

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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JAPAN AUTO AGREEMENT

SAN ANTONIO, TX -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement on President Clinton's announcement on the U.S. - Japan automobile trade agreement:

"President Clinton's declaration of victory on automobile trade with Japan is sad and unfortunate. The claimed increases in U.S. auto exports to Japan are incredibly small. The U.S. share of the Japanese auto market went from .7% in 1994 to .8% in 1995 -- hardly cause for celebration or ceremony. Chrysler's exports to Japan, for example, still equal less than a day and a half of Chrysler's total production. The U.S. still has less than 1% of the Japanese market, while Japan has over 25% of the U.S. market.

"In fact, the claimed increase in U.S. market share is a smaller increase than the European manufacturers achieved without an agreement. The record shows that the anticipated increase in U.S. dealerships in Japan as called for under the agreement has fallen woefully short. Instead of 200 new dealerships, there are only 30.

"It is truly incredible that the Japanese do not even acknowledge this report that President Clinton announced today. In other words, this unilateral report is entirely a fabrication of the Clinton administration, a self-serving political stunt.

"Meanwhile, President Clinton boldly ignores the fact that the U.S. trade deficit with Japan is worse today than when he took office.

"The American people must not be deceived: the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with Japan in 1995 was \$60 billion. This is \$10 billion higher than when President Clinton took office -- the fact the White House does not want the American people to know or understand. Nevertheless, this is the product of President Clinton's trade policy. Even after all of President Clinton's rhetoric, Japan's market remains closed to many American products, and our trade deficit grows.

"The auto agreement with Japan was hollow to begin with. Japan publicly disavowed the benchmark numbers that President Clinton claimed were part of the agreement. The agreement itself was nothing like what President Clinton said he would achieve with Japan -- it was a total retreat. To claim victory today is simply preposterous."