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NEWS

SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, June 30, 1994 Contact: Clarkson Hine (202) 224-5358

GOP CRIME CONFERENCE REPORT

REPUBLICANS UNVEIL TOUGH-ON-CRIME ALTERNATIVE; URGE PRESIDENT TO DENOUNCE MISLABELLED RACIAL JUSTICE ACT

Last November, the Senate passed a tough crime bill. Today, more than seven months later, the American people continue to wait, as the crime bill is held hostage to something misleadingly labelled the "Racial Justice Act."

Each day of delay on the crime bill means another day that Congress is A.W.O.L. in the war against crime. Each day of delay means less hope and more skepticism from the American people.

That's why it's critical for President Clinton to lift his silence and denounce the Racial Justice Act for what it really is -- a back-door effort to gut our nation's death penalty laws.

Today, we are unveiling an "alternative" Republican conference report. I'll let my colleagues give you the details, but in my view, the alternative passes the tough-on-crime test with flying colors: \$13 billion for prisons; additional resources for state and local law enforcement; more than \$7 billion for new police hires, including a troops-to-cops program; tough mandatory minimum penalties for those who use a gun in the commission of a crime; an enforceable federal death penalty; and incentives for states to adopt truth-in-sentencing laws.

Of course, Republicans don't run the show here in Congress...and we're not responsible for what appears to be "crime conference gridlock." But, if the American people gave us a chance to lead, this is the kind of tough, no-nonsense legislation they would see.