.

The aging of America means that, more than ever, we must think about and plan for and save for the future. Families and public figures, communities and states and the national government, we must all plan for the future. And we must do so in a way consistent with our national values -- a way that renews our shared responsibility to one another, across generational lines. Because the decisions we make today about what to do with the budget surplus, and about how to save Social Security and Medicare, are every bit as important to younger Americans as they are to older Americans.

So the decisions we make today, we must make wisely -- if we're going to make good on the truly historic opportunity before us. And it is an unprecedented opportunity. We live in a time of economic renaissance, the longest peacetime expansion in American history. Since I took office we have created 18 million new jobs; peacetime unemployment is at its lowest point since 1957; and wages are rising at more than twice the rate of inflation. Opportunity is abundant. America is working again.

It should not surprise us if at times like this, at times of profound prosperity, some Americans might wish to relax, to coast, to let the future take care of itself. But I do not believe

that any of us have worked this hard for this long to leave our children, and our grandchildren, with our own unfinished business.

That is why, in my State of the Union Address, I proposed that we invest the budget surplus in saving Social Security and strengthening Medicare. Saving 62 percent of the surplus for Social Security for 15 years, and investing a modest portion in the private sector, will not only increase the rate of return but will keep Social Security a rock-solid guarantee for 55 years. And if we work together and make the tough choices, we can extend the life of Social Security for 75 years, while doing more to reduce poverty among elderly women and lifting the limit people on Social Security can earn.

I am encouraged that more and more members of Congress, members like Jim Kolbe and Ed Pastor, on both sides of the aisle, are pledging to put first things first. Even in the majority party, there is agreement that setting aside the lion's share of the surplus to save Social Security is the right thing to do -- and that we should do it right now. I am also pleased that Republican leaders are moving away from an indiscriminate, across-the board tax cut that would squander our surplus, and are instead moving toward the kind of targeted tax cuts proposed in my State of the Union Address and paid for in my balanced budget.

So there is some common ground in our great debate. There are signs, welcome and promising signs, that we can make the right choices for our future in a bipartisan way. But I hope both sides will bring the same spirit into the discussion of Medicare, which runs out of funds in 2008. That's just nine years away. Now, we want any solution to be bipartisan, but make no mistake about it: we must save Medicare. Then we can talk about the rest of the surplus.

By setting aside 15 percent of the surplus for 15 years, as I have proposed, we can strengthen Medicare for the next 20 years. And we should aim higher. If we work together, we can provide coverage of prescription drugs for seniors. As many of you can well attest, affordable prescription drugs are seniors' greatest growing need.

So we have agreed to save Social Security. We are approaching agreement on sensible, targeted tax cuts that maintain our fiscal discipline. But until we have agreement on saving Medicare, we cannot say we have met the test of future generations.

Now, some of the younger members of this audience may feel a little left out of this discussion: We are talking about retirement benefits; we are talking about health care for the elderly. But the decisions we make about Social Security and Medicare are critical to the future of every young person in this room and every young person in America. Here is why: we have a debt. A national debt. And either we are going to pay it down, or our children are.

Let me put it in simple terms. When I took office in 1993, America was spending 14 cents of every taxpayer dollar in interest on the debt -- 15 times more than we were spending on education, training, and employment services. Just on the interest. That's down to 11 cents today. Now, if we sit content with that, and do nothing to pay down the debt itself, the burden on our children and grandchildren will only grow. But if we save Social Security now, and strengthen Medicare in the way I proposed, then in [15] years we will be paying only 2 cents of every tax dollar, and by [2019] we will completely erase the national debt.

There is more we must do for our children. My budget also makes historic investments in education -- from quality teaching to school modernization, from the afterschool programs that keep kids safe to the summer school programs that keep kids learning.

But by saving Social Security. . . strengthening Medicare. . . and paying down the debt, we will meet the critical first tests of the 21st Century. And these are the same challenges that Americans, over the coming months and years, should meet together -- across lines of party and generation. Because none of us wants the choices we made yesterday -- or defer today -- to burden our children tomorrow. Instead, the decisions we make here and now should empower our children, should give them the strength and freedom to make <u>their</u> time even better than our own. Thank you.

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ARIZONA/TUCSON CENSUS STATISTICS

1980

Arizona (65+) 307,000 people

Total Number of People in Arizona

2,718,000 people

Pima County (Tucson is part of this county) (65+)

62,194 people

Total Number of People in Pima County

531,493 people

% of elderly people in AZ compared ~~with to~~tal state population

11.30%

% of elderly people in Pima County compared with total Pima County population

11.70%

1990

Arizona (65+) 476,074 people

Total Number of People in Arizona

3,665,339 people

Pima County (Tucson is part of this county) (65+)

51,198 people

Total Number of People in Pima County

666,880 people

TOTAL POP

405,390

→ 12.60%

% of elderly people in AZ compared with total state population

12.99%

% of elderly people in Pima County ~~compared~~ with total Pima County population

13.72%

1997

Arizona (65+) 602,409 people

Total Number of People in Arizona

4,554,966 people

Pima County (Tucson is part of this county) (65+)

107,798 people

www.ci.tucson.az.us/planning

Total Number of People in Pima County

700,150 people

% of elderly people in AZ compare~~d with to~~tal state population

13.23%

% of elderly people in Pima County compared with total Pima County population

? 15.4%

32% ↑

weather, cost of living,

Congressman Jim Kolbe
5TH DISTRICT ARIZONA

SPEECHES

Congressman Jim Kolbe
State of the District Remarks
Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce
April 15, 1998

Remember when President John F. Kennedy, in his 1961 Inaugural Address, challenged the American people to "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country?" I'm convinced Kennedy chose his words with care and purpose, because this is one of those transcendent lines that captures the essence of what this nation is all about.

He did not say "Ask not what your government can do for you; ask what you can do for your government." That just wouldn't have had the same ring to it, nor the same meaning, would it? President Kennedy meant to challenge Americans to see our country as our forefathers first articulated it in the preamble to the Constitution -- as We the People. It is this principle which has motivated generations of Americans. It is this principle which can motivate us still.

Personal liberty -- the freedom to choose -- This is the cornerstone of American democracy. But freedom isn't free. If each of us is to fully enjoy the opportunities and blessing of liberty, then all of us -- We the People -- must accept responsibility for our own actions, and for how our actions affect the lives of our neighbors. Individual liberty and civic responsibility are two sides of the same coin. Each is of little value without the other. The only way a free society can safeguard liberty for individuals is to insist upon justice for all.

And so, as we approach the new millennium and consider what kind of world our children will inherit, there is a very simple, direct question we need to answer. Does America's future reside with We the People, or We the Government?

We the People can make decisions faster, take up new ideas quicker, and become more competitive by putting efficient, new technologies to work in ways that create economic opportunities for the greatest number of people. We the Government makes decisions ponderously, resists change, and is loath to cede its prerogatives and power to a job-creating private sector.

We the People can invent a future in which no one is left behind and everyone stands to benefit. We should require our government, therefore, to act in ways that liberate us to heed the better angels of our nature and achieve a safer and more prosperous future for ourselves and -- more importantly -- for our children and our children's children.

We the People will be well served by a government that focuses on the following four goals: First, we need to overhaul our tax system and cut the tax burden for every American so that no one will be taxed at a rate more than 25 percent. We need to humanize and modernize the bureaucracy that collects so much money -- the Internal Revenue Service.

Second, we should enable every American to have more control over their retirement savings so that all may retire with dignity and security. Third, we must set out sights on a goal of creating a drug-free, safe America. And fourth, we must create the best system of learning and education in the world, and make elementary and secondary education a reality for every American child.

TAXES

Since today is Tax Day, it seems fitting to begin by focusing of steps we in Congress are taking to reform the Internal Revenue Service and the impossibly complex, and unfair, Tax Code.

Remember last fall when President Clinton told the American people that the IRS was functioning better than when he first took office? I had to gulp hard when I heard him say that; my subcommittee has been flooded with tales that clearly suggest otherwise. These tales of IRS abuses that we heard in hearings in Washington and Tucson were truly frightening.

Last year, when I became chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the IRS, I found an agency that was clearly inefficient, unaccountable, and running on automatic pilot. I discovered that the IRS, among other things, had squandered more than $4 billion over five years on its Tax Systems Modernization program and yet had absolutely nothing to show for it.

That's why, in this current Treasury-Postal appropriations bill, we specifically forbid the IRS from spending one more penny on computer modernization until the agency completes and submits -- and we approve -- a comprehensive capital investment blueprint. As chairman, I will not accept any proposal that is not reform-driven and taxpayer friendly.

I also strongly endorsed the bi-partisan IRS Restructuring Act that passed in the House last year and is expected to be voted on in the Senate very soon. This bill shifts the burden of proof from the taxpayer to the IRS and codifies 28 new taxpayers rights, including the right to sue the IRS for negligence and the right to be told when and why you are being audited. It also creates an independent, public-private citizen oversight board to hold the IRS accountable for change.

In Congress, my primary goals have been to reduce taxes and balance the federal budget; I consider the Taxpayer Relief Act and the Balanced Budget Act to be major victories for We the People. The Taxpayer Relief Act, in particular, represents the first broad-based tax cut in 16 years. I am the first to admit this bill did not simplify the tax code. If anything, it made it more complicated -- a fact you will no doubt realize when you get around to filing this year's taxes.

But, politics being the art of the possible, this was the best tax cut package we could get a reluctant President Clinton to sign. And the bill provides welcome and immediate relief for Americans at every stage of life, from childhood through the savings years to the retirement years. For example, more than 48 million children qualify for a tax credit of $400 this year, and $500 next year and every year thereafter. All parents are eligible to claim this credit for every dependent child under age 17.

Let's quickly rid ourselves of any notion that -- with this tax credit -- a newly magnanimous federal government has condescended to give more money to working parents. Rather, it is a more frugal federal government -- finally willing to balance the budget and live within its means -- that can afford to take less of the money moms and dads work so hard to earn to provide their kids with food, shelter, and clothes -- as well as piano lessons, braces, summer camp -- and a college education.

