



Giving Government Back to the People

Excerpts from recent speeches by Governor Bill Clinton

For too many Americans, for too long, it's seemed that Congress and the White House have been more interested in looking out for themselves and for their friends, but not for the country and not for the people who make it great.

Congress raised its pay and guarded its perks while most Americans were working harder for less money. Two Republican Presidents elected on a promise of fiscal responsibility advanced budget policies that more than tripled the national debt. Congress went along with that, too. Taxes were lowered on the wealthiest people whose incomes rose, and raised on middle class people whose incomes fell.

The New Covenant must challenge Congress to act responsibly. And here again, Democrats must lead the way. Because they want to use government to help people, Democrats have to put Congress in order: Congress should live by the laws it applies to other workplaces. No more midnight pay raises. Congressional pay shouldn't go up while the pay of working Americans is going down. Let's clamp down on campaign spending and open the airwaves to encourage real political debate instead of paid political assassination. No more bounced checks. No more bad restaurant debts. No more fixed tickets. Serving in Congress is privilege enough.

Besides empowering citizens, we must lead a revolution in government so it becomes an engine of opportunity again, not an obstacle to it. Voters who went to the polls in this month's elections sent us a clear message: People want more for their money. The experts in Washington think that is a contradiction. But I think the experts are wrong and the people are right. People want a better deal from government, and they'll get it in a Clinton Administration.

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