

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**DEMOCRATS DELIVER PARTISAN AID PACKAGE FOR EASTERN EUROPE;**  
**NO HEARINGS, NO CONSULTATIONS:**  
**"PLAYING POLITICS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY"**  
**DEMOCRATS DIDN'T LEARN CHINA STUDENT VOTE LESSON**

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE SENATE FLOOR:

SENATE DEMOCRATS INSISTED ON STARTING THIS SESSION OF THE CONGRESS ON THE PARTISAN SIDE -- BY TRYING TO "SLAM DUNK" PRESIDENT BUSH ON THE CHINA STUDENT VETO OVERRIDE VOTE.

IT DIDN'T WORK. THE SENATE WISELY PRESERVED THE PRESIDENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL PREROGATIVE TO SET OUR FOREIGN POLICY.

I HOPED THAT THE EXPERIENCE WOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE TO MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE: THAT A PARTISAN FOREIGN POLICY ASSAULT ON A PRESIDENT IS NOT THE WISEST COURSE.

BUT -- HERE WE GO AGAIN.

NOW I AM HEARING REPORTS THAT FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS ON THURSDAY INTEND TO MARK-UP THE EAST EUROPEAN AID LEGISLATION THEY RECENTLY ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE.

THERE WILL BE NO REAL HEARING ON THE LEGISLATION PRIOR TO THE MARK-UP. OH YES, A SHAM HEARING WAS OFFERED - ONE WITNESS, JUST FOR THE RECORD, FOR 30- MINUTES, JUST PRIOR TO THE MARK-UP PERIOD.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT, HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

FURTHERMORE, THERE HAS BEEN NO COORDINATION WITH REPUBLICANS, BEYOND INFORMING THEM THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO HAVE THE BILL RAMMED DOWN THEIR THROATS.

AND, OF COURSE, THE INK ISN'T EVEN DRY YET ON THE PRESIDENT'S OWN PROPOSAL ON EASTERN EUROPEAN AID, CONTAINED IN HIS BUDGET. THERE HAS BEEN NO SERIOUS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THAT PROPOSAL, EITHER.

WE WENT THROUGH THIS LAST YEAR, ON POLAND. IT'S AN "ENCORE PERFORMANCE" OF "DEJA VU, ALL OVER AGAIN."

THERE ARE IMPORTANT NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS IN EASTERN EUROPE. NO ONE IN THE SENATE HAS SPOKEN OUT MORE STRONGLY AND FREQUENTLY ON THAT SUBJECT THAN I HAVE.

THIS SESSION, WE SHOULD AND WILL VOTE NEW AID FOR THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES OF THAT REGION. BUT WE SHOULD DO IT IN A RESPONSIBLE, NON-PARTISAN WAY.

SO LET ME OFFER MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE SOME UNSOLICITED ADVICE.

IF THEY WANT TO PROVIDE MORE MONEY TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, I INVITE THEM TO ENDORSE THE DOLE PROPOSAL FOR REALLOCATING 5% OF EARMARKED AID, OR AT LEAST TO REVIEW OUR FOREIGN AID PROGRAM IN AN EFFORT TO FIND THE AMOUNT NEEDED.

IF THEY WANT QUICK ACTION -- INSTEAD OF PARTISAN ACTION -- ON THIS KIND OF ISSUE, THEY SHOULD COORDINATE WITH US; WE DO HAVE SOME SAY.

MOST IMPORTANT, IF THEY WANT TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN FORMULATING A NON-PARTISAN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY -- I URGE THEM TO GIVE UP THEIR DANGEROUS AND LOSING GAME OF PLAYING PARTISAN POLITICS WITH OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

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