

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UPON  
COMPLETION OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS  
Tuesday, January 25, 1994**

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

## **STATE OF THE UNION: THE REPUBLICAN RESPONSE REMARKS OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE**

Good evening. I'm Bob Dole, Senate Republican Leader.

Tonight I'm speaking for Congressional Republicans, for Republican governors, state legislators, mayors, and other elected officials.

And I hope for you--if you believe, as we do, that America's taxes should be lower, that the government should spend less; that the people, not the government should control more; and that our armed forces must be strong.

Here in Congress, we are the minority party. The Democrats have many more votes than we do in both the House and the Senate.

So when the President spoke tonight, he knew that whatever he really wants, he stands a good chance of getting, because most Democrats will vote with him.

And when Republicans believe President Clinton is moving America in the right direction--as he did with the North American Free Trade Agreement--then he can count on our votes and our cooperation, too.

### Wrong Fork in the Road: Health Care

But far more often than not, the President and his Democrat majority have taken what we believe is the wrong fork in the road--not just on one or two matters of policy, but on their entire approach to government.

Health care is a good example.

The President and Mrs. Clinton deserve credit for starting the debate. It has been very helpful. Now, nearly a year later, we better understand this important issue.

We know that America has the best health care system in the world; that people from every corner of the globe come here when they need the very best treatment; and that our goal should be to ensure that every American has access to this system.

### Massive Overdose of Government Control

Of course, there are Americans with a sick child or sick parent in real need, both in rural and urban America. Our country has health care problems, but no health care crisis.

But we will have a crisis if we take the President's medicine--a massive overdose of government control.

How massive?

My colleague, Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, has prepared a chart of what the health care bureaucracy would look like under the President's plan.

It's a big chart, containing 207 boxes. It would take a long time to explain--if I fully understood it, myself.

But let me point out some of the new bureaucracies created under the President's plan.

Way up here is something called the "National Health Board." Over here is an "Advisory Commission on Regional Variations of Health Expenditures." And here's the "National Institute for Health Care Workforce Development."

You and I are way down here, somewhere.

The President's idea is to put a mountain of bureaucrats between you and your doctor.

For example, if you or a family member want to receive care from a specialist or a clinic outside of your own state, then you probably can't do it without asking for approval.

And, under his plan, information about your health and your treatment can be sent to a national data bank without your approval.

(MORE)

That's a compromise of privacy none of us can accept. <http://www.ksu.edu/ask>

Those are just a few examples--there are many more. Clearly, the President is asking you to trust the government more than you trust your doctor and yourselves, with your lives and the lives of your loved ones.

More cost. Less choice. More taxes. Less quality. More government control. Less control for you and your family. That's what the President's government-run plan is likely to give you.

#### Common-sense Health Care Solutions Now

We can fix our most pressing problems without performing a triple bypass operation on our health care system.

We can do it without the estimated trillion dollar budget shortfall the Clinton plan would create over the next six years.

And we can do it now.

Republicans--and I believe many Democrats--are ready to vote for legislation containing common-sense solutions. Solutions like:

\*Guaranteeing uninterrupted coverage to everyone who is currently insured, even if you leave or lose your job, and

\*Guaranteeing that your coverage cannot be denied because of a serious illness or a pre-existing condition.

\*Giving relief to small businesses by allowing them to join together to buy insurance.

\*Giving individuals who buy their own insurance a 100% tax deduction.

\*Changing the law to allow you to open your own medical savings accounts--or to buy "medical IRA's."

\*Helping uninsured low-income Americans pay for coverage through tax credits or vouchers.

\*And, finally, cutting the government red tape, and reforming medical malpractice laws that make our health care system so expensive.

Debate on the President's massive and complex program will continue for most of the year. But the changes just mentioned can be made now. So, why wait? Why not act to put you and your family in control of your health care right now?

#### Crime

This evening, the President also spoke at length about crime. And he's right -- we all must take responsibility as individuals.

After years of debate, many Democrats are joining Republicans behind this view: Criminals are not the victims of society--society is the victim of criminals...and that the best way to make America's streets, schools, and homes safer is to put violent criminals in jail and to keep them there.

And most provisions of this bill which the Senate passed last November, do just that. Let me give you just a few examples.

