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**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting

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**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 21461

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**

Departure Statement - Guns & Budget 3/16/00

**Stack:**

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**Row:**

**91**

**Section:**

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**Shelf:**

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**Position:**

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Final 03/16/00 9:30am

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

3-16-00

Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**DEPARTURE STATEMENT**  
**ON GUN LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET**

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**March 16, 2000**

cc:

Speechwriting

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

Yesterday, the House took a small but significant step down the long road toward a common-sense gun bill. At long last, House members from both parties have loosened the grip of the gun lobby enough to say: It's time to get to work. It's time – after eight months, after so many senseless shootings – it's time for House and Senate conferees to resolve their differences on this crucial legislation.

The American people have spoken clearly and consistently about the need to protect our children from gun violence. The House, it now appears, is listening. I hope Republican leaders will listen, too.

Yesterday's vote leaves them no more excuses for stalling; no more excuses for holding this process hostage; no more excuses for keeping the conferees from meeting and working together to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Of course, a meeting is just a beginning. Congress should keep working until it sends me a bill I can sign — legislation that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.

A courageous bipartisan majority has said no to the attack ads, no to the name-calling, and no to the threats. Yesterday, they stood up for the American people and stood up to the gun lobby.

But there are further tests ahead. We are just a month away from the anniversary of Columbine, and Congress has yet to send me a common-sense gun bill. The clock is ticking. America is waiting – to see whether Congress will answer to the interests of our children and not to intimidation by the NRA.

I also want to say a few words about the budget that House Republicans proposed yesterday. A budget, of course, is more than a balance sheet. It's a blueprint for America's future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build that future on a solid foundation of fiscal discipline. But the budget proposed by Republican leaders would erode our fiscal discipline.

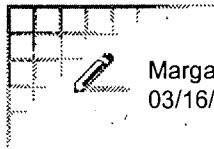
It would weaken, not strengthen, the foundation that Americans have worked so hard to build for our future.

Before devoting a single dollar to pay down the debt, or extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, or provide a voluntary prescription-drug benefit, or invest in our children's education, Republicans in Congress have already spent almost half a trillion dollars in irresponsible tax cuts. Almost half a trillion dollars, and – as the Republican budget now makes clear – they're just getting started.

This Republican budget is unrealistic; its enormous tax cuts are unwise; and the risks it poses are simply unconscionable. It is every bit as risky and costly as the budget they tried to pass last fall.

Once again, their budget would undermine our ability to make America debt-free by 2013, or to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, or to add a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. It would also slash our most pressing priorities across the board – from education to the environment; from law enforcement to public health; from scientific research to basic nutrition.

This, as I have said, is the wrong path for America. It would lead us straight into a fiscal dead-end. Again, I urge Republican leaders to change course – and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline, meets our most pressing priorities, and makes the most of this moment of prosperity. Thank you.



Margaret M. Suntum  
03/16/2000 12:31:57 PM

Record Type: Record

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

cc:

Subject: remarks of the President upon departure for St. Patrick's Day lunch

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2000

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
BEFORE DEPARTING FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

The South Lawn

11:50 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I go up to the Speaker's annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon about three issues.

Yesterday the House took a small, but significant step, down the long road toward common-sense gun safety legislation. House members from both parties have said it's time to get to work, after eight months and other senseless shootings; it's time for the House and Senate conference to resolve the differences between the two bills and send one to me.

The American people have spoken clearly and consistently about the need to protect our children from gun violence. The House is listening. I hope the Republican leaders in the House and the Senate will listen and get this conference underway.

Of course, a meeting is just a beginning. Congress

should keep working until it sends me a bill I can sign that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. Again, I hope they will reconsider and restore the provision that hold adults responsible if they knowingly or recklessly let little children have access to guns.

A courageous, bipartisan majority in the House has now said no to the attack ads, no to the name-calling and no to the threats. They have stood up for the American people, but there are further tests ahead. The clock is ticking and America is waiting to see whether Congress can really produce a bill that responds to the interests of our children and not the intimidation of the NRA.

I'd also like to say a few words about the budget the House passed yesterday. It is more than a balance sheet; every budget is. It's a blueprint for our future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build a future based on fiscal discipline. The budget proposed by the Republican leadership would erode that discipline. It would weaken, not strengthen the foundation Americans have worked so hard to build for the future.

Before devoting a single dollar to pay down the debt, or extend the solvency of Social Security or Medicare, or provide a voluntary prescription drug benefit, or invest in our children's education, the majority's budget already spends almost half a trillion dollars in tax cuts -- almost half a trillion and, as the Republican budget makes clear, they're just getting started.

This is unrealistic, unwise. The risks it poses are unconscionable. It is as risky and costly as the budget they proposed last year that I vetoed. It would undermine our ability to make America debt-free by 2013; to strengthen Social Security and take it out beyond the life of the baby boom generation; to lengthen the life of Medicare and add a voluntary prescription drug benefit.

