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NEWS

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The following op-ed by Senator Bob Dole may be of interest to you. Please use as you see fit. Thank you.

**AMERICAN PEOPLE WON COLD WAR;
DESERVE CEASEFIRE IN UGLY "AMERICA BASHING"
By Senator Bob Dole**

America may have won the Cold War, but recent events tell us there is still an ugly global war of words. You can't pick up a newspaper these days without reading about "America bashing," including the ultimate insult that we have "lazy workers."

Well, take a look at the Kansas folks on the production lines at Coleman, Boeing, Beech and Cessna in Wichita, the thousands of beefpackers in Liberal and Dodge City, our state's oil and gas wildcatters fighting for survival and energy independence, the good people at the ammunition plant in Parsons, the General Motors plant in Fairfax, Tony's Pizza in Salina, Frito Lay and Jostens in Topeka -- to name just a few -- just watch them, or any farmer in the Sunflower State, and anyone will see right away that "lazy" is one word that doesn't fit. That's why it's time for a verbal ceasefire, on both sides, especially when you consider what American workers -- American taxpayers -- have done for our European and Japanese allies.

In achieving the Cold War victory, President Bush observed, "the American taxpayer bore the brunt of the burden, and deserves a hunk of the glory." The President was right on target, and it seems that some people are apparently suffering from a bit of convenient amnesia.

I think most Kansans agree with me that it's high time to remind a few European leaders who are whining that America "isn't doing enough" to help the former Soviet republics, and a few arrogant Japanese leaders who think it's amusing to ridicule America's economic prowess -- it's time to remind them about a little bit of world history.

American Dollars & Leadership Rebuilt Europe, Japan

When Europe lay devastated after World War II, American leadership and American dollars put together the rebuilding effort that pulled those shattered nations back from the brink of total collapse. Through the Marshall Plan, American taxpayers, including plenty of Kansans, forked over \$20 billion during a four-year period. That's 20 billion in post-World War II dollars. In 1992 dollars, we are talking about \$90 billion!

Some of the sharpest criticism of the U.S. has come from France -- the same France that got about \$14 billion in handouts from the Marshall Plan.

After all, it is the United States that put together NATO, that for half a century has stationed tens of thousands of American soldiers in Europe at enormous costs to keep the peace, and that provided the so-called "nuclear umbrella" that kept Soviet communist forces out of Western Europe.

And what about Japan? It was an American initiative to establish democratic institutions in Japan starting in 1945. It was 12 billion American dollars -- American aid -- which helped Japan rebuild after World War II, a war, lest we forget, that they initiated against the U.S.

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For more than 40 years, it has been an American "Security blanket" which has protected Japan from outside threat, and allowed it to enjoy phenomenal economic growth. It was American ships, planes and armed forces which have kept open the sea lanes through which Japan gets its lifeblood of energy from the Middle East and elsewhere. Most important, it was the United States which opened this, the world's largest market, to a flood of Japanese products.

Getting Rich Inside Wall of Security

Globally, for more than forty-five years, the United States has carried the lion's share of the burden of containing Communism. No doubt about it, it's been quite a burden.

Consider this mind-boggling figure: in 1992 dollars, the American taxpayer has contributed more than \$14 trillion -- that's trillion with a "t" -- \$14 trillion to win the Cold War.

We spent \$14 trillion to win the Cold War, alongside relatively tiny contributions from most of our allies -- and they poured the great bulk of their funds into developing their own economic infrastructure, acquiring and developing technology, expanding domestic production and exports, and investing in social services for their people. Uncle Sam pretty much built and manned a wall of security around them -- and they've been getting rich inside.

And we're not talking about some one-shot effort. We're talking about a half century of vigilance. We're talking about American money and muscle and men -- from the beach-heads of World War II, right up to the sands of the Persian Gulf. Whenever the bell has rung, America has answered -- even when some of our allies appeared to be deaf and dumb.

Fair Share, Fair Trade, Fair Play

Don't get me wrong. America doesn't want a pay-back on the investments we've made over the years. Most of them were in our interest, too, and in any case we're not that kind of a country. We don't expect everyone to wake up every morning and say a great big "thank you" for all we've done. We also don't want some kind of anti-Japanese attack mentality where anything Japanese is seen as "bad." That would be just as "bad" as some of the mindless Uncle Sam bashing we're seeing these days.

All we want are three things.

First, we want our allies to assume their fair share of the burden of our common defense -- a burden reduced because of the fruits of our labor, of our tax dollars, but a substantial burden still.

Second, we want a level playing field on economic and trade matters. We built a security wall around their countries -- and all too often they've built a wall of protectionism to keep out American products, including Kansas beef and many other of the finest agricultural products on the world market. Some real movement by Europeans at the ongoing GATT world trade talks would be refreshing, and a good place to start.

A lot of Americans wonder why we've put up with their protectionist games this long. One thing is clear: we're not going to put up with it much longer.

