

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358**

**SATURDAY RADIO ADDRESS:
DOLE DELIVERS REPUBLICAN RESPONSE
RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR**

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole on New Year's Day 1994 delivered the Republican response to President Clinton's weekly radio address. The text of Senator Dole's remarks follows:

Good morning. I'm Senator Bob Dole and let me begin as President Clinton did in wishing you and your family a happy 1994.

New Year's Day is a time to look ahead -- to make resolutions, set goals, and renew commitments. It should also be a time of hope for many who have been left behind, for countless reasons beyond their control.

New Year's Resolutions: Taxes, Spending, Economic Growth

So first, let's resolve that the President, Congress and the American people work together to confront the challenges our nation faces in 1994. By working together, we can build a better, more secure and a more prosperous America for all.

Let's resolve that there be no federal tax increases in 1994.

Let's resolve to cut federal spending first and to reduce the size and role of the federal government.

Let's resolve to stop increasing the burdens on job-creating small businesses, and resolve to provide real incentives for capital formation and economic growth.

Let's resolve to keep the federal government out of the affairs of the individual states and local governments. That means no more burdensome and unfunded federal mandates from Washington.

Health Care Reform

Let's resolve to preserve the best of the best health care system in the world now available to Americans, but make health care more accessible and affordable with reforms based on free market principles that preserve the quality and choice Americans have come to expect. I've known what it's like to not be able to afford quality health care, and it is something that properly concerns many Americans.

(more)

The President, Democrats and Republicans have all proposed health care reform plans. None currently has the needed support to become law. To keep this New Year's resolution, we'll need a different plan taking the best ideas, if any, from all the proposals, but without price controls, employer mandates, mandatory health care alliances, and massive overdoses of government control.

Crime: The Most Important Resolution

The most important New Year's resolution must be to take decisive action to restore safety to our streets, our homes and our schools.

The U.S. Senate just a few months ago put aside partisan differences and passed a \$22 billion anti-crime package. It's time for the House of Representatives to do the same, and crucial for President Clinton to resolve today to lend his public -- and unqualified -- support to the tough anti-crime proposals in the Senate bill.

Here are some of the provisions:

◆ Ten new regional prisons to which states can send their most violent criminals if they adopt "truth-in-sentencing" reform.

Too many Americans have been victims of thugs with prior criminal records who legally slip through the "revolving door" of the prison system. To end this "legalized jailbreak," criminal justice reform must start with "truth-in-sentencing" -- a 15-year sentence should mean 15 years. Never less than 85% of the sentence, with no exceptions and no parole.

◆ Tough mandatory minimum penalties for those who use or carry a gun in the commission of a crime.

◆ A "three strikes and you're out" provision imposing life imprisonment without parole for those who commit three violent crimes.

◆ A series of provisions to combat domestic violence against women and children.

◆ A tough federal anti-gang law to crack down on gang activity.

◆ And the death penalty for drug kingpins.

Let's resolve to finish the job in 1994, and pass the tough anti-crime bill law-abiding Americans deserve.

As the Senate Republican Leader, my Republican colleagues resolve to reaffirm our commitment in 1994 to the principles of less taxes, less spending, less government, more economic growth, foreign and defense policies that maintain America's position of world leadership, and to work with the President when he is right -- and with you -- to ensure that America's best days are yet to come.

"Telephone Democracy"

Don't forget, you can make the difference in 1994 on many key issues. In 1993, your record number of phone calls let public officials know what you were thinking, and it made a difference. I hope you'll continue this trend of "telephone democracy" in the year ahead.

Thanks for listening. Happy New Year.

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