

# Committee on the Budget

Jim Nussle, Chairman

United States House of Representatives

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## Dems Use Slowing Economy to Fuel Political Threats

*"I hope he's had a relaxing time in Texas,"* said Democratic National Chairman Terence McAuliffe. *"When he gets back, he's going to have to figure out how to pay for education, defense and his missile shield. There is no money left, and the bill has now come due."* **Associated Press 8/20/2001**

Washington Post's Kessler reports that Dems "plan to launch an assault" on Bush's budget and tax cut this week, "including town hall meetings, protests and attack ads, to undermine his political support" on those issues when Congress comes back next month. "Seizing" on the new estimates, Dems "have concluded that they can use the dwindling budget surplus to discredit Bush's tax cut, derail his plans for private Social Security investment accounts and energize the Democratic base" for the '02 elections. **The Hotline, 8/20/2001**

Dems "plan to greet Bush with senior-citizen protests" today in WI and tomorrow in MO. "The charge: The tax cut has also forced the government to dip into Medicare." The DNC begins running an ad tomorrow in DC "and possibly elsewhere, mocking Bush for speaking" in Independence, MO -- home of Pres. Harry Truman, "who proposed Medicare." And Dem lawmakers, "armed with budget information packets and quotes from GOP leaders pledging not to touch Social Security or Medicare," will hold town hall meetings in their districts. **Weisman, USA Today, 8/20/2001**

Democrats are planning to intensify their attacks on President Bush's fiscal management and to pin blame for the weakened economy on the White House. **Stevenson, The New York Times, 8/21/2001**