



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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AMERICAN PEOPLE AND PUBLIC OPINION HAVE LOST, SAYS DOLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole issued the following statement after Senate passage of the Panama Canal Treaty:

THE FINAL VOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LOST. WE HAVE LOST MORE THAN A GREAT WATERWAY -- WE HAVE LOST AN EFFORT TO PROVE THAT AMERICAN OPINION STILL COUNTS FOR SOMETHING IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

THIS LATEST IN A SERIES OF FOREIGN POLICY RETREATS BY OUR GOVERNMENT SHOWS THAT WE JUST HAVEN'T LISTENED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. NOR, I SUSPECT, HAVE WE LISTENED TO OUR OWN BEST JUDGMENT. THE PROPOSED PANAMA CANAL TREATIES ARE DEFECTIVE IN MANY RESPECTS, AS HAS BEEN POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY ON THE SENATE FLOOR.

YET, EVERY EFFORT THAT I AND OTHER SENATORS HAVE MADE TO IMPROVE THE TREATIES HAS BEEN BEATEN BACK BY THE PRO-ADMINISTRATION, PRO-LEADERSHIP CONTINGENT. I COULD NOT JUSTIFY VOTING FOR TREATIES THAT SO IGNORED THE OPINION AND THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND I CAST MY NEGATIVE VOTES ACCORDINGLY.