

Campaign Briefing

Issue 88 • Friday, June 12, 1992

BUSH
QUAYLE
92

TODAY:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PRESIDENT BUSH

HEADLINES

- Clinton, Congress defeat BBA (Page 2)
- Weld Slams Clinton Record in Arkansas (Page 2)
- Spencer Abraham, NRCC Co- Chairman turns 40 today, blasts Democratic opposition to BBA (Page 2)

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: President Bush attends the opening session of the Earth Summit; meets with environmental leaders; addresses forum at the Earth Summit; attends dinner reception with Brazilian President Fernando Collor De Mello.

Vice President Quayle addresses the Federalist Society's Congressional Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Balanced Budget Amendment

BUSH: WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR THE BBA AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA

Despite the American peoples' overwhelming support of a Balanced Budget Amendment to end reckless deficit spending, the Democratic-dominated House on Thursday rejected, 280-153, a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

"I thank the 280 Members of the House, Republican and Democrat, who voted for America's future," President Bush, said in a statement released Thursday evening.

Nearly 80 percent of Americans want Congress to do what all Americans and nearly every state must do - live within their means. *"The will of the American people could not be clearer,"* Bush said.

The President will not give up the fight and allow Congress to continue this reckless, inexcusable path of unchecked spending. Bush said as soon as he returns from the Earth Summit in Rio, he *"will be conferring with key bipartisan supporters to determine how we can best move this fight forward."* (6/11)

TODAY'S TALKING POINTS

DEMOCRAT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IS PIED PIPER FOR BIG SPENDERS

After three weeks of waffling, Democratic candidate Bill Clinton, who covets the presidency, came out against the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution - and four-square for more spending splurges by his fellow Democrats in Congress. He gave Democratic leaders the cover of his campaign to scuttle BBA.

- Under Clinton's cover, six House Democrat BBA co-sponsors switched and voted against it. If they had voted for the BBA, it would have passed. They are Representatives Matthew G. Martinez (Calif.), Robin Tallon (S.C.), Tom Lantos (Calif.), Richard E. Neal (Mass.), Patricia Schroeder (Colo.), and James A. Traficant, Jr. (Ohio).

In leading the Democrat charge against BBA and for the special interests, Clinton put himself up against an overwhelming majority of ordinary Americans who have no choice but to live within their means and want BBA. The special interests wanted BBA defeated.

- A Washington Post poll, reported Tuesday, showed that more than three-quarters of the American people - 77 percent - want BBA passed by Congress and sent to the states for ratification.

- The AFL-CIO and public employee unions mounted a scare campaign against BBA. They aired negative radio ads in 14 states to whip targeted House members into line, and they desperately papered Congress with anti-BBA propaganda.

Clinton stood side by side with House Speaker Tom Foley (D Wash.) and the other Capitol Hill big spenders who offered phony arguments against BBA.

- "The Constitution will not balance the budget," House Speaker Foley (D-WA) said in leading House opposition to BBA. Since Foley was elected to the House in 1964, Congress has raised taxes more than 50 times and balanced the budget only once (1989).
- "I don't like the [BBA] because it doesn't provide for investment," said Clinton, who also is dead set against the best possible incentive for investment - reduction of the capital gains tax.

Campaign Briefing • Issue 88 • Friday, June 12, 1992 • Page 2 of 2

NEWS IN BRIEF

MALEK, BOND TELL SUPPORTERS THE PRESIDENT IS READY TO FIGHT *"The President is just raring for a fight. He is just raring to get going in the Fall,"* Bush/Quayle '92 Campaign Manager Fred Malek and Republican National Committee Chairman Rich Bond told over 600 supporters on Thursday during the largest nationwide conference call in history.

"Don't give an inch on George Bush on domestic policy," Bond added. *"Bush has had change-oriented and reform-oriented ideas on every one of the major issues of our day. Whether it is economic recovery, education, health care, enterprise zones, reform of the legal system, in every one of those instances he's been on the record for over a thousand days with the Congress, and he has been obstructed in the sorriest and saddest and most cynical brand of partisanship that any of us has ever seen."*

"There is nothing in this country that George Bush can't fix if you give him a Republican Congress," Bond said. Malek added, *"When people get serious about what this election is all about, they are going to realize that only George Bush has the seasoning, the experience, the character...to sit in that Oval Office and make crucial decisions."* (6/11)

WELD SLAMS CLINTON OPPOSITION TO BBA

Saying Bill Clinton *"proved his allegiance to the old tax and spend crowd"* by opposing passage of a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Massachusetts Governor William Weld slammed Clinton's alliance with Democratic Congressional leaders and likened his Arkansas record to Mike Dukakis' so-called *"Massachusetts Miracle."*

Weld, speaking at a news conference at the Press Club of Western Pennsylvania, praised President Bush for his support of the Balanced Budget Amendment and charged Clinton and his congressional allies *"were more concerned with protecting spending for special interests than protecting the American taxpayer."* (6/12)

PEROT: THE MAN WITHOUT A PLAN Perot's claim that he can break the legislative gridlock in Washington before he even comes up with a plan shows that Perot does not understand the nature of Congress, the presidency, or Washington, Senator Phil Gramm told The Houston Post. *"It's hard to put a program into effect if you have one. It's impossible to put one into effect if you don't have one in the first place,"* said Gramm. (The Houston Post, 6/11)

For draft news releases, new conference statements, letters to the editor, speeches, op-eds, and talking points, please call the State Press Operations Desk at 202-336-7294.

MR. PEROT, MEET THE CONSTITUTION *"My friends, it would be a very bad idea to replace a genuine statesman with some temperamental tycoon who has contempt for the Constitution of the United States,"* Vice President Quayle said Friday in a speech to the Federal Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. *"Ross Perot gives every indication of never having read the Constitution,"* agrees columnist Richard Cohen. (Washington Post, 6/11)

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

CLINTON: CONGRESS CLONE *"If you like Congress, you'll love Bill Clinton,"* Bush/Quayle Senior Political Advisor Charlie Black said in response to Clinton's announcement that he and Democratic leaders in Congress will join forces to produce a legislative agenda for America. Black later predicted that Clinton would rubber stamp the Cuomo/Congress plan of liberal big spending legislation. (New York Times 6/11)

DEMS WHO VOTE AGAINST BBA RISK FALL ELECTION *"This vote on the Balanced Budget Amendment is a key vote for the electorate. Democrats who vote against this legislation will have tough time at the polls in the fall,"* said National Republican Congressional Committee Co-Chairman E. Spencer Abraham. (6/11)

DEMOCRATS OUT OF TOUCH *"It hurts the Democrats badly.... All the President has to do is remind Americans of the Democrats cheering at the defeat of something 80 percent of them want."* Congressman Robert S. Walker (R-PA) (New York Times, 6/12)

TIME FOR A "REAL REVOLT" *"If you think the American people are mad now, just defeat this one ray of hope we have now for finally reducing the federal deficit and you will see a real revolt,"* Congressman Rod Chandler (R-WA) (AP, 6/12)

FOLEY'S LIBERAL POWER BROKERS *"It's just another example of the arrogance of the extended tenure of the liberal Democrats... When the whole country wants positive congressional action to bring about fiscal responsibility that the speaker and a few of his liberal power brokers can block it is unfathomable."* Senator Steve Symms (R-ID) (AP, 6/12)

CONGRESS IS "HOPELESS" *"These guys [in Congress] are hopeless, and the vote was further evidence there won't be institutional change until there is a further sign of economic collapse."* Jim Davidson, Chairman of the National Taxpayers Union (Washington Post, 6/12)

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