

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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## WHITEWATER HEARINGS

### Democrat Congress Blocking Hearings: Failure to Exercise Oversight Exposes Congress to Charge of Being Willing Accomplices

As the Whitewater controversy grows, it's not surprising that the political charges are heating up as well. Last week, President Clinton himself made the unfortunate claim that Republicans are somehow responsible for the latest Whitewater woes, stating that we have acted in a "fairly blatant, bald, and totally political way." And yesterday, White House aide George Stephanopoulos forgot the presidential campaign was over, suggesting on national television that Republicans are somehow ginning up Whitewater for our own political advantage.

Notwithstanding these charges, which I reject, it's the Democrat Congress that continues to block Whitewater hearings. It was the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee who played "political tough guy" when he tried to intimidate Senator D'Amato with a threatening letter notable only for its clumsiness. It wasn't an R.N.C. newsletter that ran editorials with titles like "Slovenly White House Ethics," "White House Ethics Meltdown," and "Mr. Nussbaum Goes--Not The Mess." That's the New York Times and the Washington Post.

#### Whitewater: Mixing Politics with Law Enforcement

The biggest political players in town are apparently in the White House itself: in Travelgate, and now in Whitewater, White House staff have played with fire, showing a brazen willingness to mix politics with law enforcement.

The bottom line is: Whitewater is a case study in self-immolation. Omissions, misstatements of fact, "negotiated" subpoenas, behind-the-scenes meetings...have all created the impression that there's something to hide, that there's something unseemly lurking in the Whitewater bog.

I may be wrong...and I hope I am wrong.

Last week, 43 Senate Republicans sent a letter to the distinguished Majority Leader stating that we will hold up the nomination of Ricki Tigert, President Clinton's nominee to head the F.D.I.C., unless the Senate Banking Committee has the opportunity to thoroughly examine the recently-revealed White House-RTC-Treasury meetings. It's my hope that the Democrat leadership in Congress will work with Republicans to schedule these hearings so that the American people can get a full accounting of the Whitewater mess.

Again, if there's been no wrongdoing, there should be nothing to hide.

#### Congressional Democrats' Appetite for Hearings

As I pointed out last week, the Congressional Research Service has prepared a memorandum listing more than 20 Congressional hearings and investigations into alleged executive branch wrongdoing during the Reagan and Bush administrations. The Democrat-controlled Congress has never been shy about exercising its oversight responsibilities...and there's no reason to make an exception for Whitewater.

If Congress fails to exercise its oversight responsibilities, if we don't hold hearings, then we expose ourselves to the charge of being willing accomplices to whatever wrongdoing may have occurred.

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\*\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 1:30 PM ET.