The family-friendly tax incentives for higher education may be the most important provisions in the bill. If America is to compete and win in the global marketplace, we must have the best educated, most productive, and technologically innovative workforce. Education is the key to higher wages and a better standard of living. The Taxpayer Relief Act has good news for families struggling to build a better future for their children with education opportunities.

For example, a family can take a $1,500 tax credit for each of the first two years of a child's post-secondary education, including college and vocational school, and thereafter a $1,000 tax credit for every year the student is enrolled. This provision will benefit more than seven million students every year. Taxpayers also will be eligible for a tax deduction of up to $1,000 for interest expenses in repaying college loans. And, for the first time, money may be withdrawn from IRAs -- without penalty -- to pay for undergraduate, post-graduate, and post-secondary vocational education. Parents -- and grandparents, too -- can establish educational savings accounts and deposit up to $500 a year per child, in a nest egg which is tax free as it grows and is used to pay for qualified post-secondary educational expenses.

The Taxpayer Relief Act enables the American people to keep more of the money they earn on their investments, especially those which are long-term and retirement-based. About 15 million Americans will benefit from the substantial capital gains tax cut that takes effect this year. Joint filers with an annual taxable income of less than $42,350 will pay only 10-percent tax on long-term capital gains, down from 15 percent. Those with greater taxable incomes will pay 20 percent -- but that is down from the current 28-percent rate. Eventually, there will be an 18-percent top rate for investments held five years or more.

More Americans than ever before will qualify to open Individual Retirement Accounts, thanks to a provision that raises income limits on participation. And the new Roth IRA permits tax free withdrawals for joint filers earning less than $150,000 a year, and single taxpayers with income less than $95,000.

The current $600,000 exemption from death taxes increases to $625,000 in 1998, and then in further increments to $1 million by 2006. The exemption for those who own small family farms and businesses increases from the $600,000 to $1.3 million immediately. Personally, I believe the grave-robbing death tax is the most immoral tax of all, as it often forces grieving families to liquidate assets just to pay the omnipresent tax collector. Congress should eliminate it altogether.

We could actually afford to do just that -- today -- by tightening the much-abused earned income tax credit account. Last year, the IRS had a 21 percent error rate in the earned income tax credit, which means the agency paid out about $5.3 billion in payments to individuals unentitled to get them. That's more than the IRS collected in death taxes last year.

Among dozens of other provisions the Taxpayer Relief Act offers is a Welfare-to-Work provision that specifically complements the major Welfare Reform legislation we passed during the 104th Congress. Employers who hire workers off the welfare rolls can now receive a tax credit for doing so. This is particularly beneficial for small businesses and restaurants that pay entry level wages.

There are several other important provisions that benefit small business. In addition to providing capital gains tax relief, the bill also exempts from the alternative minimum tax those small businesses that gross less than $5 million a year. And good news for the self employed: Health insurance premiums will become fully deductible.

But we're not finished.

Next week, the House will again take up bipartisan legislation -- of which I am a co-sponsor -- that would amend the Constitution to require a two-thirds supermajority vote in both houses of Congress to raise taxes. According to a poll conducted just last month, a supermajority of the American taxpayers supports a supermajority requirement for Congress to raise taxes.

Fourteen states, including Arizona, already have instituted this fiscally responsible provision. Studies have shown that states with this supermajority provision have not only reduced the growth of taxes and spending, but also increased economic growth and employment, compared to states that have no tax limitation provision.

The House of Representatives already is on record for tax limitation. House rules now require a supermajority vote to increase income taxes. But this only applies to the House, and -- because it is a only a rule, not a law -- it is only for this Congress. To make tax limitation permanent, we must pass this amendment.

Before we adjourn, I also expect us to vote on a key piece of legislation that would sunset the entire IRS Code, except for those provisions dealing with Social Security and Medicare. That means the entire tax code would simply disappear on December 31, 2001.

The present code is a 3,500-page travesty created with the help of an army of special interests, who have secured preferential treatment through hundreds of tax breaks and loopholes. Every year American taxpayers spend more than five billion hours and $225 billion of their time and their accountants' time just to comply with this absurdly complicated and arcane code. This monster doesn't eat its young: it eats yours.

Now, no one in this room or in Congress really expects taxes to disappear. But, passing the Tax Code Termination Act would force Congress to get off the dime and get serious about developing a new, simpler and fairer federal tax system. I believe such a system should apply a lower rate of taxes to all Americans, provide tax relief for working families, protect the rights of taxpayers and end taxpayer abuses, eliminate the bias against savings and investment, promote economic growth and job creation, and eliminate the bias against marriage and family.

RETIREMENT SECURITY

Once we have assured that families can provide for themselves during their working years by lowering their taxes, our next goal should be to ensure that every American will be able to retire with dignity and security. For the past year, I have co-chaired the Center for Strategic and International Studies' National Commission on Retirement Policy. Our Commission has focused on all three legs of the retirement stool -- employer-provided pensions, personal savings, and Social Security.

Last month, one of my Democratic colleagues, Earl Pomeroy of North Dakota, and I decided to tackle first leg of that stool: Together, we introduced the bipartisan Retirement Account Portability Act of 1998. This legislation would remove barriers that now prevent employees from taking their retirement savings with them when they switch jobs, particularly when they move between different employment sectors. Not only does current law restrict our ability to save for retirement, but it impedes our job mobility at a time when flexibility is more necessary than ever.

Working people should have confidence that the savings they have built up in such plans will be protected. The ability of an employee to move retirement savings accumulated in a previous employer's plan into a program supported by a current employer should not be dictated by the federal government through the tax code. This is a transaction that ought to be left to the choice of each employee and his or her employer.

The core provisions of the bill will make it possible for workers to move retirement benefits between and among the different varieties of savings plans offered by for profit [401(k) plans], non-profit [403(b) plans], and state and local government employers [457 plans]. Rules governing individual retirement accounts (IRAs) also would be broadened so that an employee who has a gap between jobs could "park" accumulated retirement savings in an IRA until they can roll those funds into another work-based retirement plan.

Also, for the first time, a worker would be able to put into his or her new retirement plan any after-tax contributions made to a previous employer-sponsored plan. Allowing employees to combine their retirement accounts and carry them from workplace to workplace will enhance simplicity and enable workers to manage their retirement savings more effectively.

Congressman Jim Kolbe
5TH DISTRICT ARIZONA

ISSUE POSITION

As pleased as I am with the recently enacted Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 because of the tax relief it offered, I am well aware that it actually made the tax code more complicated. I believe we must now aim our efforts toward simplifying our tax laws as well as in further reducing the tax burden across the board.

Many in Congress support a so-called flat tax--one which would tax all income at a single rate, usually estimated somewhere between 12 and 17 percent. This would certainly simplify our tax code by doing away with the myriad of special tax treatments for different situations. A flat tax would mean no deductions, including the popular mortgage interest deduction. This would obviously be controversial because the federal government has long manipulated economic and social behavior through special tax treatment for specific activities such as home ownership or education or consumer purchases or charitable giving. A flat tax would also be considered "regressive" because the tax rate would be the same for everyone, regardless of income. Currently, the income tax rate is set so that lower income individuals pay a smaller percentage in taxes than those with higher incomes. Businesses would also be taxed at the same percentage as individuals.

There is also considerable interest in a consumption tax to replace the income tax. This consumption tax would probably be in the form of a national sales tax or a value-added tax. Again, this would be a regressive tax because lower income individuals would end up paying a higher percentage of their income in taxes than higher income individuals who would have income remaining after they made necessary purchases for food, clothing and shelter. There would be much debate about whether yachts should be taxed at the same rate as food and even whether caviar should be taxed at the same rate as beans. And what sales tax rate would yield sufficient income to run the necessary government functions?

Either proposal is a bold departure from the current system and will take considerable debate and study. Both proposals would make a real contribution to the debate about the proper size and scope of the federal government. Our current tax structure is a mess. Rates are too high; loopholes abound and our citizens are overburdened. Scrapping the current system and replacing it, either with a simple flat tax or a consumption tax, deserves serious consideration.

One of the priorities for next year by this Congress is to open that debate. I am happy to have your suggestions and ideas as we begin to consider how best to structure a tax system that is simpler, fairer and, especially, takes less of our citizens' hard earned dollars.

Home | Issues Positions

FLAT TAX

Information provided by the office of Congressman Dick Armey

Prescription: Flat Tax

- 17 percent flat tax on all income.
- Everyone pays the same rate.
- Generous personal exemption ($33,800 for a family of four).
- No tax breaks for special interests.
- No loopholes for powerful lobbies.

Prognosis: Happy, Healthy Life in a Flat Tax World

- No more death tax.
- No more capital gains.
- No more IRA cap. All saving is treated like an unlimited IRA.
- No more marriage penalty.
- No more tax on Social Security benefits.
- No more intrusive IRS.

Summary of the Flat Tax

The Armey-Shelby flat tax plan, the Freedom and Fairness Restoration Act, scraps the entire tax code and replaces it with a flat-rate income tax that treats every taxpayer the same. The plan would simplify the tax code, promote job and income growth, and restore fairness and integrity to the tax system.

Individuals and business would pay the same tax rate. The Armey-Shelby plan eliminates all deductions and credits. The only income not subject to tax would be a generous personal exemption that every American would receive. For a family of four, the first $33,800 of income would be exempt from tax.

There are no breaks for special interests or loopholes for powerful lobbies. Just a simple tax system that treats every American the same.

> **The flat tax is simple.** After seven decades of amendments, revisions, exceptions, loopholes, extenders and the occasional overhaul, today's code is a wasteful, complicated mess.
>
> The flat tax would replace 480 tax forms -- and the 280 forms that explain how to fill out the 480 forms -- with just two postcard-size forms, one for individual wages and one for business income. According to the Tax

Foundation, the flat tax would reduce compliance costs by 94 percent, freeing up resources that are currently wasted on record keeping, filing forms, learning the tax code, litigation, tax avoidance, etc.

