

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE AND MITCH MCCONNELL ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) and Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) today issued the following statement on the Democrats' strategy for campaign finance reform:

We are disappointed that Republicans were excluded from this afternoon's White House meeting on campaign finance reform. If there ever was an issue that will take bi-partisan cooperation to be successful, it is this one.

An offer was extended to Senator Mitchell on January 21 to allow Senators Boren and McConnell 30 days to get together to work out a comprehensive reform package which would have bi-partisan support. We have yet to receive a response on that offer.

President Clinton has talked about true reform--and that is what we Republicans have proposed in S.7--banning PACs, banning soft money, and strengthening political parties and competition.

We were not surprised by the story in today's Wall Street Journal, stating that Congressional Democrats have warned the White House that the Democrats might lose control of the House unless the so-called "reform" plan is stacked in favor of incumbents.

And the fact is that the Democrat-sponsored bill is nothing more than an incumbent protection plan--preserving the big money labor union largess which the Democrats depend on, while forcing all taxpayers to fund House and Senate campaigns.

When Americans voted for change this November, we don't think they had in mind changing the campaign finance laws to create an enormous new entitlement for politicians.

President Clinton continues to talk about reducing taxes for average Americans. Supporting legislation which increases their taxes for a political protection program would be an odd way to deliver on that commitment.

If the Democrats continue to refuse our offer to write a bi-partisan reform package, then Americans should watch out for their wallets, and get ready for a plan written by incumbents, for the benefit of incumbents.

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