It would slash our most pressing priorities across the board, from education and the environment, from law enforcement to public health, from scientific research to basic nutrition. It would be impossible for them to follow the path that we have all agreed on to modernize our defense forces and improve the quality of life of our men and women in uniform.

This is the wrong path for America. The only way they could meet their spending priorities with this tax cut is to go back to huge deficits. I asked the leadership to change course, to go back and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline and meets our most pressing priorities.

Now, the third issue I would like to mention very briefly is that I have just met with the Secretary of Energy and

his team and my economic team, and we have talked about the present difficulties that Americans are facing because of the price of gasoline and the high price of oil, and what our short- and longer-term options are. and we've been working very hard on this now for several weeks, and we hope to have some things to say about it over the next few days.

But this is -- I'm encouraged by a lot of the developments that are going on. I hope there will be some relief soon when the OPEC meeting occurs. But I do believe we need to do more on our own here in America to deal with some of the things we've learned, some of the pressure points we've learned are on our people in these last few months.

So I just want to notify you that we are working on this and we will have some more to say later, and I don't want to be late to the Speaker's St. Patrick's Day lunch.

Q Mr. President, on the question of gun control --

Q Mr. President, have you spoken in person to any of the leaders of the OPEC nations to increase --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, wait. The answer is, we have made clear what my public position is. I've said no more to anybody privately than I've said in public. I think it is in the interest of the OPEC nations and in the interest of the consuming nations to have a stable price of oil that gives them a fair return on their oil, enables them to run their countries and finance their budgets, but is not so high that it runs the risk of promoting inflation or recession, which will reduce the demand for oil by cratering the economies of other countries and hurting ours, and hurting a lot of innocent people in the process.

So the trick is to find the right balance. Oil was way too low last year because they increased production right as demand dropped after the Asian financial crisis. Now, the price is too high because they cut production right as demand increased when Europe and Asia were growing more again.

So we've got to get this back into balance. That's what I want to do. I think it's very much in their interest, and I haven't said any more in private than I'm saying to you in public, but we are working that.

Q Mr. President, Wayne LaPierre, last night on the news, said the blood of Ricky Birdsong is on your hands. I was wondering if you would like to respond to that personally, sir, and also go to the underlying issue of enforcement? The NRA contends the administration has been lax up until very recently on the enforcement issue.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, most of those -- I think the television news, some of the reports answered the

Birdsong case in great detail, and I don't have anything to add to that. And again, I will say, I don't think -- getting into a personal spat with Mr. LaPierre about tactics that I don't think any American appreciates and that all Americans can see through is not worth doing.

I think on the enforcement issue, if you just go back and look at the facts that were reported on the news last night in this case, I think it makes the case. The question is: What should the states do? What should the federal government do? What is the appropriate thing to do in the Brady cases? And I believe what we've tried to do is the right course.

I think the Attorney General has tried to increase federal gun prosecutions. We've asked for resources to do more. But we've also tried to do it in a sensible way that left a lot of the burden and the criminal law where it belongs, with the local prosecutors. And I think to try to take a case like that, where actually the Brady bill worked, and if we had more comprehensive checking so that no one could sell a gun without a Brady background check, we'd have an even safer society, is not a very good argument for the other side to make.

And I think it's truly ironic that the NRA is now criticizing us for not throwing everybody in jail that fails a Brady background check when they opposed the Brady Bill. If it had been up to them, we wouldn't be doing these background checks, and 500,000 more felons, fugitives and stalkers would have handguns, so --

Q Is there a break in the Irish impasse?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. We're working it.

Q Can I follow up on that, sir? Mr. President, why do you think the NRA has chosen this particular moment, though, to attack you?

THE PRESIDENT: I have no idea. I really don't know. Must be a good fundraising tactic. I honestly don't know. I don't know.

Q Because they've had their way mostly on Capitol Hill, it seems, up to this point.

THE PRESIDENT: I don't know. I think they know that the majority of the American people support us on this bill, and if they get the bill before the Congress, it will pass. So maybe it's some strategy to try to keep it from ever being in an acceptable form to be voted on one way or the other.

I don't know. You'll have to ask them. I can't figure it out. Thanks.

Final 03/16/00 9:30am

Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**DEPARTURE STATEMENT**  
**ON GUN LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**March 16, 2000**

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

Yesterday, the House took a small but significant step down the long road toward a common-sense gun bill. At long last, House members from both parties have loosened the grip of the gun lobby enough to say: It's time to get to work. It's time – after eight months, after so many senseless shootings – it's time for House and Senate conferees to resolve their differences on this crucial legislation.

The American people have spoken clearly and consistently about the need to protect our children from gun violence. The House, it now appears, is listening. I hope Republican leaders will listen, too.

