

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE SAYS GOP DRUG INITIATIVE ZEROES IN ON DEMAND

TWO YEARS AGO MY COLLEAGUES AND I STOOD HERE AND PROPOSED THE OMNIBUS DRUG BILL OF 1986. THE COUNTRY WAS JUST BEGINNING TO FEEL THE PROFOUND PAIN AND DESTRUCTION THAT ILLEGAL DRUGS INFLICT. DRUG USE WAS CLIMBING AND SHIFTING TO TRULY POTENT, DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES.

WE REPUBLICANS WERE IN CONTROL OF THE SENATE. AND WE LED THE FIGHT FOR A BIPARTISAN, BICAMERAL INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON SUPPLY -- INCREASING ASSETS TO INTERDICT DRUGS ENTERING THE UNITED STATES, IMPOSING TOUGH NEW CRIMINAL SENTENCES, SWEEPING CHANGES TO ATTACK DESIGNER DRUGS, AND TAKING THE PROFIT OUT OF DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH MONEY LAUNDERING AND ASSET FORFEITURE PROVISIONS OF LAW.

WE DID NOT ERADICATE DRUGS WITH THAT NEW LAW. BUT WE HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT SUCCESSES -- SEIZURES OF ILLICIT HAVE INCREASED BY SEVERAL HUNDRED PERCENT FOR MANY SUBSTANCES, ASSET FORFEITURE FUNDS ARE CAPTURING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF ILL-GOTTEN GAINS FROM DRUG DEALERS AND SENTENCES FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF DRUG TRAFFICKING HAVE BECOME MUCH LONGER.

BUT THAT WAS ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE EQUATION. TODAY, SENATE REPUBLICANS OFFER SOLUTIONS THAT ZERO-IN ON THE SECOND HALF -- THE DEMAND SIDE -- OF THE DRUG PROBLEM.

OUR PROPOSAL COVERS MANY ISSUES, BUT THERE ARE THREE AREAS WE BELIEVE SHOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY -- BOTH IN FUNDING LEVELS AND POLICY INITIATIVES:

FIRST, IS DEMAND REDUCTION --- THE BILL SEEKS TO CREATE A NEW ATTITUDE WHICH RECOGNIZES THAT DRUG USERS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS, BUT AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDES INCREASED FUNDING FOR TREATMENT, EDUCATION AND PREVENTION TO THOSE TRULY INTERESTED IN BECOMING DRUG-FREE.

The main focus of the bill is contained in three points:

1) DEMAND REDUCTION. By both applying a new policy toward user accountability and by providing increased funding for treatment, education and prevention, the bill seeks to create a new attitude that recognizes both the need to provide assistance to those truly interested becoming drug-free, and forces drug users to be responsible for their actions.

2) POST ARREST PROGRAMS. While Republican Senators are proud of their record of leadership in enacting the strong criminal penalties established in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, prosecuting attorneys, the courts and the prison system are experiencing massive increases in caseloads. To help alleviate this additional burden, the bill directs new resources to these "Post Arrest Programs" to ensure those arrested for drug crimes will be prosecuted and, if convicted, will serve the stiff sentences imposed by the 1986 law.

3) DOMESTIC ERADICATION. For the first time, the United States has become a "drug source" exporting country for marijuana, as well as a trans-shipping country for cocaine. In addition, most of the so-called "designer drugs" sold in the United States are manufactured here. If we are to be successful in assisting other countries in eradicating drugs at the source of production, we must also move aggressively to eliminate illicit drug production in the United States. Therefore, the bill would create a new "Precursor Chemical" program to help law enforcement agencies track the essential components of drug manufacturing, give increased authority to the law enforcement personnel of the Border Patrol and the Forest Service, as well establish a new Anti-Gang Program.

PROPOSED TIMING

The attached description of the legislation will be released on Thursday at a press conference. If you wish to attend the press conference, please contact the Press Office in the Republican Leader's Office at X43538.

Bill language is being prepared for introduction. If you wish to cosponsor, please have your staff contact Sheila Burke, Jim Whittinghill, or Phil Korologos in the Republican Leader's Office at X45311.

NEXT, IS POST ARREST PROGRAMS -- TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE LOGJAM IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, WE PROPOSE TO DIRECT NEW RESOURCES TO THESE "POST ARREST PROGRAMS" TO ENSURE THOSE ARRESTED FOR DRUG CRIMES WILL BE PROSECUTED AND, IF CONVICTED, WILL SERVE THE STIFF SENTENCES IMPOSED BY THE 1986 LAW.

WE ALSO ADDRESS DOMESTIC ERADICATION -- FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME A DRUG EXPORTER OF MARIJUANA, AS WELL AS A TRANS-SHIPING COUNTRY FOR COCAINE. ALSO, MOST OF THE SO-CALLED "DESIGNER DRUGS" SOLD IN THE UNITED STATES ARE MANUFACTURED HERE. SO, THIS PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE A NEW "PRECURSOR CHEMICAL" PROGRAM TO HELP LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TRACK THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS OF DRUG MANUFACTURING, GIVE INCREASED AUTHORITY TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OF THE BORDER PATROL AND FOREST SERVICE, AS WELL AS ESTABLISH A NEW ANTI-GANG PROGRAM.

THE BILL WOULD LAUNCH A "CRACK ATTACK". TRADE IN CRACK HAS ESCALATED THE ILLEGAL USE OF FIREARMS AND OTHER WEAPONS. SO, WE PROPOSE TO GIVE NEW RESOURCES TO THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS TO ENFORCE LAWS PROHIBITING THE ILLEGAL USE AND TRADE OF WEAPONS.

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME SAY THAT I HOPE THE END RESULT OF THIS EFFORT WILL PARALLEL WHAT HAPPENED IN 1986 WHEN WE WORKED TOGETHER WITH OUR DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES HERE IN THE SENATE AND WITH THE HOUSE. OUR BILL DOES HAVE A SMALLER PRICE TAG THAN THE SENATE DEMOCRATS' PLAN -- OUR CURRENT ESTIMATES ARE THE PROPOSAL WOULD COST ABOUT \$1.5 BILLION IN BUDGET AUTHORITY AND \$850 MILLION IN OUTLAYS.

AND SOME ISSUES MIGHT BE CONTROVERSIAL. FOR EXAMPLE, THE REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A DEATH PENALTY. WE HAVE ALREADY PASSED A DEATH PENALTY BILL FOR DRUG KINGPINS, SO I HOPE THAT WE CAN GET A QUICK RESOLUTION ON THAT MATTER. IN ADDITION, WE STRONGLY SUPPORT CHANGES TO THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE AND HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS, WHICH WE WERE UNABLE TO OBTAIN IN 1986.

AND WE DO PROPOSE THE APPOINTMENT OF A DRUG CONTROL DIRECTOR -- OR SO-CALLED "DRUG CZAR", TO COORDINATE THE BROAD EFFORTS BY THE MANY DEPARTMENTS NOW ENGAGED IN THE ANTI-DRUG EFFORT. THIS WAS REJECTED IN 1986, BUT I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE CAN WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT ON THAT ISSUE BEFORE TAKING A BILL TO THE FLOOR.

REPUBLICANS ARE READY AND WILLING TO BEGIN IMMEDIATE NEGOTIATIONS TO FORGE A BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS. AND I UNDERSTAND SENATOR BYRD HAS INDICATED THAT DEMOCRATS ARE ALSO READY, SO I HOPE WE CAN BEGIN YET THIS WEEK AND HAVE A STRONG, EFFECTIVE DRUG PACKAGE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK BY FALL.

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