

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 19, 1992

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

PRESIDENT'S DEADLINE

ONE DAY UNTIL "ZERO CONGRESS" STRIKES OUT;
VOTERS' POWERFUL ECONOMIC MESSAGE OBSCURED BY HYPE

DESPITE ALL THE HAPPY TALK WE'VE BEEN HEARING ABOUT THE MAJORITY PARTY'S TAX BILL, IT'S STILL A BAD BILL, A POLITICAL BILL, A NO-JOBS BILL, A BILL THAT MANAGED TO PICK UP ONLY 50 VOTES IN THE SENATE. ABOVE ALL, IT IS A TAX INCREASE BILL -- A BIG TAX INCREASE BILL.

BUT LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT -- THERE WAS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THIS DEMOCRAT TAX HIKE: WE COULD HAVE IGNORED THE PARTISAN FRENZY TO JACK UP TAXES ON WORKING AND EARNING AMERICA. THE GOOD NEWS IS, THERE STILL IS AN ALTERNATIVE. AND WE COULD PASS IT TODAY. IT'S THE PRESIDENT'S COMMONSENSE PACKAGE OF SEVEN INCENTIVES THAT DON'T BUST THE BUDGET AND WON'T RAISE TAXES.

UNFORTUNATELY, AS I CHECK MY CALENDAR, THERE IS ONLY ONE DAY LEFT BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OF HIS ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE -- ONE DAY LEFT BEFORE THE CONGRESS STRIKES ZERO...ONE DAY BEFORE CONGRESS STRIKES OUT.

AND I'M NOT UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS -- THE CHANCES OF THE DEMOCRAT MAJORITY IN CONGRESS ACTING BY THE DEADLINE TO APPROVE A GROWTH PACKAGE ACCEPTABLE TO PRESIDENT BUSH ARE ALSO ZERO. IF WE PASS THE DEMOCRAT PACKAGE -- AND JUDGING BY THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, THAT IS A BIG IF -- THE PRESIDENT WILL VETO IT AND THAT VETO WILL BE SUSTAINED.

DEMOCRAT VOTERS PREFER GROWTH

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT MANY IN THE MAJORITY PARTY, INCLUDING THEIR PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER BILL CLINTON, STILL DON'T GET IT. WE'LL BE HEARING PLENTY FROM THE PUNDITS ABOUT TUESDAY'S DRAMATIC ELECTION RESULTS, WITH LOTS OF EMPHASIS ON CHECK BOUNCING, ANTI-INCUMBENT FEVER, THE CLARENCE THOMAS VOTE, AND THE POLITICS OF REDISTRICTING -- THOSE ARE ALL VALID POINTS.

BUT THERE'S A POWERFUL ECONOMIC MESSAGE THAT'S IN DANGER OF GETTING LOST IN THE SHUFFLE.

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL EXIT POLLS, BY OVERWHELMING MARGINS, DEMOCRAT VOTERS IN MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS TUESDAY SAID PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH, NOT A MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT, SHOULD BE A HIGHER PRIORITY. AND THAT'S JUST AMONG DEMOCRATS -- 62% OF ALL VOTING DEMOCRATS IN MICHIGAN, AND 60% OF ALL VOTING DEMOCRATS IN ILLINOIS, SAID ECONOMIC GROWTH INCENTIVES ARE MORE IMPORTANT TO THEM THAN A MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT.

NOT CONVINCED? LOOK AT THE HEADLINE TODAY ABOVE A NEW WASHINGTON POST SURVEY: "POLL SHOWS AMERICANS AMBIVALENT ABOUT TAX CUT -- SUPPORT DECLINES WHEN POSSIBILITY OF AN INCREASE IN BUDGET DEFICIT IS MENTIONED."

AND WHEN IT COMES TO THE DEMOCRATS' TAX HIKE, EVEN THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE CONCEDES THEIR BILL WON'T BECOME LAW, SAYING "WE MIGHT NOT DO ANYTHING AND, IN MY OPINION, THAT IS NOT ALL BAD."

SO AS WE LISTEN FOR MESSAGES FROM THE VOTERS, LET'S NOT TUNE THESE MESSAGES OUT.

ADDITIONALLY, WE SHOULDN'T IGNORE ALL THE ENCOURAGING SIGNS FROM MANY SECTORS OF OUR 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.

CONGRESS HAS FLUNKED THE TEST

THAT'S WHY PRESIDENT BUSH WAS RIGHT TO STAY AWAY FROM TAX INCREASES, AND TO STAY ON THE COMMONSENSE PATH OF GROWTH INCENTIVES. HE MADE A VERY REASONABLE REQUEST OF CONGRESS WHEN HE ASKED US TO ACT ON HIS SEVEN ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVES BY MARCH

(MORE)

20TH. SO FAR, CONGRESS HAS FLUNKED THE TEST. INSTEAD OF GETTING TIMELY ACTION, ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE GOTTEN IS A HEALTHY DOSE OF THE DEMOCRATS' TIRED AND CYNICAL CLASS WARFARE RHETORIC, THAT PHONY ARGUMENT THAT 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.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WON'T FALL FOR THAT BOGUS ARGUMENT. A LOT OF CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS DON'T APPEAR TO LIKE IT EITHER, AS WE SAW LAST WEEK WHEN SOME PRETTY INCREDIBLE VOTE-COUNTING GYMNASTICS WERE NEEDED TO KEEP THE SENATE FROM JUNKING THEIR MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT, OR AS WE SAW IN YESTERDAY'S RAZOR-THIN HOUSE MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF INSISTING ON THEIR OWN TAX HIKES IN THE CONFERENCE.

LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE

WITH OR WITHOUT REPUBLICAN INPUT, THE DEMOCRAT TAX INCREASE PACKAGE WILL PREVAIL, AND IF BOTH HOUSES PASS IT, THE PRESIDENT WILL VETO IT, AS HE SHOULD, AND THE VETO WILL BE SUSTAINED. THEN WE CAN GET ON WITH THE MAIN EVENT, LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE, FOR A CHANGE, AND ENACT A REAL ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE THAT CAN HELP KEEP THIS ECONOMY ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY.

I SUSPECT THAT IN THE FINAL DAY BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S DEADLINE, WE'LL HEAR EXCUSES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE. ALREADY, WE'RE BEING TOLD THAT THE MAJORITY PARTY WAS VERY ACCOMMODATING, INCLUDING "MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS" OF THE PRESIDENT'S ORIGINAL SEVEN GROWTH PROPOSALS. WELL, IF YOU BELIEVE THE DEMOCRATS "IMPROVED" THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PACKAGE, YOU PROBABLY THINK THEY REALLY BEEFED UP THE PRESIDENT'S CRIME BILL, TOO.

PEOPLE WANT JOBS, NOT EXCUSES

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. AFTER ALL, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PAYING US TO CREATE JOBS, NOT EXCUSES.

SO, THERE IS ONE DAY LEFT -- ONE DAY LEFT TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE. ONE DAY LEFT TO TELL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT HELP IS ON THE WAY, NOT JUST MORE TAXES, AND NOT JUST MORE OF THE SAME OLD STUFF FROM THE STATUS QUO BUNCH ON CAPITOL HILL.

LET'S FACE IT, WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT, ZERO IS WHAT CONGRESS WILL HAVE TO SHOW FOR ITS EFFORTS. ZERO IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO CALL A CONGRESS THAT HAS PUT POLITICS FIRST AND AMERICA LAST. THE BOTTOM LINE IS, FOR THE NO-SHOW PERFORMANCE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE PRESIDENT -- AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT THE "ZERO CONGRESS."

###