

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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BUSH VS. DUKAKIS: THE RACE IS ON!

WASHINGTON -- NOW THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SEASON IS OVER, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE PROCLAIMED THAT -- STARTING TODAY -- "THE 1988 RACE IS ON!"

"IT'S FINALLY ONE-ON-ONE AND THAT'S BAD NEWS FOR MICHAEL DUKAKIS," DOLE SAID.

"FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE STARK CONTRASTS BETWEEN GEORGE BUSH AND HIS DEMOCRATIC OPPONENT. AND THAT'S WHEN THE DUKAKIS CAMPAIGN STRATS TO CRUMBLE," DOLE SAID.

"AND STARTING TODAY, THE GOVERNOR WON'T BE HIDING BEHIND JESSE JACKSON. THE HIGHLY VISIBILE AND HIGHLY LIBERAL JACKSON CAMPAIGN HAS HELPED THE GOVERNOR PASS HIMSELF OFF AS A MODERATE. BUT THAT WON'T SELL ANYMORE. THE DUKAKIS RECORD STANDS ALONE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T LIKE WHAT THEY SEE. IT'S THE SAME OUT-OF-TOUCH LIBERAL AGENDA THAT AMERICA BURIED IN THE 1980 AND 1984 LANDSLIDES.

"WATCH, THE POLLS WILL START MOVING IN BUSH'S DIRECTION, AND FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS," DOLE SAID. " AMERICA IS PROUD OF THE REAGAN RECORD AND THEY WANT SOMEONE TO BUILD ON IT, NOT TEAR IT DOWN."

"WITH THE DEMOCRATIC HORSERACE DOMINATING THE NEWS FOR THREE MONTHS, MICHAEL DUKAKIS HAS GOTTEN A FREE RIDE. BUT THE RIDE IS OVER," DOLE SAID.

"THE RACE IS ON.....AND GEORGE BUSH WILL BE THE WINNER," DOLE SAID.

OUR BI-PARTISAN DROUGHT TASK FORCE WILL MEET AGAIN THIS WEEK AND DISCUSS FURTHER OPTIONS. I WOULD HOPE THAT LEGISLATION WOULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED AFTER ALL ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN PURSUED AND AFTER WE HAVE A CHANCE TO FULLY ASSESS THE EXTENT OF THE DROUGHT.

THIS WOULD BE A RESPONSIBLE APPROACH THAT REFLECTS OUR CARE AND CONCERN ABOUT THE LIVELIHOOD OF FARMERS AND RANCHERS ACROSS THE GRAIN BELT.

0-92

THE "ZERO-92" OPTION, WHICH ALLOWS FARMERS TO RECEIVE 92 PERCENT OF THEIR DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS, HAS BEEN USED WHERE FARMERS HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM PLANTING AND SHOULD BE A HELPFUL TOOL.

BUT THERE ARE ALSO MANY PRODUCERS WHO TOOK THE RISK AND UNDERWENT THE FINANCIAL COST OF PLANTING A CROP BUT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HARVEST ONE DUE TO THE EFFECT OF THE DRY WEATHER.

WE WILL NEED TO EXPLORE ENSURING THAT THESE FARMERS, WHO ARE SEEING THEIR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT RATE PLUMMET DUE TO HIGHER MARKET PRICES, RECEIVE SIMILAR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT PROTECTION AS THOSE WHO WERE PREVENTED FROM PLANTING --

--EITHER THROUGH FORGIVING ADVANCE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS AND PROTECTING THE BALANCE OF THEIR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT OR BY ALLOWING PRODUCERS TO RETRO-ACTIVELY SIGN UP FOR "ZERO-92".

MR. PRESIDENT, MOST FARMERS WANT HIGHER PRICES, BUT HIGH PRICES DO LITTLE GOOD IF YOU DON'T HAVE A CROP TO SELL. AND FALLING DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR THOSE WITHOUT A CROP SPELL DOUBLE DISASTER.

THERE ARE MANY LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WHO ARE RUNNING OUT OF BOTH WATER AND FEED. A WIDESPREAD SLAUGHTER OF HERDS COULD DEVESTATE THE LIVESTOCK MARKET. I WOULD URGE THE GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER MAKING ADDITIONAL BEEF AND PORK PURCHASES TO PREVENT A SEVERE MARKET PRICE IMPACT. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE MANY FARMERS WHO DO NOT HAVE PROGRAM CROPS WHO ARE FACED WITH THE SAME BASIC PROBLEM -- NO CROP AND NO INCOME -- AND WE WILL HAVE TO DETERMINE HOW TO HELP THEM AS WELL.

SUMMARY

MR. PRESIDENT, AGAIN I WOULD STATE THAT WE WILL NEED TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE DROUGHT BEFORE PUSHING A LEGISLATED REMEDY. ANY LEGISLATIVE ACTION WE UNDERTAKE SHOULD BE DONE ON A BI-PARTISAN BASIS AND SHOULD WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 1985 FARM BILL TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE SHOULD TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION TO HELP THOSE PRODUCERS WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPACTED. WE HAVE SEEN IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, BUT A NATURAL DISASTER COULD SPELL TROUBLE ONCE AGAIN FOR THE NATION'S FARMERS.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT AMERICAN FARMERS WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IF OUR WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED REGARDING THE SPECTOR OF DROUGHT, THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WILL HELP WHERE WE CAN AND THAT WE INTEND TO ACT RESPONSIBLY, QUICKLY AND IN A SPIRIT OF BI-PARTISANSHIP.