

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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The following op-ed by Senator Bob Dole is for your information to use as you see fit.

Time to Fight Crime War, Not Class War
by Senator Bob Dole

For too long, Congress has treated crime as a political issue. But let's face it -- crime knows no political boundaries. It's an issue of every day survival, in Kansas and in every state in America, and that includes the streets in the very neighborhood Congress works in.

Just a few days ago, the House of Representatives' chief law enforcement officer was robbed at gun point and shot in the face. In January, a Senate staffer on his way to buy a cup of coffee was murdered in cold blood. Three months ago, a senator's wife was abducted at gunpoint by a convicted rapist on parole.

Crime shouldn't have to hit that close to home to get Congress moving on this urgent national priority. As lawmakers, we're not used to living in terror -- but for millions of Americans, it's a fact of life.

Time to Get Priorities Straight

Let's face it, Congress has spent far too much time waging a phony class warfare battle, all at the expense of a real war -- the war in America's streets. It's time to get our priorities straight -- it's time for Congress to demonstrate the same outrage over capital offenses as it shows over capital gains.

No matter how hard President Bush pressed for a tough anti-crime bill...no matter how many law enforcement organizations asked for help...no matter how many law abiding men and women said "please make our homes, streets, and schools safe," Congress's attitude about the war on crime has been one of "wake me when it's over."

Republicans Sound Wake-Up Call with Toughest Bill Ever

On Tuesday, Senate Republicans issued a wake-up call. It's time to stop treating crime legislation like it's some esoteric tax issue, or a partisan litmus test. That's why we have introduced what I believe is the most comprehensive and toughest anti-crime legislation ever introduced -- legislation, which, if passed, would be signed by the President immediately, and on the books this year.

TAXING AMERICA'S EMPLOYERS

THE DEMOCRATS MAY TALK ABOUT STIMULATING THE ECONOMY, BUT BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN WON'T BE TOO STIMULATED WHEN THEY FIND OUT THAT 80% OF THE DEMOCRATS TAX HIKE IS ABOUT TO BREAK THEIR BACKS. MORE THAN 80% OF THE REVENUE COMES RIGHT OF THE POCKETS OF SMALL BUSINESS. THESE ARE THE PEOPLE ARE THE PEOPLE OUT IN THE REAL WORLD CREATING JOBS, KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN AND KEEPING PEOPLE OFF THE UNEMPLOYMENT LINES. THE DEMOCRATS SAY THEY'RE GOING AFTER WALL STREET, BUT WHAT THEY'RE REALLY DOING IS HELPING CLOSE DOWN MAIN STREET.

WHEN THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS PROUDLY UNVEILED THEIR TAX BILL, THEY CLAIMED IT WOULD HELP 90 MILLION AMERICANS. NOW, ON D-DAY, THEY SAY IT WILL HELP 78 MILLION. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 12 MILLION AMERICANS THEY DON'T WANT TO HELP ANYMORE? LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE JUST BEEN KICKED OUT OF THE MIDDLE CLASS.

PROTECTING THE "RULING CLASS"

LET'S FACE IT, THESE NUMBERS AREN'T IMPORTANT. THE ONLY NUMBER THAT REALLY COUNTS IS 324, THE NUMBER OF DEMOCRAT INCUMBENTS ON CAPITOL HILL. WHEN DEMOCRATS PLAY THEIR CLASS WARFARE CARD, THEY'RE NOT OUT TO PROTECT THE MIDDLE CLASS, WHETHER IT'S 90 MILLION OR 78 MILLION OR WHATEVER, THEY'RE OUT TO PROTECT THE "RULING CLASS", THE 324 DEMOCRAT INCUMBENTS ON CAPITOL HILL.

BUT THE RULING CLASS STILL DOESN'T GET IT. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FED-UP WITH THE RULING CLASS AND ITS BIG TAX, SELF-PROTECTION AGENDA.

THAT'S WHAT VOTERS SAID THIS WEEK IN ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN - - BY ALMOST TWO-TO-ONE MARGINS, DEMOCRATIC VOTERS SAID THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN GROWTH INCENTIVES THAN SOME KIND OF DOLLAR-A-DAY TAX CUT.

ZERO

NOW, THE DEMOCRATS WILL TELL YOU THEY'VE MET THE DEADLINE. BUT THE FACT IS, THEY NEVER LEFT THE STARTING LINE. AS THE CALENDAR HITS ZERO, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE KNOW WHAT CONGRESS HAS REALLY PRODUCED -- ZERO. ZERO GROWTH, ZERO JOBS, BUT LOTS OF EXCUSES, AND EVEN MORE TAXES.

IT'S LITTLE WONDER CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL RATINGS ARE HITTING ALL TIME LOWS -- AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL BE PRETTY CLOSE TO ZERO, TOO. LET'S FACE IT, ZERO IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO CALL A CONGRESS THAT HAS PUT TAXES FIRST AND AMERICA LAST.

SO, I HOPE THE "ZERO CONGRESS" WILL TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT THIS BIG ZERO AND UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, DESERVE BETTER.

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