



# Campaign Briefing

TODAY:

**ACT NOW TO  
BALANCE BUDGET**

ISSUE 85

Tuesday, June 9, 1992

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## HEADLINES

- Northern Virginia 8th & 11th Republican Congressional Primaries today.
- Balanced Budget Update (Pg. 2)

## TODAY'S SCHEDULE

President Bush attends fundraiser for Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA).

Vice President Quayle addresses 1992 Southern Baptist Convention.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### HOUSE VOTE ON BBA TOO CLOSE TO CALL

Despite overwhelming support by American citizens for a Balanced Budget Amendment, special interest groups and some Democratic Congressmen are working hard to defeat the amendment. A strong majority, 77 percent, of likely voters support a Balanced Budget Amendment, according to a new Washington Post-ABC poll. President Bush, Republican Congressmen, and a coalition of more than 50 groups, are fighting for the passage of the amendment. However, a large coalition led by the AFL-CIO has launched an all-out campaign to defeat it. Rep. Charles W. Stenholm (D-TX), the author of the amendment most likely to be chosen, says he has the 290 votes needed for its passage. Others say the vote is too close to call. (Washington Post, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, 6/9)

### President Meets State Legislators

## STATE LEGISLATORS TELL BUSH: "WE'RE FOR THE BBA, TOO"

"We've got to get it done," President Bush told a bipartisan group of state legislators, who met with him Monday in the White House, to back his campaign for a Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution.

Bush stressed that more than 40 states are required by their constitutions to balance their budgets. After the meeting, some of the legislators had the following comments:

State Sen. John Drummond (D-SC): "We finished our budget last Thursday, and thank goodness we had a balanced budget amendment because we would probably be, in a few years, in the same position the federal government's in now... We must live within our means whether you are in South Carolina or in Washington, D.C."

State Rep. Ken Overington (R-WV): "Just as we balance our own individual checkbooks, just as states balance their checkbooks, we want Congress to balance the national checkbook."

State Rep. David Halbrook (D-Miss): "If this Congress has to be responsible to this generation for its actions, then it will not act nearly so foolishly as they have in the past."

New York State Sen. Hugh Farley (R-NY): "There's an overwhelming preponderance of the people back in New York and in the rest of the states that want Congress not only to balance their checkbooks, but to balance the budget." (6/8)

### Issue Brief: Congressional Spending

## THE HOUSE: HOME OF THE BIG SPENDERS

Congress spends compulsively. In the House, where the Balanced Budget Amendment issue comes to a vote on Thursday, Democratic House leaders are twisting arms against it.

- The National Taxpayers Union Foundation says all legislation introduced in the House in late 1991 and early 1992, if enacted, would have sent government spending soaring another \$793 billion, more than doubling the federal deficit.
- For every six of those spending bills, only one was introduced to cut spending. For every \$1 of proposed spending cuts, there were \$22 in proposed increases.

Less than three weeks after he became President, George Bush sent Congress his first specific legislative proposal for building

a better America — a Balanced Budget Amendment. Congressional leaders declared it "dead on arrival."

- In 1990, two BBA bills were defeated in the Democratic-dominated House. A Democratic proposal, which the House may vote on again Thursday, fell just seven votes shy of the needed two-thirds majority.

Congress owes it to the American people to support President Bush and pass the BBA. We already pay too much interest on the federal debt. We will pay even more if the BBA is defeated.

- In 1990, 56 of the 60 House Democrats who bounced 50 or more House Bank checks also voted against a Republican-sponsored BBA. Most opposed the Democratic version, too.
- The projected 1992 deficit of nearly \$370 billion represents 6.8 percent of our gross domestic product. That money would be better spent on investment to create jobs, opportunity and security for American workers and their families.



