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FIRST QUARTER STATS:
AMERICAN PEOPLE GRADE PRESIDENT WITH THEIR POCKETBOOKS BY NOT BUYING

Washington -- Today Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole marked President Clinton’s 99th full day in office with the following remarks:

Today is the 99th day of the Clinton Administration. If the latest economic figures are any indication, the next 100 days will have to be a lot better if our economy is going to get a lot better.

"GDP growth" in the first quarter was an anemic 1.8%, as reported by the Commerce Department today. That disappointing statistic should be a wake-up call at the White House that its "tax and spend" economic plan is scaring a lot of Americans: businessmen and women, consumers and investors.

After 100 days of "tax and spend", it looks like the American people are grading the President with their pocketbooks......And they're not buying.

Frankly, I'm not surprised. For the first 100 days, Americans have heard nothing but tax and spend, tax and spend, and tax and spend from the White House.

The anemic first quarter numbers will reinforce the message you will be hearing today. For the past 100 days, Senate Republicans have challenged the President to take another course -- to listen to the people for a change; to cut spending, to cut government and to find a cure for this Administration's rampant tax fever.

That's why I am pleased to introduce my colleagues today, as they underscore why the Administration is earning poor grades all across the country when it comes to the key issues of today: the economy, budget, deficit reduction, defense and reform.

No doubt about it, President Clinton is smart, is an excellent salesman and is a hard worker. That's why I'm really disappointed in his performance. I'll give him an "E" for effort.

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