



*Congressman*  
**JOHN W. OLVER**  
*Serving Western & Central Massachusetts*



S U M M E R 2 0 0 3 N E W S L E T T E R

## *A Commitment to International Cooperation and Peace*



While I strongly support our men and women in the armed forces serving in Iraq, I was very disappointed that the President essentially dismissed the United Nations after his administration was unable to push the Security Council into authorizing war with Iraq. I believe that working with the international community at the UN, thereby demonstrating the importance of true multilateral cooperation in the war against terrorism, is a better way for the United States to deal with dictators like Saddam Hussein.

Now the President and the Congress must involve other nations in the task of stabilizing Iraq and helping the Iraqi people develop a democratic government. We need to invite the administrative and technical experts from the UN and other governments who have experience rebuilding countries to join the process. For Iraqi citizens, the joy of liberation from Saddam Hussein is being steadily replaced by the harsh realities of living in a nation struggling to find order. Each day that passes without clean water, sanitation, electricity, trained and trustworthy police officers, a public health system, a working education system and jobs at least as good as Iraq had before the war increases the chance that the most extreme Islamist leaders will fill the power vacuum created by Hussein's overthrow.

One thing has always been certain regarding our Persian Gulf policy: long-term security for the United States is dependent on our ability to help find a stable, lasting peace for the region. Peace must be our clear objective, but the challenges to getting there continue to be multiple and complex.

The rebuilding phase of our involvement in Iraq will remain critical as long as American forces are in the region. We must do much more to rebuild trust and cooperative spirit as we rebuild infrastructure. Our nation needs to work better with the international community to identify common objectives if the long-term peace we seek is to be achieved. I am committed to this cause and will urge my colleagues in Washington to continually give it the high priority it deserves.

MASSACHUSETTS

# New Appropriations Committee Posts

I am happy to announce that my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee have named me the Ranking Member of the new Subcommittee on Transportation and Treasury.

This new panel has funding jurisdiction over the Department of Transportation, including the Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration, including Amtrak. The Subcommittee is also responsible for the annual budgets of the Treasury Department, including the IRS and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Postal Service and the Executive Offices of the President and Vice President, which includes their advisors such as the National Security Council and the Council of Economic Advisors.

I was doubly honored this year to receive a new assignment on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. This panel has jurisdiction over the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service,

Forest Service, and all land conservation, habitat restoration and water management activities conducted by the Department of the Interior. The Department of Energy, along with its research programs promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels, plus the National Endowments for the Arts and Humanities are also funded annually by the Interior Subcommittee.

I intend to use these new positions to improve the quality of life in the First Congressional District.



*I discussed regional development issues with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta during a break at a recent Transportation and Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee hearing.*

# Fighting for Better Budget Priorities

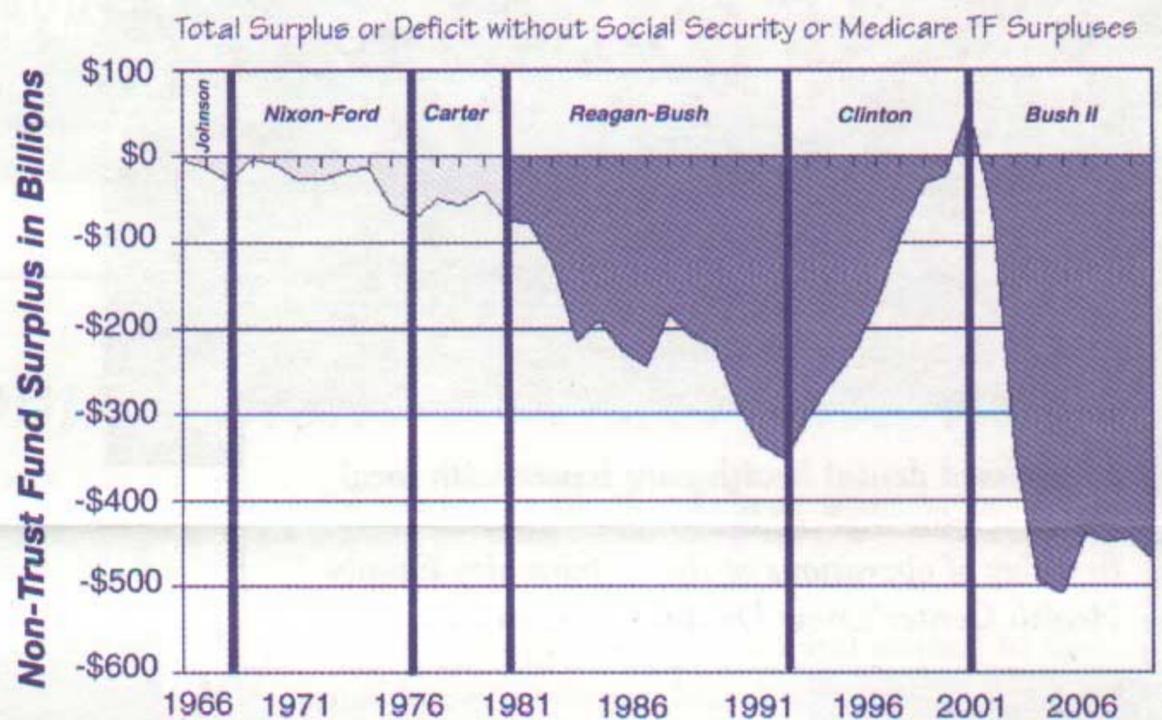


The President proposed and, led by the Republican leadership, the Congress recently enacted a budget plan that includes hundreds of billions of dollars in new tax cuts over the next decade heavily weighted to the very highest-income Americans. The effect of this tax cut will be to explosively increase the federal budget deficit and our national debt. And the cost of the 2003 tax cut is on top of both the costs of the 2001 tax cut and the mounting costs of our involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This irresponsible fiscal policy threatens to undermine our nation's savings, investment, economic growth, job-creation capacity and retirement security.

