



Controlling Government Spending

Excerpts from recent speeches by Governor Bill Clinton

If we're going to get more for our money, we ought to have a federal budget which invests more in the future and spends less on the present and the past. As President, I'll throw out last year's budget deal, which brought us the biggest deficits in American history and the fastest-growing spending since World War II. In its place, I'll establish a new three-part federal budget: a past budget for interest payments; a present budget for spending on current consumption, and a future budget for investments in things that will make us richer.

Today the federal government spends only 9% of the budget on investing in the future -- in education, child care, health care, environmental technology, infrastructure, and basic research. We'll double that in a Clinton Administration. We'll begin to finance the future budget by converting resources no longer needed for national defense to the investments needed to rebuild our economic security, and by controlling health care costs.

We can bring the deficit down over time, but only if we control spending on current consumption programs by tying overall increases to real revenue increases, not estimates. I propose to limit overall increases in the consumption budget to increases in personal income, so that the federal budget can't go up any faster than the average American's paycheck. Making Congress and the President live by this rule will cut the deficit drastically in five years, in a dramatic budget reform.

I believe that over the next four years, we can reduce defense spending, control health care costs, cut 3% a year out of the administrative cost of government, and limit current consumption expenditures to personal income increases, which will dramatically reduce consumption spending.