

Bob Dole



**NEWS
FROM:**

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

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HEALTH CARE DEBATE

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THE DOLE/PACKWOOD BILL

As I listened to my friends on the other side of this aisle this afternoon, I felt like I was watching "Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde."

Senators Boren, Kerry and Kohl just spoke very eloquently about the need to be constructive--rather than destructive; and the need to search for a bi-partisan solution--rather than a bill that splits the Senate down party lines--and I agree.

Moments before these calls for cooperation and consensus, a number of my other Democrat colleagues unleashed a highly partisan and highly misleading attack on the Dole-Packwood bill.

And I want to take a few minutes to respond to some of the accusations that were made.

First, I guess I should be relieved that my Democrat colleagues are finally admitting that Republicans have been active in this debate, and have been proposing solutions to our problems.

My colleagues said a lot of things. And certainly the most accurate was said by Senator Daschle, when he stated, and I quote, that there was a "significant degree of confusion" about Senator Mitchell's bill.

And that's part of the problem. The American people are confused, the members of the Senate are confused, and even the authors of the bill are confused as new provisions are introduced almost by the hour.

Senator Daschle and Senator Reid were also a bit confused about the Dole-Packwood bill.

Bureaucracy

Senator Daschle claimed that the Dole-Packwood bill does nothing to reduce the bureaucracy. First, I would like to point out the irony--for anyone who may have missed it--to have supporters of the Mitchell bill--many of whom were supporters of the original Clinton bill--proclaiming their concern about the size of the bureaucracy.

I would also point out that the largest section of the Dole-Packwood bill is one that deals directly with administrative simplification.

CBO Estimates?

Senator Daschle also quoted CBO estimates of the cost of the Dole-Packwood bill. I wish I had the same inside pipeline to the cbo that Senator Daschle has. We were just told moments before the Senator's remarks by the Director of the CBO that they weren't even close to completing cost estimates on the Dole-Packwood bill.

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