

'An affordable change'

Clinton unleashes his economic agenda

By Matt Peck
staff editor

Last Wednesday night President Clinton turned to the nation and Congress to unveil his economic recovery plan for the next four years.

"We must do this together," he said as he looked out onto the floor of Congress.

The plan Clinton proposed would encompass \$242 billion in tax increases and \$253 billion in spending over the next four years. He said that this budget will cut \$140 billion from the deficit over the next four years.

President Clinton appealed to the American people and members of Congress saying that if we did not act now, then we will not recognize this country in 10 years. The deficit would have grown to \$635 billion a year, and the national debt would consume over 80% of the gross domestic product.

Majority Democrats gave Clinton a roaring standing ovation as the first Democratic president to hold the White House in 12 years.

Clinton used the call for change by the American people as platform for his agenda to stand, as he said: "Americans have called for change, and now it's up for those of us in this room to deliver."

Although Clinton's plan would spread pain throughout the nation, well-to-do people would be hit the hardest.

Clinton's program would impose higher energy taxes on family households with an income of more than \$30,000. By the administration's calculations this would raise revenue of more than \$71 billion by 1998.

The expected date of start for this plan is next July. Gasoline will be 2 1/2 cents a gallon, 2 3/4 cents a gallon for heating oil, and 26 1/4 cents per thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

Income tax rates would increase drastically over the next few years, from 31% now to 36% next year. This increase would affect families with incomes over \$140,000 and individuals over \$115,000. A 10% surtax would apply to those people making \$250,000 or more.

For couples on Social Security earning more than

\$32,000 a year and individuals earning \$25,000 a year, there will be a significant tax increase. Medicare would be taxed for all earnings compared to the present \$135,000 limit.

The package presented by President Clinton is estimated to cut \$496 billion from the deficit over the next four years. It is the largest economic reduction in history.

Clinton also proposed spending increase at around \$160 billion over the next four years. These would include construction projects, education programs, job training, and a variety of health care programs.

Success or failure of this proposal will be the benchmark by which his presidency is judged.

Rep. Dick Armey, R-Tex., said, "I told him I didn't like it (the plan) at all. There is nothing about this plan that says there will be one dime less spending next year than this year."

Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill said, "Nobody likes taxes. I assume Clinton wants to be fair, and from what I interpret, he is fair. But it is going to be a tough row to hoe."

Other republicans denounce Clinton's plan as another democratic tax and spend program for the American

Model U.N. successful at raising dough

By Elizabeth Chesky

Members of the Model United Nations at St. Andrews began "selling" themselves outside of SAGA on January 12. Their services included good night kisses, back massages, bed-time stories, traditional tuck-ins, full service, and for the shy, just a glass of water and a mint. All for \$5.00 or less. On the 11 of February, they started selling cut-out hearts in accordance with Valentines Day and offering to deliver them to whomever was specified. Why all of this altruism?

The Model UN plans a trip to New York, where they will compete nationally, for the second week of April. It will be their third simulation conference this year; they won honorable mention for best delegation last November and will participate in another regional competition this month.

These students can participate in international policy-making by studying intensely about their assigned country, debating and reaching a resolution at the simulation conference, then submitting their views to the real United Nations. They will discuss effects on the environment in April.

"It's a lot of work, but it's worth it," say president Tim Lucas and vice president Scott Snider. Congratulations to Scott and Tim, and to other active members Becky Stacy, Paul McPhater, Chelsea Cureton, Shanon Gill, Malena Shafford, Cindy Ritter, Nicole Ward, Brad Johnson, Chris Simmons, Eleanor Eagle, and to their advisor, Dr. Howard Reichner.

These representatives of St. Andrews are helping shape our nation!

Clinton's first mistake

by Chip Neal

Newly-elected President Bill Clinton is already on the road towards his first conflict—not just any conflict, but what could be a major one!

Defense Secretary Les Aspin, advised President Clinton that a large "majority of Congress" and a great number of military leaders would oppose any immediate venture to lift the ban on homosexuals. He goes on to say "if you can't get Congress to agree on the outline of it, it isn't going to happen."

Colin Powell, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, staunchly disagrees with Clinton's proposal saying that lifting the ban would "wreck morale and discipline" and "increase the

spread of AIDS which would in turn "undermine recruiting and force devoutly religious service members to resign." The government would be asking the individual to lay his or her life down over the risks of two wars—the war against AIDS and the war against a foreign land. Even if Clinton does lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, Congress could still pass a law overruling him.

Senator Dan Coates, a Republican from Indiana and a member of the Armed Services Committee, said that "he'd lead opposition to lifting the ban," but as of now, he doesn't know how he'll do it. He was shocked at the proposal. "I don't think the military is the place to try a social experiment," he added.

How to Contact Washington

If you would like to contact Washington to give the president your views of this situation, or any other situation that might arise, here is an address and phone number to help you with your mission:

Call: (202) 456-1111, 9-5 weekdays, Operators will register your comments.

Write: President Clinton, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500.

Your Congressman's or Senator's address is in your local phone book.