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The Conservative Viewpoint

Presented by Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)

Spending...Put a Lid on It!

- Federal spending continues to sharply increase—far faster than inflation and at a near-record-breaking pace.
- In fact, the Cato Institute reports that the non-defense spending increases of the last three years are cumulatively larger than the non-defense spending increases in first three years of any other Administration in recent history—except LBJ (who created the “Great Society”).¹
- This level of out-of-control spending has to stop. But it won’t stop by gently limiting ongoing spending increases.
- Think of it this way: Imagine if an extremely overweight man wants to lose weight. He switches from Coke to Diet Coke—but then he doubles his intake of chocolate cake every day. Clearly, he will not lose weight.
- Yet this scenario is essentially what many in Washington have proposed: slowing the growth of non-defense, non-homeland security spending, which only accounts for about one-fifth of total federal spending, yet significantly increasing the rest of the federal budget.
- The real solution for the overweight man is to switch to diet drinks, eliminate chocolate cake, exercise, and otherwise take across-the-board steps to bring his weight down.
- The same solution applies to federal spending. We must cut—not control the growth of—but cut federal spending across the board. And we must offset any new spending on new programs with equivalent cuts in other programs.
- Just as the solution for the overweight man is not to buy bigger clothes and do nothing else, the solution to the federal spending problem is not to raise taxes and continue to increase spending.

For more information on the increases in federal spending in recent years, contact RSC Executive Director, Neil Bradley at (202) 226-9717.

¹ Veronique de Rugy, “The Republican Spending Explosion,” Cato Institute Briefing Paper, January 23, 2004.