

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

CLINTON, KERREY & DRAFTGATE

CLINTON CONTINUES "TRUTH DODGING" ON DRAFT;
KERREY AGREES WITH DOLE: CLINTON HAS "CREDIBILITY PROBLEMS"
RELEASE THE DOCUMENTS, GOVERNOR

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today issued the following statement. Dole reiterated that the question confronting Bill Clinton is not whether he served in Vietnam or in the U.S. armed forces, but rather why he can't -- or won't -- explain all the circumstances and facts related to his draft status:

Bill Clinton's continuing refusal to answer any questions about his draft status, and his new strategy of avoiding the national press at all costs, has paralyzed his own campaign -- and he has no one to blame but himself.

"Draftgate" a New Coverup, Not New Covenant

Stories today in the New York Times, the L.A. Times and the Associated Press detail the extreme measures to which Clinton and his handlers have resorted to evade reporters' questions aimed at exposing the truth. Let's face it, the real issue in "Draftgate" is truth dodging, not draft dodging. Governor, this isn't a "New Covenant" -- it's a New Coverup.

Kerrey on Clinton's "Credibility Problems"

I have great personal respect for Senator Bob Kerrey. And I understand his willingness to rally around his party's candidate, as he did on the Senate floor yesterday. But Senator Kerrey and I still agree that Bill Clinton has real "credibility problems" on the draft issue.

During the Democratic presidential race, Bob Kerrey himself called Clinton's story "baloney," and said "The issue is I just don't believe Bill Clinton's story." That's not Bob Dole talking, that's Democrat Senator Bob Kerrey. Even this morning on NBC's "Today Show," Senator Kerrey conceded that Governor Clinton has "credibility problems on the question of the draft."

Release the Documents

That's why I once again call on Governor Clinton to release all documents, memos, records, letters, notices and files related to his draft status -- the same material Clinton promised to release in April. Perhaps it's also time to release his internal campaign documents related to his handling of this personal political crisis. Governor Clinton owes the American people the truth, even if it hurts, even if it means facing the national media in a no-holds barred news conference, even if it means coming clean in his own "Checkers Speech."

However, the issue of Bill Clinton's draft status isn't for Bob Dole and Bob Kerrey to decide. The American voters must have the facts to make the important decision that faces them on November 3rd. If Bill Clinton insists on stonewalling and refuses to come clean with the American people, the voters will have no choice but to judge Bill Clinton's conflicting statements and lack of candor for themselves. As long as the smell of coverup continues to linger, Bill Clinton won't like what they decide.

(SEE REVERSE FOR KERREY QUOTES ON CLINTON)