



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
DURING SENATE DEBATE
FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1976

TAX FREEDOM DAY

MR. DOLE: Mr. President, most holidays are observed on approximately the same date each year. We celebrate our independence annually on July 4. Christmas always falls on December 25. Even the federally mandated Monday holidays come at about the same time each year. But tomorrow, we will celebrate a different kind of "holiday" -- one that must be observed at a later date each year.

For tomorrow is "Tax Freedom day," the day when the average wage earner gets through working to pay his local, state and federal taxes and starts working for himself and his family. Last year, we could have celebrated "Tax Freedom Day" a couple of days earlier. The year before last, we could have celebrated "Tax Freedom Day" perhaps 4 days earlier. And, just as surely, we will have to "celebrate" a day or two later next year.

That is, unless we in politics -- national, state and local -- awaken to the consequences of profligate spending and taxation at all levels of government.

It is a sad state of affairs when the average American wage earner must work nearly four months out of each year just to support government. But as long as the trend towards Big Government continues, we should expect this unfortunate and inequitable situation to prevail.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

In 1976, there is at least a glimmer of hope that we in Congress and out elected representatives at all levels of government are beginning to recognize the gravity of the problem. New York City's recent brush with municipal bankruptcy has focused national attention on the need for proper fiscal management at all levels of government. Politicians and government officials are beginning to learn what the American taxpayer has known for years -- that there are fiscal limits within which everyone, including governments, must operate. No longer can we expect the public to stand idly by while taxes continue the unending upward spiral mandated by Big Government.

Suddenly, fiscal responsibility has become fashionable among politicians of all persuasions. Those who in earlier years embraced the "spend and tax" philosophy of Big Government now question whether government can or should attempt to solve every problem in contemporary society. I welcome this phenomenon. For unless the surge towards Bigger Government is slowed -- and ultimately, halted altogether -- the very underpinnings of the American economy may be jolted by a well-justified taxpayers' revolt.

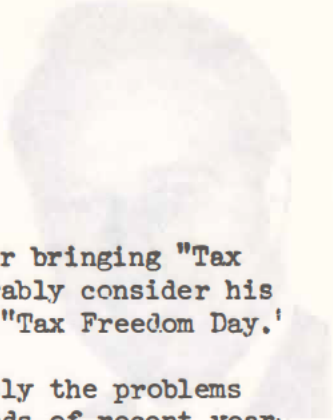
WHO IS TO BLAME?

Who is to blame for this unfortunate situation, and what can be done to correct it? I believe that we in Congress have the obligation to take the first steps toward restoring fiscal responsibility to the federal bureaucracy and, thus, reducing the tax burden on our constituents. After all, it was Congress which passed the laws which have led us into the present fiscal morass.

The time for action is now. The consequences of profligate spending by government -- any government -- have been vividly demonstrated by New York City's financial crisis. Streamlined federal, state and local governments can continue to provide an adequate level of public services without incurring huge budget deficits. Moreover, the restoration of fiscal responsibility at all levels of government can lead to lowered taxes, less government interference in our private lives, and more jobs for our citizens.

(more)

NEWS



I commend our distinguished colleague from Maryland (MR. BEALL) for bringing "Tax Freedom Day" to our attention. Hopefully, the Congress will favorably consider his legislation, Senate Joint Resolution 189, to officially designate "Tax Freedom Day."

If we -- the elected representatives in government -- take seriously the problems of overspending and overtaxation, we can reverse the alarming trends of recent years. Then, hopefully, in future years, we can celebrate "Tax Freedom Day" at an earlier date each year.

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TAX FREEDOM DAY

The President, who has been elected on a platform of reducing the size of government, is celebrating Tax Freedom Day on July 4. Christmas is just behind us. Over the holidays, many people have been thinking about the date that each year, but because we will celebrate a different date of "freedom" -- the date that must be observed as a holiday each year.

The concept of "Tax Freedom Day" was first introduced by a group of economists to help the public understand the extent of government spending. Last year, we could have celebrated "Tax Freedom Day" on a date earlier than the date that we will have celebrated "Tax Freedom Day" today. This year, the date will have to be celebrated on a date later than last year.

That is, unless we in politics -- national, state and local -- make to the cause of reducing government spending and taxation at all levels of government.

It is a sad state of affairs when the average American must work every fourth day of each year just to support government. But as long as the trend towards big government continues, we should expect this unfortunate and inhumane situation to prevail.

THE PROBLEM

In 1970, there is at least a 50 percent increase in the amount of government spending at all levels of government and a corresponding increase in the amount of taxation. The fact that the amount of government spending has increased 50 percent in the last 10 years is a clear indication of the extent of government growth. The amount of government spending at all levels of government has increased 50 percent in the last 10 years. The amount of government spending at all levels of government has increased 50 percent in the last 10 years. The amount of government spending at all levels of government has increased 50 percent in the last 10 years.

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THE SOLUTION

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