

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE CALLS FOR REESTABLISHMENT OF EXPERT BIPARTISAN PANEL TO SEEK REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

"LAST FEBRUARY, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER GEORGE MITCHELL AND I EACH APPOINTED THREE PEOPLE TO A 6-MEMBER PANEL OF 'EXPERTS' IN AN EFFORT TO REACH A BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS ON HOW TO 'FIX' THE WAY WE FINANCE CAMPAIGNS. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE PANEL'S REPORT REPRESENTED A SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH -- IF NOTHING ELSE, THE REPORT DEMONSTRATED THAT INDIVIDUALS WITH SHARPLY DIVERGENT VIEWS COULD COME TOGETHER AND DEVELOP A BIPARTISAN PLAN THAT INCLUDED MOST OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES.

"DURING THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS -- WHICH INCLUDED SOME, BUT NOT MUCH, CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE IN BOTH HOUSES -- IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT MEANINGFUL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM CAN NOT BE ACHIEVED EXCLUSIVELY THROUGH THE POLITICAL PROCESS, BECAUSE NEARLY EVERY MEMBER IS LOOKING OUT FOR HIS OR HER OWN INTERESTS. SO FAR, ALL WE HAVE SEEN FROM BOTH HOUSES ARE THINLY VEILED INCUMBENCY PROTECTION SCHEMES TO PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO -- ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE NAME OF 'REFORM.'

"IN AN EFFORT TO STILL GET ACTION THIS YEAR, I HAVE WRITTEN TO SENATOR MITCHELL, SPEAKER THOMAS FOLEY AND HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB MICHEL SUGGESTING RECONVENING THE BIPARTISAN PANEL FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING WITH HOUSE AND SENATE CONFEREES TO DETERMINE IF REAL REFORM IS POSSIBLE. THE PANEL WILL NEED THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE LEADERSHIP AND AUTHORITY TO GO BEYOND THE SCOPE OF BOTH THE SENATE AND HOUSE PASSED BILLS.

"TIME IS SHORT IF WE ARE TO BREAK THIS DEADLOCK BEFORE ADJOURNMENT, BUT THE PANEL COULD BEGIN ITS WORK BEFORE THE CONGRESS RECONVENES. WHILE I AM NOT OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, I REMAIN CONVINCED THAT GOING OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM MAY BE THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE THE GENUINE REFORM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE DEMANDING."

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IT IS TIME FOR A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, IN WHICH SHARED INTERESTS ARE MATCHED BY SHARED COMMITMENT.

SO FAR, OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD -- INCLUDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- HAVE, FOR THE MOST PART, RESPONDED WELL. WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT, AND TO INSIST, THAT THEY WILL STAND WITH US NOT ONLY IN THE IMMEDIATE CRISIS, BUT FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

THIS TIME, THERE CANNOT BE ANY "FREE LUNCHES" FOR ANYONE.

#### THE ROLE OF CONGRESS

BUT LET ME SAY, TOO: WE HAVE SOME ADDITIONAL WORK TO DO AT HOME, TO MAKE SURE NO ONE DOUBTS THAT WE ARE STANDING AS FIRMLY AS WE SHOULD BEHIND THE PRESIDENT, AND BEHIND AMERICA.

JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE SADDAM'S TROOPS AND TANKS ROLLED INTO KUWAIT, A MISGUIDED MAJORITY OF LIBERAL SENATORS:

-- DONNED THEIR ROSE-COLORED GLASSES;

-- DECLARED AN END NOT ONLY TO THE COLD WAR WITH THE SOVIETS, BUT ALL WAR, AND ALL THREATS OF AGGRESSION;

-- AND DECIDED THAT WHAT AMERICA NEEDED WAS NOT A DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE -- BUT A SECOND-RATE DEFENSE.

THEY VOTED NOT SIMPLY TO "CUT," BUT TO RECKLESSLY "GUT," AMERICA'S DEFENSE.

IN VOTE AFTER VOTE, THAT MISGUIDED MAJORITY SENT OUT THIS TIMID MESSAGE: AMERICA WILL DO WHATEVER MUST BE DONE TO INSURE THE PEACE -- AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T COST TOO MUCH; OR ENTAIL ANY SACRIFICE; OR FORCE US TO FACE UP TO THE WORLD AS IT REALLY IS, RATHER THAN AS WE WOULD LIKE IT TO BE.

