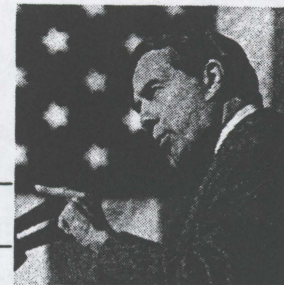


Bob Dole



NEWS

U . S . SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 30, 1992**

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

THE SAD FACT IS THAT WE HAVE SPENT A GOOD PART OF THREE DAYS DEBATING LEGISLATION THAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NO CHANCE AT BECOMING LAW.

FOR THREE DAYS WE HAVE KNOWN EXACTLY WHAT WILL HAPPEN. WE HAVE KNOWN THAT THE DEMOCRATS--WHO EXCLUDED THE REPUBLICANS FROM ANY ROLE IN WRITING THIS LEGISLATION--CAME HERE LOOKING FOR AN ELECTION YEAR FIGHT WITH PRESIDENT BUSH. THEY KNOW THEY HAVE THE VOTES TO PASS THE BILL. THEY KNOW PRESIDENT BUSH WILL VETO THE BILL FOR THE SIMPLE REASON THAT IT IS A TERRIBLE BILL AND DESERVES A VETO. AND DEMOCRATS KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT'S VETO WILL BE SUSTAINED.

BUT AS WE PREPARE TO GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF THIS POLITICAL EXERCISE, I WANT TO MAKE JUST A FEW POINTS:

FIRST, PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE REPUBLICANS STAND READY TO PASS TRUE, MEANINGFUL REFORM.

WE STAND READY TO ADOPT REAL REFORMS WHICH WOULD MAKE ELECTIONS TRULY COMPETITIVE.

WE STAND READY TO SUPPORT INNOVATIONS DEVELOPED AND PROPOSED IN 1990 BY A NON-PARTISAN COMMISSION OF ELECTION EXPERTS, WHO WERE APPOINTED BY THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER AND MYSELF.

WE STAND READY TO RID OUR SYSTEM OF THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES--COMMITTEES WHICH CONTRIBUTED \$130 MILLION TO CAMPAIGNS IN 1990--NEARLY \$300,000 EACH AND EVERY DAY. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THIS MONEY IS CONTRIBUTED TO INCUMBENTS--MOST OF WHOM, ARE, OF COURSE, DEMOCRATS.

THE BILL BEFORE US DOES TAKE SOME SMALL STEPS TO LIMIT PACS, BUT IT DOES NOT GO NEARLY AS FAR AS THE PRESIDENT AND REPUBLICANS WANT TO GO...AND IT DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS IS NEEDED TO CHANGE THE STATUS QUO.

LET ME ALSO COMMENT FOR A MINUTE ON THE LITTLE DINNER THE REPUBLICANS HAD THE OTHER NIGHT. MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE KEPT EXPRESSING THEIR SHOCK OVER THIS EVENT, WHICH RAISED MONEY FOR CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS.

WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE FACTS, AND FIND OUT WHO SHOULD BE SHOCKED.

RECENT RECORDS SHOW THAT THE DEMOCRAT SENATORIAL COMMITTEE RAISED \$2 MILLION DOLLARS FROM ROUGHLY 4,000 CONTRIBUTORS. THAT'S AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$500 PER CONTRIBUTOR--AND 33% OF THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS CAME FROM PACS.

IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD, HOWEVER, THERE WERE 314,000 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE REPUBLICAN SENATORIAL COMMITTEE. ONLY 3% OF DONATIONS CAME FROM PACS, AND THE AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION WAS JUST \$45.

THESE FIGURES SUGGEST THAT IT IS THE DEMOCRAT PARTY WHICH IS THE PARTY OF SO-CALLED "FAT CATS." LET'S FACE IT, WHEN IT COMES TO BIG TAXES AND BIG PAC DOLLARS AND BIG SPECIAL INTERESTS SUCH AS BIG LABOR, IT'S THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY THAT HAS THE BIG, BIG, BIG ADVANTAGE.

IN OTHER WORDS, DEMOCRATS HAVE A HARD TIME GETTING SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AVERAGE AMERICANS -- THE LITTLE GUY. WELL, THE DEMOCRATS PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER AND DECIDED THAT IF THE PEOPLE WOULDN'T BECOME INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL SYSTEM BY CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR CAMPAIGNS, THEY'D SIMPLY GET THEIR MONEY BY INCREASING THEIR TAXES.

MR. PRESIDENT, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE TO PENNSYLVANIA--THE VOTERS HAVE BEEN SENDING TWO MESSAGES THIS YEAR. THEY'RE TIRED OF THE "RULING CLASS" IN CONGRESS, AND THEY THINK THEIR TAXES ARE TOO HIGH.

I THOUGHT THOSE MESSAGES WERE PRETTY LOUD AND CLEAR. EITHER I WAS WRONG, OR ELSE THE DEMOCRATS WHO WROTE THIS BILL HELD THEIR MEETINGS IN THE "BIO-SPHERE," --THAT PLASTIC BUBBLE IN ARIZONA, WHERE PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY CUT OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

ALL THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS BILL IS THAT IT WILL RAISE YOUR TAXES TO FUND OUR CAMPAIGNS, AND IT PROMOTES PROTECTION OF INCUMBENTS, BY LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT CHALLENGERS CAN SPEND.

LET'S FACE IT. OFTEN THE ONLY WAY A CHALLENGER CAN COMPETE WITH THE BUILT-IN ADVANTAGES OF INCUMBENCY IS TO SPEND MONEY. THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT SPENDING LIMITS ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT CHANGE AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING CHANGE.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER THAN THIS BILL, AND PRESIDENT BUSH AND I STAND READY TO WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO ADOPT REFORMS WHICH WILL RESTORE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR ELECTION SYSTEM.

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