The flat tax is pro-growth. Because the flat tax treats all economic activity equally, it will promote greater economic efficiency and increased prosperity. When saving is no longer taxed twice, people will save and invest more, leading to higher productivity and greater take-home pay. When marginal tax rates are lower, people will work more, start more businesses and devote fewer resources to tax avoidance and evasion. And because tax rules will be uniform, people will base their financial decisions on common-sense economics, not arcane tax law.

The flat tax is fair. The flat tax will restore fairness to the tax law by treating everyone the same. No matter how much money you make, what kind of business you're in, whether or not you have a lobbyist in Washington, you will be taxed at the same rate as every other taxpayer.

No longer would politicians decide who is more or less deserving of a tax break. No tax breaks or special loopholes. No schedules. No special deductions or credits. No social engineering or economic tinkering. Just a fair and simple system that treats everyone the same.

20TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Washington Times

January 14, 1999, Thursday, Final Edition

SECTION: PART B; BUSINESS; Q&A; Pg. B7

LENGTH: 1573 words

HEADLINE: Social Security at crossroads;
Congress has small window for rescue

BYLINE: Patrice Hill; THE WASHINGTON TIMES

BODY:

Last year, President Clinton initiated a national debate on reforming Social Security to prevent the nation's largest program from insolvency in the next century.

That debate moves to Capitol Hill this year amid political turmoil that could lead to the most significant reform bill in a generation or doom it and leave the nation with major unfinished business as it enters the new millennium.

Rep. Jim Kolbe, Arizona Republican, and Rep. Charles W. Stenholm, Texas Democrat, see only a brief window for reform to take hold in Congress before the debate gets drowned out in the polarized atmosphere of political campaigning for the 2000 elections.

The self-described "radical centrists" have introduced the 21st Century Retirement Act, which they say will preserve basic pension benefits that guard against poverty for the elderly and disabled while adding private accounts to supplement each worker's monthly Social Security check with earnings on lifelong investments.

Their hybrid approach would divert 16 percent of Social Security's 12.4 percent payroll tax deduction into the private accounts while raising the retirement age to 70 to pare Social Security's projected $9 trillion deficit, which would begin to accrue after 2013.

Such hybrid plans have been popular in focus groups and pundits believe they have the best chance of passing Congress with support from both parties.

But in a taste of things to come, the centrist plan came under attack last month by the AFL-CIO and other left-leaning groups that oppose any attempt to substantially change or "privatize" Social Security. Some conservative Republicans, however, say it doesn't go far enough in giving individuals control over their pension funds.

Mr. Kolbe, Mr. Stenholm and other sponsors of the legislation say overcoming such partisan broadsides and focusing attention on Social Security's looming insolvency will be the biggest challenge they face this year.

Question: What is your strategy for dealing with groups like the AFL-CIO who say almost any change does irreparable harm to the system?

Mr. Stenholm: Our proposal improves the rate of return for all retirees while strengthening the system and providing for low-income retirees, survivors and the disabled. We never claimed our plan is perfect. It's easy to criticize. But it's been subject to thorough review by the Social Security Administration and was found to achieve solvency. And it honestly acknowledges the tradeoffs. You have to beware of the win-win solutions. There's a $9 trillion promise that has been made, but there's no money there once that Social Security trust fund has been spent.

Democrats and Republicans should care about this issue. Social Security has a well-deserved reputation. If there's ever been a better program, I'm not aware of it. It has eliminated poverty among our senior citizens. . . . But certain changes have to be made if it's going to be as good in the future as it is for those on it today.

In 2013, Social Security will start squeezing out other spending priorities. . . . This is something that is overlooked by those who don't choose to look 10 years down the road at the tough choices. It will become much more difficult to address the needs of working men and women and vulnerable children if we're not able to honestly deal with the financial challenges when we've still got the chance to work out long-term solutions. . . .

We need to build trust on both sides. Everybody needs to acknowledge there is no free lunch. Tough choices have to be made. . . . I come to this for two personal reasons. Their names are Jason and Colby - my 3-year-old and 1-year-old grandsons. I don't want them to look back 65 years from today and say, 'if only my granddad had done what he could have done when he was in the Congress, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in today.'

Mr. Kolbe: This effort is fraught with political risks. The AFL-CIO's position is very worrisome. The AARP formerly American Association of Retired Persons is still holding its fire, though privately a lot of them have not been very helpful. But they haven't taken an official position. That's why this has to be done from the center.

There's no question both sides are wary. There's a history of partisanship on this issue. There's a natural disinclination on the part of people to jump into the fray with specific proposals. That's why we're a little unusual, coming from the center with a proposal. Our proposal is not necessarily the final answer. It will be the benchmark from which others are considered.

I would suggest a free lunch test. The unfunded liability for Social Security is over $9 trillion. Any proposal to save Social Security has to reduce benefits or have a substitute, such as modest investment in a private system.

A proposal has to be scored and meet actuarial standards designated by the Social Security Administration or the Congressional Budget Office. It's easy to discuss ideas about Social Security, but it's a different matter to put ideas down on paper and turn them into something that meets an actuarial test. If a proposal's not run through the number-crunchers, it's not something I think should be taken seriously.

Some plans claim actuarial solvency, but have tremendous gaps between revenues and outlays. A plan is not a viable one if it has large surpluses in the immediate future, but leaves deficits down the road. And if opponents don't have a plan, they must explain how the current system will work in the future.

Q. Polls show the public is overwhelmingly opposed to raising the retirement age, and most people say they would prefer to take early retirement before reaching 65. Given that, can you expect the president and leaders of Congress to push a plan that goes so contrary to public opinion?

Mr. Kolbe: Our plan raises the retirement age to 70 and early retirement to 65. . . . But if you have enough money in your personal account to withdraw benefits at least at poverty level, you could retire at age 52 under our proposal. The options are really much greater for people who are retiring and doing other things. It offers more choices. It's a power enhancement.

Mr. Stenholm: The question is really for 40-year-olds and under, because our plan doesn't affect people who are retired today. We need a rational discussion of the alternatives to raising taxes and cutting benefits. Most people say their taxes ought to be cut. When you look at the personal retirement accounts and you look at people who are 45 or under, you see we aren't necessarily cutting their benefits.

We agree that certain occupations do not lend themselves to later retirement. About 7.5 percent of the working force today has a legitimate reason for being concerned about 70-year retirement. Certainly there are ways of addressing that question without affecting materially the other 92.5 percent.

You have to realize that those at the lower end of the working pay scale have the biggest problems in retirement. And when you closely analyze our proposal, we provide a greater benefit to the working poor than current law, plus they get whatever their personal savings account might accrue.

Q. Conventional wisdom is you have a very limited window to get this done before the presidential campaign season is in force, and also you need a extraordinary spirit of bipartisan cooperation that doesn't seem to exist today. Don't the impeachment proceedings poison the water for getting together on such a mammoth issue as Social Security?

Mr. Kolbe: Impeachment has the potential for poisoning the water, but the reality is Congress has to pass a budget next year and pass appropriations, and reality will force us to cooperate.

I think the message we got in the November election is people expect us to get some of these things done, and that's the best thing we have going for us. It's the driving force that's going to make members want to get things done. This would be a very positive outcome, a huge achievement for the president and the Congress.

Mr. Stenholm: I'm optimistic. Either it's going to happen or not happen, and very, very soon. It's very clear our president is serious, and he would like this to be part of his legacy. If we can achieve Social Security reforms for your children and grandchildren that are as good or better than the program today, not only the president but members of Congress would have reason to be proud.

The Washington Times January 14, 1999, Thursday, Final Edition

****BOX A

JIM KOLBE

BORN: June 28, 1942

EDUCATION: B.A., Northwestern University, 1965; M.B.A., Stanford University 1967

EXPERIENCE: Served in Vietnam and the U.S. Navy; vice president of land planning firm and real estate consultant; Arizona legislator; member of Congress representing Arizona since 1985; sits on the Budget and Appropriations committees

PERSONAL: Divorced with no children; only openly gay Republican in Congress.

****BOX B

CHARLES W. STENHOLM

BORN: Oct. 26, 1938

EDUCATION: B.S. and M.S., Texas Tech University, 1961 and 1962

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Farmer; president of local Chamber of Commerce, Lion's Club, United Way, and Little League; former state Democratic executive committeeman; member of Congress representing Texas since 1978; serves on Budget and Agriculture committees.

PERSONAL: Married to the former Cynthia Ann Watson. They have three children and two grandchildren.

GRAPHIC: Photo, The self-described "radical centrists" are pushing the 21st Century Retirement Act to reform Social Security ; Boxes, A) JIM KOLBE; B) CHARLES W. STENHOLM

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 14, 1999

Preamble Center

THE PROGRESSIVE CHALLENGE AND THE PREAMBLE CENTER
PRESENT THE PROCEEDINGS OF A DEBATE:

Does Social Security Need to be 'Fixed'?

Monday, August 3, 1998
The Capitol Building, Room HC-6
11:00-12:30pm

Moderator:
Bob Rosenblatt, Los Angeles Times

Panelists:
Martha Phillips, Executive Director, Concord Coalition
Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)
Dean Baker, Economist, Economic Policy Institute
Mark Weisbrot, Research Director, The Preamble Center

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PRESENTATION BY MARTHA PHILLIPS

MARTHA PHILLIPS: I would suggest that Social Security is not facing an immediate crisis. But it does, indeed, face a long-term problem. The root of the problem is the combination of changing demographics going from a population pyramid to a population column, where every age group is going to be roughly the same size, and the pay-as-you-go structure of Social Security. Given the and the system is unsustainable, or that there's no problem at all and it's a Wall Street plot. So we will continue the debate with Congressman Kolbe.

PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE JIM KOLBE

REP. JIM KOLBE: Well, thank you very much, Bob. I'm delighted to be here today and pleased that The Progressive Challenge and The Preamble Center is doing this debate. For the last three years, I've co-chaired with my colleague, Charlie Stenholm, of The Public Pension Reform Caucus. And most of our meetings have been in this room, or the one next door. And we've engaged in this kind of education process for the staff members, people on the Hill, Members themselves, on this subject.

Clearly, I come at it from a different point of view than Mark does. I believe that the Congress, all too often, is willing to say, let's postpone it; let's not deal with now; let's let the next Congress deal with that; let's let the next generation deal with it.

For once, I'd like to think Congress and the American people are thinking proactively about the problem, which I think is very real and, I think, much bigger than was suggested because I don't think, as Mark did say, that the problem is smaller than some say; certainly, in the long run, it's a very large problem.

I've joined with the President at the last one of the forums of the Concord Coalition; have been working on the one in Albuquerque, and certainly the President seems to agree that there is a problem.

I think, instinctively, the Americans know, it's not just because they've been told by Wall Street that there's a problem. I think Americans, particularly young people, can look at it and see where this thing is headed. It's kind of an instinctive feeling I find when I go to a high school group or college group and talk to them about it. They know the likelihood that they're going to receive Social Security is significantly -- seeing it in the way that it is today, at least -- is significantly less. Indeed, the polls show that in that age group of 18 to 34, more of them believe they'll see a flying saucer and UFO than they'll ever see a Social Security check. In a recent USA Today poll shows that 67 percent of all people believe that Social Security faces serious problems that has to be dealt with by Congress next year. So I think all of that together suggests that we really do have a problem that needs to be dealt with.

Now, the arguments that we hear are several on the other side. The opponents say that the system is going to be solvent through the year 2032. And it's true in one sense, but only in the sense that if you're using redemption, includes the redemption of the trust fund to make it solvent through that time. And, of course, we know the trust fund isn't real money. In less than 15 years from now, and think back 15 years ago. That was towards the end of the first Reagan administration. It isn't that far back. Fifteen years from now, they're going to have to start to redeem these special obligation bonds that help to pay Social Security benefits.

Now that's borrowing. That redemption is going to have to come from three or four sources: either there is going to have to be reduced Federal spending, or there's going to have to be increased taxation, or there's going to have to be increased borrowing by the Federal Government. It's as simple as that. You're going to have to do something in order to start redeeming those bonds at that point.

And then they say -- the next argument they will say is, well, Social Security is going to be able to pay 75 percent of the benefits; the program won't be completely broke. I mean, we heard Mark say a minute ago that we're going to push people below the poverty line with the changes that we're taking. Already today, the Social Security average, Social Security average benefit is $765 a month; that's $9,180 a year. And that's about 12 percent below the poverty level.

To cut the average benefit another 25 percent, you're talking now in inflated dollars, but you're talking also about assuming inflation during that time. To talk about cutting that benefit another 25 percent would really literally through millions of seniors into poverty. So, I do think we have a contract with senior citizens. And I think it's pretty cavalier to say, oh, it's just a 25 percent cut; we'll be able to pay 75 percent of the benefits. And I suppose for those who are now past 65 and drawing their benefits, maybe the year 2032 doesn't seem to make much difference. But for young people who are working and those who are starting out and will still be working at that time and not drawing any of it, I think it makes a huge difference.

Or the opponents say that the tax increases needed to keep the fund solvent over the next 75 years is smaller than the tax increases we've levied in the past. But already, as Martha's pointed out, three out of four Americans pay more in their payroll taxes than they do in income tax. So we're talking now about another substantial tax increase on top of that? This next generation, today's young generation, is the first generation that's going to receive less in Social Security benefits than what they paid into the system. And it gets increasingly negative with future generations. Increasing the FICA tax and payroll tax is only going to exacerbate, I think, the rather pitiful legacy that we're leaving for the next generations.

So, I would ask the other side, are we suggesting that we increase the burden on our children so baby boomers can have that golden retirement and leave them with absolutely nothing?

Then you hear the argument, which was already stated, that the number of elderly people is not really a problem here. But I think it's much broader, more complicated than that; not just the number of elderly people drawing Social Security benefits, it's their increased longevity, which has to do with how long and how much of the benefits they're drawing.

And it has to do with the declining birth rates, as you heard Martha so carefully explain the smaller size of families that people have today. And that leads to a declining number of workers of per retiree. In 1945, there were 49 workers for every retiree paying into the Social Security system. Today, this number is 3.4. By 2030, it will be 2.

So, the numbers just tell you that somebody is going to have to pay larger and larger amounts to sustain this. Today there's about 100,000 people retiring every year who start drawing Social Security benefits. At the peak of the baby boomers, it'll be a million people a year going onto the Social Security rolls. These are indisputable facts.

So, I don't know why anybody would say, really, that the Social Security system doesn't have a problem. I think the Social Security system does have a problem. We can differ about the prescriptions part. But I think what I see here is, the other side doesn't like the prescriptions that they see because they know the alternatives are somewhat limited, because people are not going to want to see a cut in the benefits and are not going to want to see a massive increase in taxes. And so, I think it becomes easier for them just to say, there really isn't any problem; let's just ignore this; put our heads in the sand and just ignore that.

So, that's why we, my colleagues and I, have developed a plan that would address this by allowing individuals to invest some of what they currently pay into payroll tax in their own savings account, encourage additional savings to help the national savings rate, and at the same time, increase and strengthen the whole Social Security system so the defined benefit part will actually be strengthened under the plan that we have. And we would do that without raising taxes, without incurring additional debt, and without cutting Federal spending on important programs.

So, it can be done; it's not easy, and it does require some tough choices. And, I think that, let's face it, there's nothing -- you can't do this by magic without some tough choices. But I think through some careful work now, early enough, we can deal with this problem. It is just incredible to me, insanity to me, to think we should put this off 30 years and to think about it then, or when the crisis is so manifest for us and to simply say, well, we don't know anything, we can't make any projections beyond that, I say that the projections that we can make now are very, very clear, and suggest the magnitude of the problem.

BOB ROSENBLATT: Thank you. Before we go to Dean Baker, who's our last speaker, I wanted to make sure that everyone understands some of the details here. The Social Security trust fund is in a surplus right now because taxes are collected on 141 million workers; benefits are paid out to about 44 million people every month. Right now, the system is taking in more in payroll tax revenues than it pays out in benefits. And this will continue until about the year 2012, when there will be more in benefits going out than is collected in taxes.

At that time, the system begins redeeming its Treasury securities. Surplus money goes into a special issue of Treasury securities, which is the same as Treasury bonds you might buy in a market if you're an investor. These will gradually be redeemed. The Social Security Trustees' report says, in 2032, all of the securities will have been redeemed, and in that year there will only be enough money coming in from taxes to pay 75 percent of the benefits promised under current law. That's where the gap occurs. And the argument is whether something should be done sooner or later, something large should be done, something minimal, or nothing at all, to fill that gap.

Our clean-up speaker is Dean Baker.

PRESENTATION BY DEAN BAKER

DEAN BAKER: I changed around the order of my speech a little bit because I did want to reply to a few of the comments made earlier, and I know that Representative Kolbe has to leave fairly soon. So, I'd like to do it while he's still here. So let me just make a few quick points before I get into the body of my remarks.

First off, this issue of trust fund redemption, I think it's very, very important. I think it's one we have to understand quite clearly. The Social Security tax is a very regressive tax on workers. We all understand that. It's only paid on wages; it's only paid on wages under $68,000. That makes it a very progressive tax. We're deliberately collecting more than we need right now to help defray the cost of the baby boomers' retirement.

To my mind the suggestion that that money would not be repaid, that, in effect, the government is going to default and we're not going to repay that out of the progressive income tax, I think that's an outrageous claim. Obviously, it's a political issue, but, in effect, that amounts to a default on money owed to the workers of the country, and I would hope that that will not be tolerated. But that's what's being discussed, when we imply we're not going to redeem that debt.

The second point -- this comes up repeatedly in the debate. To my mind, it's a great case of spin; we've heard this discussion endlessly: What the tax rate will be in year 2030, 2070, as though we can talk about that meaningfully. And then we talked about the burden on our children and grandchildren.

Let's be really clear. There's no projections anywhere, at least none I've ever seen--not out of the Social Security Trustees' report, or anywhere that I've seen from a credible source-- that shows anything other than that people will have much higher after-tax incomes in the year 2030, 2050, 2070. The Trustees' report does say that if we raise taxes by 2.2 percent of payroll, this will take care of the financing gap for the 75 year planning period; but the after-tax wage will be about 40 percent higher in the year 2030 than it is today.

Why will it be higher? Not because they're smarter than we are today; not because they work harder; simply because of the accumulated capital and technology, and because of the better education that they're going to get.

So, there's not an issue that our hard- pressed children are going to be worse off than we are today, at least because of the aging of the population. That's really not on the table. They might pay a higher tax rate. But, Bill Gates -- well, he might not pay a higher tax rate than I do, but, you know, in

5TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

February 19, 1999, Friday, PM cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 563 words

HEADLINE: Congressmen happy Clinton will be visiting Tucson next week

BYLINE: By ARTHUR H. ROTSTEIN, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: TUCSON, Ariz.

BODY:

Southern Arizona's congressmen, Democratic Rep. Ed Pastor and Republican Rep. Jim Kolbe, are pleased President Clinton will be making his first trip to Tucson next week, but for different reasons.

Kolbe is pleased the president will be addressing the issue of saving Social Security and Medicare, though Clinton and he differ on how to approach bailing out both programs.

"Pima County and Southern Arizona are important," said Pastor, who accompanied the president last weekend on a trip to Mexico. He noted that Tucson-area voters were instrumental in helping Clinton win Arizona in his 1996 re-election and said he thought it would be good for the president to visit Tucson on Thursday in what could be his last presidential trip to Arizona.

Pastor said initially there had been some discussion about Clinton going to Phoenix but that he had recommended Tucson.

Asked whether Clinton intends to get in a round of golf, Pastor said, "With 75-degree weather, he may land out here and look around and say, 'Let's get in a quick nine."'

