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NEWS

FROM:

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TSONGAS

DEMOCRATS SHOULD FOLLOW LEAD OF THEIR NEW FRONT-RUNNER PAUL TSONGAS: COOL TAX CUT FRENZY, EMBRACE CAPITAL GAINS CUT

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY CALLED ON CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS TO "FOLLOW THE LEAD OF THEIR PARTY'S NEW PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER" BY RESISTING THE SELF-PROCLAIMED ECONOMIC CURE-ALL OF MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS.

DOLE, A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, MADE THE STATEMENT TODAY AS THE COMMITTEE BEGAN HEARINGS ON THE ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVES.

"I HOPE DEMOCRATS HEED THE ECONOMIC CANDOR FROM THEIR NEW FRONT-RUNNER WHEN HE WARNS HIS OWN PARTY ABOUT ITS POLITICAL RUSH TO SO-CALLED MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUTS. THE DEMOCRAT PARTY LEADERSHIP SHOULD MEET THE CHALLENGE FROM PAUL TSONGAS TO 'FORGET THE DOGMA', TO FOCUS ON 'WHAT WORKS' AND TO REJECT ANY MORE DEFICIT SPENDING BY THE CONGRESS, " DOLE SAID. "A MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUT BY ITSELF MAY SOUND GOOD TO POLITICIANS IN AN ELECTION YEAR, BUT WHAT WORKING AMERICA IS REALLY LOOKING FOR IS A HEALTHY ECONOMY AND A CONGRESS DEDICATED TO LONG-RANGE, RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP ON THE BUDGET, ON SPENDING AND ON GROWTH."

"DEMOCRATS ARE ALSO OUT OF STEP WITH THEIR NEW FRONT RUNNER WITH THEIR ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO A REDUCTION IN CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATES.

"WHILE DEMOCRATS ARE IN DISARRAY OVER PLANS TO REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY AND REFORM AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, REPUBLICANS ARE SOLIDLY BEHIND PRESIDENT BUSH'S COMPREHENSIVE BLUEPRINT TO HELP SOLVE BOTH OF THESE CRITICAL PROBLEMS."

IN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TODAY, DOLE SAID "I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS OFFERED A BUDGET PROPOSAL THAT IS MORE THAN A PLAN TO SIMPLY JUMPSTART THE ECONOMY. THE PRESIDENT'S ACCELERATED GROWTH INITIATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ALSO MEETS THREE CRITICAL TESTS. IT'S A PLAN THAT DOES NOT PUT OUR NATION'S SECURITY AT RISK WITH A MINDLESS RAID ON DEFENSE; DOES NOT BUST THE BUDGET; AND IT DOES NOT RAISE TAXES.'