

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHINA MFN

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON GRANTING MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO CHINA.

THE ISSUE IS NOT WHO WANTS TO ENCOURAGE REFORM IN CHINA, AND WHO DOESN'T. THE ISSUE IS WHETHER MFN IS THE RIGHT TOOL TO PUSH FOR REFORM IN CHINA.

IT SEEMS TO ME THE ANSWER IS CLEAR: DENYING MFN WILL NOT MOVE THE PROCESS OF REFORM FORWARD ONE INCH. IN FACT, TERMINATING MFN MEANS THAT WE WILL LEAVE ISOLATED AND OUT ON THAT PROVERBIAL LIMB THE VERY FORCES IN CHINA WHICH ARE THE STRONGEST PROPONENTS OF REFORM, THE YOUNGER, ENTREPRENEURIAL CLASS CONCENTRATED IN SOUTHERN CHINA -- WHERE MOST AMERICAN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY IS ALSO CONCENTRATED.

DENYING MFN WILL NOT HURT THE "OLD MEN IN BEIJING" -- IN IMPORTANT PART BECAUSE NO OTHER NATION ON EARTH IS CONTEMPLATING TRADE SANCTIONS OF ANY KIND AGAINST CHINA.

AS IMPORTANT AS THESE FACTORS ARE, THOUGH, THERE IS ONE OTHER MATTER AT STAKE THAT FOR THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FAR EXCEEDS ALL OTHERS IN IMPORTANCE.

BECAUSE JOBS -- HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN JOBS -- ARE AT STAKE.

EXPORTS -- BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF AMERICAN EXPORTS -- ARE AT STAKE.

IMPORTS -- BILLIONS IN LOW COST, HIGH QUALITY GOODS THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE LIVES OF MIDDLE AND LOWER INCOME AMERICANS -- ARE AT STAKE.

THAT IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THIS ISSUE.

LET'S PUT THE FACTS ON THE TABLE. DENYING MFN MEANS A TRADE WAR WITH CHINA. A TRADE WAR MEANS A DRASTIC DROP IN EXPORTS, AND THE LOSS OF COUNTLESS JOBS. A TRADE WAR MEANS NO MORE LOW COST, HIGH QUALITY GOODS THAT SO MANY AMERICANS DEPEND ON TO KEEP THEIR BUDGETS IN BALANCE AND THEIR CHECKS FROM BOUNCING.

NONE OF THIS IS TO SUGGEST WE DON'T HAVE VERY REAL AND SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH, AND CONCERNS ABOUT, SOME ASPECTS OF CHINESE POLICY.

WE DEPLORE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND WILL -- AND OUGHT TO -- USE EVERY FORM OF EFFECTIVE LEVERAGE AND PERSUASION TO FOSTER IMPROVEMENTS. BUT THE KEY WORD IS "EFFECTIVE."

THE BOTTOM LINE -- LET'S DO WHAT MAKES SENSE FOR AMERICA AND FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, INSTEAD OF WHAT PLAYS BEST IN THE "POLITICALLY CORRECT" MEDIA AND GIVES SOME FLEETING PARTISAN ADVANTAGE TO THE CRITICS OF PRESIDENT BUSH.

LET US VOTE TO CONTINUE MFN FOR CHINA, BECAUSE THAT MAKES SENSE FOR AMERICA.

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