Finally, we want this, too: we want an end to all the groundless, reckless, dangerous, ugly "America bashing." As far as I'm concerned, America bashing is Kansas bashing. We've had enough. We want an end to it now.

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Deadline Looms While Congress Dozes

By BOB DOLE

We'll be hearing plenty of spin from pundits about this week's dramatic election results, with lots of emphasis on check bouncing, anti-incumbent fever, the Clarence Thomas vote and the politics of redistricting. Ask the winners and losers, and they'll admit these were all important factors in their races. Nevertheless, there's a powerful economic message that's in danger of getting lost in the shuffle.

According to official exit polls, by nearly two-to-one, Democratic voters in Michigan Tuesday said providing incentives for economic growth, *not* a middle-class tax cut, should be a higher priority. And that's just among Democrats.

Unfortunately, a lot of congressional Democrats need to get their hearing checked. Congress is striking zero. Zero—at midnight, that's how many days will remain in President Bush's challenge to Congress for action on a responsible economic growth package. Zero is what the Democrat-controlled Congress will have to show for its efforts. And zero is what the American people have every right to call a Congress that has put the political goals of the Democratic majority above those of the nation.

The American people don't care who's up and who's down politically. They have no interest in the ongoing winter Olympics on Capitol Hill where the world-class game of politics-as-usual has once again earned

no medals for achievement or courage.

I would be the first to admit that none of the short-term economic growth plans is going to make the economy rocket out of the blocks. I would also be the first to admit that, like it or not, partisan politics is a fact of life in Washington. But there are times when we should be able to take some positive action, to do it without raising taxes, and to do it within a reasonable period of time—especially when you consider all the encouraging signs from many sectors of the economy. It appears there is a recovery getting underway—slowly yes, too slowly for many, and still a long way to go. But there are solid indications of a pick-up in real estate, construction, factory output, the lowest trade deficit in nearly a decade and an inflation rate that remains under control.

That's why President Bush was right to stay away from tax increases, and to stay on the path of targeted, common-sense growth incentives.

With his March 20 deadline for action, President Bush made a reasonable request—and Congress is flunking the test. Instead of getting timely action, the American people were treated to the Democrats' cynical class warfare rhetoric: Republicans are "protecting the rich," the president of the United States just doesn't care about domestic issues, and that Democrats are the good guys, ready to soak the rich, sock it to business and save the middle class. Coming from the party that just

about taxed the middle class out of existence and fought Ronald Reagan's tax cuts every step of the way, it all sounds more than a little hokey.

The good news is, the American people are too smart to fall for gimmicks. A lot of congressional Democrats didn't fall for them, either—so many, in fact that despite big majorities in both houses, the Democrats' own tax plans passed by anemic margins of 11 votes in the House and three votes in the Senate.

What were the Democrats afraid of? Perhaps they feared that they might look "weak" meeting a deadline. Perhaps they feared the president's plan might actually help improve the economy, save jobs and help businesses up and down Main Street, and that the president might even get some of the credit. If you ask me, the Democrats had a chance to share in the credit—they could have been part of the solution by joining with the president. Regrettably, Congress chose to be part of the problem.

Oh, the Democrats were very accommodating, they will tell you, willing to include "modifications" of the president's growth initiatives in their proposal. Their idea of growth was to deny benefits to more than 80% of first-time homebuyers by limiting the \$5,000 homebuyer tax credit to the purchase of new homes only, and to sock small businesses with a big tax increase, taking 89% of their bill's revenue from unincorporated business income, de-

spite the fact that small businesses create 60% to 80% of all new jobs every year. Let's face it, the Democrats held any solid growth incentives hostage to a tax increase—no tax increase, no growth bill was their bottom line.

The last time I checked, the Democrats had their way at 1990's so-called Budget Summit, winning tax hikes on working and earning America, including the misguided luxury tax, which promised to squeeze an avalanche of greenbacks from the rich, but instead buried many middle-class workers in pink slips. Ask the folks building and selling boats, cars, planes, furs and jewelry on the Democrats tax hit list, and they will tell you their jobs are necessities, not "luxuries."

These days, you don't hear the Democrats brag much about their Budget Summit "achievements." In fact, many are demanding we tear down the "fire wall" of protection against deficit spending.

In his inaugural address, President Bush said he didn't come to Washington to bicker with Congress. Well, the zero Congress hasn't lived up to its end of the bargain. So don't be surprised if one of this year's big campaign issues isn't who's protecting the so-called rich, but who's protecting the status quo. I challenge my colleagues—Republicans and Democrats—to look at the polls, listen to the people, and learn from this week's votes: the American people are tired of politics-as-usual on Capitol Hill. American taxpayers are paying us to create jobs, not create excuses. It's time to put America first, America second, and politics last—for a change.

In their effort to embarrass the president, the Democratic majority has embarrassed no one but itself. For the no-show performance on economic growth, the president and the American people have no one to blame but the folks inhabiting ground zero.

Sen. Dole of Kansas is Republican leader in the Senate