Yesterday's vote leaves them no more excuses for stalling; no more excuses for holding this process hostage; no more excuses for keeping the conferees from meeting and working together to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Of course, a meeting is just a beginning. Congress should keep working until it sends me a bill I can sign – legislation that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.

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But there are further tests ahead. We are just a month away from the anniversary of Columbine, and Congress has yet to send me a common-sense gun bill. The clock is ticking. America is waiting – to see whether Congress will answer to the interests of our children and not to intimidation by the NRA.

I also want to say a few words about the budget that House Republicans proposed yesterday. A budget, of course, is more than a balance sheet. It's a blueprint for America's future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build that future on a solid foundation of fiscal discipline. But the budget proposed by Republican leaders would erode our fiscal discipline.

It would weaken, not strengthen, the foundation that Americans have worked so hard to build for our future.

Before devoting a single dollar to pay down the debt, or extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, or provide a voluntary prescription-drug benefit, or invest in our children's education, Republicans in Congress have already spent almost half a trillion dollars in irresponsible tax cuts. Almost half a trillion dollars, and – as the Republican budget now makes clear – they're just getting started.

This Republican budget is unrealistic; its enormous tax cuts are unwise; and the risks it poses are simply unconscionable. It is every bit as risky and costly as the budget they tried to pass last fall.

Once again, their budget would undermine our ability to make America debt-free by 2013, or to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, or to add a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. It would also slash our most pressing priorities across the board – from education to the environment; from law enforcement to public health; from scientific research to basic nutrition.

This, as I have said, is the wrong path for America. It would lead us straight into a fiscal dead-end. Again, I urge Republican leaders to change course – and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline, meets our most pressing priorities, and makes the most of this moment of prosperity. Thank you.

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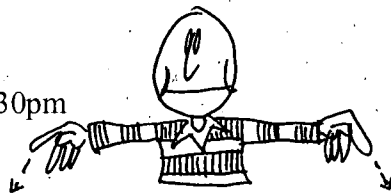
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Revised Draft 03/15/00 8:30pm  
Jeff Shesol



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**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON GUN LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**March 16, 2000**

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

Yesterday, in a bipartisan vote, the House took a small but significant step down the long road toward a common-sense gun bill. House members have loosened the grip of the gun lobby enough to say, at long last. It's time to get to work. It's time – after eight months, after so many senseless shootings – it's time for House and Senate conferees to resolve their differences on this crucial legislation.

The American people have spoken clearly and consistently about the need to protect our children from gun violence. The House, it now appears, is listening. I hope Republican leaders will listen, too. Yesterday's vote leaves them no more excuses for stalling; no more excuses for holding this process hostage; no more excuses for keeping the conferees from meeting and working together to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

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Before ~~dedicating~~ <sup>devoting</sup> a single dollar to pay down the debt, <sup>or</sup> to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, ~~to~~ provide a voluntary prescription-drug benefit, or invest in our children's education, Republicans in Congress have already spent almost half a trillion dollars in irresponsible tax cuts. Almost half a trillion dollars, and – as the Republican budget now makes clear – they're just getting started.

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by 2013, or to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, or to add a voluntary prescription-drug benefit. It would also slash our most pressing priorities across the board – from education to the environment; from law enforcement to public health; from scientific research to nutrition.

*will*

This, as I have said, is the wrong path for America. It would lead us straight into a fiscal dead-end. Again, I urge Republican leaders to change course – and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline, meets our most pressing priorities, and makes the most of this moment of prosperity. Thank you.

Draft 03/15/00 7:00pm  
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON GUN LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**March 16, 2000**

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

*per Shesol*  
→ Finally, the voice of the American people has broken eight months of silence on Capitol Hill. The House, in a bipartisan vote, has taken a small but significant step down the long road toward common-sense gun legislation. House members loosened the grip of the gun lobby enough to say, at long last, it's time to get to work. It's time – after so many months, after so many senseless shootings – it's time for House and Senate conferees to meet and to resolve their differences on common-sense gun legislation.

The House has spoken. I hope Republican leaders are listening. Yesterday's vote leaves no more excuses for stalling; no more excuses for holding this process hostage; no more excuses for keeping the conferees from meeting and working together to protect our children. Of course, a meeting is only a beginning. Congress should keep working until it can send me a real bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. That's the outcome the American people want; and that's a bill I can sign.

We are merely one month away from the anniversary of Columbine. The clock is ticking. America is waiting – and watching – to see whether Congress will answer to the interests of our children and not the intimidation of the NRA.

I also want to say a few words about the budget that House Republicans proposed yesterday. A budget, of course, is more than a balance sheet. It's a blueprint for America's future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build that future on a solid foundation of fiscal discipline. But the budget proposed by Republican leaders would erode our fiscal discipline. It would weaken, not strengthen, the foundation that Americans have worked so hard to build for our future.