Thursday's trip is considered strictly an issue-oriented visit, however, with no fund-raiser planned, Pastor said.

Kolbe said Clinton's remarks will advance the national debate over how to address securing Social Security and Medicare for future generations.

Martin Bacal, Arizona's Democratic national committeeman, also called Clinton's visit to Tucson - first ever by a Democratic president - extremely important.

The visit will be keyed to Social Security and Medicare, the White House said.

Kolbe acknowledged differences with Clinton over what approach to take to keep Social Security solvent, but said this was not the time to emphasize them.

Officials have estimated that the Social Security program will be forced into an operating deficit by 2012 as greatly increased numbers of baby boomers retire during the coming decade. Without an infusion of federal funds, the program will be defunct by 2029 or 2030, experts contend.

Clinton's visit is part of a swing that will take him to San Francisco and Los Angeles. The White House said details won't be released until next week.

Clinton visited Phoenix and northern Arizona in 1996. He never has been to Tucson.

It is likely that he will arrive after Tucson's annual Rodeo Parade ends around noon, Pastor said.

Pima County's 1996 margin of victory for Clinton exceeded the statewide margin, and without the Pima County vote the Clinton-Gore ticket would not have been the first Democratic presidential ticket to carry Arizona in 50 years, Bacal said.

Clinton is likely to give his address at an auditorium in the 2nd Congressional District, since Pastor is the state's only Democrat in Congress, Bacal said.

The president is scheduled to fly to San Francisco the same evening.

Tucson also was chosen for a Social Security address because of its high population of senior citizens, "and this trip is oriented around senior issues," Bacal said.

Social Security and Medicare "are much more in the forefront of the national concern" than such other topics of local interest as urban sprawl, Bacal said.

"I'm just very pleased that he's coming," Kolbe said. "I hope that we get more focus on the debate of Social Security. I've been working for three years to get Congress to focus on this debate. Obviously, he has a bully pulpit that goes way beyond mine."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: February 19, 1999

Congressman Jim Kolbe
5TH DISTRICT ARIZONA

NEWS RELEASE

Republican Response Radio Address
Balanced Budget Amendment and Social Security
Congressman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ)
Embargoed Until 11:06 EST, February 15, 1997

Good morning. This is Congressman Jim Kolbe from Southern Arizona's 5th Congressional District. Today I'd like to talk to you about the federal budget and Social Security - two subjects very much at the center of our concerns about the Federal Government, as well they should be.

Indeed, at a series of town hall meetings I held last month, balancing the federal budget and protecting Social Security were the two chief concerns raised by my constituents. Clearly, these are not partisan issues. They involve costs and benefits that affect every American.

If you're like most people I've talked to lately, you're tired of excuses. You want Congress to solve problems, not cast blame. And I believe a majority of us in the House and Senate are prepared to do that.

In fact, we have already made substantial progress on the budget front. While those of us in the Republican majority may differ with President Clinton on proposed tax cuts and spending priorities, we certainly agree in principle on the ultimate objective: A balanced budget by 2002.

But what's to guarantee that the President and Congress will live up to this budget agreement? Andwhat about the years after 2002? As my constituents would say, "There ought to be a law." And I agree.

The answer is clear. If Congress is to have any realistic chance of reining in the federal deficit over the long term, we simply must have the courage to pass a Balance Budget Amendment now. I believe its passage is the true test of our will to balance our budget.

Opponents of a Balanced Budget Amendment, including President Clinton, seem to ignore the fact that a growing national debt threatens every government program.

This year we will spend $247 billion just to pay the interest on the national debt. And every dollar we pay in interest is one that could be spent more productively on programs we really care about, like education, job training, health care, defense readiness, and our national park system.

Continued deficit spending also undermines productivity in the private sector and makes it that much harder for you and your family to improve your standard of living. This is the real dilemma.

President Clinton says he is opposed to any Balanced Budget Amendment that includes the Social Security Trust Fund surplus in the equation. And yet his proposed budget for fiscal year 1998, which was released last week, does just that.

Could the President simply be using the pretext of "saving" Social Security to mask his fundamental opposition to a bipartisan Balance Budget Amendment in any form? My good friend and respected colleague, Democratic Congressman Charlie Stenholm of Texas, sure thinks so. He has said that the Social Security issue is being raised as a red herring to defeat the Balanced Budget Amendment. I couldn't agree more.

Unfortunately, it appears that at least some of my colleagues who otherwise support an amendment have either bought into, or been intimidated by, the President's seductive but disingenuous argument.

Few will argue against the need to take action to ensure the long-term solvency of Social Security. Certainly, there was no argument from the President's Advisory Council on Social Security, which has proposed a variety of solutions and agreed unanimously on the need to act soon.

Taking the Social Security Trust Fund off budget will certainly not save the program. The trust fund may have a surplus now, but what happens after 2012, when the trust fund begins to pay out more in benefits than it receives in taxes? If the budget is not balanced by then, how will we be able to sustain the system? Congress will be forced to either cut benefits or raise taxes. Either way, the American people lose.

I'm interested in finding real solutions. That's why I have joined with Charlie Stenholm to form the bipartisan Public Pension Reform Caucus. As co-chair of the caucus, I'm pleased to see that an ever-growing number of colleagues from both sides of the aisle are beginning to take an honest and serious look at our Social Security program. These men and women should be applauded for their courage and willingness to begin the real work necessary to ensure a viable Social Security program for you and your children.

In the meantime, I believe there is a working, bipartisan majority of my colleagues in Congress who sincerely desire to make the principle of a balanced federal budget the law of the land. Clearly, its the right thing to do.

So, let your Representatives and Senators know you support a straightforward Balanced Budget Amendment. This is a debate we can win. And, for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must.

Home | Press Releases

Public Pension Reform Caucus Mission Statement

By Congressmen Jim Kolbe & Charlie Stenholm

The Social Security Dilemma:

** The Social Security and Medicare Board of Trustees reported that the Social Security Trust Fund will be bankrupt by 2029. Even more alarming, in 2012 the program will begin paying out more in benefits than it receives in payroll taxes.

** The worker/retiree ratio will reverse itself as the baby boomer generation moves closer to retirement. In 1950 the worker/retiree ratio was 16:1, today it is 3:1 and will be 2:1 by 2025.

** Extended life expectancy and a decline in the birth rate will result in a falling support benefit ratio. When the social security system was implemented the life expectancy at birth was 64 years; it is now estimated at 75. Concurrently, the birth rate has declined from 3.5 in 1950 to 2 in 2025.

Mission Statement: The caucus will provide Members of Congress and their staff a bi-partisan forum to discuss, research, and examine the problems plaguing the Social Security program and the various options for reform. The caucus will provide the following services to its membership:

Educational Briefings: The caucus will schedule, for Members and their staff, educational briefings throughout the 105th Congress. The briefings will include a diverse group of experts from across the political spectrum.

The briefings will include some of, but not limited to, the following topics: the Social Security Advisory Council's report, CPI adjustment, retirement savings efforts in other countries, the new role for women in the Social Security program, long-term solvency of the Social Security trust fund, looming changes in demographics, equity between generations, the role of the equities market in Social Security reform, fluctuations in the stock market, the political realities of reform, and the effect of reform on the national savings rate.

Member Meetings: The caucus will convene at least three member meetings during each session of the 105th Congress. The meetings will typically discussion time for members and include presentations from experts on pertinent and timely issues.

Handouts/Analysis: The caucus will provide members with the most up-to-date information on Social Security. A Social Security binder will be given to each caucus member which will include: summaries of House and Senate legislation, summaries of the Social Security Advisory Council report, talking points on various Social Security issues, and pertinent articles. Caucus members will receive replacement papers and new information which can be used to update the binder.

105th Congress Caucus Members: Barrett (NE), Barrett (WI), Bass, Boyd, Burton, Campbell, Castle, Clayton, Crapo, Davis, Delahunt, Dunn, English, Eshoo, Fattah, Frelinghuysen, Gibbons, Gillmor, Granger, Green, Greenwood, Hastert, Hayworth, Hobson, E.B. Johnson, Sam Johnson, Kaptur, Kelly, Klug, Knollenberg, Kolbe, LaFalce, Lazio, Manzullo, Matsui, McIntosh, McIntyre, Meehan, Myrick, Payne, Petri, Pickett, Pomeroy, Porter, Quinn, Rivers, Sabo, Salmon, Sanford, Sawyer, Schiff, Sessions, Shadegg, Skaggs, Smith, Spratt, Stabenow, Stearns, Stenholm, Tanner, Tauscher, Underwood, Visclosky, Weller, Whitfield.

Tombstone Courthouse
State Historic Park

History Article
Series

Arizona
State Parks

July 1998

Shoot-Out in Tombstone, Arizona

CARRYING WEAPONS IN THE CITY OF TOMBSTONE WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW. This law has been referred to as Wyatt's law, but it couldn't be farther from the truth. In 1880, the City council received a motion from Councilman Gray to create an ordinance against carrying concealed weapons. The motion passed and became Ordinance # 9 which was later revised to include all guns not just concealed. The Earp brothers, Virgil the City Marshal, Wyatt and Morgan with their friend, Doc Holliday decided to bring their unsettled dispute and enforce the law with a few men that had been labeled "the Cowboys". This group of men included Ike and Billy Clanton, locals living on a ranch south of Tombstone, Tom and Frank McLaury who lived east of Tombstone twenty some miles, close to Soldier's hole in the Sulphur Springs Valley and a roustabout by the name of Billy Claibourne.

Around 2:00 p.m. on October 26, 1881, the Earp brothers with Doc Holliday set off for the location over on Fremont Street close to the Fly Photo Gallery where the Cowboys were in discussion with Cochise County Sheriff, Johnny Behan. They were supposedly discussing their need to surrender their weapons, in light of the possible armed confrontation between them and the Earps. The Cowboys split on their decision to relinquish their arms, leave town or remain, risking a fight with the Earps was still in place when the Earps rounded the corner at Fourth and Fremont Streets heading west to the location of the Cowboys.

