

The Right Thing

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Sen. David Boren did the right thing by standing up to the leader of his party and opposing the Clinton tax-and-spend budget bill. If a few more Democrats show the same kind of backbone, U.S. taxpayers might be saved from the largest tax increase in history. Republicans are solidly opposed to the bogus plan to cut the deficit which would impose about \$ 250 billion new taxes from higher income rates for certain individuals and businesses and an increased levy on gasoline of 4.3 cents per gallon for everyone who uses a motor vehicle.

President Clinton's economically destructive program barely survived the first round in Congress. A modified version passed the House of Representatives by a mere six-vote margin. A tie-breaking vote by Vice President Al Gore was required to win Senate passage, and then only after the bill had been stripped of the Clinton Btu tax on most forms of energy. Boren was instrumental in killing that atrocious tax, but then voted for the bill. In opposing the final package patched together by a conference committee, he has reverted to the type of independence that Oklahomans like in their lawmakers.

The six Democratic senators who voted against the legislation are under tremendous White House pressure to support the compromise measure. Boren's courageous position should inspire them to hang tough.

Three Oklahoma House Democrats who supported Clinton the first time around can redeem themselves by following Boren's example.

Constituents should demand "no" votes from Reps. Dave McCurdy, D-Norman; Bill Brewster, D-Marietta; and Mike Synar, D-Muskogee; as well as Glenn English, D-Cordell, who opposed the bill earlier.

The issue is clear. The federal deficit ought to be reduced, but this legislation will not do it. Despite Clinton's claims, the deficit would be cut only slightly, if at all, over five years. And government spending would rise by more than \$ 300 billion.

The Clinton-Congress plan would depress private saving, harm small business, cost jobs, raise consumer prices and generally be detrimental to the economy. It must not be enacted.

Boren's action may make him a pariah in the Democratic party, but he has earned the respect of income-earners everywhere for his principled stand. H.

Ross Perot, the voice for millions of Americans fed up with runaway government spending, called the Seminole Democrat a hero.

When the final votes are counted, Boren will be able to hold his head high regardless of the outcome.