



CONGRESSMAN JIM SENSENBRENNER NEWS FROM CONGRESS

NUMBER 152 -- JANUARY 2000

FIVE YEARS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Five years ago this month, members of the newly elected Republican Congressional majority took their oaths of office and began working to make a difference for the American people. The results-oriented Congressional majority ended budget deficits and began paying down the debt, secured the future of Social Security, reformed the nation's welfare system, and sent more education dollars directly to classrooms.

From Deficit to Surplus

The Congressional majority moved the government from budget deficit to budget surplus in just five years. Five years ago, the government was spending nearly \$200 billion more each year than it took in, \$70 billion of it raided from the Social Security Trust Fund. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) predicted that if spending continued at the rate set by the Democrat Congress in their fiscal year (FY) 1995 budget, 1998 would usher in a federal budget deficit of \$222 billion. In just five years, we have moved from budget deficit to budget surplus and have restored fiscal discipline to government.

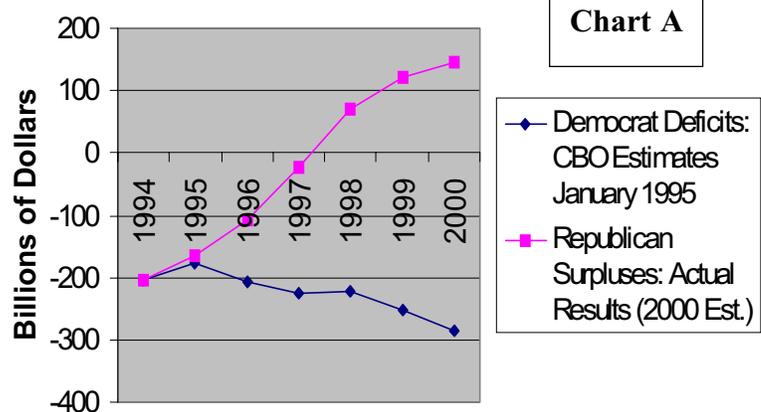
The new Congressional majority ended fiscal irresponsibility with their first budget in FY 1996 (See Chart A). Starting in FY 1998, the government's bank book was in the black for the first time in almost 30 years with a \$70 billion budget surplus. Thanks to the Congressional Majority's

fiscal responsibility, the reality for FY 1998 changed from a projected \$222 billion deficit to a surplus - a net savings of \$292 billion. In this fiscal year, FY 2000, instead of the \$284 billion deficit CBO projected five years ago, we now can expect a \$147 surplus - a net savings of \$431 billion.

"Passing common sense legislation is a slow and difficult process at times. The Administration and special interests try to belittle our accomplishments; but this newsletter clearly shows that slow, steady progress leads to major changes for the better in the way government does business."

-Congressman Sensenbrenner

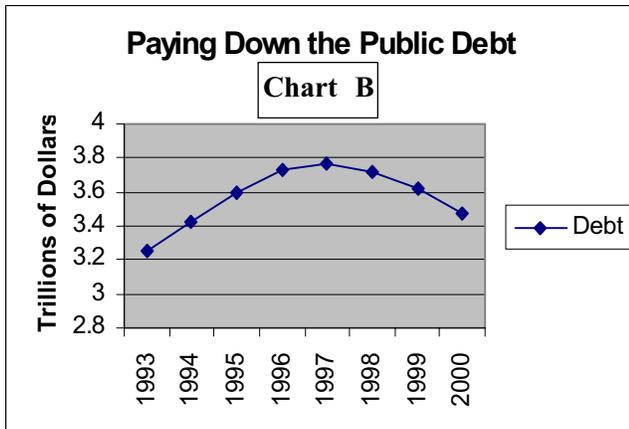
Writing the Budget in Black Ink



OFFICE HOURS AND TOWN HALL MEETINGS... SEE PAGES 3 & 4

Paying Down the Public Debt

CBO expects the non-Social Security surplus to total over \$900 billion over the next ten years. These surpluses clear the way not only for protecting Social Security, but also for paying down the public debt. In 1998, the Congressional majority ended the era of mounting public debt and was able to begin paying it down. This year, the House Budget Committee projects we can pay down \$131 billion in public debt, building on our \$88 billion public debt down payment in FY 1999 (See Chart B).