As the Earps approached the site, Sheriff Behan spotted them and hurried to meet the Earp party, to turn them away from the possible fight. Talking did no good, and the Earps clearly saw that the Cowboys were well armed and looking for a fight. The fight took place and the legend of the battle has taken its appropriate place in the annals of history.

If you would like more information on the infamous gun battle, coined "The Gunfight at O.K. Corral", the following references are provided.

Books on the subject:

- *Street Fight in Tombstone Near the O.K. Corral*. By: Michael M. Hickey
- *The Truth About Wyatt Earp*. By: Richard E. Erwin
- *And Die In The West*. By: Paula Mitchell Marks
- *The Earps Talk*. By: Alford E. Turner
- *The Chronicles Of Tombstone*. By: Ben T. Traywick
- *The Earp Brothers Of Tombstone*. By: Frank Waters

Movies on the subject:

- *Tombstone* (1993). Starring: Kurt Russell and Val Kilmer

- *Wyatt Earp* (1994). Starring: Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid and Gene Hackman
- *Wyatt Earp, Return To Tombstone* (1994). Starring: Bo Hopkins, Martin Kove, Hugh O'Brian, Jay Underwood and Don Meredith
- *My Darling Clementine* (1946). Starring: Henry Fonda, Linda Darnell, Victor Mature and Walter Brennan.
- *Gunfight At The O.K. Corral* (1957). Starring: Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Rhonda Fleming and Jo Van Fleet
- *Hour Of The Gun* (1967) . Starring: George Montgomery, Yvonne DeCarlo, Tab Hunter and Brian DonLevy

Television series on the subject that are on video tape:

- *Tombstone Territory* (1952). Starring: Frank Arrigo, Pat Conway and Henry Fonda
- A&E Series, *The Real West, Wyatt Earp, Justice At The OK Corral* (1996). Hosted by: Kenny Rogers

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Read about other exciting historic events that shaped Tombstone and Southeastern Arizona!

- The Building of Tombstone Courthouse.

ARIZONA STATE PARK, TOMBSTONE WEB PAGE MONTHLY STORY. BY: LARRY L. McFALL and ART AUSTIN

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. O.K. Corral Gun Fight .

O.K. Corral Gun Fight Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday

O. K. Corral Gun fight

The place was Tombstone, Arizona territory, the time was Wednesday afternoon, October 26, 1881 and the setting was a vacant lot in the vicinity of the stables and sheds of the O. K. Corral. But the frightened horses landed the O. K. corral as the name forever to be remembered by the showdown ▪

The showdown occurred with Morgan, Virgil and Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday being on one side and on the other side were Ike and Billy Clanton, Tom and Frank McLaury, Billy Claiborne, and Wes Fuller. The O. K. Corral Gun fightlasted 30 seconds, Frank McLaury was dead from a bullet wound to the stomach fired by Wyatt Earp's gun, Tom McLaury dead from Doc Holliday's shotgun, and Billy Clanton dying from chest wounds ▪

Wes Fuller wasn't present for the O. K. Corral Gun fight. Ike Clanton retreated into a shop the second the bullets started flying followed close behind by Billy Claiborne. Morgan Earp fell with a shoulder wound, Virgil with a leg wound, and Doc Holliday with a grazed left hip. Wyatt Earp remained unscathed by the gun fight ▪

At the time, these key players had no idea that they had just been involved in the most famous gun fight in the history of the wild and wicked West. Even a hundred years later, it would still be a movie maker calling card. ▪ O. K. Corral Gun fight ▪

Back to American Western History Museums

Doc Holliday

From the book "The Chronicles of Tombstone" by Ben T. Traywick.

The Early Years

Heading West

Bound For Tombstone

The Gunfight At The O.K. Corral

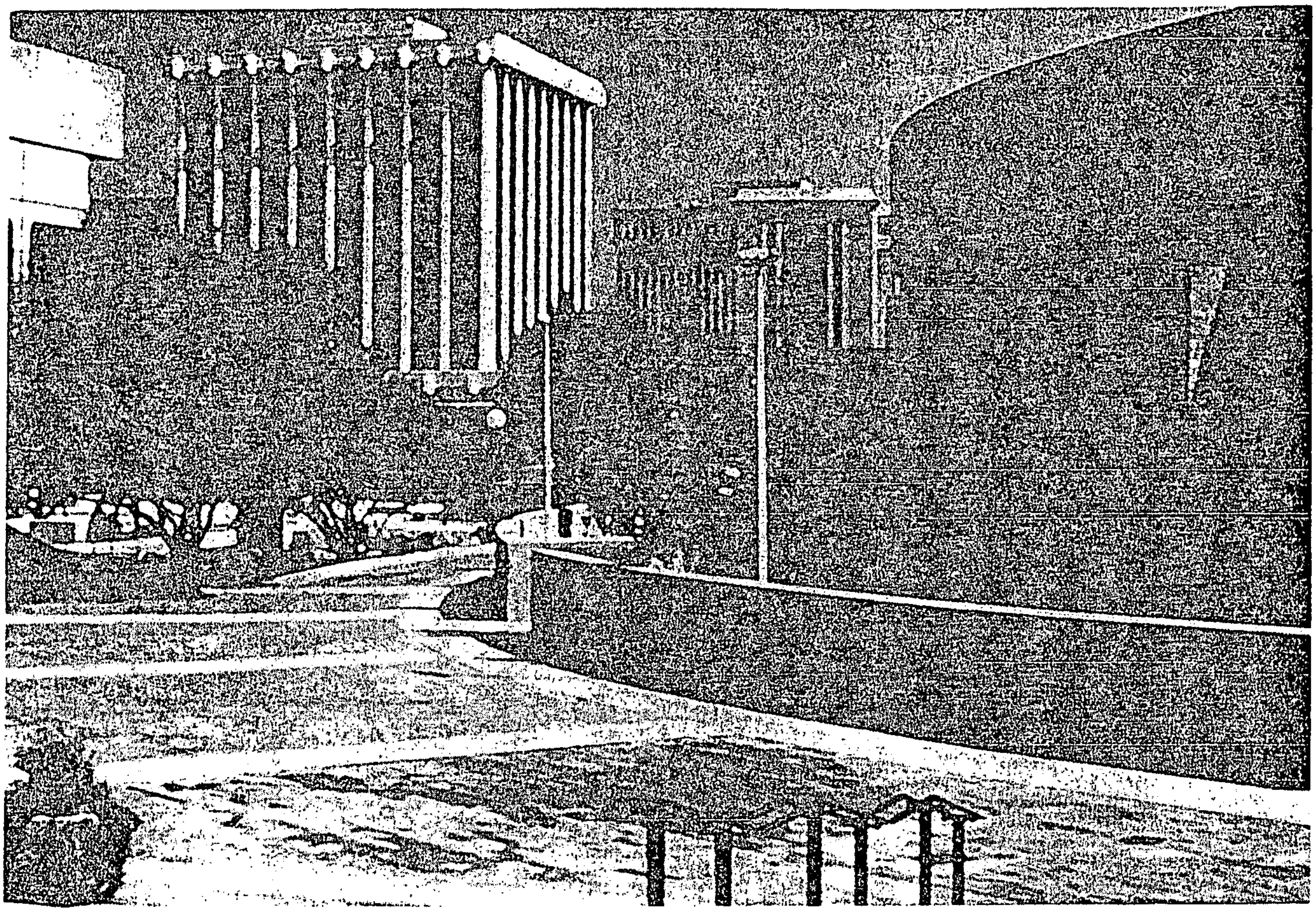
Other Gunfights and the aftermath of O.K. Corral

The Gunfight At The O.K. Corral

After the Cowboys had threatened to kill Wyatt, Morgan, Virgil and Doc if they didn't get out of Tombstone, the whole town watched to see the outcome. They knew that the Earps and Doc would not run. On October 26, 1881, Virgil recieved word that the Cowboys were gathering at the O.K. Corral, and that they were armed, which was against City law. Doc met the Earps on Fourth Street on their way to the the O.K. Corral. and demanded that he be allowed to join them in their little walk. Five men, potential killers,lay in wait. When Wyatt Earp and Billy Clanton openeed the battle, Doc shot Billy in the chest, then cut Tom McLaury down with a double charge of buckshot. The life was basted from McLaury before he struck the ground. Although Wyatt allowed Ike Clanton to run from the fight scene, Holliday was not so generous. He threw two shots at Ike as he fled, missing him narrowly. A bullet from Frank McLaury cut into Doc's holster and burned a painful crease across his hip. Doc's return shot smashed into McLaury's brain.

Less than thirty seconds after the opening shot, three men lay dead and three were wounded. Doc had shot each of the dead cowboys at least once. Virgil had been shot in the leg and Morgan through both shoulders. Only Wyatt Earp had survived the fight untouched.

Tucson



The City in Brief

Founded: 1775 (incorporated, 1853)

Head Official: Mayor George Miller (D) (since 1992)

City Population
- **1970:** 262,933
- **1980:** 330,537
- **1990:** 405,390
- **Percent change, 1980–1990:** 22.6%
- **U.S. rank in 1980:** 45th
- **U.S. rank in 1990:** 33rd

Metropolitan Area Population
- **1970:** 352,000
- **1980:** 531,000
- **1990:** 667,000
- **Percent change, 1980–1990:** 25.5%
- **U.S. rank in 1980:** 64th
- **U.S. rank in 1990:** 60th

Area: 156.3 square miles (1990)
Elevation: 2,390 feet above sea level
Average Annual Temperature: 67.5° F
Average Annual Precipitation: 11.05 inches

Major Economic Sectors: High technology industry, services, tourism, government
Unemployment Rate: 4.4% (September 1992)
Per Capita Income: $11,184 (1989)
1992 (2nd Quarter) ACCRA Average House Price: $102,750
1992 (2nd Quarter) ACCRA Cost of Living Index: 100.4 (U.S. average = 100.0) 1991 FBI Crime Index Total: 43,139

Major Colleges and Universities: University of Arizona, Pima Community College

Daily Newspapers: *The Arizona Daily Star; Tucson Citizen*

Introduction

Traditionally known for its dry and sunny climate, Tucson is gaining a new reputation for high culture and high technology industry. With record increases in population, the city has become a Southwest center for opera, theater, ballet, symphony, and visual arts as well as the economic and industrial focal point of an area known as the "Silicon Desert." Consistently pleasant weather and a beautiful desert setting continue to make Tucson a popular tourist attraction. Proud of a multicultural heritage composed of native American, Spanish, Mexican, and Anglo influences, residents call their hometown "Old Pueblo," a name hearkening back to rough and exciting pioneer days.

