

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



*Bob Dole*  
*John Taylor*

(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

"WHO, AFTER ALL, SPEAKS TODAY OF THE ARMENIANS"; DAVID VS. GOLIATH  
FACTS SAY IT ALL; VOTE FOR GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

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

"WHO, AFTER ALL, SPEAKS TODAY OF THE ANNIHILATION OF THE ARMENIANS?" WORDS SPOKE A HALF CENTURY AGO BY ADOLPH HITLER, AS HE UNLEASHED THE HOLOCAUST..

WORDS THAT ECHO STILL TODAY -- IN THIS CHAMBER, AND IN OUR HEARTS.

"WHO, AFTER ALL, SPEAKS TODAY OF THE ... ARMENIANS."

I BELIEVE THE SENATE MUST SPEAK. BECAUSE, IF WE DON'T -- THEN WHO WILL?

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WHEN WE BEGAN THIS DEBATE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, I SAID IT WAS DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH.

ARMENIA -- FLAT ON ITS BACK; DEVASTATED BY EARTHQUAKES; 30,000 OF ITS CITIZENS KILLED; A HALF MILLION HOMELESS.

ARMENIA. ... DAVID.

AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, GOLIATH.

GOLIATH. ... TURKEY.

AN IMPORTANT ALLY. THIS YEAR, WE'LL GIVE TURKEY A HALF BILLION AMERICAN DOLLARS IN AID.

WE HAD TO WORK HALF THE NIGHT IN THE BACK ROOMS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO FIND 5 MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN EARTHQUAKE.

TURKEY GETS 500 MILLION DOLLARS.

TURKEY HAS A VERY ACTIVE AMBASSADOR HERE. HE'S A FINE MAN. I'VE MET HIM; TALKED TO HIM. I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH THE AMBASSADOR DOING HIS JOB.

BUT ARMENIA HAS NO AMBASSADOR, NO EMBASSY.

ARMENIA ALSO DOESN'T HAPPEN TO BE A VERY ATTRACTIVE SITE FOR AMERICAN INVESTMENT, AT LEAST RIGHT NOW.

BUT LOTS OF BIG AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATE IN TURKEY. THEY PUT IN BILLIONS IN INVESTMENT, AND TAKE OUT MILLIONS IN PROFITS.

SOME OF THOSE INVESTMENT DOLLARS END UP IN THE COFFERS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT -- WHICH SPENDS THEM ON THE HIGH-PRICED LOBBYISTS WHO HAVE BEEN ALL OVER US THESE PAST FEW MONTHS.

AND SOME OF THOSE PROFITS ARE PAYING FOR THE AMERICAN INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WHO HAVE BEEN HAMMERING HOME TO MANY OF US HOW IMPORTANT THEIR PROFIT MARGINS IN TURKEY ARE.

TURKEY -- GOLIATH -- HAS ALL THE TROOPS; ALL THE GUNS.

MONEY, AN EMBASSY, AMERICAN BUSINESS, LOBBYISTS -- THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.

THEY CAN ALL SPEAK FOR TURKEY -- MAKE TURKEY'S CASE.

ARMENIA HAS -- NONE OF THE ABOVE.

IF THE SENATE DOESN'T SPEAK FOR ARMENIA THEN -- WHO WILL?

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SOME HAVE ARGUED THAT THE SENATE SHOULD NOT "DECIDE" THIS ISSUE.

THE FACT IS: THE SENATE ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS DECISION -- IN A UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION PASSED IN 1920. I PUT THE TEXT AND EXPLANATORY INFORMATION ON THAT RESOLUTION IN THE RECORD YESTERDAY.

(MORE)

THE SENATE HAS HARDLY BEEN ALONE IN MAKING A JUDGMENT ON THIS ISSUE.  
AS I SAID EARLIER:

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DECLARED THAT THERE WAS AN ARMENIAN GENOCIDE  
-- IN THE FACE OF STRONG TURKISH THREATS OF RETALIATION.

THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HAS DECLARED THERE WAS A  
GENOCIDE. THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HAS DECLARED THERE WAS A GENOCIDE.

SO HAVE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS OF THE WORLD:

WINSTON CHURCHILL. ELIE WIESEL. SAMUEL GOMPERS. THE ARCHBISHOP OF  
CANTERBURY. FORMER FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING. RAFAEL LEMKIN -  
- THE PERSON WHO COINED THE WORD "GENOCIDE."

AND SO, TOO, HAVE THESE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS. TEN AMERICAN  
PRESIDENTS -- WHOSE NAMES I LISTED YESTERDAY. FORMER SPEAKER TIP O'NEIL.  
FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. HENRY CABOT LODGE. CARDINAL CUSHING.

COUNTLESS PRESENT AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE SENATE. YESTERDAY, I PUT  
A LIST OF 26 WHO HAVE MADE SPEECHES ON THE GENOCIDE IN THE LAST COUPLE  
OF YEARS.