Even with this massive projected deficit spending, the Republicans' budget plan also cuts hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade from Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, education and other critical priorities for western and central Massachusetts' families. And it provides an insufficient amount for Homeland Security funding for "first responders" – our law enforcement officers, firefighters

## A Fiscal Opportunity Lost



Prepared by the Democratic Staff of the House Budget Committee 1/29/03

and emergency medical personnel.

In sharp contrast, during the fiscal 2004 budget debate in the House, I supported an alternative plan offered by the minority that would:

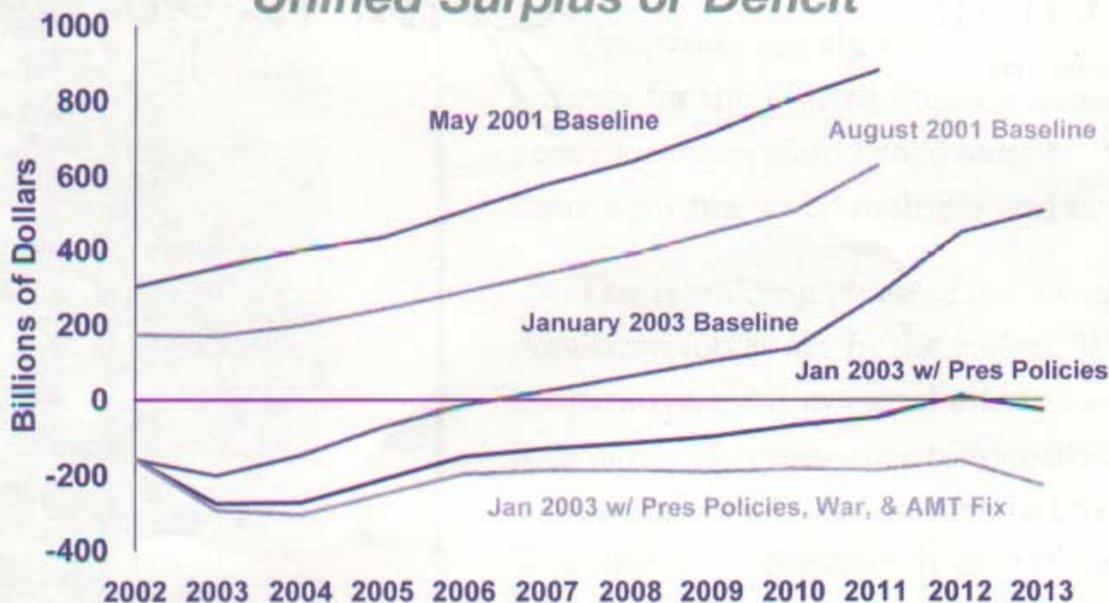
- ▲ Continue to implement middle-income tax cuts as directed by the 2001 tax bill (including elimination of the marriage penalty and an increase to the child tax credit);
- ▲ Freeze the 2001 tax cuts for the top two income tax brackets (incomes above \$151,300);

- ▲ Create a prescription drug benefit for all seniors under Medicare;
- ▲ Meet our domestic needs in the areas of veterans' benefits, education, energy, transportation and environmental protection; and
- ▲ Target an additional \$20 billion (above the House majority's budget) for "first responders."

I will continue to fight for these priorities as the congressional budget debate continues this year and into the second session of the 108th Congress.

## What Happened to the Surplus?

### Unified Surplus or Deficit



Prepared by the Democratic Staff of the House Budget Committee

01/29/03

## Expanding Access to Dental Care



*I discussed dental health care issues with local social service and medical representatives on the first day of operations of the Community Family Health Center's new Dental Clinic in Fitchburg.*

*I talked about patient care issues with an aspiring future dentist at the Dental Clinic.*



## Reducing Dependence on Fossil Fuels

Our nation relies far too heavily on the production of gas, coal and oil, without enough emphasis on increasing energy conservation and efficiency. At a time when we have just engaged in another major conflict in the Persian Gulf, the Bush administration would actually increase our dependence on the burning of fossil fuels to meet our energy needs.

I strongly feel this is the wrong approach. I support an energy strategy that would:

- ▲ Continue the prohibition against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR);
- ▲ Raise Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all passenger vehicles, especially light trucks and SUVs;
- ▲ Dramatically accelerate research and development on alternative and renewable energy sources – including wind, solar and geothermal – in order to bring these sources of energy to market within the decade rather than waiting over 50 years;
- ▲ Reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere in order to curb global warming.



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