\*Life imprisonment for those convicted of three violent felonies--call it, "three strikes and you're in, for life."

\*Tough mandatory sentences for those who use a gun in the commission of a crime.

\*Violent juveniles treated as adults when they use a gun.

#### Padlock the Revolving Door: Truth-in-Sentencing

As you know, just putting criminals behind bars is not enough.

There is a big second step. And that's padlocking the revolving door--keeping violent criminals in jail for their entire sentence. A twenty year sentence should mean just that--20 years or darn close to it. Not five, not ten, not even fifteen.

So this bill also would authorize 10 new regional federal prisons. Before states can send their violent criminals to those prisons, they must adopt "truth in sentencing" laws. In other words, if you do the crime, you really do the time.

The Senate has passed tough crime bills before. But every time we do, liberal Congressional Democrats remove the tough provisions.

That must not happen again.

#### Credibility on Crime

Republicans want President Clinton to sign the toughest bill possible--and I've got the toughest bill around in my hand right now.

The President used tough language tonight--and that's good. But will he act on it?

Will he insist on the tough provisions, like ten new regional prisons, like "truth in sentencing," like tough mandatory sentences for using a gun; and the death penalty for drug kingpins?

Unfortunately, the Administration has damaged its credibility on the crime issue by cutting the federal prison construction budget by 20%, and by the 94% cut in the Drug Czar's office.

And, yes, the talk in the administration of legalized drugs doesn't help much, either.

#### Actions Different Than Words

Now, many people are confused when the President's actions appear different than his words.

For example, the President talks about education. But he opposes school choice, which could give parents more control over the education of their children.

He promised to "end welfare as we know it," yet everyone waits for his proposal. In the meantime, Republicans here in Congress and Republican Governors across the nation are fighting for changes that make work, self-sufficiency, and reducing illegitimacy top priorities.

The President promised a middle-class tax cut, yet, he and his party imposed the largest tax increase in American history.

This \$255 billion increase was opposed by every Republican in the House and Senate.

#### Economic Recovery & the Deficit

We hope his higher taxes will not cut short the economic recovery and declining interest rates he inherited. The two-year mark--coming at the end of this year--is when the economy usually starts to feel the results of a new Administration's policies.

Instead of stifling growth and expansion through higher taxes and increased government regulation, Republicans would take America in a different direction. We can do that through alternatives that reward risk-taking and the creation of new jobs, and that give our small businessmen and women relief from the heavy-hand of government.

The President told you tonight that the deficit is projected to decrease next year. And that's true. After all, the largest tax increase in American history would decrease any deficit temporarily.

But, in the words of Paul Harvey, "Now you're going to hear the rest of the story."

Under his budget, government spending will increase by at least \$343 billion in the next five years, and, in the same time period, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects that \$1 trillion will be added to our national debt.

#### National Security

The one place the President has cut drastically is precisely the wrong place--national security--slashed to the lowest levels since before Pearl Harbor.

History tells us, and many of us know first-hand, that America cannot afford to have a hollow military. Nor can we afford to let the United Nations dictate what is in America's national interest.

#### America's Enduring Mission of Leadership

I want to close by talking about America--the greatest country in the world.

I believe America has an enduring mission--a mission of leadership.

Fifty years ago, when Hitler's tyranny was on the march, it was only because of strong American leadership that freedom was preserved.

In the Cold War, for millions behind the Iron Curtain, and in the many nations that depended on us to protect them, it was, again, only because of strong American leadership that freedom prevailed.

And now, as countries that were tyrannies learn democracy, as people learn about free markets where a short time ago buying and selling without the state's permission was illegal, the world again wants and needs strong American leadership, so that freedom will endure.

Many times over the past few years, right here in this office, I've met with representatives from the new emerging democracies. Some were leaders. Some were ordinary citizens. Some had been in jail for many years. And they all told me about the same thing. They all said that "We want to be like America."

In this great, good, and generous nation, the American mission endures, here at home, and around the world.

We are its stewards.

It is up to us to ensure that, wherever the road divides, America takes the right path--remains true to its mission of leadership, and remains the light and the hope of humanity.

Thank you, and to the people of Southern California, please know that all of us in Washington will be working with Governor Wilson and your Congressional delegation to provide the help you need. Good night.

###