

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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ACROSS-THE-BOARD FREEZE

**ASK UNCLE SAM, NOT TAXPAYERS, TO TIGHTEN BELTS;
SIMPLE, FAIR APPROACH REFLECTS PEOPLE'S CALL FOR CHANGE**

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today made the following remarks on the Senate floor on the Grassley amendment to apply a one-year across-the-board freeze to all non-defense discretionary programs. Senator Dole cosponsored the amendment:

We have heard a lot of talk from President Clinton and those on the other side of the aisle about the need for shared sacrifice, or the nicer sounding "contributions."

Senator Grassley's amendment makes a simple statement: before the President and my Democrat colleagues ask the farmer, the shopkeeper, the nurse, the truck driver, and the senior citizen to reach into their pockets and make a contribution to deficit reduction -- before the American people are asked to send more of their hard-earned money to Washington -- Senator Grassley wants to make sure that every government program takes a hit. This approach is simple, it's fair, and it reflects the emphatic message we all heard on election day from Republicans, Democrats, Independents and Perot supporters.

With the budget that is before us today, the Democrats have made it clear that they put government first. Republicans have a different vision for America. This approach puts business-as-usual out of business.

A FREEZE IS TOUGH MEDICINE

In addition to the small non-defense discretionary cuts outlined in the Sasser plan that is before us today, this amendment would apply a one-year across-the-board freeze to all non-defense discretionary programs. Taking this step would reduce the deficit by an additional \$96 billion over five years.

That is tough medicine, but it is a fair and equitable remedy. These are the kinds of decisions President Clinton and the distinguished Chairman of the Budget Committee would have made in their plan if they were serious about reducing the deficit. They are the kinds of decisions some of us made back in 1985. They are the kinds of decisions the American people expect -- and want -- us to make.

But those who are forcing us to cast votes on this budget without the facts -- without the legally required details -- are not serious about reducing the deficit. They are only serious about getting their plan through Congress before we get a chance to find out what is in it.

PAYING FOR PRIORITIES

President Clinton and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have argued that it is time to shift priorities and increase government spending on programs that they believe are important "investments" for America's future.

Don't get me wrong, many government programs do work. Some may even deserve an increase, but the American people would be better served if these new priority investments were financed with cuts in other programs instead of tax increases. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have finally recognized that additional defense cuts can't pay for all their pet programs. Their mistake is in assuming that the American taxpayer should make up the shortfall. We believe that the deficit should be reduced by putting Uncle Sam on a diet, not by forcing working Americans to tighten their belts.

While I would prefer to see the some of the savings from Senator Grassley's freeze go to reduce the record tax increases in the budget that is before us today, Senator Grassley has decided that the savings from his amendment should go to deficit reduction, and that is a goal I have always supported.

This is an amendment about fairness. It is an amendment about priorities. A vote for this amendment is a vote for responsible deficit reduction, a vote for limiting government, a vote for the American taxpayer, and a vote for our nation's future.

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