

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BALANCED BUDGET & TAXES

**REQUIRE THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY VOTE TO INCREASE TAXES;
BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT SHOULDN'T
BE SMOKESCREEN FOR BIG TAX HIKES**

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE KASTEN BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A THREE-FIFTHS VOTE TO INCREASE TAXES:

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WE NEED A BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, BUT WE DON'T NEED AN AMENDMENT THAT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A SMOKESCREEN FOR THE BIG SPENDERS AND FOR HUGE TAX INCREASES.

THAT IS WHY I AM A COSPONSOR OF THE KASTEN BALANCED BUDGET BILL, AND WHY IN PREVIOUS YEARS I HAVE INTRODUCED MY OWN BALANCED BUDGET BILL WITH A SIMILAR TAX LIMITATION PROVISION.

BIG TAX INCREASES, BIGGER SPENDING: THE CLINTON PLAN

TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SEEN BIG TAX INCREASES SWALLOWED UP BY EVEN BIGGER NEW SPENDING. AS EXHIBIT ONE, I OFFER THE CLINTON ECONOMIC PROPOSAL. AFTER INCREASING TAXES BY \$150 BILLION, GOVERNOR CLINTON PROPOSES SPENDING INCREASES AND TAX EXPENDITURES TOTALLING \$220 BILLION. IF YOU INCLUDE THE COST OF A "PLAY OR PAY" HEALTH CARE PACKAGE, THE TAB FOR ALL HIS NEW SPENDING RISES TO \$337 BILLION. GRANTED, GOVERNOR CLINTON CLAIMS TO OFFSET SOME OF THE DEFICIT INCREASE WITH \$150 BILLION IN SPENDING CUTS, BUT MANY OF THESE CUTS ARE AS PHONY AS PHONY CAN BE.

GOVERNOR CLINTON CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS A LOT EASIER TO QUIETLY SLIP A TAX INCREASE INTO A DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE, THAN IT IS TO MAKE THE TOUGH VOTES TO CUT SOMEONE'S FAVORITE PROGRAM. BUT IF YOU ASK ME, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT -- THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN'T AFFORD IT, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS WHO WILL GET STUCK WITH THE DEFICIT TAB CAN'T AFFORD IT, EITHER. THE TIME FOR MAKING THE TOUGH CHOICES IS LONG OVERDUE.

THE TAXPAYERS' INSURANCE POLICY AGAINST TAX HIKES

THE KASTEN AMENDMENT IS THE TAXPAYERS' BEST INSURANCE POLICY AGAINST A HEFTY NEW TAX BILL FROM UNCLE SAM. THE KASTEN AMENDMENT DOES NOT BAN REVENUE INCREASES, IT MERELY PREVENTS RECEIPTS FROM GROWING FASTER THAN NATIONAL INCOME. IN ANY EMERGENCY, EVEN THAT REQUIREMENT COULD BE WAIVED BY A THREE-FIFTHS MAJORITY. SO, LET NO ONE BE SWAYED BY THOSE IN THIS CHAMBER WHO CLAIM WE WOULD BE FOREVER BOUND AND TIED BY THIS AMENDMENT. THE KASTEN AMENDMENT PROVIDES THE BUDGET DISCIPLINE WE NEED, BUT ALLOWS FOR COMMON SENSE FLEXIBILITY.

LET'S FACE IT. IF THE BIG TAXERS AND BIG SPENDERS ARE SO SERIOUS ABOUT DISCIPLINING THEMSELVES, WE'D BETTER GET IT IN WRITING -- IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

I HOPE MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN ME IN VOTING FOR THE KASTEN AMENDMENT TODAY. THIS IS A REAL TEST OF WHETHER WE IN THIS CHAMBER ARE COMMITTED TO CONTROLLING THE SPIRALING COST OF GOVERNMENT OR WHETHER SOME INTEND TO HIDE WITH THEIR BIG TAXES BEHIND THE BALANCED BUDGET SMOKESCREEN.

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