

Clinton

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gap with the deficit. "This will likely put the country back into a recession, I think it can't work, won't work."

Financial counselors said they will not be figuring out the impact on clients until the proposals are signed into law. In Oakland County, median income is \$50,963, well above Clinton's \$30,000 line of impact.

Experts believe everyone is expected to feel the impact of the proposed energy tax if it becomes a reality. Not only will people pay at the gas tank and in heating and air conditioning bills, but also in consumer goods because the increased cost of energy to manufacturers may result in higher prices.

West Bloomfield resident Leonard Woderko Jr., who supports his wife and three children with his salary from a Melvindale holding company, has both business and personal concerns with the plan.

"If they're going to ask me to live on less, then why can't the federal government live on less?" he asked. "Let's have the spending cuts passed in Congress and upfront before we talk about taxes."

"I can see our cost of living going up . . . and generally our standard of living going down."

Farmington resident David Merrill, a salesman for a Farmington Hills company, expects a gas tax to hit his one-income fam-

ily hard and said any increase would also eat into disposable income.

"I'm looking that for three to four times a month I can't take my wife out — that's what it will mean to me," he said. Merrill said Clinton "has all good intentions, but he's way off in his field."

Pierre Atallah, Rochester-area resident, businessman, and physician believes "we all have to make sacrifices," but he wants to ensure that Clinton's plan doesn't alter the new economic growth we're seeing.

"He has not talked about any serious cuts," he added. "He has to be more serious about cutting expenses." Atallah said he will also be watching closely for details on Clinton's health care plan, which is slated to be announced in the spring.

West Bloomfield senior Lou Kondur said he and other seniors with whom he has talked are "very skeptical" about Clinton, because he has changed his focus mid-stream.

"Where was he for a year?" Kondur said. "I can't believe this. Eight million months of hard-hitting campaigning and now we have a whole new program."

Kondur said he liked Clinton's speech and would like to believe him, but "it takes a great deal of money. There aren't enough productive people to pay for all these items."

By CASEY HANS
STAFF WRITER

Claudia Kuiper had never called her elected representatives. Until last week.

The Farmington Hills mother of two was so concerned about what she heard in President Bill Clinton's economic address last week that she picked up the phone and called U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg's office to offer her opinion.

"He (Clinton) said, 'if you don't agree with me call your congressman, call your senators,'" she said. "I thought, this time they're going to hear from me."

"I think he may be hearing what the people say," she added. "He says he'll make the cuts. If he can cut the spending and get the deficit in line, well, I hope he can."

Claudia and Tim Kuiper live in a comfortable neighborhood east

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Tim Kuiper
Farmington Hills

of Middlebelt just north of Eight Mile Road in the Clarenceville school district with their two sons, 15-year-old Dan Dymek and 2½-year-old Steven Kuiper. They survive on Tim's income as an insurance auditor and said the proposed income and energy taxes would have a noticeable impact on them.

Ted estimates it could cost \$200-300 per year or more.

"We don't know," he said. "There's a lot of costs associated with taxes that people don't even realize."

Tim drives about 500 miles per

week in his job, so he said a gas tax alone would have a big impact on family costs.

Claudia did not return to work after Steven was born because she wanted to stay home and be a full-time mom.

"My husband is working hard to support us so I can stay home," Claudia said. "The situation that upset me is that it doesn't seem he (Clinton) was honest. Would he have won the election if he was upfront with the American people?"

The Kuipers watched Clinton's address but said they were disap-

pointed with the content, although Tim admitted Clinton's plan was "extremely bold." He said the speech had a "human" quality, but no substance.

"After I heard it, I thought 'here we go,'" he said. "It was completely different (than what they heard during the election campaign) — and he (Clinton) had criticized the Bush administration for going back on their word."

"I challenge President Clinton to come forward and show us, the American people, his figures. What he used to base his campaign promises on. They have to be made accountable."

Tim's said the question is: Will Clinton and the Congress cut spending?

"It's just like your checkbook: if you're in debt, you have to cut somewhere."

Epilepsy Center opens Southfield clinic

The Epilepsy Center of Michigan has opened a clinic near the Southfield Civic Center.

The new site is at the Central Park Plaza office building, 2621 Central Park Blvd. Its telephone number is 351-7979.

Medical, psycho-social and lab-

oratory services are provided at the first-floor site.

The site was approved under the center's 1991-93 strategic plan.

Founded in 1948, the Epilepsy Center of Michigan is the only statewide organization that focuses solely upon epilepsy, pro-

viding medical, counseling, educational and advocacy services for epileptic people and their families.

The center also conducts laboratory and clinical research into treatment options.

Epilepsy affects more than 90,000 Michigan residents. It is a

common neurological disorder marked by sudden, brief changes in brain function, resulting in some time of seizure.

Most people with the condition lead otherwise normal and healthy lives. Many live free of seizures with medication.

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