*starting in wrong place*

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drug benefit. It would also slash our most pressing priorities across the board, from law enforcement to the environment to public health.

[Let's put the Republican cuts in real terms. The FBI – cut by 1,100 agents. The Drug Enforcement Agency – cut by 900 agents. The number of air traffic controllers – cut by more than 2,000. The Republican budget would cut all new toxic waste cleanups and cut off 25 that are ongoing; it would cut off National Science Foundation grants to more than 15,000 researchers, educators and students; and it would cut off nutritional benefits to three-quarters of a million low-income women, infants, and children.]

This is the wrong path for America. It would lead us straight to a fiscal dead-end. Again, I urge Republican leaders to change course – and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline, meets our most pressing priorities, and makes the most of this moment of prosperity. Thank you.

*those cuts will have devastating effect  
on our daily lives...  
from FBI  
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*Greenberg*  
*Brinkley*

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON THE BUDGET  
THE WHITE HOUSE

March 16, 2000

*leadership holding  
this process hostage.*

*And once  
they meet...*

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

Yesterday, a bipartisan majority in the House stepped up to its responsibility, stood up to the gun lobby, and said, simply, that it's time to get to work. ~~It's time to stop the delay.~~ It's time – after eight long months, after so many senseless shootings – ~~it's time for the House and Senate to work together to protect our children.~~ *no more excuse for the leaders to drag feet on letting the lobby meet on this leg.*

The House has taken a constructive step, but there's real work ahead. The House and Senate conferees should meet, yes; but they ~~should~~ *must* do more than that. They should ~~talk honestly~~ *open an honest dialogue* about their differences and keep talking until they're resolved. ~~Most important, they should finally reach a real agreement – one that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips.~~ *Remember the whole of passing these res. is to*

We are one month away from the anniversary of Columbine. The clock is running. America is waiting. And America is watching – to see whether Congress puts the safety of our children above the power – and the pressure-tactics – of the NRA.

I also want to say a few words about the budget that House Republicans proposed yesterday. A budget, of course, is more than a balance sheet. It's a blueprint for America's future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build that future on a solid foundation of fiscal discipline. But the budget proposed by Republican leaders would erode our fiscal discipline. It would weaken, not strengthen, the foundation that Americans have worked so hard to build for our future.

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*unacceptable?*

Let's put the Republican cuts in real terms. The FBI – cut by 1,100 agents. The Drug Enforcement Agency – cut by 900 agents. The number of air traffic controllers – cut by more than 2,000. The Republican budget would cut all new toxic waste cleanups and cut off 25 that are ongoing; it would cut off National Science Foundation grants to more than 15,000 researchers, educators and students; and it would cut off nutritional benefits to three-quarters of a million low-income women, infants, and children.

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# ARTFL Project: Roget's Thesaurus, 1911

**New!!** Robert Parks and the ARTFL Project are pleased to release our initial implementation of the Wordsmyth English Dictionary-Thesaurus.

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Searching for: **irresponsible**

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## 927a. Exemption.

N. exemption, freedom, irresponsibility, immunity, liberty, license, release, exoneration, excuse, dispensation, absolution, franchise, renunciation, discharge; exculpation &c. 970. V. be exempt &c. adj. exempt, release, acquit, discharge, quitclaim, remise, remit; free, set at liberty, let off, pass over, spare, excuse, dispense with, give

V. desire; wish, wish for; be desirous &c. adj. have a longing &c. n.; hope &c. 858. dispensation, license; stretch a point; absolve &c. (forgive) 918; exonerate &c. (exculpate) 970; save the necessity.

Adj. exempt, free, immune, at liberty, scot-free; released &c. v.; unbound, unencumbered;

**irresponsible**, unaccountable, not answerable; excusable.

Phr. bonis nocet quisquis pepercerit malis [Lat][Syrus].

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MORAL OBLIGATIONS 2. Moral Sentiments

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## 964. [Absence or violation of law.] Illegality.

N. lawlessness; illicitness; breach of law, violation of law, infraction of the law; disobedience &c. 742; unconformity &c. 83.

arbitrariness &c. adj.; antinomy, violence, brute force, despotism, outlawry.

V. desire; wish, wish for; be desirous &c. adj. have a longing &c. n.; hope &c. 858.

mob law, lynch law, club law, Lydford law, martial law, drumhead law; coup d'état[Fr]; le droit du plus fort[Fr]; argumentum baculinum[obs3][Lat].

illegality, informality, unlawfulness, illegitimacy, bar sinister.

trover and conversion[Law]; smuggling, poaching; simony.

[person who violates the law] outlaw, bad man &c. 949.

v. offend against the law; violate the law, infringe the law, break the law; set the law at defiance, ride roughshod over, drive a coach and six through a statute; ignore the law, make the law a dead letter, take the law into one's own hands.

smuggle, run, poach.

