

Bob Dole



**NEWS
FROM:**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS
SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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PAY FOR DISASTER RELIEF

DOLE PROPOSES SPENDING CUTS TO PAY FOR EARTHQUAKE & FLOOD RELIEF

I rise today to offer a substitute amendment to this emergency supplemental appropriations bill. We all agree that we must provide timely federal disaster assistance to those affected by the devastating earthquake and fires that rocked southern California and the 500-year flood that soaked the Midwest. In person or on television, we've all seen the devastation, and the need to respond. My amendment has one simple goal: to deliver much-needed aid to the victims of these tragedies, and to do it without adding to the deficit.

There is no question that these emergencies are legitimate, and that the need for relief is real. We all want to provide help as quickly as we can. We also all want to contain the deficit. My amendment offers us a chance to do both. The question is simple: are we going to ring up another \$10 billion on Uncle Sam's credit card, or are we going to shift our spending priorities to pay for this essential investment?

Let's face it, this disaster relief is going to be approved whether we pay for it or not.

But it seems to me the responsible thing to do is to make the tough calls and pay for this assistance now, instead of sending Uncle Sam's credit card bill to future generations of Americans. We made a similar effort to pay for last year's flood relief package. That effort did not succeed, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't start doing the right thing now.

Real "Emergencies"

Doing the right thing also means providing assistance for real "emergencies." That's why my amendment eliminates the provision in the committee bill that, in the view of many, doesn't qualify as a real "emergency."

It's hard to justify labeling as an "emergency" the \$315 million that is earmarked to relocate a federal highway damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake back in 1989 -- almost 40 months ago. The federal government has already provided the money to rebuild the damaged highway -- I don't think anyone here would deny that that was clearly a federal obligation. But when local officials decide to relocate a highway at an even greater expense than rebuilding, I'm not so sure that Uncle Sam should have to pick up the tab for the incremental cost of relocating. In any event, this additional funding is certainly not an emergency, and it ought to be considered on the merits during the normal appropriations process.

I was also surprised to see the \$1.2 billion to cover defense department costs of peacekeeping sent to the Congress as a deficit-increasing "emergency" request. If there's an emergency here, it is man-made. The emergency was created by putting the needs of the United Nations before the needs of American defense readiness.

The American people are getting tired of seeing more and more money flow to United Nations operations with little effect on American security. While I will not oppose paying back the Defense Department for costs incurred in U.N. peacekeeping, my amendment ensures these costs are offset with spending reductions.

Offsetting Spending Cuts

In order to prevent the legitimate disaster relief and the peacekeeping funding from being tacked on to the deficit, my amendment deletes all of the "emergency" designation language in the committee bill, and instead pays for the remaining \$6.3 billion in new discretionary spending. The bill is paid for using a cut in World Bank funding to the level approved by the Senate last year; increasing the committee-recommended rescission for aid to the

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newly independent states, a cut in Agency for International Development funding to the level requested by the administration; and an additional cut of \$3 billion in federal outlays for so-called administrative expenses that would be allocated among government departments and agencies by the director of OMB.

This administrative expense reduction is similar to an amendment offered by Senators Hutchison and Shelby last year. It targets travel expenses, transportation, printing and reproduction costs, consulting services, supplies and materials. The amendment has been modified to accommodate many of the concerns that were raised during last year's debate. It exempts the administrative expenses of the Defense Department because of the deep defense cuts that have already been approved by Congress. It exempts the expenses of the Federal Emergency Management Agency because of the added burdens placed on FEMA by the disasters targeted in this bill.

It would also exempt programmatic expenses in various agencies that are typically funded through these administrative expense accounts. For example, Drug Enforcement Agency travel is exempted from this cut. Veterans Health Administration travel, supplies and materials are exempted. NASA other services are exempted.

Relief for Disaster Victims, Relief for Deficit

The bottom line is this. We need to provide timely relief to the victims of these natural disasters. We also need to provide relief to future generations of Americans who will have to pay the bill if we add this spending to the deficit. Let's do both by cutting spending to pay for this much-needed disaster relief.

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DOLE-NICKLES SUPPLEMENTAL "PAY FOR IT" AMENDMENT

H.R. 3759, as reported, includes:

\$6.617 billion in FY 94 discretionary budget authority, and
\$1.9742 billion in FY 94 discretionary outlays

THE DOLE-NICKLES AMENDMENT DELETES THE EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS IN THE COMMITTEE BILL AND FULLY PAYS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL WITH SPENDING CUTS.

THE DOLE-NICKLES AMENDMENT would result in:

NO INCREASE in FY 94 discretionary budget authority
A DECREASE of \$1.1 billion in FY 94 discretionary outlays

- 1) Strikes Loma Prieta highway relocation
SAVINGS: \$315 million in budget authority
\$31.5 million in outlays
- 2) Rescinds AID Development Assistance at the President's requested level
SAVINGS: \$120 million in budget authority
\$9.8 million in outlays
- 3) Adopts Senate-passed level for World Bank contributions
SAVINGS: \$28 million in budget authority
\$3 million in outlays
- 4) Increases the former Soviet Union foreign aid rescission in H.R. 3759
SAVINGS: \$108.7 million in budget authority
\$22.7 million in outlays
- 5) Reduces Federal Government Administrative Expenses (exempts FEMA and DoD)
SAVINGS: \$6 billion in budget authority
\$3 billion in outlays
- 6) Rescinds voluntary peacekeeping contributions
SAVINGS: \$13 million in budget authority
\$9 million in outlays
- 7) Rescinds 5% of Economic Development Administration funding
SAVINGS: \$40 million in budget authority
\$4 million in outlays