Geography and Climate

Tucson is located in southeastern Arizona, 60 miles north of the Mexican border. Established in the valley of the Sonoran Desert, the city is surrounded by the Sierrita and Santa Rita mountain ranges to the south and the Rincon Mountains to the east. With 139 days of temperatures at ninety degrees or higher, yet with remarkably low humidity, it is the second hottest city in the United States and one of the sunniest.

Area: 156.3 square miles (1990)

Elevation: 2,390 feet above sea level

Average Temperatures: January, 50.0° F; August, 84.0° F; annual average, 67.5° F

Average Annual Precipitation: 11.05 inches

History

Four Governments Claim Tucson Territory

Tucson is an extremely old settlement with a rich layering of history and pre-history. Archaeological excavations have revealed adobe huts, pit houses, and irrigation systems built by the Hohokam tribe who inhabited and farmed the area nearly two centuries ago. The Hohokam have since vanished; in fact, their name, meaning "those who have vanished," was given to them by the Pimas, the native Americans who occupied the site of present day Tucson when the first white settlers arrived, and after whom Pima County is named. "Tucson" is also derived from a Pima word, "Stjukshon" or "Chukson," meaning "spring at the foot of a black mountain."

Since its founding Tucson has operated under four governments: Spain, Mexico, the United States, and the Confederacy. One of the first Spanish visitors was Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, a Jesuit missionary who arrived in 1687. Tucson was officially founded as a Spanish colony less than one hundred years later, in 1775, and the Spanish settlers built the Presidio of San Augistin del Tucson as protection from the Apache. Part of this walled presidio still exists today, and its nickname, "Old Pueblo," is now extended to the city as a whole.

When Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821, Tucson became a Mexican town. In 1853 the United States acquired from Mexico the Gadsden Purchase, a strip of land that included Tucson. Before 1863, when Arizona gained territorial status, Tucson briefly belonged to the Confederacy, then became the capital of the Arizona Territory in 1867.

Tucson played an integral role in the romance of the Old West. The city was the scene of gunfights, brawls, and attacks by native Americans; neighboring Tombstone was the site of the legendary gunfight at the O.K. Corral. Tucson also participated in the great gold rush when prospectors moved east from California into Arizona. The effects of this migration were lasting, since Tucson became the center of a mining industry that continued unabated into the 1970s.

more into.

Healthy Climate Attracts Settlers, Tourists

By the time it became the forty-eighth state in 1912, Arizona was famous for the sunny climate and dry air ~~that made it ideal as a healthful spot~~ where people could visit and settle. Tourism remains one of Tucson's strongest industries. During World War II the city contributed to the war effort when the government established the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base nearby. Tucson has since emerged as a major cultural center and one of the most sophisticated cities in the Southwest. With an expanding economy based on high-technology industries, modern Tucson aggressively preserves its multicultural heritage and pioneer spirit.

Historical Information: Arizona Historical Society, Tucson Museum, 949 East Second Street, Tucson, AZ; telephone (602)628-5774

Population Profile

Metropolitan Area Residents
1970: 352,000
1980: 531,000
1990: 667,000
Percent change, 1980–1990: 25.5%
U.S. rank in 1980: 64th
U.S. rank in 1990: 60th

City Residents
1970: 262,933
1980: 330,537
1990: 405,390 (of which, 197,319 were males and 208,071 were females)
Percent change, 1980–1990: 22.6%
U.S. rank in 1980: 45th
U.S. rank in 1990: 33rd (State rank: 2nd)

Density: 2,593.7 people per square mile (1990)

Racial and ethnic characteristics (1990)
White: 305,055
Black: 17,366
American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut: 6,464
Asian and Pacific Islander: 8,901
Hispanic origin (may be of any race): 118,595

Percent of residents born in state: 39.0% (1990)

Age characteristics (1990)
Population under 5 years old: 31,859
Population 18 to 20 years old: 26,440
Population 21 to 24 years old: 32,563
Population 25 to 44 years old: 131,985
Population 45 to 54 years old: 33,465
Population 55 to 59 years old: 14,959
Population 60 to 64 years old: 15,386
Population 65 years and older: 51,198
Median age: 30.6 years

Births (1988)
Total number: 7,904

1980
62,194

Deaths (1989)
Total number: 3,560 (of which, 65 were infants under the age of 1 year)

1990 → 91,476
1997 → 107,798 persons

Money income (1989)
Per capita income: $11,184
Median household income: $21,748
Total households: 162,978
Number of households with income of . . .
less than $5,000: 15,177
$5,000 to $9,999: 20,080
$10,000 to $14,999: 20,605
$15,000 to $24,999: 35,925
$25,000 to $34,999: 27,146
$35,000 to $49,999: 23,961
$50,000 to $74,999: 14,352
$75,000 to $99,999: 3,252
$100,000 to $149,999: 1,776
$150,000 or more: 704
Percent of families below poverty level: 14.4% (60.0% of which were female householder families with related children under 5)
1991 FBI Crime Index Total: 43,139

Municipal Government

Tucson, the seat of Pima County, has a council-manager form of government, with a seven-member council that includes the mayor. All are elected to a four-year term.

Head Official: Mayor George Miller (D) (since 1992; current term expires November 1995)

Total Number of City Employees: 4,489 (1991)

City Information: City of Tucson, P.O. Box 27210, Tucson, AZ 85726-7210; telephone (602)791-4326

Economy

Major Industries and Commercial Activity

During the 1980s the high-technology industry and concomitant service industries, particularly banking, underwent phenomenal growth in Tucson. Prior to that time the city defined its economy in terms of the "four C's"—copper, cotton (the very fine Pima cotton is grown here), cattle, and climate—all industries in which there had been consistent expansion since the 1950s. Tucson's dependably dry and sunny climate assures continuing growth in tourism, an

1980 - 531,443
total pop 666,880
1997 - 700,150

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large % of population transplant

~~Atlanta statistics 90-'96 1990 666,952 1996 767,873 numerical Δ 100,916 % Δ 15.1%~~

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Copper mining has traditionally been a vital part of the city's economy; in 1976, for instance, one of every twenty Tucson residents was a copper miner. Seven years later, a combination of foreign competition and depressed copper prices forced a dramatic downturn in mining industries nationwide, with the result that only four-tenths of a percent of the working population was employed in mining by the mid 1980s. In Arizona the mining industry has recently shown promising signs of growth, from which Tucson is expected to profit, with the relocation in the state of two mining companies, the Phelps Dodge Corporation and the Magma Copper Company.

At the time of the mining crisis Tucson looked to economic diversity. For instance, with the University of Arizona and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base as the area's largest employers, the services sector is flourishing. Tucson has actively promoted expansion in the high-technology industry; a key ingredient is the establishment of a Foreign Trade Zone that allows some industries to pay lower taxes on the goods they produce. Another factor in the renewed strength of Tucson's economic base is the building or relocation of major corporations in the area. Long the home of Hughes Aircraft Company (acquired by General Motors), the city in 1978 welcomed IBM, a company that now employs more than 2,000 people. Joining Hughes Aircraft and IBM in the creation of a strong manufacturing community in the "Silicon Desert" are such corporations as Gates Learjet, General Instrument, Burr-Brown, Air Research, and Lockheed.

Tucson expects in the 1990s to become more involved in international trade; there are also plans to take advantage of the city's proximity to the Mexican border by encouraging the building of twin-plant or "maquiladora" industries. Increased expansion is predicted in the manufacture of electronics, aerospace, and computer component products, and biotechnology is expected to emerge as a new industry.

Items and goods produced: aircraft and aircraft parts, electronic equipment, steel castings and fabrications, flour, boxes, agricultural chemicals, aluminum products, radios, mobile homes, air conditioning machinery, creamery products, beer, liquor, saddles and leather goods, apparel, native American and Mexican novelties

Incentive Programs—New and Existing Companies

The Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce works to promote a favorable business atmosphere conductive to attracting, sustaining, and expanding industrial and service sector employers. Its Business Development provides information, counseling, training, and other services.

Development Projects

The development of Biosphere 2, a glass-enclosed environmental and human experiment in the Catalina Mountains, is expected to add a million visitors annually to Tucson's tourism industry. Already home to at least three top-of-the-line resorts, Tucson expects construction of more destination resorts there. University of Arizona construction projects have added classrooms and laboratories to keep pace with increasing enrollment.

Economic Development Information: Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 465 West St. Mary's Road, P.O. Box 991, Tucson, AZ 85702; telephone (602)792-2250

Commercial Shipping

Tucson is linked to national and worldwide markets via Tucson International Airport, which receives service from major air cargo carriers. The Southern Pacific railroad provides freight service; thirty-eight motor freight carriers ship goods through facilities in Tucson.

Labor Force and Employment Outlook

Tucson's population doubled between 1970 and 1990, which has had a direct effect on the labor force: predictions show that the city will be one of the fastest-growing employment centers during the 1990s, with a projected annual rate of 2.9 percent. The principal employment fields are low-paying service and trade jobs. The work force from which employers can draw is relatively young; Tucson has committed itself, through its educational institutions, to train and retrain potential employees.

The following is a summary of data regarding the Tucson metropolitan area labor force as of September 1992.