IN VOTE AFTER VOTE, THEY SENT A MESSAGE THAT MUST BE RINGING IN THE EARS OF THOSE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BRAVE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN NOW ON STATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST: DO WHATEVER MUST BE DONE -- AS LONG AS YOU DON'T RUN UP TOO LARGE A BILL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: WITH ALL THE CHANGES IN THE WORLD, ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED.

FREEDOM ISN'T CHEAP.

BUT YOU AND I KNOW: WHATEVER IT COSTS TO INSURE FREEDOM FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN -- IT IS WORTH IT.

IT IS A PRICE THAT MUST BE PAID.

SO THAT IS ONE THING THAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY: TO INSURE THAT, WHEN WE SEND OUR FORCES TO FAR-FLUNG CORNERS OF THE GLOBE -- WE SEND THEM THERE WITH THE MILITARY MIGHT TO DO THE JOB.

#### RESPECT FOR THE FLAG

ONE OTHER THING IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY, TOO: MAKING SURE THAT THE FLAG THOSE TROOPS CARRY -- THE FLAG THAT WE FLY -- IS AS REVERED HERE AT HOME, AS WE WANT IT TO BE RESPECTED AROUND THE WORLD.

YOU'VE SEEN IT JUST AS I HAVE: THE DISGUSTING SCENES OF UGLY MOBS IN IRAQ AND JORDAN, TORCHING THE AMERICAN FLAG.

AND I BET YOU'VE HAD THE SAME TWO REACTIONS I HAVE: AN UNDERSTANDABLE ANGER AT THIS FOREIGN DESECRATION OF OLD GLORY --BUT, SIMULTANEOUSLY, A RESURGENCE OF REVULSION THAT IT IS NOT ONLY FOREIGNERS, BUT A FEW MINDLESS MORONS IN THIS COUNTRY, WHO THINK IT IS OK TO DESECRATE OUR FLAG.

WHEN OVER 40% OF THAT OTHER BODY OF CONGRESS VOTES AGAINST A FLAG DESECRATION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION -- YOU START TO WONDER WHETHER THEY DESERVE THE NAME OF "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES." YOU START TO ASK: JUST WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE REPRESENTING?

WHEN ROUGHLY THAT SAME PERCENTAGE OF THE SENATE VOTES AGAINST THE AMENDMENT, YOU AS VOTERS AND PROUD AMERICANS MUST START TO WONDER: DO WE REALLY HAVE THE RIGHT PEOPLE WORKING FOR US IN WHAT SOME PEOPLE CALL THE "GREATEST DELIBERATIVE BODY IN THE WORLD."

SOMETIMES REAL CRISES HAVE A WAY OF PUTTING THINGS IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE; OF PUTTING THINGS BACK IN FOCUS.

MAYBE THE EVENTS OF THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, AND THE PROSPECT OF EVENTS THAT COULD UNFOLD OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS -- PERHAPS THEY HAVE GIVEN SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS A LITTLE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND THE GLOBE, AND A LITTLE BETTER FOCUS ON THE REAL WORLD.

PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO LOOK FOR SOME WAY TO GIVE THE CONGRESS ANOTHER CHANCE TO DECIDE -- ISN'T IT WORTH PROTECTING THAT BEAUTIFUL FLAG THAT OUR BRAVE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN ARE PROUDLY BEARING IN THE DANGEROUS, SHIFTING SANDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST?

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: THERE IS NO BODY OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY WHO HATE WAR MORE THAN YOU DO.

BUT THERE IS NO BODY OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO UNDERSTAND MORE CLEARLY THAT THERE IS ONE THING EVEN WORSE THAN WAR -- AND THAT IS LOSING YOUR FREEDOM.

EVEN NOW, THOUSANDS OF YOUNG AMERICANS ARE BECOMING "INSTANT VETERANS" OF AN EXPERIENCE WE HAD ALL HOPED THEY WOULD NEVER BE FORCED TO CONFRONT.

WHETHER THEY, TOO, BECOME VETERANS OF A FOREIGN WAR IS NOT YET CLEAR.

WHAT IS CLEAR, THOUGH, IS THAT THEY ARE READY TO DO WHATEVER HAS TO BE DONE.

AND WE ARE READY, TOO -- YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE VFW; AND I AND ALL PATRIOTIC AMERICANS -- WE ARE READY, TOO.

READY TO STAND UP FOR OUR TROOPS.

AND READY TO STAND UP FOR AMERICA.

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