

# Whoa!!! Hold On, Mr. President



## *With the Deficit and Debt Exploding, Some Republicans See the Danger of Making the Bush Tax Cuts Permanent*

“I and many others have reservations about making the entire tax package permanent. I would have considerable concerns about making the top rate cut permanent as long as we are still running significant deficits.” **Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), Los Angeles Times, 3/9/04**

“Let's make sure the deficit is a priority in this budget and any tax cut takes a back seat.”  
**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Reuters, 03/09/04**

“The question is, how do we get this deficit under control. People will want to extend whatever tax cuts we can, but not all of them.” **Rep. Rob Portman (R-OH), Los Angeles Times, 3/9/04**

“The numbers aren't there right now [to make all of the President's tax cuts permanent].”  
**Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), Los Angeles Times, 3/9/04**

“That means everything. That means tax rollback. That means discretionary [spending]. That means defense and homeland security. That means mandatory [spending].”  
**Rep. Mike Castle (R-DE), CongressDaily, 03/05/04, regarding whether Congress should consider cuts in all areas of taxes and spending**

“We have been out of control for the last three years. We kind of got a little carried away.”  
**Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), New York Times, 3/10/04, regarding overall Congressional spending**

“Deficits are far too high. It's time to be responsible.”  
**Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK), Chairman of the Budget Committee, New York Times, 3/9/04**

“We're saying we want to be modest on tax cuts now, but after that, you've got to start paying for it.”  
**Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), Washington Post, 3/10/04**

“The bottom line is, we've got to get . . . some budgetary rules that will enforce some discipline around here.” **Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Washington Post, 3/9/04**

“The deficit resonates as an issue, and people are going to pay attention to it. And if we don't do something on the revenue side, we are playing with fire, especially with all the C.E.O. scandals. This is hazardous territory for Republicans.”  
**Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), New York Times, 03/10/04**

“What we need to do is take a deep breath. You write bad checks at home, they put you in jail.”  
**Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Washington Post, 3/10/04**