Size of non-agricultural labor force: 268,100

Number of workers employed in . . .
mining: 2,400
construction: 14,700
manufacturing: 23,800
transportation and public utilities: 10,600
wholesale and retail trade: 64,100
finance, insurance, and real estate: 11,800
services: 76,900
government: 63,800

Average hourly earnings of production workers employed in manufacturing: $10.97 (Arizona average)

Unemployment rate: 4.4%

Largest employers	*Number of employees*
Fort Huachuca	11,867
University of Arizona	10,142
State of Arizona	7,726
Davis-Monthan U.S. Air Force Base	7,552
Tucson Unified School District	6,537
Hughes Aircraft Co.	5,700
University Medical Center Corp.	2,250

Cost of Living

The following is a summary of data regarding key cost of living factors for the Tucson area.

1992 (2nd Quarter) ACCRA Average House Price: $102,750

1992 (2nd Quarter) ACCRA Cost of Living Index: 100.4 (U.S. average = 100.0)

State income tax rate: Percentage of federal withholding: 10.0% up to $15,000; 17.0%, 22.0%, or 25.0% above $15,000

State sales tax rate: 5.0%

Local income tax rate: None

Local sales tax rate: 2.0% (real estate, groceries, and prescriptions are exempt)

Property tax rate: $14.36 per $100 of assessed valuation (1990)

Economic Information: Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, 465 West St. Mary's Road, P.O. Box 991, Tucson, AZ 85702; telephone (602)792-2250

Education and Research

Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Tucson area is served by eleven school districts, of which Tucson Unified School District is the largest, with an enrollment approaching sixty thousand students. The second largest district is Amphitheater Public Schools, serving the city's north side.

The following is a summary of data regarding the Amphitheater, Catalina Foothills, Flowing Wells, and Tanque Verde school districts as of the 1991–1992 school year.

Total enrollment: 102,213

Number of facilities
elementary schools: 117
middle schools: 31
senior high schools: 20

Student/teacher ratio: kindergarten, 26:1; grades 1–3, 29:1; grades 4–6, 30:1; grades 7–12, 35:1

Teacher salaries
minimum: $21,117
maximum: $42,391.81

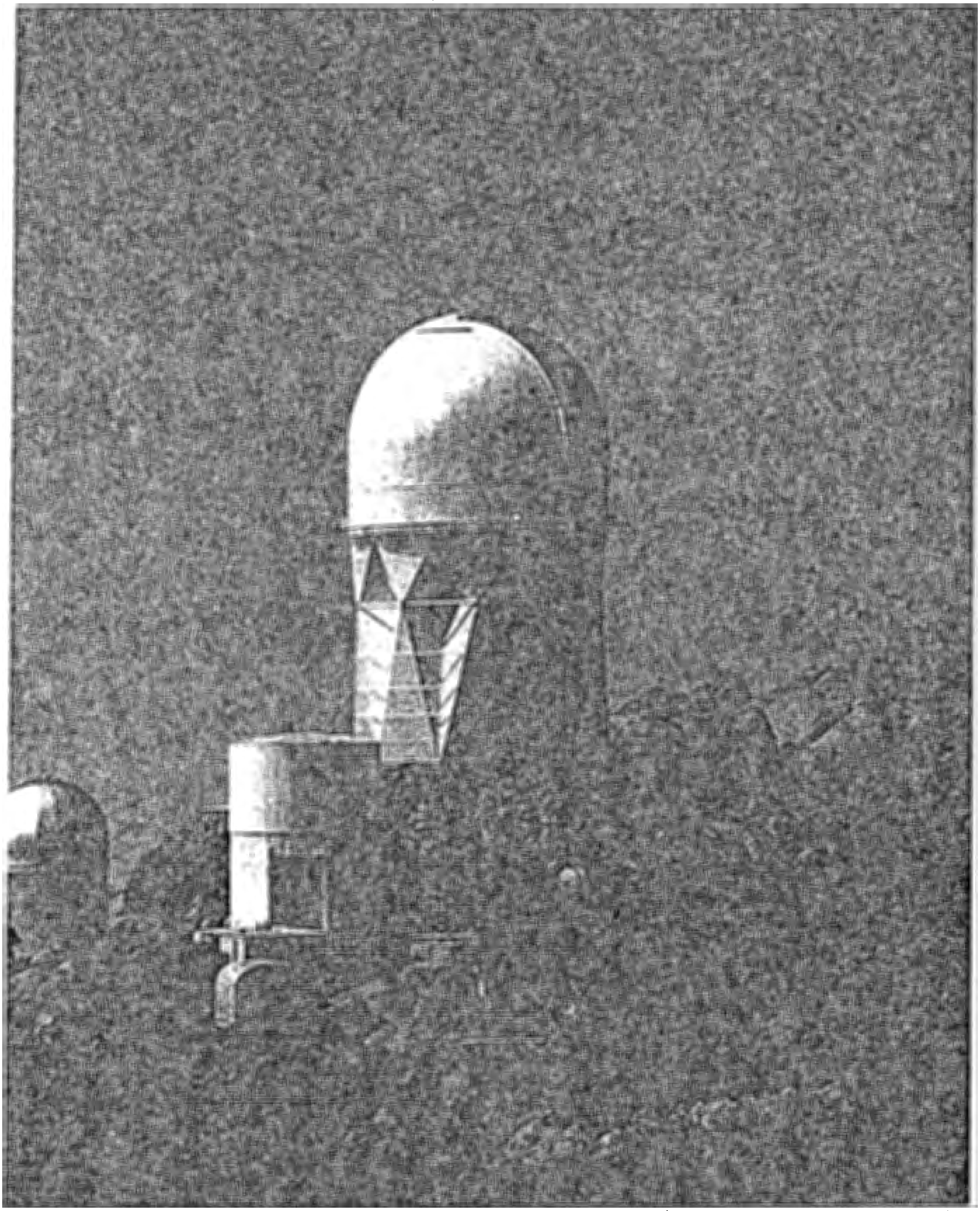
Funding per pupil: $3,036.25

Five private schools and a parochial system operate in Tucson. These range from boarding schools offering a college preparatory curriculum to schools that provide basic education with religious instruction. Tucson is also home to the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind.

Public Schools Information: Following are the names and telephone numbers of the Tucson public school districts; the area code is (602): Amphitheater—292-4200; Catalina Foothills—299-6446; Continental—625-4593; Flowing Wells—887-1100; Marana—623-8431; Sahuarita—791-2836; Sunnyside—741-2500; Tanque Verde—749-5751; Tucson Unified School District—882-2400; Vail—762-5291; Mary E. Dill—883-4025

Colleges and Universities

Institutions of higher learning located in Tucson include the University of Arizona, Pima Community College, Tucson College of Business, and two branches of the University of Phoenix. The University of Arizona alone has 109 academic subdivisions with a particular strength in the sciences, including



Kitt Peak National Observatory facilities near Tucson.

astronomy. Open University offers special-interest classes such as transcendental meditation, typesetting, and sewing.

Libraries and Research Centers

The Tucson-Pima Library has nineteen locations. The Main Library moved into new quarters in 1990. The system's collection consists of more than one million volumes, about two thousand periodical subscriptions, plus records, films, and videotapes. A special collection focuses on Southwestern literature for children.

The University of Arizona Library holds 3.4 million volumes and about 16,560 periodicals and contains special collections that include photography and Southwestern Americana. Also located in the city are a number of specialized scientific libraries associated with high-technology industries.

Research activities in such fields as architecture, engineering, astronomy, geology, geochemistry, minerals and mining, agriculture, fish and wildlife, arid lands and water, biotechnology, immunology, gerontology, sleep disorders, anthropology, Southwestern culture, and international studies are conducted at centers in the Tucson area.

Public Library Information: The Main Library, 101 North Stone Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85726; telephone (602)791-4393; Main Library Infoline, telephone (602)791-4010

Health Care

Tucson has long had a reputation for its healthful climate. For the past century its warm, dry air, which is free of pestilence and humidity, has attracted people suffering from such respiratory illnesses as asthma and tuberculosis.

Tucson's medical community includes fifteen hospitals with more than 3,000 beds; more than thirteen hundred physicians serve the area. The University Medical Center, the teaching hospital of the University of Arizona, specializes in the research of respiratory illness, cancer, and heart disease. Providing health care to residents throughout southern Arizona, Tucson Medical Center houses Southern Arizona's Level One Trauma Center.

Other health care facilities include St. Mary's Hospital, which operates a burn center and a Traditional Indian Medicine Program. Tucson General Hospital operates a Laser Center for minimally-invasive surgery.

Recreation

Sightseeing

The variety of things to do and see in Tucson extends from the heart of the city to the surrounding area. Three historic districts—El Presidio, Armory Park, and Barrio Historico—provide convenient focal points for a walking tour of downtown Tucson. Around El Presidio, the old adobe wall that was part of the original town, are clustered other historic structures, among them restored homes of the city's early settlers and political leaders, as well as an artisans' marketplace housed in an adobe.

Located in the Barrio Historico district, El Tiradito—the "Wishing Shrine"—is one of the nation's genuine folk shrines. A few blocks away, at the edge of the Armory Park district, is the site of the printing office of a Spanish-language newspaper founded in 1878. Other popular attractions in the city include Tucson's world famous zoo, situated in 160-acre Gene C. Reid Park, and the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

The ideal way to view the landscape surrounding Tucson is to take a leisurely driving tour that winds through miles of scenic Sonora desert, the only place where Saguaro cactus grows, ending at Mt. Lemmon. Covered with stands of aspen, Ponderosa pine, and Douglas fir, Mt. Lemmon offers vistas of the desert.

Other interesting excursions include Colossal Cave, one of the largest caves in the world, and Sabino Canyon, in nearby Colorado National Forest. Popular visitor attractions are Old Tucson, a western theme park and the site of a television and movie set, and the San Xavier Indian Reservation.

Arts and Culture

Tucson is the "arts mecca" of the American Southwest, offering a wealth of cultural activities: theater, opera, ballet, and symphony, as well as galleries and museums. In 1986 the Tucson City Council approved a Downtown Art Center, which includes Music Hall,