The decision of the Republican-dominated subcommittee was easy to understand. In that odd-ball project, a camera on the satellite would broadcast a live picture of Earth over the Internet, an idea conceived by Vice President Al Gore. Its demise would not slow the forward march of science, but the subcommittee’s other cuts would. They include: $100 million for the Space Infrared Telescope, which would enable scientists to detect “brown dwarfs,” substellar objects that the existing Hubble and Chandra space telescopes have in their number and density must be known in order to calculate the mass of the universe and thus its age and ultimate fate. $300 million for the Earth Observation system. This proposal for a network of satellites—conceived in the Reagan administration and officially initiated by President George Bush—would create Earth’s first integrated system for understanding how clouds and other fine particles affect global temperatures and climate. The answers could help nations prepare for hurricanes, droughts, global warming and other climate changes.

NASA director Daniel S. Goldin turned NASA into a model for efficient, small government projects. In 1991 NASA used 4% of the nation’s budget to put a man on the moon—an inspiring endeavor that nonetheless yielded only marginal scientific returns. Today, the agency anticipates more mission delays, cancelled proposals, and large losses. That’s why members of the full House Appropriations Committee should restore NASA’s funding when they take up the agency’s budget on Friday. Democrats on the committee are expected to support restoration, but Republican members might need persuading. You can encourage them by calling the numbers below.

To take Action: Reps. Jerry Lewis (R-Redlands), Ron Packard (R-Oceanside), and Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-San Diego).

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE), under the Speaker’s announcement of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may give my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

THE DEBATE ON THE BUDGET SURPLUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, in the last couple of weeks we have seen a vigorous debate here in the House and in the other body. I think it is one that resonates across the country. That is, what to do with the projected $3 trillion budget surplus.

There are those who want to argue that the path to prosperity really begins and ends here in Washington, that bigger government and higher taxes and taking away control from our everyday lives is the way to go.

There are those who feel that the path to prosperity is paved across every street across America: that rewarding people to go out and work hard, and to allow hard-working Americans to keep more of what they earn, that is the right way to go; to strengthen personal freedom, to strengthen individual liberty, and to allow economic growth to create more jobs and to put more people to work.

Mr. Speaker, this is a debate that is just beginning, but one I think every hard-working American taxpayer needs to take note of.

As a reference, I cite a statement that was given about 36 years ago from then President John Kennedy. These were his remarks.

The most direct and significant kind of Federal action in aiding economic growth is to make possible an increase in private consumption and investment demand; to cut the fettlers which hold back private spending. In the past, this could be done in part by the increased use of credit and monetary tools, but our balance of payment situation today places limits on our use of these tools for expansion. It could also be done by increasing Federal expenditures more rapidly than necessary, but such a course would soon demoralize both the government and the economy. If government is to retain the confidence of the people, it must not spend a penny more than can be justified on grounds of national need and spent with maximum efficiency. The final and best means of strengthening demand among consumers and business is to reduce the burden on private income and the deterrents to private initiative which are imposed by our present tax administration. The Reagan administration pledged itself last summer to make possible an increase in private consumption and investment demand; to cut the fettlers which hold back private spending. In the past, this could be done in part by the increased use of credit and monetary tools, but our balance of payment situation today places limits on our use of these tools for expansion.

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