

## LARSON: THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET IS DECEITFUL

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- Following a Ways and Means Committee hearing with Treasury Secretary John Snow, U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) issued the following statement on the President's budget.

"The president's proposed budget, like so many administration proposals, is deceitful and he again does not level with the American people," said Larson. "It does not take into account the cost of the war in Iraq, which is already at more than \$200 billion and the administration will be asking for billions more during this Congress. It also does not factor in the billions required to fix the alternative minimum tax or the billions associated with the president's plan to privatize Social Security.

"This is yet another example of the administration refusing to level with the Congress and the American people. I would compare it to a family working out their budget for the year and deciding not to factor in mortgage and car payments because they are too expensive. Choosing to ignore these costs does not mean we won't have to pay them. The president has to be honest with the American people about the true financial consequences of his policies.

"Even without factoring in these costs, this budget still proposes to dramatically cut funding for critical national defense programs, human services for the poor, education, veterans, housing programs and Community Development Block Grants. This is a direct result of the trillions in tax cuts the administration and Republican Congress have showered on the rich since 2001. Now our national security, our defense workforce, students, veterans and the poor are being forced to pay for them."

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