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STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN CHARLES W. WHALEN, JR.
ON THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

There was much in the President's message that all Americans can agree with and applaud—the ideals of making our cities safer and more viable, of improving the lives of our poor and sick, of doing "all we can with what we have," to quote Mr. Johnson's words.

Certain of his proposals are definitely worthy of support, such as the plan to bring together the multitude of small jurisdictions, of modernizing selective service and of outlawing wire-tapping and electronic bugging.

But what the President proposed tonight in toto represents a substantial number of new programs and the resultant increase in cost to the taxpayer. Nowhere in his message did the President indicate that there would be an effort to reduce non-essential government spending and thereby reduce the size of the projected deficit for fiscal 1968.

As a result, the President appears destined to repeat last year's budgetary error which is bringing an estimated $9.7 billion deficit for the present fiscal year instead of the $1.7 billion announced this time last year.

The President's budget deficit, at the present tax level, will amount to $12.6 billion for fiscal 1968. The proposed 4.5 billion dollar tax increase he recommended still would leave a deficit of 8.1 billion dollars.
Therefore, I feel that any consideration of additional federal programs, particularly of the magnitude outlined by Mr. Johnson tonight, must be preceded by extensive cuts in the level of non-essential, non-Defense appropriations.

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