

costs of peace, it is hard to make any sensible assessment. Some military experts claim that the presence of only 50,000 troops will be required. Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army chief of staff, estimates that as many as 200,000 troops will be needed. That could well cost \$50 billion a year. There are wide-eyed hopes that Iraq's oil revenues will defray most of the cost of reconstruction, but it will take several years to bring production to its full potential, as well as billions of dollars—and that's assuming there is complete peace. Some put the estimates of maintaining peace and building democracy in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

And implementing the new world vision Bush has discussed recently will require still more money. An ongoing presence in the Middle East beyond Iraq will soak up additional billions; potential crises in Korea and elsewhere will demand expensive attention. As I understand it, since even before the war started, the Defense Department has been spending money so fast it can't keep track of it. In sum, the new defense commitment looks open-ended.

The budget resolution the House passed last month makes clear the dollar amount of cuts in domestic programs that would have to be made in order to retain something close to fiscal balance in Washington in 10 years. They will involve deep cuts in programs from Medicaid to school lunches to college loans to, perhaps most cynically in the current environment, veterans' benefits. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities calculates that reductions in mandatory programs for the elderly, veterans and the poor would come to \$265 billion over 10 years. Another \$210 billion would be lopped off of discretionary programs. The total of \$475 billion is about equal to the tax reduction the president is requesting for the top 1 percent of earners in America.

To make this politically palatable, the reductions would be phased in. Average reductions would be only 1 percent in the first year, but they would rise rapidly and would average 4 percent over 10 years. In the worst years, the budget for Medicaid would be cut by 7 percent.

But the House bill is based on the C.B.O. projections. If other economists are right, and the deficits are considerably larger, still greater cuts will be required to balance the budget over time—in fact, perhaps double the amount. The Bush administration insists that it can live with the budget deficits and still maintain many of these programs. Denial has become almost a ritual. But it cannot have anticipated how quickly America's finances have turned to red, and it is not very likely that it is prepared to face the reality that the financial markets, if not Congress, will eventually impose on it. If there is no growth miracle on the horizon that would raise government revenues, the Bush administration's options will be limited not only domestically, which may be part of its design, but also militarily. The administration may well be compromising its own dear-est goals.

The longer we wait, the harder it will be to correct the nation's finances. Most of us will be hit from both ends. Incomes will not rise the way they did in the late 1990's, and it will be difficult to save for retirement. The rising costs of education and health care will be harder for the typical family to meet. Meanwhile, government will not have the money to help. Programs may be cut across the board. And consider what was not accomplished in the 1990's, despite the nation's prosperity. More than 40 million Americans still have no health insurance. The United States has the highest proportion of children born into poverty in the developed world. The quality of education remains grossly un-

equal. Even two-worker families cannot afford quality day care. Much remains to be done.

There is time for a course correction. But the longer the nation waits, the harder the problems will be to fix. Forecasting the economic future, as everyone knows by now, is no sure thing. But the federal government simply cannot indefinitely spend so much more than it takes in. At some point, the nation will either raise taxes significantly or make painful cuts in cherished federal programs.

But as long as the full consequences of Bush's extravagance are not immediate, and war limits serious public criticism, the president may for now get away with promising guns and a little butter. And we will all pay for it.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO THE PIKEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN CHEERLEADERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the Pikeville High School Cheerleaders of Pikeville, KY. The squad won the freshman division of the Universal Cheerleading Association's National High School Cheerleading Championship earlier this year.

The 23 members of the Pikeville High School Freshman squad were awarded the top prize in the freshman division in Orlando, FL. This is no easy feat and the citizens of Pikeville should be proud to have the members of the Pikeville High School Freshman Cheerleading Squad living and learning in their community. Their examples of hard work and determination should be followed by all in the Commonwealth.

I would like to congratulate the following members of the squad for their success: Lora Cleary, Leann Clevenger, Amanda Combs, Stephanie Combs, Amelia Crum, Amanda Hall, Olivia Harris, Jessica Justice, Kristen Kendrick, Olivia Kinney, Chelsey Kurkowski, Colby Kurkowski, Collins Kurkowski, Chelsi Lawson, Mackenzie Lewis, Leigh Brittany Lynn, Griffin Myers, Jordan Shull, Taylor Stone, Ali Tucker, Bianca Vanhoose, Bridget Walsh, and Erin Wheeler. But also, I want to congratulate their coaches, Mrs. Lisa Wheeler and Ms. Kendra Hamilton, and choreographer, Mr. Hank Light, along with their peers, faculty, administrators, and parents for their support and sacrifices they have made to help meet those achievements and dreams.●

##### COMMENDING FINDLAY HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC, to compete in the national finals of the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am pleased and proud to announce that a class from Findlay High School from Findlay, OH, will represent our state in the upcoming national event. These young scholars have worked conscientiously to reach the national finals by participating at local and statewide competitions. As a result of their experience, they have gained a thorough knowledge and deep understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day We the People national competition is modeled after hearings in the Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

The We the People program provides curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels. The curriculum not only enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy, but it also helps them identify the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Critical thinking exercises, problem-solving activities, and cooperative learning techniques help develop participatory skills necessary for students to become active, responsible citizens.

Furthermore, independent studies by the Educational Testing Service, ETS, revealed that students enrolled in the We the People program at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken. Another study by Richard Brody at Stanford University discovered that students involved in the We the People program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values than do students using traditional textbooks and approaches. Researchers at the Council for Basic Education noted:

[T]eachers feel excited and renewed. . . . Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States.

The class from Findlay High School is currently preparing for their participation in the national competition, and it is inspiring how these young people advocate the fundamental ideals and principles of our government—ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation. I send these fine young constitutional experts my best wishes as they compete in the We the People national finals.●