Adj. illegal[contrary to law], unlawful, illegitimate; not allowed, prohibited &c. 761; illicit, contraband; actionable.

unwarranted, unwarrantable; unauthorized; informal, unofficial; injudicial[obs3], extrajudicial.

lawless, arbitrary; despotic, despotical[obs3]; corrupt, summary, **irresponsible**; unanswerable, unaccountable.

[of invalid or expired law] expired, invalid; unchartered, unconstitutional; null and void; a dead letter:

[in absence of law] lawless, unregulated

Adv. illegally &c. adj.; with a high hand, in violation of law.

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Searching for: **unrealistic**

## 515. Imagination.

N. imagination; originality; invention; fancy; inspiration; verve.

warm imagination, heated imagination, excited imagination, sanguine imagination, ardent imagination, fiery imagination, boiling imagination, wild imagination, bold imagination, daring imagination, playful imagination, lively imagination, fertile imagination, fancy.

"mind's eye"; "such stuff as dreams are made of" [Tempest].

ideality, idealism; romanticism, utopianism, castle-building.

dreaming; phrensy[obs3], frenzy; ecstasy, extasy[obs3]; calenture &c. (delirium) 503[obs3]; reverie, trance; day dream, golden dream; somnambulism.

conception, Vorstellung[Ger], excogitation[obs3], "a fine frenzy"; cloudland[obs3], dreamland; flight of fancy, fumes of fancy; "thick coming fancies" [Macbeth]; creation of the brain, coinage of the brain; imagery.

conceit, maggot, figment, myth, dream, vision, shadow, chimera; phantasm, phantasy; fantasy, fancy; whim, whimsey[obs3], whimsy; vagary, rhapsody, romance, gest[obs3], geste[obs3], extravaganza; air drawn dagger, bugbear, nightmare.

flying Dutchman, great sea serpent, man in the moon, castle in the air, pipe dream, pie-in-the-sky, chateau en Espagne[Fr]; Utopia, Atlantis[obs3], happy valley, millennium, fairyland; land of Prester John, kindgom of Micomicon; work of fiction &c. (novel) 594; Arabian nights[obs3]; le pot au lait[Fr]; dream of Alnashar &c. (hope) 858[obs3].

illusion &c. (error) 495; phantom &c. (fallacy of vision) 443; Fata Morgana &c. (ignis fatuus) 423[Lat]; vapor &c. (cloud) 353; stretch of the imagination &c. (exaggeration) 549; mythogenesis[obs3].

idealist, romanticist, visionary; mopus[obs3]; romancer, dreamer; somnambulist; rhapsodist &c. (fanatic) 504; castle-buildier, fanciful projector.

V. imagine, fancy, conceive; idealize, realize; dream, dream of, dream up; "give to airy nothing a local habitation and a name" [Midsummer Night's Dream].

create, originate, devise, invent, coin, fabricate; improvise, strike out something new.

set one's wits to work; strain one's invention, crack one's invention; rack one's brains, ransack one's brains, cudgel one's brains; excogitate[obs3]; brainstorm.

give play, give the reins, give a loose to the imagination, give fancy; indulge in reverie.

visualize, envision, conjure up a vision; fancy oneself, represent oneself, picture, picture-onself, figure to oneself; vorstellen[Ger].

float in the mind; suggest itself &c. (thought) 451.

Adj. imagined &c. v.; ben trovato[It]; air drawn, airbuilt[obs3].

imagining &cv. v, imaginative; original, inventive, creative, fertile.

romantic, high flown, flighty, extravagant, fanatic, enthusiastic, **unrealistic**, Utopian, Quixotic.

ideal, unreal; in the clouds, in nubibus[Lat]; unsubstantial[obs3] &c. 4; illusory &c. (fallacious) 495.

fabulous, legendary; mythical, mythic, mythological; chimerical; imaginary, visionary; notional; fancy, fanciful, fantastic, fantastical[obs3]; whimsical; fairy, fairy-like; gestic[obs3].

Phr. "a change came o'er the spirit of my dream" [Byron]; aegri somnia vana[Lat][obs3]; dolphinum appingit sylvis in fluctibus aprum [obs3][Latin][Horace]; "fancy light from fancy caught" [Tennyson]; "imagination rules the world" [Napoleon]; l'imagination gallope[Fr], le jugement ne va que le pas[French]; musaeo contingens cuncta lepore [Latin][Lucretius]; tous songes sont mensonges[French]; Wahrheil und Dichtung[German].

DIVISION (II) COMMUNICATION OF IDEAS SECTION I.  
NATURE OF IDEAS COMMUNICATED.

# ARTFL Project: Roget's Thesaurus, 1911

**New!!** Robert Parks and the ARTFL Project are pleased to release our initial implementation of the Wordsmyth English Dictionary-Thesaurus.

