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O's \$400B 'scalpel'

By CHARLES HURT **Bureau Chief**

WASHINGTON — President Obama said yester-day he will send Congress a new budget next month that he claims will save some \$400 billion.

"Frankly, we're just going to have to trim some of these programs," he said in his first interview since his State of the Union Address Tuesday, when he urged Congress to freeze spending for five

years. His administration will "cut with a scalpel, as op-posed to a chainsaw," he said.

said.
According to White House sides, Obama's budget plan will be rolled out the week of Feb. 14.

Yesterday's live inter-view was conducted on YouTube with questions sent in from viewers. On education, Obama

On education, Obama said that there are limits to how much the government can do and that parents need to do better. "Nothing

"Nothing government does replaces the impor-tance of parents in educa-tion," he said, "If we're parents, we've not to step

up our game."
On the protests in Egypt,
Obama said he has told
President Hossa Mubarak
that it is "absolutely criti-cal" for Cairo to carry on with political reforms, and urged government forces and demonstrators alike to

and demonstrators alike to avoid further violence. Egyptians need 'mecha-nisms for people to ex-press legitimate griev-ances," be said.

Asked what is the best thing about being presi-dent, Obama responded. Every otce in a while, you do something that you know has a direct impact on somebody." on somebody."

And the worst: "I can't go for a walk."
"I can't go to a coffee

"I can't go to a conce shop. I can't leave the house and not shave, have my sweats on," he said. "So, that is something that "So, that is something that

Another viewer asked what he got First Lady Michelle for Valentine's

Day.
"Each Valentine's Day gets more expensive," Obama said. "Twe got more to make up for."

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LOOK WHO'S TALKING! John "Junior" Gotti (center) and John Travolta talk movie-making with film producer

Star dines with 'Junior' &

By JOSH MARGOLIN BRIDGE GOLDING JEANIE MACINTOSH and BOB FREDERICKS

It was a reel-life mob sit-down. It was a reel-life mob sit-down. Gambino crime-family scion John Tunior" Gotti and his ex-con film-pro-ducer partner held a meeting with a dapper-looking John Travolta this-week in a trendy LA traitoria. The calamari confab was called to toost a deal in which the "Get Shoety" star will portray Gotti's late dad, ruth-less Mafai boss John Gotti Sr., in a flat-tering new biopic.

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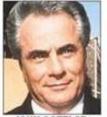
Travolta, Chill Palmer-cool in a tai-lored dark suit and blue silk open-col-lar shirt, and Junior, in a wiseguy-loud checked sports cool his "Dopper Dori" dad wouldn't have been caught dead in, broke bread and downed viso with Mare. Eince, the film's executive pro-Marc Fiore, the film's executive producer — who once pleaded guilty in a multimillion-dollar pump-and-dump stock scam reminiscent of a "Sopranos" episode.

Travolta favorite pop-ular with Hollywood A-listers, shut its kitchen to regular cus-tomers as the gang scarfed down an "oldfashioned Italian din ner of seafood, chicken parm, steak, pasta and red wine." An insider sold The

Post that Travolta had made the reservation and bosted the lavish

Ficer told The Post yesterday that he and Gotti agreed Travolta was the man made to play the late Gambino crime boss.

"Travolta is the guy," Flore said. "When you watch a Travolta movie, you're never watching John Travolta. John Gotti Sr. is an iconic figure. You have to be an actor that can become



JOHN GOTTI SR. Set for biopic treatment,

John Gotti Sr."

And in what could be a criminal case of bunky miscasting, bunky actor James Franco of "127 Hours" fame is up

for consideration for the role of Junior. The early dinner at Amici in Brenewood was the first time the "Pulp Fiction" star and Gotti met face to face. though they've been in

contact. John [Gotti] came

in to put his stamp of approval," Fiore said.

Gotti turned down Hollywood heavyweight Sylvester Stallone in favor of the little-known Fiore Filius because Stallone bulked at giving Jun-ior creative control of the biopic, to be called "Gotti."

Travolta and Gotti arrived separately

Pentagon shot at pols

WASHINGTON -WASHINGTON — De-fense Secretary Robert Gates warned Congress was causing a "crisss on my doorstep" by failing to pass a key spending bill. Congress has not passed the fiscal year 2011 Penta-on autoropristions bill. in-

gon appropriations bill, in-action that Gates said could create a \$23 billion shortfall.

The Pentagon, like the rest of the government, is operating under a stopgap measure that keeps fund-ing at 2010 levels.

"I have a crisis on my doorstep," Gates said in comments made public by the Pentagon, "Frankly, that's how you hollow out a military even in war-time." Reurers

GOP gains popularity

WASHINGTON - The Grand Old Party can fi-nally break out the champagne: its six-year popularity drought has come to an end.

an end.

For the first time since 2005, more people view the Republican Party favorably than unfavorably by a margin of 47 to 43 percent, according to the tatest Gallup poll, just weeks after the GOP took

over the House.

The Democrats' 46-47 percent favorability rating is an improvement over recent readings, although it is poor by historical standards. The Demo-cratic Party generally polis above 50 percent favor-able. Geoff Earle