Stopping the Raid on Social Security

Preserving Americans' retirement security ranks among the top priorities of the Congressional majority. I intend to continue to work to ensure the federal government keeps its promise to citizens and maintains a safe and secure future for generations to come. In just five years, we've gone from raiding billions from the Social Security Trust Fund to saving 100 percent of it exclusively for Social Security. When the Congressional majority began work in January 1995, CBO projected the raid on the Social Security Trust Fund would increase an average of nearly \$6 billion each year, stealing \$96 billion from Social Security this year alone (See Chart C).

Continued raiding would have been devastating to both the 44 million Americans who depend on Social Security and the 76 million baby boomers who will begin retiring in 2010. We came close to stopping the raid on Social Security in FY 1998 and virtually eliminated it in FY 1999. The raid will be eliminated in FY 2000 and beyond.

In 1999, the Congressional majority took the first and most impor-

tant step in ensuring retirement security to Americans when it passed the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act, a bill designed to lock away 100 percent of Social Security revenues exclusively for Social Security. With this bill, the House promised to end 30 years of raiding Social Security to pay for other big government spending programs.

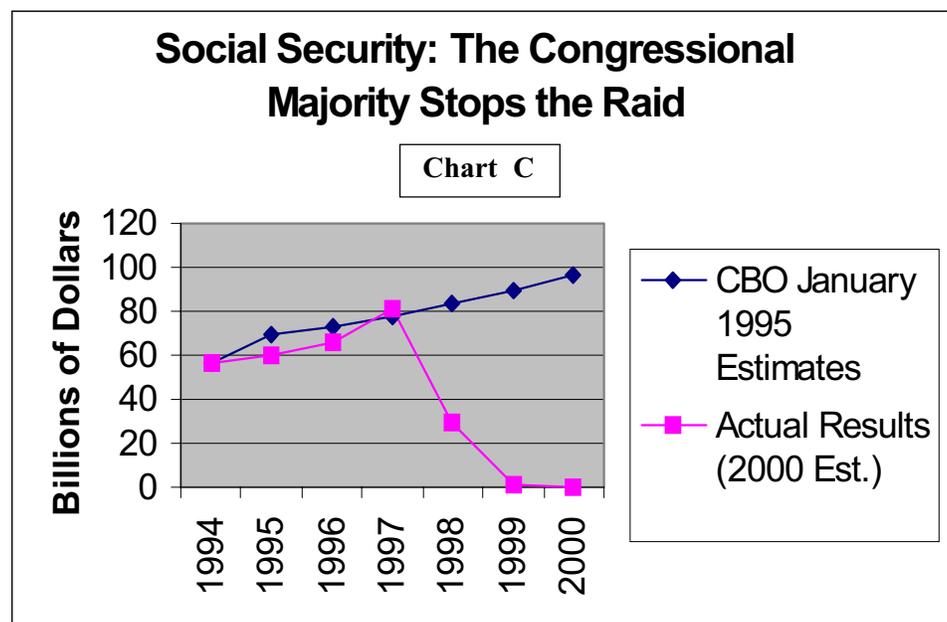
Stopping the raid now means the Social Security surplus will near \$1.9 trillion over the next 10 years, and solvency will be extended without raising payroll taxes or decreasing benefits. The President's original FY 2000 budget request proposed to preserve only 62 percent over 15 years of the projected Social Security Surplus. That's simply not acceptable, and the majority in Congress made it 100 percent.

Welfare Reform

One of the greatest challenges the Congressional majority faced in January 1995 was reform of the nation's failing welfare system. After 30 years and more than \$5 trillion in total spending, the old system was robbing taxpayers and trapping 13 million Americans into a lifetime of dependence and despair.