Searching for: **imprudent**

## 460. Neglect.

N. neglect; carelessness &c. adj.; trifling &c. v.; negligence; omission, oversight, laches[Law], default; supineness &c. (inactivity) 683; inattention &c. 458; nonchalance &c. (insensibility) 823; imprudence, recklessness &c. 863; slovenliness &c. (disorder) 59, (dirt) 653; improvidence &c. 674; noncompletion &c. 730; inexactness &c. (error) 495.

paralipsis, paralepsis, paraleipsis [in rhetoric].

trifler, waiter on Providence; Micawber.

V. be negligent &c. adj.; take no care of &c. (take care of &c. 459); neglect; let slip, let go; lay aside, set aside, cst aside, put aside; keep out of sight, put out of sight; lose sight of.

overlook, disregard; pass over, pas by; let pass; blink; wink at, connive at; gloss over; take no note of, take no thought of, take no account of, take no notice of; pay no regard to; laisser aller[Fr].

scamp; trifle, fribble[obs3]; do by halves; cut; slight &c. (despise) 930; play with, trifle with; slur, skim, skim the surface; effleurer [Fr]; take a cursory view of &c. 457.

slur over, skip over, jump over, slip over; pretermitt[obs3], miss, skip, jump, omit, give the go-by to, push aside, pigeonhole, shelve, sink; table [parliamentary]; ignore, shut one's eyes to, refuse to hear, turn a deaf ear to; leave out of one's calculation; not attend to &c. 457, not mind; not trouble oneself about, not trouble one's head about, not trouble oneself with; forget &c. 506; be caught napping &c. (not expect) 508; leave a loose thread; let the grass grow under one's feet.

render neglectful &c. adj.; put off one's guard, throw off one's guard; distract, divert.

Adj. neglecting &c. v.; unmindful, negligent, neglectful; heedless, careless, thoughtless; perfunctory, remiss; feebleness &c. 575.

inconsiderate; uncircumspect[obs3], incircumspect[obs3]; off one's guard; unwary, unwatchful[obs3], unguarded; offhand.

supine &c. (inactive) 683; inattentive &c. 458; insouciant &c. (indifferent) 823; **imprudent**, reckless &c. 863; slovenly &c. (disorderly) 59, (dirty) 653; inexact &c. (erroneous) 495; improvident &c. 674. neglected &c. v.; unheeded, uncared-for, unperceived, unseen, unobserved, unnoticed, unnoted[obs3], unmarked, unattended to, unthought of, unregarded[obs3], unremarked, unmissed[obs3]; shunted, shelved.

unexamined, unstudied, unsearched[obs3], unscanned[obs3], unweighed[obs3], unsifted, unexplored. abandoned; buried in a napkin, hid under a bushel.

Adv. negligently &c. adj.; hand over head, anyhow; in an unguarded moment &c. (unexpectedly) 508; per incuriam[Lat].

Int. never mind, no matter, let it pass.

Phr. out of sight, out of mind.

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## 699. Unskillfulness.

N. unskillfulness &c. adj.; want of skill &c. 698; incompetence, incompetency[obs3]; inability, infelicity, indexterity[obs3], inexperience; disqualification, unproficiency[obs3]; quackery. folly, stupidity &c. 499; indiscretion &c. (rashness) 863; thoughtlessness &c. (inattention) 458 (neglect) 460; sabotage.

mismanagement, misconduct; impolicy[obs3]; maladministration; misrule, misgovernment, misapplication, misdirection, misfeasance; petticoat government.

absence of rule, rule of thumb; bungling &c. v.; failure &c. 732; screw loose: too many cooks.

blunder &c. (mistake) 495; étourderie gaucherie[Fr], act of folly, balourdise[obs3]; botch, botchery[obs3]; bad job, sad work.

sprat sent out to catch a whale, much ado about nothing, wild-goose chase.

bungler &c. 701; fool &c. 501.

V. be unskillful &c. adj.; not see an inch beyond one's nose; blunder, bungle, boggle, fumble, botch, bitch, flounder, stumble, trip; hobble &c. 275; put one's foot in it; make a mess of, make hash of, make sad work of; overshoot the mark.

play tricks with, play Puck, mismanage, misconduct, misdirect, misapply, missend.

stultify oneself, make a fool of oneself, commit oneself; act foolishly; play the fool; put oneself out of court; lose control, lose control of oneself, lose one's head, lose one's cunning.

begin at the wrong end; do things by halves &c. (not complete) 730; make two bites of a cherry; play at cross purposes; strain at a gnat and swallow a camel &c. (caprice) 608; put the cart before the horse;

lock the stable door when the horse is stolen &c. (too late) 135.

