

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **PAY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

### **FIGHT THE CREDIT CARD MENTALITY: REPUBLICAN APPROACH PAYS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT EXTENSION, DOESN'T ADD TO DEFICIT**

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE FROM OREGON, SENATOR PACKWOOD.

THE MOST RECENT ECONOMIC NEWS HAS BEEN PRETTY ENCOURAGING. THE U.S. ECONOMY GREW AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF 4.8% IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF 1992, THE BEST QUARTER OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN FIVE YEARS. INFLATION REMAINS LOW. INTEREST RATES REMAIN LOW. AND, LAST MONTH, THE NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED TO 7.1%.

THESE NUMBERS SIGNAL THAT THE ECONOMY IS GETTING BACK-ON-TRACK, THAT GROWTH AND JOB-EXPANSION ARE ON THE ECONOMIC HORIZON, THAT THE BUSH RECOVERY IS PICKING UP STEAM.

#### **SUPPORT EXTENDED BENEFITS**

BUT, OBVIOUSLY, NUMBERS THAT SUGGEST AN IMPROVING ECONOMY DON'T MEAN MUCH TO THE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WHO ARE STILL OUT OF WORK.

MY OWN STATE OF KANSAS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY HARD HIT IN RECENT WEEKS--1,700 JOBS FROM SEARS, 400 FROM BEECH, AND A STAGGERING 6,000 FROM BOEING IN WICHITA.

JOB LOSS MEANS SACRIFICE AND HARDSHIP. AND YES, IT MEANS THAT GOVERNMENT HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO LEND A HELPING HAND.

SO, MY CONCERN WITH THIS LEGISLATION IS NOT WITH EXTENDING EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. FEW WOULD DISPUTE THE NEED FOR AN EXTENSION.

MY CONCERN IS SIMPLY THAT THIS LEGISLATION EXTENDS UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS WITHOUT PROPOSING A WAY TO PAY FOR THEM.

#### **PREVIOUS EXTENSIONS WERE FUNDED**

WE ARE ADDING YET ANOTHER \$5.8 BILLION TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICIT WITH A CREDIT-CARD MENTALITY.

OUR MOTTO SEEMS TO BE "NO PROBLEM, DON'T WORRY, JUST CHARGE IT--AND LET SOMEBODY ELSE PICK UP THE TAB." UNFORTUNATELY, THAT "SOMEBODY ELSE" HAPPENS TO BE OUR CHILDREN AND OUR GRANDCHILDREN.

I THOUGHT WE HAD SETTLED THIS FUNDING ISSUE WHEN EACH OF THE THREE EXTENSIONS ENACTED BY CONGRESS WERE PAID FOR.

PRESIDENT BUSH INSISTED ON IT, AND CONGRESS ULTIMATELY AGREED. INDEED, THE VOTES WERE VIRTUALLY UNANIMOUS.

BEFORE US, WE HAVE THE FIRST MAJOR PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAS SENT UP TO THE HILL.

(MORE)

AND WHAT DOES IT DO: IT SPENDS MORE TAXPAYER MONEY AND RUNS UP THE DEFICIT TO THE TUNE OF \$5.8 BILLION.

TALK ABOUT THE BUDGET DEFICIT IS CHEAP. BUT THIS LEGISLATION ISN'T.

#### THE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

THE AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MY COLLEAGUE FROM OREGON IS ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY.

IT SAYS WE CAN HAVE THE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM FIRST. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

FOR FISCAL YEAR 1993, THE AMENDMENT PROPOSES TO PAY FOR THE COST OF THE BENEFITS EXTENSION BY RESCINDING APPROXIMATELY \$3.3 BILLION OF EXISTING BUDGET AUTHORITY.

THE RESCISSION WOULD REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET TO REDUCE FUNDING FOR FEDERAL TRAVEL, CONSULTING, PERSONNEL, AND OTHER OVERHEAD EXPENSES ON AN ACROSS-THE-BOARD BASIS.

THERE IS AN ESTIMATED \$644 BILLION POOL OF OVERHEAD OBLIGATIONS AVAILABLE IN 1993--SO A \$3.3 BILLION RESCISSION WOULD CAUSE A MERE 0.5 PERCENT REDUCTION IN THESE OBLIGATIONS.

#### ACCELERATE GOVERNMENT STREAMLINING

THIS PROPOSAL MAY SOUND FAMILIAR TO SOME OF MY DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES, AND IT SHOULD.

PRESIDENT CLINTON RECENTLY PROPOSED THESE SAME OVERHEAD REDUCTIONS...BUT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994.

IN FACT, PRESIDENT CLINTON ASSUMED THAT THESE STREAMLINING EFFORTS WOULD PRODUCE SAVINGS OF MORE THAN \$4 BILLION.

IN A NUTSHELL, THIS AMENDMENT WOULD ACCELERATE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE REDUCTIONS FROM 1994 TO FISCAL YEAR 1993.

IF THESE REDUCTIONS MAKE SENSE FOR 1994, THEY CERTAINLY MAKE SENSE FOR THIS YEAR, 1993. SO WHY WAIT?

IN ADDITION, THE AMENDMENT REQUIRES THAT THE REMAINING \$2.5 BILLION IN UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, ESTIMATED TO BE OBLIGATED AFTER OCTOBER 1, 1993, BE WITHHELD FROM OBLIGATION UNTIL SUCH TIME AS OFFSETS ARE ADOPTED.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS: IF WE WANT AN EXTENSION, WE SHOULD FIND A WAY TO PAY FOR IT.

#### THE PEROT APPROACH

NOTHING ENDANGERS OUR COUNTRY MORE THAN RISING BUDGET DEFICITS AND A NATIONAL DEBT THAT IS COUNTED IN THE TRILLIONS.

AND NOTHING PUTS THE CREDIBILITY OF CONGRESS MORE INTO QUESTION THAN SPENDING MONEY WE JUST DON'T HAVE.

PERHAPS THAT'S WHY FORMER PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ROSS PEROT HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST HONEST APPROACH IS TO EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ON A PAY-AS-YOU-GO BASIS.

AND THAT'S WHAT THIS AMENDMENT IS ALL ABOUT.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE WHO WANT TO HELP THE UNEMPLOYED, BUT WHO ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN A LITTLE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, TO SUPPORT THIS AMENDMENT.

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