

*“Remember the ‘90s”*

*Appeal letter excerpt, Kerry 2004*

Remember the ‘90s? When the decade began, massive deficits were eating up the money that government was supposed to be setting aside for our retirement. It took leadership and a lot of hard work, but over the next few years America got its house in order. By beating the deficit, we brought interest rates down and built employment up. We balanced our budget while keeping Social Security and Medicare safe. And we even started paying down our national debt.

Then came the Bush Administration. With their allies in Congress, it’s taken them just three years to undo everything we accomplished:

- They’ve given huge tax breaks to the most fortunate, while average hard-working Americans got pennies on the dollar.
- They’ve stood by as hundreds of thousands of tax-paying workers have seen their jobs shipped overseas.
- They’ve subsidized HMOs to compete against Medicare while shielding drug companies from bargaining on prices.
- They’ve rolled back environmental protections that keep us healthy and productive while actually reducing our nation’s health care costs.

After all that, it’s no surprise that the deficits have come back worse than ever.

Given the threats we face in today’s world, you’d think the highest priority would be making sure our government has the resources it needs to protect us. But instead of asking us all to pitch in together, the Bush administration has worked overtime to shift the burden away from those who can most afford to help. They’ve weakened our government’s fiscal health just when we need it to be strongest. And we all know who’s getting stuck with the bill. They’re already raiding the same Social Security and Medicare trust funds — our retirement money — that they promised they’d never touch again. In the long run, they’re leaving it up to our children to try to dig us out of the hole.

So what can you do now to protect your future and reclaim the hope of the ‘90s?

- Register to vote.
- Get to the polls on November 2nd, and vote John Kerry for President of the United States.
- Contribute what you can, in money and time, to help the Kerry campaign bring fresh, responsible leadership to Washington. Here's how...