not know what one is about, not know one's own interest, not know on which side one's bread is buttered; stand in one's own light, quarrel with one's bread and butter, throw a stone in one's own garden, kill the goose which lays the golden eggs, pay dear for one's whistle, cut one's own throat, bum one's fingers; knock one's head against a stone wall, beat one's head against a stone wall; fall into a trap, catch a Tartar, bring the house about one's ears; have too many eggs in one basket (**imprudent**) 863, have too many irons in the fire.

mistake &c. 495; take the shadow for the substance &c. (credulity) 486; bark up the wrong tree; be in the wrong box, aim at a pigeon and kill a crow; take the wrong pig by the tail, get the wrong pig by the tail, get the wrong sow by the ear, get the dirty end of the stick; put the saddle on the wrong horse, put a square peg into a round hole, put new wine into old bottles.

cut blocks with a razor; hold a farthing candle to the sun &c. (useless) 645; fight with a shadow, grasp at a shadow; catch at straws, lean on a broken reed, reckon without one's host, pursue a wild goose chase; go on a fool's goose chase, sleeveless errand; go further and fare worse; lose one's way, miss one's way; fail &c. 732.

Adj. unskillful &c. 698; inexpert; bungling &c.v.; awkward, clumsy, unhandy, lubberly, gauche, maladroit; left-handed, heavy-handed; slovenly, slatternly; gawky.

adrift, at fault.

inapt, unapt; inhabile[Fr]; untractable[obs3], unteachable; giddy &c. (inattentive) 458; inconsiderate &c. (neglectful) 460; stupid &c. 499; inactive &c. 683; incompetent; unqualified, disqualified, ill-qualified; unfit; quackish; raw, green, inexperienced, rusty, out of practice.

unaccustomed, unused, untrained &c. 537, uninitiated, unconversant &c. (ignorant) 491[obs3]; shiftless; unstatesmanlike.

unadvised; ill-advised, misadvised; ill-devised, ill-imagined, ill-judged, ill-contrived, ill-conducted; unguided, misguided; misconducted, foolish, wild; infelicitous; penny wise and pound foolish &c. (inconsistent) 608.

Phr. one's fingers being all thumbs; the right hand forgets its cunning; il se noyerait dans une goutte d'eau[Fr]; incidit in Scyllam qui vult vitare Charybdim[Lat]; out of the frying pan into the fire; non omnia possumus omnes [Lat][Vergil].

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## 863. Rashness.

N. rashness &c. adj.; temerity, want of caution, imprudence, indiscretion; overconfidence, presumption, audacity.

precipitancy, precipitation; impetuosity; levity; foolhardihood[obs3], foolhardiness; heedlessness, thoughtlessness &c. (inattention) 458; carelessness &c. (neglect) 460; desperation; Quixotism, knight-errantry; fire eating.

gaming, gambling; blind bargain, leap in the dark, leap of faith, fool's paradise; too many eggs in one basket.

desperado, rashling[obs3], madcap, daredevil, Hotspur, fire eater, bully, bravo, Hector, scapegrace, enfant perdu[Fr]; Don Quixote, knight-errant, Icarus; adventurer; gambler, gamester; dynamitard[obs3];

boomer [obs3][U. S.].

V. be rash &c. adj.; stick at nothing, play a desperate game; run into danger &c. 665; play with fire, play with edge tools.

carry too much sail, sail too near the wind, ride at single anchor, go out of one's depth.

take a leap in the dark, buy a pig in a poke.

donner tete baissee [Fr]; knock, one's head against a wall &c. (be unskillful) 699; rush on destruction;

kick against the pricks, tempt Providence, go on a forlorn hope, go on a fool's errand.

reckon one's chickens before they are hatched, count one's chickens before they are hatched, reckon without one's host; catch at straws; trust to a broken reed, lean on a broken reed.

Adj. rash, incautious, indiscreet; **imprudent**, improvident, temerarious; uncalculating[obs3]; heedless; careless &c. (neglectful) 460; without ballast, heels over head, head over heels; giddy &c. (inattentive) 458; wanton, reckless, wild, madcap; desperate, devil-may-care.

hot-blooded, hotheaded, hotbrained[obs3]; headlong, headstrong; breakneck; foolhardy; harebrained; precipitate, impulsive. overconfident, overweening; venturesome, venturous; adventurous, Quixotic, fire eating, cavalier; janty[obs3], jaunty, free and easy.

off one's guard &c. (inexpectant) 508[obs3].

Adv. post haste, a corps perdu[Fr], hand over head, tete baissee[Fr], headforemost[obs3]; happen what may, come what may.

Phr. neck or nothing, the devil being in one; non semper temeritas est felix [Lat][Livy]; paucis temeritas est bono multis malo [Lat][Phaedrus].

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Draft 03/15/00 7:00pm  
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON**  
**DEPARTURE STATEMENT ON GUN LEGISLATION AND THE BUDGET**  
**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
**March 16, 2000**

Good afternoon. I'd like to say just a few words before I depart.

