

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DOLE • CLINTON • BOSNIA

DOLE SUPPORTS HUMANITARIAN AID & END TO BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today expressed support for humanitarian relief for Bosnia, as well as lifting the US arms embargo on Bosnia. Dole's comments came in response to reporters' questions at the US Capitol.

Q: It looks like President Clinton today is going to announce that US planes will drop relief supplies into Bosnia. Are we getting ourselves into a morass if we do it?

Senator Dole: I support President Clinton in this effort. I've said before, I think we've made a pledge that we would get food into Bosnia, and I think we ought to keep that pledge. We've had some experience with the Kurds, and it worked successfully. I know it's a little more difficult, but my view is, we've been very, very late in sending the right signal to Mr. Milosevic and others in Yugoslavia, and I think it's up to us now to provide humanitarian aid, so I would support President Clinton if he makes that move.

Q: You have no reservations that US planes would be fired on?

Senator Dole: Sure, I have reservations, but I would also support him if he lifts the arms embargo. We've got to take a look at what happens next. You look at Kosova, where you have two million Albanians, and maybe 150-200 thousand Serbs -- if this spreads to that area, then we're looking at problems not only in Kosova, but in Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Turkey, Greece, then I think our national interest is certainly -- we have a real interest in what happens there. If we can keep negotiating, but in the meantime let the Serbs know that they can't continue this ravaging of women and slaughter of innocent people without at least us noticing it and responding as we should.

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You could even go a step further and do away with the \$67 billion in tax cuts for "stimulus". Reduce the tax hikes and user fee increases in the Clinton plan by the same amount -- \$245 billion -- and you end up with a plan that produces the same amount of deficit reduction as the Clinton plan with roughly one third of the taxes.

I'm not proposing this as an alternative. There are some programs -- like WIC -- where we may want to increase spending, provided that it is offset with other spending cuts. But, this is clearly the direction we should be taking.

With roughly one dollar in tax increases for every \$2 in spending cuts, this proposal appears to be consistent with the definition of deficit reduction that you and OMB Director Panetta endorsed during your confirmation hearings last month. And, there is no doubt that this proposal is far better than the plan the President has proposed.

CONCLUSION

This is serious business. The campaign is over. The American people have a right to know what is really in the President's plan, but we still don't have all the details.

Later, I plan to ask you a series of fairly detailed questions about the President's plan. By working cooperatively with you, I hope to learn more about how some of the specific provisions in the Clinton plan can create jobs, stimulate investment, or spur economic growth.

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