THE LIST GOES ON, AND ON, AND ON.

ALL OF THESE DISTINGUISHED PEOPLE CARED ENOUGH TO LOOK AT THE FACTS;  
AND FOUND THOSE FACTS COMPELLING ENOUGH TO MAKE A JUDGMENT.

I ONLY HOPE THE SENATE WILL CARE ENOUGH, AND HAVE COURAGE ENOUGH, TO  
DO THE SAME.

IN THE FACE OF ALL THIS, SOME STILL QUESTION WHETHER THERE WAS A  
GENOCIDE. THEY SAY: LET HISTORY JUDGE.

THEY SAY: DON'T JUDGE UNTIL YOU HAVE EVERY LAST DOCUMENT; EVERY  
LAST SHRED OF EVIDENCE.

BUT THEN THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WON'T OPEN ALL THE ARCHIVES, SO WE  
CAN GET AT EVERY ONE OF THOSE RECORDS.

WE HAVE PLENTY OF EVIDENCE. SOME OF IT SITS ON THOSE EASELS AT THE  
BACK OF THE CHAMBER. I'VE PUT PAGE AFTER PAGE OF IT IN THE RECORD. I  
HAVE VOLUME UPON VOLUME OF IT -- CARTON PILED UPON CARTON OF IT -- BACK  
IN MY OFFICE. I INVITE MY COLLEAGUES DOWN THERE TO HAVE A LOOK.

WE HAVE TEN TIMES AS MUCH DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE ON THIS GENOCIDE AS  
WE EVER HAVE HAD ON THE "KILLING FIELDS" OF CAMBODIA. BUT NO ONE I KNOW  
OF STANDS AROUND ON THE FLOOR SAYING -- I DON'T HAVE THE PROOF.

THE PILED UP BODIES WERE PRETTY CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THAT GENOCIDE.  
AND IF ANYONE HAS THE STOMACH FOR IT, I CAN SHOW YOU PAGE AFTER PAGE OF  
THE SAME KIND OF GRUESOME PHOTOGRAPHY OF ARMENIAN MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN  
-- SLAUGHTERED, DECAPITATED, MUTILATED, BURNED, AND BATTERED.

IT WAS A GENOCIDE.

IT WAS A GENOCIDE.

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SEVERAL TIMES IN THIS DEBATE, OPPONENTS OF THE RESOLUTION HAVE  
SUGGESTED WE NEED MORE TIME TO STUDY THIS ISSUE -- WE NEED HEARINGS.

WELL, AS I HAVE SAID, THE SENATE HAD EXTENSIVE HEARINGS ON THIS ISSUE  
WAY BACK IN 1920; AND THE CONGRESS HAS HAD HEARINGS ON IT PERIODICALLY  
EVER SINCE.

THIS HAS BEEN AN ISSUE OF HOT DEBATE ON CAPITOL HILL FOR YEARS. MANY  
SENATORS HAVE STUDIED IT. AS I SAID, MANY HAVE SPOKEN OUT ON IT -- IN  
ALMOST EVERY CASE CONCLUDING THAT THERE WAS A GENOCIDE.

BUT SOME SENATORS WANT MORE HEARINGS.

WHO WOULD TESTIFY? THE BEST WITNESSES -- A MILLION AND A HALF OF  
THEM -- THEY CAN'T TESTIFY.

THEY CAN'T SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

IF WE, IN THE SENATE -- IF WE DON'T SPEAK FOR THEM, THEN WHO WILL?

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THE VOTE WE WILL HAVE IN A FEW MOMENTS IS A PROCEDURAL VOTE.

SOME MAY THINK: WELL, I CAN DUCK THIS TOUGH ISSUE ON A PROCEDURAL  
VOTE. IF WE DON'T EVEN PROCEED TO CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 212 -- THEN  
I WON'T HAVE TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ON THIS TOUGH ISSUE.

I WON'T HAVE TO BALANCE ALL OF THOSE VERY LEGITIMATE THINGS THAT EACH  
OF US BALANCES ON ALMOST EVERY VOTE -- OUR INTELLECTUAL ANALYSIS OF THE  
ISSUE, OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO OUR CONSTITUENTS, THE PRESSURES BROUGHT TO  
BEAR BY THE ADMINISTRATION, AND LOBBYISTS AND OTHERS.

WELL, I HATE TO BURST ANY BUBBLES, BUT -- TO PARAPHRASE A COMMENT  
A CHAMPION BOXER ONCE MADE ABOUT HIS OPPONENT -- YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU  
CAN'T HIDE.

THIS ISSUE DESERVES A VOTE -- A STRAIGHT, UP-DOWN VOTE. NOT A  
PROCEDURAL VOTE. BUT A VOTE ON THE MERITS.

(MORE)