## BALANCED BUDGET UPDATE

### NOTHING SHORT OF AN AMENDMENT WILL WORK

*"It is clear that measures short of a constitutional amendment are inadequate" to control runaway spending by Congress, Governor Carroll Campbell (R-SC) said on Monday. Campbell called on South Carolina's congressional delegation to vote for the Balanced Budget Amendment this week, saying that it is the only way to stop the "continuing large deficits [that] undermine the long-term growth potential of our economy and impose a terribly unfair burden on future generations." (6/8)*

### STOP THE SPENDING SPREE

*"[It is time] to reign in the Democrat spending spree," urged Ohio Republican Party Chairman, Robert T. Bennett on Monday. Bennett supports the President's Balanced Budget Amendment, which the President has been struggling to get passed. Bennett said, "The Democratic front-runner still doesn't believe in a Balanced Budget Amendment to get spending under control...Bill Clinton just called for a 'massive tax increase' to address the budget...apparently [he] just wants to keep spending." (6/7)*

### DEM SHOPAHOLICS MUST BE STOPPED

The Democratic-controlled Congress has "been like a shopaholic with too many credit cards..." exclaimed Lamar Smith (R-TX). "...[and] shopaholics don't quit spending because they wake up one morning and realize what's been going on. You have got to take away the credit cards, cut them up, make them pay for everything with cash." Smith continued, "The federal deficit is out of control, and we have to bring it under control - NOW. That is what the Balanced Budget Amendment would do. It would force us to live within our means." Borrowing a line from the President, Smith declared, "It is time to roll up our sleeves and get to work...[because the Balanced Budget Amendment is] the single most important issue the federal government faces." (6/5)

### END DEFICIT'S SUFFOCATING GRASP ON ECONOMY

In urging passage of President Bush's proposed Balanced Budget Amendment, New York State GOP Chairman, William D. Powers, "called on the New York Congressional delegation to 'vigorously support' the President - and end the 'budget deficit's suffocating and destructive grasp on the nation's economy.'" Powers continued, "We must address 'our nation's out-of-control, runaway spending.' For too long, the liberal Democrat Congress has run rampant with its undisciplined, tax-and-spend habits...and ...in the last 30 years, [they] have balanced the budget only once - while increasing spending 56 times." (6/8)

For draft news releases, news conference statements, letters to the editor, speeches, op-eds, and talking points, please call the STATE PRESS OPERATIONS DESK at 202/336-7294.

## STATES CALL FOR BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

*"It's very important that [the Balanced Budget Amendment] pass this week.... All of us are prepared to go back and do what we can to make that happen." State Senator Charles Cook (R-NY)*

*"We are delighted to see President Bush take a strong lead in getting the Balanced Budget Amendment passed. [The amendment] is something that...is long, long overdue. It's one that the people out there in the communities have been clambering for for years." State Representative Ken Harper (R-KY), President of the National Republican Legislators Association*

*"The people are demanding [a Balanced Budget Amendment]. I think if you look at what's going on in the presidential campaigns right now, you'd see that people are unhappy about what's going on here on the Hill." State Representative Jim Henshaw (R-OK)*

*"This is really a serious issue.... This is something that really hinges on the future of this country. We are now spending our children's inheritance. We are living on day-to-day money that we are getting from the future. Now this is not something you can keep on doing." Jim Neal (R-DE)*

### BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT: Field Action Kit

In need of talking points, sample op-eds, sample letters to the editor and news clips regarding the Balanced Budget Amendment?

Call State Press Operations @ 202-336-7294, and we will send you the Balanced Budget Amendment Field Action Kit.

## STATEWATCH

### BUSH WOULD TROUNCE OPPONENTS IN NEW JERSEY

If New Jerseyans voted for president today, President Bush would trounce his opponents. In a statewide phone survey of 603 registered voters, 39% supported George Bush. Support for Bush is anchored in satisfaction with his accomplishments and his abilities. Ross Perot and Bill Clinton were in a dead heat following Bush with 24%. Those surveyed indicated that "Perot's popularity is related to worries about the nation's troubled economy." However, "most New Jerseyans think the state's economic picture is brightening, and now is a favorable time for consumers to start spending again." (Sunday Record, 6/7)

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