

# Official: GOP tax bill will be vetoed

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is eager to veto the 10-year, \$792 billion Republican tax cut bill to clear the way for negotiations with Congress on boosting spending for key programs and more modest tax relief, a top White House official said Wednesday.

"We believe that some tax relief is appropriate," John Podesta, the White House chief of staff, said after a National Press Club speech. "It ought to be balanced against the other important national needs."

Podesta stressed the administration's contention that the tax bill passed by the GOP-led Congress spends too much of projected budget surpluses — at the expense of Social Security and Medicare — and is improperly weighted toward wealthier taxpayers. He said Clinton would veto the measure as soon as congressional leaders send it to the White House, which will occur as early as Sept. 14.

"Please send us the tax cut bill so that we don't have to keep fooling around with the phony debate," Podesta said. "Send it down to us so that we can veto it, and then move forward."

Republicans kept the tax bill locked away on Capitol Hill during the August recess as they tried to drum up public support for the measure and demonstrate their commitment to cutting taxes as a prelude to the 2000 congressional elections.

Over 10 years, the bill would reduce all income tax rates by 1 percentage

“*Please send us the tax cut bill so that we don't have to keep fooling around with the phony debate.*”

**JOHN PODESTA**  
White House chief of staff

point, ease the marriage penalty on many two-income couples, eliminate estate taxes and the alternative minimum income tax, reduce capital gains taxes, expand pension and 401(k) laws and provide numerous business tax breaks.

There are mixed feelings within the GOP about whether to seek compromise with the president on a smaller tax bill. Some hard-liners would rather force a veto on the \$792 billion bill and use that as a political issue, but others believe voters prefer a concrete accomplishment even if it is more modest.

Clinton has said a tax cut of up to \$300 billion over 10 years might be acceptable, and moderate lawmakers of both parties in Congress are working on alternatives somewhat higher than that.

Although Podesta discounted any growth in public support for the GOP plan, many Republicans believe Clinton's willingness to compromise shows that parts of the bill are popular.

"This latest exercise is further proof that President Clinton does not want to admit that he is dead set against giving

any tax relief to married couples, small business owners, investors and millions of other Americans," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Ultimately, the size of tax cuts depends on how lawmakers cope with tight spending caps imposed as part of the 1997 balanced budget deal. Unless the caps are lifted — neither the White House nor GOP leaders are suggesting that — many programs are going to suffer.

In his speech, Podesta accused Republicans of shortchanging vital science and research programs in various spending bills, including a cut of \$1 billion from Clinton's fiscal year 2000 request for NASA and a cut of \$1.8 billion for civilian research and development.

But Elizabeth Morra, spokeswoman for the House Appropriations Committee, said unless the spending caps are altered lawmakers will be forced to make painful choices in allocating a limited pool of money throughout government.

# Technology becomes medium in art world

WASHINGTON (AP) — The art world is going high tech. The first thing a visitor sees at an exhibit of art students' productions opening today at the Corcoran Gallery of Art is a computer monitor with a mouse and two sets of earphones.

To appreciate that work, the visitor must sit at the monitor, don the earphones and click on an icon with the mouse.

This piece is a CD-ROM called "1948: Memory Fragments — A Narrative in Three Voices." The artist is David A. Valentine, who received his degree in 1997 from the Corcoran College of Art and Design, one of the nation's leading art schools.

"His major was fine arts," said Linda Williams, the school's director of alumni affairs, "but as you can see, he knows about technology too."

Valentine is a former animation cinematographer who ran his own computer animation consulting firm.

His piece is part of an exhibit of alumni work held every two years at the gallery, the capital's first art museum.

The school cultivates an older tradition, too. An oil painting —

Fred Folsom's "Edna Flying," a nude gliding over a landscape — is back in a corner of the gallery.

But most of the show does little to recall the days when art students spent more of their time on watercolors or making drawings of antique statues.

Many of the students seem to be trying to outdo one another in cultivating exotic ways of expressing themselves. Some, however, reject the high-tech trend.

Nancy Van Meter makes cyanotypes, created by laying an object directly on a sensitized photographic plate.

Some early photographers practiced a similar technique more than 150 years ago.

"The technical process for creating these photograms is simple, permanent and non-toxic," the artist explained in a statement. "Machinery of any kind is unnecessary."

"My personal response rebels wildly against the barrage of computer technology with its unapologetic deluge of poor-quality images."

She calls one of her small prints, which uses doll clothing, "Barbie High Heels: Float Like Boats on Top of the Sea."

IF YOU'RE A NUN, THEN YOU'RE PROBABLY NOT A STUDENT,  
AND IF YOU'RE NOT A STUDENT, THEN YOU CAN'T BUY AT WWW.EDU.COM.

Introducing edu.com, the first store on the web where only students can save up to 70% on name brand computers, software, textbooks, and more, every day. Sorry sister.

**edu.**  
students get it

# Clinton plea for money sent to Lewinsky's dad

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of dollars short of covering the Clinton family's legal bills, officials at President Clinton's defense fund are nonetheless feeling a little sheepish about asking for money from one prospective donor: Monica Lewinsky's father.

Dr. Bernard Lewinsky, who has contributed to the Democratic Party over the years, recently received a request from the Clinton Legal Expense Trust asking for help in paying off the \$10.5 million in legal expenses of Clinton and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Lewinsky wrote "Return to sender" on the envelope, scrawling underneath, "You must be morons to send me this letter!" according to a Lewinsky family friend who asked not to be identified.

Anthony Essaye, the fund's executive director, said Wednesday that he couldn't confirm the form letter was sent to Lewinsky but he assumes it was.

"It's just one of those things that happens," Essaye said. "I'm sorry to burden him with that."

The fund mails its donation requests to lists of people recommended by a direct mail group, he said.

It's possible the same group is working with the Democratic National Committee.

Less than a month ago, Lewinsky's friend said, the DNC sent the father of the former White House intern a photograph of Bill and Hillary Clinton with a fund-raising plea and the message, "Thank you for your understanding during the last year."

Read to your children  
or  
let them read to you  
but  
just read it  
[www.dailyneb.com](http://www.dailyneb.com)