

Bob Dole



NEWS

U . S . SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 9, 1992

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

URBAN AID

**URBAN RELIEF THREATENED BY SHORT CONGRESSIONAL MEMORY:
DOLE'S "30 DAY" PREDICTION COMING TRUE;
PRESIDENTIAL DISCRETION, RESPONSIBLE FUNDING NEEDED**

ON APRIL 29TH THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES ERUPTED IN RIOTS AND LOOTING IN THE WAKE OF THE RODNEY KING VERDICT. THE PAIN AND DESTRUCTION THAT FOLLOWED WAS A GUT-WRENCHING SIGHT FOR THE ENTIRE NATION.

CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT PROMISED TO PUT ELECTION YEAR POLITICS ASIDE, AND JOIN TOGETHER FOR QUICK ACTION TO HELP ADDRESS L.A.'S INNER CITY PROBLEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE EMERGENCY DISASTER SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL TO HELP REBUILD LOS ANGELES APPEARS TO BE MIRED IN THE SAME OLD STATUS QUO -- THE CAPITOL HILL GRIDLOCK THAT HAS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SO DISGUSTED.

MORE PARTISAN PARALYSIS, NO RESULTS

THIRTY DAYS AGO I STOOD IN THE WHITE HOUSE DRIVEWAY AND PREDICTED TO THE PRESS CORPS THERE THAT CONGRESS HAS A SHORT MEMORY AND THAT ISSUES HAVE A WAY OF FADING, ESPECIALLY WHEN CONGRESS TURNS ON ITS FOG MACHINE. WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I WAS RIGHT. THIRTY DAYS HAVE PASSED AND ALL CONGRESS HAS PRODUCED IS MORE POLITICS AND MORE PARALYSIS.

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE SENATE LABOR COMMITTEE FORCED THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE TO ADD A BUDGET-BUSTING \$1.45 BILLION URBAN SPENDING AMENDMENT TO THE BILL. TO THEIR CREDIT, THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALSO INCLUDED LANGUAGE TO ALLOW THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE EXACTLY HOW MUCH OF THE FUNDS NEEDED TO BE SPENT. IT WASN'T A PERFECT OUTCOME, BUT AT LEAST THE SENATE BILL GAVE THE PRESIDENT THE FLEXIBILITY TO ENSURE THE FUNDS COULD BE RESPONSIBLY SPENT.

CONFERENCE ELIMINATED PRESIDENTIAL DISCRETION

UNFORTUNATELY, THE BILL THAT HAS EMERGED FROM CONFERENCE ELIMINATES MOST OF THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION TO SPEND THE FUNDING. THE SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM IS NOW A \$675 MILLION TAKE-IT-OUR-LEAVE-IT PACKAGE. THE PRESIDENT MUST DECLARE THE ENTIRE AMOUNT AN "EMERGENCY" IN ORDER TO BYPASS THE BUDGET CAPS OR NONE OF THE MONEY CAN BE SPENT.

NOT ONLY DOES THE BILL LIMIT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCRETION, IT NO LONGER CONTAINS LANGUAGE TO TARGET THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT TO THE AREAS WITH THE MOST SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. INSTEAD, FUNDING WILL BE SPENT ACCORDING TO THE CURRENT JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT FORMULA, WHICH WILL DO LITTLE TO ALLEVIATE THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS IN OUR CITIES.

(MORE)

THE LEVEL OF FUNDING INCLUDED IN THE BILL -- \$675 MILLION -- WOULD DOUBLE THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE JOBS PROGRAM. NOW, IS THERE ANYONE WHO REALLY BELIEVES THAT AMOUNT MONEY CAN BE SPENT EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY DURING THE REMAINING WEEKS OF SUMMER? CERTAINLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- THE EXPERTS HERE -- SAY IT

HEAD START, THE CHAPTER I SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM, AND THE WEED AND SEED PROGRAM HAVE ALSO BEEN BUNDLED TOGETHER IN A \$750 MILLION DOLLAR TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE IT PACKAGE. AGAIN, THE PRESIDENT MUST DECLARE THE ENTIRE \$750 MILLION AN EMERGENCY TO AVOID BUSTING THE CAPS OR NONE OF THE FUNDS CAN BE SPENT.

MAKING TOUGH CHOICES

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THESE ARE ALL GOOD PROGRAMS THAT DESERVE MORE MONEY. IN FACT, THE PRESIDENT LIKES HEAD START SO MUCH HE HAS ASKED FOR A \$600 MILLION INCREASE IN NEXT YEAR'S FUNDING. THE DIFFERENCE, IS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSED INCREASE DOESN'T REQUIRE WRITING ANOTHER BIG FAT I.O.U. TO OUR GRANDCHILDREN. INSTEAD, THE PRESIDENT RESPONSIBLY FUNDS THE HEAD START INCREASE WITHIN THE DOMESTIC CAPS BY SHIFTING FUNDS FROM LOWER PRIORITY PROGRAMS.

SURE, PAYING FOR NEW SPENDING REQUIRES MAKING TOUGH CHOICES, BUT THAT'S WHAT CONGRESS IS GOING TO HAVE TO START DOING IF WE ARE EVER GOING TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. REMEMBER ALL THE TALK WE'VE HEARD RECENTLY ABOUT THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT? LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST MORE HAPPY TALK FROM A CONGRESS HOOKED ON SPENDING.

CASH DOESN'T EQUAL COMPASSION

AS IT NOW STANDS, THE CONFERENCE REPORT IS VETO BAIT -- PURE AND SIMPLE. SO, INSTEAD OF PASSING A CLEAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE BILL, A BILL THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW, CONGRESS IS BACK TO THE SAME OLD GAMES, TRYING TO OUT-COMPASSION THE PRESIDENT WITH THE ONLY YARD STICK OF COMPASSION MANY AROUND HERE KNOW -- A CASH REGISTER. THAT IS POLITICS AT ITS WORST. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BIG LOSERS IN THIS GAME WON'T BE THE CONGRESS OR THE PRESIDENT, BUT THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE CALIFORNIA RIOTS AND THE BELEAGUERED RESIDENTS OF OUR COUNTRY'S INNER CITIES.

###