

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE INTRODUCING COMPETITIVENESS LEGISLATION

I AM TODAY INTRODUCING WHAT I BELIEVE IS AN HISTORIC SET OF PROPOSALS TO RESTORE AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS. IF ENACTED, SUCH LEGISLATION WOULD REPRESENT A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO RESTORE AMERICAN STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

TOO OFTEN WE THINK OF AMERICAN POWER PURELY IN TERMS OF MILITARY FORCE. BUT THAT IS A HOLLOW SHELL IF OUR NATION IS SAPPED OF ITS ECONOMIC VITALITY.

THE PROGRAM OF ACTION WHICH WE HAVE BEFORE US IS REMINISCENT OF THE EFFORTS BY PRESIDENTS EISENHOWER AND KENNEDY, IN THE AFTERMATH OF SPUTNIK, TO RETURN US TO OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETITION.

NOW WE MUST RETURN TO OUR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC COMPETITION.

THE COMPETITIVENESS BILL WE INTRODUCE TODAY CONTAINS NUMEROUS IMPORTANT INITIATIVES IN MANY AREAS.

FIRST, IT GREATLY REINVIGORATES NATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE AREAS EDUCATION AND WORKER RETRAINING. IT DOES THIS, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THROUGH THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EDUCATION CONSOLIDATION AND IMPROVEMENT ACT TO TARGET RESOURCES ON THE NEEDIEST SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS; AN EXPANDED PROGRAM TO PROMOTE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT UNDER THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT AS WELL AS NEW TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS WITHIN THE AFDC PROGRAM; AND IT ESTABLISHES A \$1 BILLION WORKER ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO AN ESTIMATED 700,000 DISLOCATED WORKERS EACH YEAR, INCLUDING FARMERS, TO WHOM SUCH ASSISTANCE HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY APPLIED.

SECOND, IT PLACES DRAMATIC NEW EMPHASIS ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH, PROVIDING IN PARTICULAR FOR A DOUBLING OF THE BUDGET OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD.

THIRD, IT PROVIDES MAJOR NEW PROTECTIONS FOR THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF AMERICAN PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGY, STRENGTHENING APPROPRIATE LAWS AND EASING THE MEANS OF JUDICIAL RELIEF FOR INJURED PARTIES.

FOURTH, IT SETS IN MOTION FURTHER DE-REGULATION IN NUMEROUS AREAS OF THE ECONOMY. THIS INCLUDES DE-REGULATION WITH RESPECT TO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION, CERTAIN OIL PIPELINES, NATURAL GAS PRICES, CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS, ANTITRUST RESTRICTIONS ON PRO-COMPETITIVE MERGERS AND JOINT VENTURES; AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY. MOREOVER, IT SIGNIFICANTLY RELAXES THOSE CONTROLS ON EXPORTS WHICH DO NOT IMPINGE ON TRUE NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERNS. AND IT HELPS TO REDUCE COSTS FOR AMERICAN BUSINESS IN GENERAL BY PROVIDING A SERIES OF NEW PRODUCT LIABILITY REFORMS.



FINALLY, IT ADDRESSES TRADE QUITE DIRECTLY. IT PROVIDES FAST-TRACK AUTHORITY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO COMMENCE A NEW GATT ROUND OF MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS. IT CREATES ADDITIONAL OPTIONS FOR DOMESTIC IMPORT RELIEF UNDER SECTION 201 OF OUR TRADE LAWS, AND INTRODUCES THE CONSIDERATION OF RECIPROCITY UNDER SECTION 301 WITH RESPECT TO RETALIATION AGAINST CLOSED FOREIGN MARKETS, WHILE IN BOTH CASES PRESERVING NECESSARY PRESIDENTIAL DISCRETION AND NEGOTIATING FLEXIBILITY. IN ADDITION, IT MAKES NUMEROUS TECHNICAL CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY LAWS; AND IT CLARIFIES THE STANDARDS OF THE FOREIGN CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT, WHILE UPHOLDING THE SPIRIT OF THAT LEGISLATION, TO HELP ELIMINATE AMBIGUITIES WHICH HAVE TOO FREQUENTLY DETERRED AMERICAN EXPORTS.

IT IS IN, SHORT, AN ELABORATE AND IMPORTANT BILL. FOR THOSE WHO ASK, "WHAT IS OUR NATIONAL TRADE POLICY?" THIS BILL SETS IT OUT IN BOLD RELIEF.

THERE IS MUCH TALK OF COMPETITIVENESS UP HERE ON THE HILL. AND YET THE BILL WHICH WE SUBMIT TODAY IS THE ONLY CONCRETE PROPOSAL WHICH WE HAVE BEFORE US TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

SO THIS LEGISLATION IS WHERE THE ACTION IS. AND THE ADMINISTRATION IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR IT.

NOW THE BALL'S IN OUR COURT. THE CHALLENGE IS BEFORE THE CONGRESS TO ACT, AND ACT SWIFTLY, ON THIS LEGISLATION. IF WE DON'T, ALL OF OUR RHETORIC IS MEANINGLESS.

MANY OF US HAVE, IN THE SPIRIT OF BIPARTISANSHIP, SUPPORTED THE EXCELLENT WORK OF SENATOR BENTSEN IN DRAFTING RECENT TRADE LEGISLATION. I HAVE JOINED IN COSPONSORING IT. WE HAVE WANTED TO SHOW THAT THIS IS NOT AN IDEOLOGICAL OR PARTISAN MATTER SO MUCH AS IT IS A PRACTICAL CHALLENGE TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS.

NOW I THINK WE SHOULD DO THE SAME FOR THE ADMINISTRATION'S COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM. LET IT HAVE OUR BIPARTISAN SUPPORT. WE CAN CHANGE SOME OF ITS PARTICULARS, IF WE WANT, BUT LET US DEMONSTRATE BY OUR SUPPORT THAT IT REPRESENTS THE SORT OF PROGRAM THAT WE IN THE CONGRESS HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR.

IT IS OUR INTENTION TO START THE PROCESS TO PUT THIS BILL ON THE CALENDAR. IN DOING SO, LET ME ASSURE YOU IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO CIRCUMVENT THE COMMITTEE PROCESS. NEXT WEEK WE WILL INTRODUCE THE INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS OF THE BILL SEPARATELY, AS SENATOR BENTSEN DID IN INTRODUCING HIS BILL. IN THIS MANNER WE PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF JURISDICTION THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THEIR RESPECTIVE SECTIONS OF THE BILL.

I KNOW CONGRESS HAS ITS OWN TRADE BILLS. BUT THESE ARE NOT COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS FOR NATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS. SO SUPPORTING ONE DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T SUPPORT THE OTHER. THEY DO DIFFERENT THINGS.

BUT INEVITABLY THEY'RE GOING TO BE LOOKED AT TOGETHER. THEREFORE, WE WILL NEED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE ADMINISTRATION. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO PRODUCE A BILL THAT WILL NOT BE VETOED.

IF WE BELIEVE WHAT WE SAY ABOUT THE COMPETITIVENESS CRISIS, THIS MAY BE OUR LAST CHANCE.