

also believe in the Constitution, which created a national government to act for the common good, along with a Bill of Rights to protect the freedoms of ordinary citizens. We believe in the legacy of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which includes a commitment to economic security for all Americans, and the need for American leadership within an international community.

Liberalism does not mean big government. Liberals instead want effective, efficient and caring government, and therefore have supported many of President Clinton's and Vice President Gore's "reinventing government" initiatives.

Liberals believe in a progressive tax system in which people (and corporations) pay a fair and equitable share relative to their benefits from our economic system. We also believe in rational budget priorities—including deficit reduction—but not necessarily a balanced budget as any kind of absolute, magical economic cure.

Since 1994, the Republican vision has been to dismantle the federal government and the liberal foundations that sustained America's progress over the past 60 years. It is a vision that would return America to 19th-century laissez-faire capitalism, leaving ordinary people and communities at risk.

It is a vision that is incompatible with helping Americans cope with rapid economic and technological change.

Although the economy has improved since 1992, Americans still suffer from a steady decline in their standards of living. Each year in the 1990s, real wages decreased among even the most highly educated workers. Fully 80 percent of American families were worse off in 1995 than in the 1970s. Nonetheless, from 1973 to 1995, there has been a 25 percent gain in productivity, with significant increases in profits for corporate America and increases in compensation for corporate executives.

Even though unemployment seems relatively low, unemployment rates for blacks and Hispanics remain at about 10 percent, almost double the rate for white workers. When discouraged workers and people working part-time due to economic conditions are included, the "real" rate of unemployment jumps to about 10 percent.

These economic trends represent not only economic hardship for individuals, but also the unraveling of America's social fabric: straining families, pitting generation

against generation, and worsening relations between races. As a nation, we increasingly are at risk of coming apart, rather than pulling together to build a common future.

In 1995, the Republican Congress sought to cut funds for Medicare, Medicaid and education. President Clinton successfully resisted; however, he acquiesced to giving the Pentagon billions of dollars that it had not requested, and the, after two vetoes, signed a welfare reform bill that eliminates assistance to many poor Americans, without doing anything meaningful to help them find jobs.

Last year, ADA was the first national organization to endorse President Clinton for re-election. In doing so, we called on liberals to join moderates and true conservatives to fight for the vital center of American politics. Our cry recalled ADA founder Arthur Schlesinger's 1949 book *The Vital Center*, which presented liberalism as middle ground between the rigid ideological doctrines of left and right.

As the president approaches his second inaugural, liberals can celebrate with him, but we still expect to disagree with him from time to time. Liberals who were not afraid to confront Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy, in order to move them toward a more forthright embrace of civil rights, will not hesitate to confront President Clinton and the Republican Congress whenever we disagree with them on vital policy matters. Just as liberals gathered in 1947 out of concern for America's future, we must do so again, 50 years later, to chart a course for the next 50.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHELDON
AND MIRIAM ADELSON

HON. BILL PAXON

OF NEW YORK

HON. SUSAN MOLINARI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 4, 1997

Mr. PAXON. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Molinari and I rise today to congratulate our dear friends, Sheldon and Miriam Adelson on the recent birth of their son, Adam. In addition to their distinguished public lives, Sheldon and Miriam

will now take on new private roles as parents, teachers, and role models for their son.

Sheldon Adelson has spent nearly half a century building a worldwide reputation as an entrepreneur and visionary businessman. He is not only one of the most influential leaders in today's convention, hotel, travel, and gaming industries, but has earned a reputation as a top executive in the computer industry. He is also active in the international business arena, particularly in Israel where he is involved in fostering trade, manufacturing, and software development for Israeli high-technology companies, and creating new forums that show the world the advantages of doing business with Israel.

Sheldon also has a long record of public and private support of the State of Israel. In addition to his numerous philanthropic activities for the Jewish community in the United States, he has shown his true dedication to building a strong and secure Israel.

Miriam Adelson has devoted her career to medicine, specializing in the fields of internal medicine and emergency medicine and most recently, chemical dependency and drug addiction. In 1986, Dr. Adelson was invited to be a guest investigator and associate physician at Rockefeller University in New York City where she studied chemical dependency and drug addiction. Her experiences as a witness to the devastating effects drug addiction has had on this country led her to commit herself to preventing and treating drug addiction in her homeland of Israel before it reached epidemic proportions.

She has shown her commitment to this cause by building the Dr. Miriam Adelson and Sheldon G. Adelson Clinic for drug abuse treatment and research in Tel Aviv, Israel's first drug treatment and research center in a hospital setting. This clinic opened in June 1993 and a second Adelson clinic is being built at the Poriah Hospital in Israel's Galilee region.

As new parents ourselves, we know the joy and happiness that a child brings to our lives. We again congratulate Sheldon and Miriam on the birth of their son and wish all of them the best of luck for the future.