

Deficit necessary in emergencies

By PAULA FROKE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Although having a balanced federal budget is a commendable goal during "normal times," an amendment to that effect should not be made to the Constitution, U.S. House Majority Leader James C. Wright, D-Texas, said Friday.

"It's a specific aim of the Carter administration to achieve a balanced budget, and personally, I think it's a good idea," Wright said. "But we have to recognize that some years you just can't do it."

"I would hate to see it put in the Constitution as the result of a Constitutional convention," he said. "If it were included, it would have to be drafted with great care, with a view of the future under certain circumstances."

If the United States had been required to have a balanced budget during World War II, for instance, "it would have been quite conceivable the government would have been so hamstrung that it could not have responded as it did to the challenge of war," he said.

The law should therefore ask the government to achieve a balanced budget during normal times, yet still allow it to adapt the policy in an emergency, Wright said.

"Each January, three months into the fiscal year, we would direct the budget office to make spending and revenue projections for the rest of the fiscal year," he said.

"If the anticipated revenue is not enough to cover the anticipated spending, it would become a high priority before the House to make a provision directing the president to withhold all controllable expenditures approved the previous year, by whatever percentage necessary," he said.

But, he said, the plan would permit Congress to "suspend and deliberately unbalance the budget" in an emergency.

Saying he thinks the public should keep the "proper perspective" when debating the budget deficit, Wright compared the 1946 relationship of the deficit and the gross national product to that relationship today. The deficit 39 years ago was

75 percent of the GNP, he said, while today it is only 28 percent.

Wright said the federal debt represents only 20 percent of the total debt of the nation. Local and state debts account for about 10 percent, while private (corporate, business and individual) debts are responsible for the remaining 70 percent.

So, although "we do have the responsibility in the federal government to maintain a prudent fiscal policy and eliminate waste wherever possible," Wright said, "in all candor, eliminating the federal deficit alone would make only a minor impact on inflation."

Another common public misconception concerning the deficit is that simply cutting the budget by "wiping out programs" will reduce or eliminate debt, Wright said. But doing so, he said, would only increase the unemployment rate, and "unemployment is a creator of budget deficits."

For every 1 percent of unemployment, he explained, the government is deprived of \$17 to \$17.5 billion in potential tax revenues, and must pay out an additional \$4 to \$4.5 billion in unemployment and welfare benefits.

But does the federal government handle the nation's finances efficiently?

"I don't think we're as efficient as an authoritarian government might be," Wright said, "but we're far better than is commonly supposed, and the best this society can hope for."

Governmental stupidity or irresponsibility is only at fault sometimes, he said. "You have to bear in mind that there are 435 of us in the House, and 100 in the Senate. The odds are against us that on any given day one of us is likely to say something stupid or do something irresponsible, and he will undoubtedly get his name in the paper."

"We are not an undiluted collection of saints . . . we are representative of the nation as a whole," he said.

"I think we have one thing in common with the Nittany Lions," he said, "and that is that we're a damn sight better than the papers say we are."



Lady Lion gymnasts, from left, Pat Spisak and Lisa Ingebretsen squeeze on to victory in the celebrity milking contest of the 54th annual Dairy Exposition.

Dairy Expo features chugging

By SANDRA MOYER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Did you ever wonder what it's like to milk a cow? Well, if you happened to venture out to the University Dairy Center on Saturday, you would have seen people experiencing it firsthand.

Milking and milk chugging contests highlighted the 54th annual Penn State Dairy Exposition sponsored by the Dairy Science Club.

University gymnasts Pat Spisak and Lisa Ingebretsen competed against Warren Poage, coach of the dairy cattle judging team, and Lori Cash, Dairy Science Club Sweetheart, in the celebrity milking contest.

Spisak and Ingebretsen won the event by getting the most milk in the five-minute time period.

Spisak said she never milked a cow before and the experience was educational as well as fun.

"It was a really great learning experience," she said.

Each of the contestants received a box of milk products — three pounds of cheese and a half-pound of milk chocolate.

Sorority and independent milking contests were also held. Each team from these divisions had to fill two cups of milk to win.

In the sorority division, Kappa Kappa Gamma won first place, Alpha Phi came in second, and Chi Omega took third place.

Winners in the independent milking contest were: first place, Karren Oellers and Kathy Listwak; second place, Marth Hoge and Carol Mazzer; and third place, Joyce Elmeier and Karen Schmidt.

Milk chugging was also featured at the show. Each person on a team had to drink a quart of milk — the team finishing first won.

In the fraternity division, Delta Theta Sigma chugged its way to first place, while Alpha Zeta and Alpha Gamma Rho captured second and third places respectively.

Two arrested on 20 burglary counts

A man and a juvenile were arrested on burglary charges this weekend by state police at Rockview.

Robert A. Dearmitt, 18, of Pine Grove Mills, and a juvenile were charged with 20 counts of burglary in the Centre Region, a state police spokesman said.

The arrests are the culmination of an investigation by the state police, Patton Township, Harris Township, Ferguson Township and State College police departments.

Among the charges are three illegal entries into Majik Markets in Harris and Patton Townships; three illegal entries into McClellan's Exxon in Ferguson Township and a soda machine there; three illegal entries into Miller-McVeigh Body and Paint Shop; and two illegal entries into the Boalsburg Steak House.

by Mike Sillup

FINALS

University policy states that only quizzes and narrowly limited tests may be given the last week of classes. Any projects, take-home tests, etc. given in lieu of a final may not be required to be due earlier than the first day of the final examination period.

ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY — 865-9111

ORIENTATION '79

is planning a Muscular Dystrophy Carnival to be held on Labor Day, September 3, 1979. All Student groups including student organizations, academic interest groups, honor groups, dorm floors, and performing groups are invited to attend an organizational meeting on Monday, May 7 at 7 PM in 160 Willard.

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