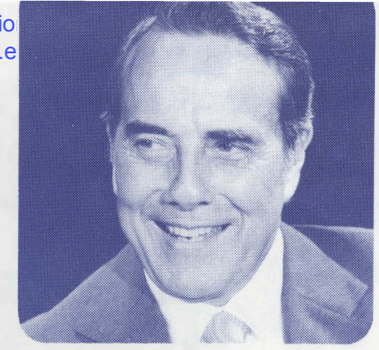
BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
PUBLIC FINANCING -- NO!

YESTERDAY, MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE UNVEILED THEIR CAMPAIGN FINANCE "REFORM" PLAN. I CONGRATULATE THEM ON THEIR EFFORTS.

ALTHOUGH THE PLAN'S LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE -- AND ALTHOUGH I HAVEN'T SEEN A LIST OF CO-SPONSORS -- I KNOW THAT VIRTUALLY FULL PUBLIC FINANCING OF SENATE CAMPAIGNS IS ONE OF THE PLAN'S KEY ELEMENTS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEMOCRAT BILL DOES ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO CURB LABOR UNION SOFT-MONEY ABUSES.

PUBLIC FINANCING

LAST TUESDAY, THE SENATE REPUBLICANS UNVEILED THEIR OWN CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM INITIATIVE. THE INITIATIVE NOW HAS 34 CO-SPONSORS, AND I EXPECT ADDITIONAL CO-SPONSORS TO COME ON-BOARD NEXT WEEK.

I AM PLEASED THAT THE REPUBLICAN BILL REJECTS PUBLIC FINANCING OUTRIGHT. NO EXCUSES. NO BURDENS ON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER. AND NO TAXPAYER-FINANCING OF POLITICIANS.

IF HISTORY TEACHES US ANYTHING, IT TEACHES US THAT PUBLIC FINANCING IS BAD PUBLIC POLICY -- AND IT'S VERY, VERY EXPENSIVE.

THE LAST THREE PUBLICLY-FINANCED PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ATE UP MORE THAN $500 MILLION IN HARD-EARNED TAXPAYER MONEY -- AND WHAT'S WORSE, THE SYSTEM JUST DIDN'T WORK.

BELIEVE ME, I'VE BEEN THERE. I'VE SEEN THE PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM UP-CLOSE. AND, TODAY, I AM STILL BEING AUDITED BY THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, MORE THAN TWO YEARS AFTER MY OWN PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN FOLDED UP ITS TENT FOR GOOD.

THAT'S WHY THE BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE COMMISSIONED BY SENATOR MITCHELL AND MYSELF THOUGHT THAT COPYING THE PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM -- AND OPTING FOR PUBLIC FINANCING -- WAS NOT SUCH A GOOD IDEA AFTER ALL. AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN BET THE HOUSE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL SIMPLY NOT STAND FOR YET ANOTHER CONGRESSIONAL RAID ON OUR POCKETBOOKS AND WALLETS.

MEETING THE SPENDING LIMIT THRESHOLD

I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEFLY LOOK AT THE DEMOCRAT BILL'S SPENDING LIMIT PROPOSAL. ACCORDING TO THE BILL, THE GENERAL-ELECTION SPENDING LIMIT FOR MY OWN HOME STATE OF KANSAS WOULD BE SET AT APPROXIMATELY $1 MILLION.

BASED UPON MY CALCULATIONS, A SENATE CANDIDATE IN KANSAS COULD RECEIVE $50,000 FROM PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE STATE AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM JUST 200 KANSANS -- IN $250 INCREMENTS -- AND THAT CANDIDATE WOULD QUALIFY FOR $700,000 IN DIRECT PUBLIC MONEY AND $200,000 WORTH OF SOMETHING-CALLED BROADCAST VOUCHERS.

LINE UP $50,000 IN OUT-OF-STATE MONEY, THEN LINE UP 200 CONSTITUENTS, AND "YOU'RE IN LIKE FLYNT," ENJOYING A HUGE TAXPAYER-WINDFALL.

THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, AND IT DOESN'T ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY THE PEOPLE WHO OUGHT TO COUNT -- THE PEOPLE OF OUR STATES, OUR CONSTITUENTS.

LABOR-UNION SOFT MONEY

I AM ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT THE DEMOCRAT BILL DOES ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO CURB THE ABUSES OF LABOR SOFT-MONEY.

(MORE)

AS I HAVE POINTED OUT BEFORE, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES THAT UNIONS COLLECT MORE THAN $3.3 BILLION IN ANNUAL DUES FROM MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE -- WHICH HAPPENS TO BE GREATER THAN THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT OF MORE THAN 75 COUNTRIES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, ONLY A STATISTICS GENIUS CAN ACCURATELY ESTIMATE HOW MUCH OF THIS MONEY ACTUALLY GETS PUMPED INTO THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE PIPELINE.

NO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PROPOSAL CAN CALL ITSELF SERIOUS IF IT DOESN'T ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM. AND THE BEST WAY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM IS TO CODIFY THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE SUPREME COURT'S BECK DECISION.

PAC-BAN OR PAC-PLAN?

AS PART OF ITS CAFETERIA-PLAN APPROACH, THE DEMOCRAT BILL ALSO PROPOSES TO BAN PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO SENATE CANDIDATES.

THAT'S ALL WELL-AND-GOOD, AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THE SENATE DEMOCRATS FOLLOWING THE REPUBLICAN LEAD ON THIS ISSUE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO HOUSE CANDIDATES? WHAT ABOUT PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATIONAL AND STATE PARTIES? AND WHAT ABOUT PAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SENATORIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES?

ON THE PAC ISSUE, THE REPUBLICAN BILL DOESN'T FOOL AROUND. IT BANS PACS COMPLETELY FROM THE FEDERAL ELECTION PROCESS.

NO EXCUSES. NO LOOPHOLES. NO PACS. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

NEED FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

MR. PRESIDENT, SERIOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED AT
THE BARGAINING TABLE. AND IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THE GOOD-FAITH EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO MAY HOLD DIFFERENT VIEWS ABOUT THE BEST WAY TO CLEAN-UP THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE MESS.

NOW THAT BOTH PARTIES OF UNVEILED REFORM PACKAGES, IT'S TIME TO SEE WHERE THERE MAY BE COMMON GROUND. SENATOR MITCHELL AND I HAVE ALREADY TALKED ABOUT THIS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO TALK IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

I AM STILL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DEVELOPING A BI-PARTISAN REFORM PACKAGE, BUT NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT ANY MIRACLES FROM THE MAFJORITY LEADER AND MYSELF. THERE CONTINUE TO BE MANY DISAGREEMENTS AND MANY DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW, BUT WE WILL TRY OUR BEST TO BRIDGE THESE DIFFERENCES.

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