

For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

Why are “deceitful” Republican revolutionaries supporting so many costly new federal programs?

WASHINGTON, DC — The Republican Revolutionaries of 1994 have turned into the Big Government Appreciation Society — with “deceitful” GOP Congressmen threatening to increase federal spending for the arts, education, and foreign aid, the Libertarian Party charged today.

“Republicans are apparently taking their political cues from Jim Carrey’s new movie — *Liar, Liar*,” said Steve Dasbach, the party’s national chairman. “After promising to deliver a smaller, less expensive government to American voters, they are now working overtime to concoct new ways to waste our money.

“In fact, why hasn’t the Federal Trade Commission charged Republicans with violating Truth-in-Advertising laws?” he asked rhetorically. “It’s a clear example of consumer fraud, since deceitful Republicans promised voters one thing, but are delivering the exact opposite.”

Over the past month, GOP leaders have backpedaled furiously on numerous government-cutting promises, Dasbach noted.

■ **The Department of Education:** Two years ago, Republicans vowed to abolish the department. Now, numerous Republicans are embracing President Clinton’s request for \$10 billion in new spending — and are even proposing new programs of their own.

For example, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-NH) advocated more federal spending for disabled students, Sen. Paul Coverdell (R-GA) demanded \$450 million more for school vouchers, and Sen. James Jeffords (R-VT) supported billions more for scholarship programs.

■ **The National Endowment for the Arts:** Two years ago, Republicans promised to abolish the “art welfare” agency. Now, House Majority Leader Richard Armey (R-TX) admits they don’t have the votes, since many Republicans — like longtime NEA foe Rep. Zach Wamp (R-TN) — support the agency. So, the NEA may get a budget *increase* of 37% next year.

■ **Foreign aid:** Two years ago, Republicans pledged to cut foreign aid by 39% over six years — now they’re rallying around a 7% budget increase proposed by President Clinton. Their argument: America needs to spend more money overseas in order to remain a “superpower.”

All these new Republican spending requests demonstrate a clear pattern of “voter fraud” by the GOP, charged Dasbach.

“On every issue, it’s now obvious that the 1994 Republican Revolution was a case of bait and switch,” he said. “The Republicans advertised a smaller, less expensive government, but the product they’re delivering is a bigger, more costly government. It’s time voters demanded an end to Republican lies — and demanded their money back.”

#