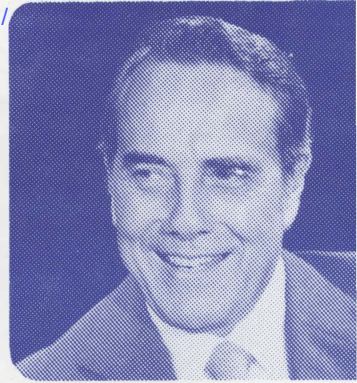


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 14, 1988

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SENATE PASSES MAJOR DRUG BILL -- DOLE CALLS IT "THE FIRST LIVE SHOT IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS"; BILL CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN ON USERS AS WELL AS PUSHERS; ALSO INCLUDES DEATH PENALTY

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY HAILED SENATE PASSAGE OF A SWEEPING NEW BILL DESIGNED TO STRIKE BACK AT THE NATIONAL DRUG EPIDEMIC.

"WE MADE A GOOD START IN 1986, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST LIVE SHOT IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS," SAID DOLE, THE CO-AUTHOR OF THE BILL.

"WE HAVE FINALLY MOVED PAST MERE SPEECH-MAKING TO REALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT A NATIONAL TRAGEDY. WE HAVE PASSED TOUGH NEW LAWS THAT WILL HIT HARD AT THE PUSHERS, THE MURDERERS AND, AT LONG LAST, THE USERS."

THE BILL, WHICH PASSED THE SENATE BY A 88-TO-2 VOTE, IS NOW ON ITS WAY TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR APPROVAL. DOLE, AS SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER AND PRINCIPAL CO-AUTHOR, HELPED BUILD A CONSENSUS FOR THE BILL'S PASSAGE AFTER MONTHS OF WORK AND LAST MINUTE CONSIDERATION OF MORE THAN 100 AMENDMENTS.

BILL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- o THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG KINGPINS.
- o CIVIL PENALTIES UP TO \$10,000 FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF DRUG POSSESSION.
- o REFORMS IN THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE THAT WILL PERMIT EVIDENCE AGAINST DRUG CRIMINALS OBTAINED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS IN "GOOD FAITH" TO BE ENTERED INTO COURT PROCEEDINGS.
- o REFORMS IN THE HABEAS CORPUS LAW THAT WILL LIMIT CONVICTED CRIMINALS' ABILITY TO ENGAGE IN AN ENDLESS SERIES OF APPEALS.
- o REVOCATION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR PERSONS CONVICTED OF DRUG CRIMES.

"AT LONG LAST WE HAVE PUT THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY ON THE USER AS WELL AS THE PUSHER. FOR TOO LONG, WE HAVE TREATED THE BUYER AND USER OF ILLEGAL DRUGS AS A 'VICTIM' -- BUT NOT ANYMORE," DOLE SAID. "WE HAVE ALSO GIVEN OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS A LONG OVERDUE HELPING HAND IN THEIR LEGAL BATTLE TO CONVICT AND TO LOCK UP DRUG CRIMINALS.

"THIS IS A BI-PARTISAN PACKAGE THAT SHOULD SEND THE RIGHT KIND OF SIGNAL TO THE DRUG WORLD THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS. STARTING TODAY, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK BECAUSE WE HAVE FINALLY TURNED THE CORNER ON THE NATIONAL DRUG CRISIS," DOLE SAID.

"I URGE MY COLLEAGUES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO FOLLOW OUR LEAD IN PASSING THIS HARD-HITTING LEGISLATION. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN IT INTO LAW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."

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