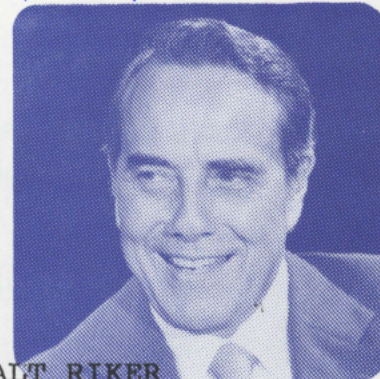


News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE ON WHITE HOUSE BUDGET SENATE FLOOR REMARKS

IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY. I KNOW THAT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES ARE ALREADY POSITIONING THEMSELVES TO OPPOSE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT NOT SUIT THEIR FANCY, BUT LET ME SAY ON THE OTHER SIDE, I HOPE MY COLLEAGUES WILL NOT LOCK THEMSELVES IN. THE EASIEST ANSWER AROUND IS "I'M NOT GONNA DO IT", AND LET SOMEBODY ELSE DO IT. OR "I'LL VOTE NO AND HOPE THAT ENOUGH PEOPLE VOTE YES SO THAT NOBODY'S GOING TO BLAME ME FOR BEING PART OF THE PROBLEM" - I THINK BEING RESPONSIBLE.

BUT LET ME INDICATE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS DEDICATED TO MOVING AHEAD WITH THIS APPROACH - A BI-PARTISAN APPROACH ON DEFICIT REDUCTION. AND THE FOUR LEADERS HAVE IN EFFECT PLEDGED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT THEY'RE WILLING TO COOPERATE. AS LONG AS IT'S TOTALLY NON-PARTISAN, BI-PARTISAN - EVERYTHING IS SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATION. EVERYTHING ON THE TABLE. THAT MEANS PROCESS REFORM, WHICH IS VERY IMPORTANT IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ANY MEANINGFUL, LONG-RANGE DEFICIT REDUCTION OR ANY DISCIPLINE, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE PROCESS REFORM.

WE MUST AGREE ON SOME FIGURE - HOW MUCH ARE WE GOING TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT? WE HAVEN'T AGREED ON THAT YET. IS IT GOING TO BE MULTI-YEAR? WE HAVEN'T AGREED ON THAT. WHAT DO WE DO WITH DEFENSE AND WHAT DO WE DO WITH MANDATORY PROGRAMS AND WHAT TO DO WHEN WE COME TO REVENUES? ALL THOSE AREAS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSED. AND IN MY VIEW, TO MAKE A VERY POSITIVE PACKAGE, IT MUST PROVIDE DIFFERENT PROVISIONS THAT ENCOURAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH. IF WE WANT THE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WE NEED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE, IN ADDITION TO BEING RESPONSIBLE AND BEING GOOD FISCAL POLICY, IS THAT IT'S GOING TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC GROWTH BY REDUCING LONG TERM INTEREST RATES AND INCREASING INVESTMENT AND PRODUCTIVITY. SO THESE ARE THE GOALS THAT WE HAVE IN GENERAL. WE WANT TO INCREASE INVESTMENT. WE WANT TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY. WE WANT IT TO BE BI-PARTISAN. WE WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT WE HAVE SUBSTANTIAL DEFICIT REDUCTION - IT'S GOT TO BE A BOLD PACKAGE SO THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT WE FINALLY GOT SERIOUS IN THE CONGRESS ABOUT THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT'S BEEN OVERLOOKED FOR THE PAST DOZEN YEARS; OR SWEEPED AWAY EVERY YEAR FOR THE LAST DOZEN YEARS.

(more)

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SO I AGAIN CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT. IT'S NOT AN EASY CHOICE FOR HIM I MIGHT ADD. IF YOU READ THE PAPERS OR WATCH TELEVISION HE'S BEING BOMBARDED FROM ALL SIDES ABOUT "TAXES, TAXES, TAXES" I THINK HE'S DECIDED THAT THE FIRST THING THAT YOU MUST CONSIDER IS THE FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN AMERICA, JOBS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR THOSE WHO NOW HAVE JOBS, YOUNG PEOPLE JUST COMING INTO THE JOB MARKET. WE NEED TO ADDRESS INFLATION. WE NEED TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE AROUND THE WORLD. WE NEED TO REDUCE THE COST OF CAPITAL. WE NEED TO DO ALL THESE THINGS THAT, IN MY VIEW, AND THE VIEW OF THE PRESIDENT, HINGE ON AN IMPRESSIVE DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE.

AND WE HAVE TO DO IT VERY QUICKLY. ONE THING THAT I THINK FRUSTRATES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IS CONGRESS NEVER SEEMS TO DO ANYTHING QUICKLY. WE TAKE FOREVER DOING WHAT WE MIGHT DO IN TWO OR THREE WEEKS, WE DO IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS. AND WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME. SO I WOULD HOPE - WE DIDN'T SET ANY DEADLINE - NO DEADLINES SET - BUT THE LEADERS AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT THAT WE OUGHT TO MOVE AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN IF WE'RE GOING TO IMPLEMENT THIS PACKAGE AND HAVE IT HAVE AN IMPACT YET THIS YEAR OF THE OUT YEAR.

I THINK WE'RE PREPARED TO BEGIN. WE MAY NOT SUCCEED. BUT IT'S LIKE, AS I SAID, PUTTING HUMPTY DUMPTY BACK TOGETHER AGAIN - IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE, BUT ALMOST. AND WE'LL NEED THE PUBLIC'S SUPPORT AND WE'LL NEED TO REACH OUT TO OUR COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE. THE BOTTOM LINE IS, LET'S NOT LOCK OURSELVES IN. LET'S GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CHANCE - IF YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN. AND IF YOU'RE A DEMOCRAT, LET'S GIVE THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP A CHANCE. BUT ABOVE ALL, LET'S GIVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMY AND TO SUSTAIN ECONOMIC GROWTH SO THAT THEIR LIVES WILL BE BETTER. IN MY VIEW WE'RE ON THE RIGHT TRACK.

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