With families and children trapped in the welfare system, spending on welfare skyrocketed. In 1994 alone, the federal government poured \$177 billion into welfare. When the Congressional majority took over in January 1995, CBO estimated that if welfare spending continued at the current rate, it would soar to an all-time high of \$290 billion in FY 2000 (See Chart D).

True reform to our nation's welfare system could not be achieved without helping Americans off welfare and into



the workforce. We overcame two presidential vetoes to pass essential welfare reform legislation. The 1996 Welfare Reform Bill dramatically changed the focus of welfare. Today's welfare system encourages recipients to end dependence and strive for self-sufficiency.

In the last four years, more than 6 million Americans have left the welfare rolls and are now earning and bringing home paychecks. With families spending less time on welfare, the Congressional majority's welfare reform plan has also resulted in significantly reduced spending. With the passage of welfare reform legislation, welfare spending has decreased by an average of \$29 billion annually from what it would have been if trends from the early 1990s had continued. In total, the Congressional majority has saved \$146 billion in welfare spending since 1996. That's good news for taxpayers.

The new welfare system reflects the influence of the successful Wisconsin welfare reform plan, which has cut

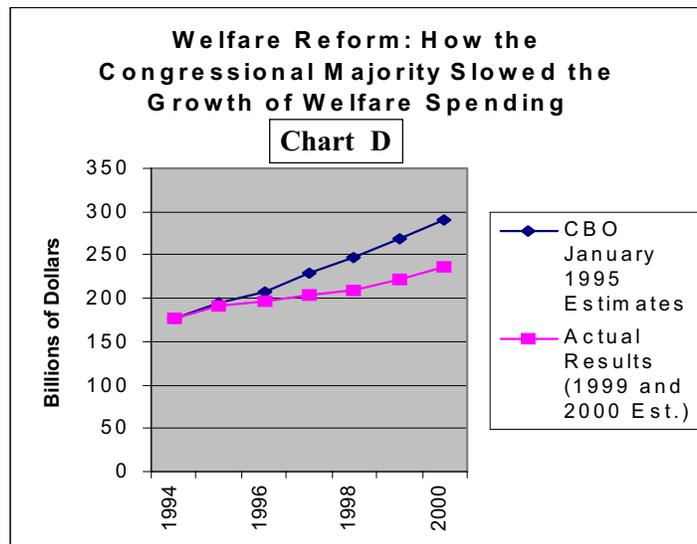
the caseload in our state by 81 percent. Now the benefits enjoyed by many former welfare recipients in Wisconsin are being realized by people across the country.

Education

The Congressional majority has also taken great strides in improving educational opportunities for our children. Before 1999, as little as 65 cents of every federal education dollar actually reached the classroom. Thirty-five cents were wasted on bureaucratic red tape. We recognize the need to improve the quality of our children's education and to return more control of educational priorities to the people who best know the individual needs of each child. Local school districts, principals, teachers, and parents all deserve a stronger voice in the education children receive.

Through passage of the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed Flex), more education dollars are available to local school districts in all 50 states, providing them with greater freedom to educate each child instead of allowing Washington bureaucrats to determine their priorities. Congress called on states to demonstrate a reform plan and measurable objectives for improving the education they provide. This program is a good investment in our nation's future.

Congress also passed a tax bill to provide important tax relief to help parents pay for their children's college education and allow them to save for their K-12 education. Although President Clinton vetoed the Financial Freedom bill and its \$792 billion tax cut over 10 years, the Congressional majority will continue to pursue meaningful tax relief to help parents with the high cost of education.



