

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 4, 1993

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CBO/CLINTON ANALYSIS

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today made the following remarks on the Senate floor after reviewing preliminary Congressional Budget Office estimates of the Clinton budgetary proposals:

This morning I had a chance to glance through the Congressional Budget Office's preliminary analysis of the Clinton economic plan.

It seems CBO has the same problem Republicans do. Let me quote from the CBO report -- "because the [President's] April budget is likely to modify or clarify some of the administration's proposals, CBO's analysis must be viewed as preliminary."

Let me underscore the word "preliminary". Even though the CBO makes it clear that the Clinton plan is incomplete, we are still told that we have to vote on a budget resolution to implement the President's program before we get to see the President's budget.

Taking a quick look through this analysis, which I am submitting for the record, I would like to make a few remarks.

First of all, we should not forget the comments President Clinton himself made about using the "independent" Congressional Budget Office to calculate his plan. President Clinton also said, "this budget plan... Will by 1997 cut \$140 billion in that year alone from the deficit."

Not according to this new analysis. CBO now estimates that the Clinton plan will only reduce the deficit by \$116 billion in fiscal year 1997. So we have gone from cutting the deficit in half in four years to cutting \$116 billion from the deficit in five years.

Second, the vaunted "vision of change for America" claimed that the President's plan would reduce the deficit by \$473 billion by 1998. CBO's analysis now says the plan will generate 25 percent less deficit reduction -- only \$355 billion -- by 1998.

On top of all these new shortcomings, we still don't know all the details of the Clinton plan.

Take for example, the President's single largest cut -- \$112 billion in defense. We do not know what the President plans to cut in defense.

And the earned income tax credit which is supposed to offset the regressive BTU tax -- how is that going to be implemented? We don't know.

But we do know this. The more we learn about the Clinton plan, the harder it becomes to justify the price tag -- \$360 billion in higher taxes.

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