Finally, the voice of the American people has broken eight months of silence on Capitol Hill. The House, in a bipartisan vote, has taken a small but significant step down the long road toward common-sense gun legislation. House members loosened the grip of the gun lobby enough to say, at long last, it's time to get to work. It's time – after so many months, after so many senseless shootings – it's time for House and Senate conferees to meet and to resolve their differences on common-sense gun legislation.

The House has spoken. I hope Republican leaders are listening. Yesterday's vote leaves no more excuses for stalling; no more excuses for holding this process hostage; no more excuses for keeping the conferees from meeting and working together to protect our children. Of course, a meeting is only a beginning. Congress should keep working until it can send me a real bill that closes the gun show loophole, requires child safety locks with all new handguns, and bans the importation of large-capacity ammunition clips. That's the outcome the American people want; and that's a bill I can sign.

We are merely one month away from the anniversary of Columbine. The clock is ticking. America is waiting – and watching – to see whether Congress will answer to the interests of our children and not the intimidation of the NRA.

I also want to say a few words about the budget that House Republicans proposed yesterday. A budget, of course, is more than a balance sheet. It's a blueprint for America's future. For seven years, our administration has worked to build that future on a solid foundation of fiscal discipline. But the budget proposed by Republican leaders would erode our fiscal discipline. It would weaken, not strengthen, the foundation that Americans have worked so hard to build for our future.

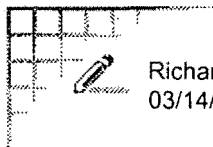
Before dedicating a single dollar to pay down the debt, to extend the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, to provide a voluntary prescription-drug benefit, or invest in our children's education, Republicans in Congress have already spent almost half a trillion dollars in irresponsible tax cuts. Almost half a trillion dollars, and – as the Republican budget now makes clear – they're just getting started.

This Republican budget is unrealistic; its enormous tax cuts are unwise; and the risks it poses are simply unconscionable. It is every bit as risky and costly as the budget they tried to pass last fall. This year, once again, their budget would undermine our ability to become debt-free by 2013, or to strengthen Social Security and Medicare, or to add a voluntary prescription-

drug benefit. It would also slash our most pressing priorities across the board, from law enforcement to the environment to public health.

[Let's put the Republican cuts in real terms. The FBI – cut by 1,100 agents. The Drug Enforcement Agency – cut by 900 agents. The number of air traffic controllers – cut by more than 2,000. The Republican budget would cut all new toxic waste cleanups and cut off 25 that are ongoing; it would cut off National Science Foundation grants to more than 15,000 researchers, educators and students; and it would cut off nutritional benefits to three-quarters of a million low-income women, infants, and children.]

This is the wrong path for America. It would lead us straight to a fiscal dead-end. Again, I urge Republican leaders to change course – and write a budget that maintains our fiscal discipline, meets our most pressing priorities, and makes the most of this moment of prosperity. Thank you.



Richard L. Siewert  
03/14/2000 05:20:56 PM

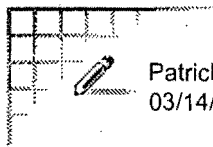
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MARCH 14, 09:22 EST

U.S. Plans Another \$1B Debt Buyback

By JEANNINE AVERSA  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Treasury, brimming with cash, plans to buy back another \$1 billion of the national debt Thursday, the second repurchase in a week.

The Treasury Department said today that Thursday's debt buyback operation will involve 11 outstanding issues of 30-year bonds issued between May 1988 and November 1991. The bonds carry coupon interest rates ranging from 7.875 percent to 9.125 percent.

By buying back some of its older, higher-yielding securities, the government over the long run expects to save money on interest payments.

On Thursday, the Treasury paid \$1.345 billion to repurchase \$1 billion of debt, its first repurchase in 70 years. That \$1 billion is a tiny fraction of the \$5.7 trillion national debt. Of that total, \$3.6 trillion is held by the public.

The new era of bulging government surpluses — helped by a booming economy that is generating lots of tax revenues — is making it possible for the Treasury to repurchase some debt.

Treasury will buy back the debt using a process known as a "reverse auction," in which the government selects offers on a competitive basis based on the lowest prices.

Anyone holding a 30-year bond issued between May 1988 and November 1991 can seek to participate in the second buyback operation but must do so through brokers, known as primary dealers, who handle the initial sales of Treasury securities.

The offers must be submitted by 11 a.m. EST Thursday and the winning offers will be announced around midday.

In January, Summers announced that the government planned to buy back up to \$30 billion this year.

The first budget surplus in 29 years — \$69.2 billion — occurred in 1998, followed by last year's record \$124.4 billion surplus, the first back-to-back surpluses since 1956 and 1957, when Dwight Eisenhower was president.

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On the Net: The Treasury Department's site:  
<http://www.ustreas.gov/>