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

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| Mon., January 10; 7 p.m. Sheboygan Mead Library 710 N. 8th St. | Sat., January 29; 1 p.m. Beaver Dam City Hall 205 S. Lincoln Ave. | Sat., February 12; 1 p.m. Lake Mills City Hall 132 Water St. | Mon., March 6; 7 p.m. Sheboygan Falls City Hall 375 Buffalo St. |
| Tues., January 11; 7 p.m. Fort Atkinson City Hall 101 N. Main St. | Sun., January 30; 4 p.m. Elm Grove Village Hall 13600 Juneau Blvd. | Sun., February 13; 4 p.m. Menomonee Falls Village Hall W156N8480 Pilgrim Rd. | Tues., March 7; 7 p.m. Port Washington Police Dept. 365 N. Wisconsin St. |
| Wed., January 12; 7 p.m. Brookfield Safety Bldg. 2100 N. Calhoun Rd. | Sun., February 6; 4 p.m. Jefferson City Hall 317 S. Main St. | Sat., March 4; 9 a.m. Germantown Village Hall N112 W17001 Mequon Rd. | Sat., April 1; 9 a.m. Delafield City Hall 500 Genesee St. |
| Thurs., January 13; 7 p.m. Watertown Municipal Bldg. 106 Jones St. | Mon., February 7; 7 p.m. Hartford City Hall 109 N. Main St. | Sat., March 4; 1 p.m. Hartland Village Hall 210 Cottonwood Ave. | Sat., April 1; 1 p.m. Mayville City Hall 15 S. School St. |
| Sat., January 29; 9 a.m. West Bend City Hall 1115 S. Main St. | Sat., February 12; 9 a.m. Oconomowoc City Hall 174 E. Wisconsin Ave. | Sun., March 5; 4 p.m. Horicon City Hall 404 E. Lake St. | Sun., April 2; 4 p.m. Pewaukee Town Hall W240N3065 Pewaukee Rd. |

OFFICE HOURS

Mon., January 10

8:30 a.m. Nashotah Village Hall
 9:15 a.m. Merton Village Hall
 10:00 a.m. Pewaukee Village Hall
 10:45 a.m. Sussex Village Hall
 12:15 p.m. Butler Village Hall
 1:00 p.m. Lannon Village Hall
 2:00 p.m. Slinger Village Hall
 2:45 p.m. Jackson Village Hall
 3:45 p.m. Newburg Village Hall

Tues., January 11

8:30 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall
 9:15 a.m. Helenville Fire Hall
 10:15 a.m. Sullivan Village Hall
 11:15 a.m. Wales Village Hall
 12:45 p.m. Genesee Town Hall
 1:30 p.m. North Prairie Village Hall

2:15 p.m. Eagle Village Hall
 3:00 p.m. Palmyra Village Hall
 4:00 p.m. Dousman Village Hall

Wed., January 12

8:30 a.m. Howards Grove Village Hall
 9:15 a.m. Kohler Village Hall
 10:00 a.m. Oostburg State Bank
 10:45 a.m. Adell Senior Center
 11:30 a.m. Random Lake Village Hall
 1:00 p.m. Cedar Grove Library
 1:45 p.m. Belgium Village Hall
 2:30 p.m. Fredonia Village Hall
 3:15 p.m. Saukville Village Hall

Thurs., January 13

8:30 a.m. Burnett Town Hall
 (new Town Hall)
 9:15 a.m. Waupun City Hall

10:00 a.m. Brownsville Village Hall
 10:45 a.m. Kekoskee Village Hall
 11:30 a.m. Lomira Village Hall
 1:00 p.m. Theresa Village Hall
 1:45 p.m. Kewaskum Village Hall
 2:45 p.m. Addison Town Hall
 3:30 p.m. Rubicon Town Hall
 4:15 p.m. Ashippun Town Hall

Fri., January 14

8:00 a.m. Ixonia Town Hall
 8:45 a.m. Lebanon Town Hall
 9:30 a.m. Neosho Village Hall
 10:15 a.m. Iron Ridge Village Hall
 11:00 a.m. Hustisford Village Hall
 12:30 p.m. Clyman Village Hall
 1:15 p.m. Lowell Village Hall
 2:00 p.m. Reeseville Village Hall
 2:45 p.m. Waterloo City Hall

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**The 2000 Census
 is quickly approaching.**

**Everybody counts.
 Please respond when you receive
 your survey.**

Congressman

JIM

SENSENBRENNER



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**NEWS FROM
 CONGRESS**