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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CLINTON MUST COME CLEAN ON DRAFT: "TELL THE TRUTH, EVEN IF IT
HURTS," DOLE SAYS.

NEW EVIDENCE QUESTIONS CLINTON'S TRUST AND CREDIBILITY

HILTON HEAD, SOUTH CAROLINA - NEW EVIDENCE THAT BILL CLINTON TOOK EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO AVOID BEING DRAFTED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR ONCE AGAIN CALLS INTO QUESTION WHETHER THE DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE IS TELLING THE TRUTH. SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE MADE THAT COMMENT TODAY DURING APPEARANCES IN SOUTH CAROLINA FOR REPUBLICAN SENATE CANDIDATE TOMMY HARTNETT. DOLE CHALLENGED CLINTON TO HOLD A MAJOR PRESS CONFERENCE TO "FINALLY TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN 1968, AND WHETHER IT HURTS OR NOT, COME CLEAN WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

A NEW LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY ALLEGES THAT CLINTON HAD WAGED A HIGH PRESSURE LOBBYING CAMPAIGN TO DELAY MILITARY INDUCTION. THE FOLLOWING IS A TRANSCRIPTION OF REMARKS BY SENATOR DOLE:

I am not here to argue Bill Clinton's draft status. What I want to talk about is whether he is telling the American people the truth about what really happened. George Bush served in the military and Bill Clinton did not - that's fact.

But the issue is not whether you served, it is whether you took extreme measures to avoid the draft. And even that is not the key issue. The key issue is whether you are telling the truth, or whether Bill Clinton is just ducking and dodging now as he did twenty years ago.

Bill Clinton obviously went to extreme measures to avoid the draft. No question about it, no question about it at all. Clinton has not told the full story about what he did to avoid honoring the draft induction notice. I think he must tell that story and address the serious questions raised by serious people on whether he sought preferential treatment. And if he sought preferential treatment, he ought to say so.

He said it was a "fluke" that he wasn't drafted. It wasn't a fluke. He is playing the Artful Dodger on this issue, just as he has dodged other issues -- whether it is health care, whether it's the free trade agreement.

So again, let me point out that dodging the draft is not the issue -- evading the draft is not the issue -- no matter what you think, and what your opinion may be on the Vietnam War, or on the draft, you deserve an explanation by Bill Clinton. It's all about credibility, it's all about trust.

And as I said in my speech introducing President Bush in Houston, the big issue for America is trust. Who do you trust to tell you the truth? Who do you trust as commander-in-chief? Bill Clinton has been all over the lot on the draft, yet he has the temerity to say on national television, I have 'addressed that question' and in other words, don't ask me anymore because I am not going to say anymore. Isn't that nice of him.

But I'm waiting for the national media - that probing media - to say, wait a minute Governor, there is new evidence now, new evidence now that you took other measures to avoid or evade the draft.

So it just seems to me that we have an issue that is not going to go away. It's not the evasion, it's credibility, it's telling the American people the truth and if Bill Clinton can't tell us the truth about his draft status and what he did to evade the draft, what can he tell us the truth about?

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