

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE SECURITY: A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN
DOLE CALLS FOR CRACKDOWN ON HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFO

WASHINGTON -- Following is the full text of a statement of Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole on the handling of classified information in the Senate:

WE'RE STILL DIGGING OUT FROM THE SECURITY FIASCO IN MOSCOW. SENATOR ROTH AND I HAVE INTRODUCED A TOUGH COUNTER-ESPIONAGE BILL. OTHERS SENATORS HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS AND, I EXPECT, WILL HAVE THEIR OWN BILL. ULTIMATELY, I THINK THE SENATE WILL PASS SOME NEW LEGISLATION THIS SESSION.

BUT GOOD SECURITY HAS TO START AT HOME. AND WE HAVE A BIG JOB TO DO RIGHT HERE IN THE SENATE. IN FACT, SECURITY ON CAPITOL HILL CAN BE SUMMED UP THIS WAY: IT'S A DISASTER, WAITING TO HAPPEN.

DOLE STUDY OF SECURITY IN SENATE

DURING THE LAST CONGRESS -- AS THE QUESTIONS OF SPIES, "BUGS" AND LEAKS BEGAN TO POP UP -- IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT WE BETTER TAKE SOME TIME TO BE SURE WE WEREN'T PART OF THE PROBLEM.

AS MAJORITY LEADER, I ASKED THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE -- RULES, GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, INTELLIGENCE -- TO TAKE A VERY, VERY CAREFUL LOOK AT OUR OWN SECURITY SITUATION. TO FIND OUT IF WE HAD ANY PROBLEMS. AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE.

THE REPORT THAT RESULTED FROM THAT INITIATIVE MADE PRETTY SCARY READING.

WE FOUND OUT THAT HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE WALKING AROUND CAPITOL HILL WITH SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS TO SENSITIVE INFORMATION. AND NO ONE -- NO SINGLE OFFICE OR OFFICIAL -- HAS A RECORD OF WHO THEY ARE.

WE FOUND OUT THAT EACH SENATE OFFICE HAS ITS OWN "UNIQUE" -- AND THAT WORD IS IN QUOTES -- ITS OWN "UNIQUE" WAY OF HANDLING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. AND ALL TOO OFTEN, THAT "UNIQUE" WAY WAS NO SET WAY AT ALL. WE UNCOVERED MANY REPORTS OF CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS LYING OUT ON DESKS; IN THE HANDS OF UNCLEARED PEOPLE; STUCK AWAY IN UNLOCKED FILE CABINETS.

WE FOUND OUT, AT THE BOTTOM LINE, THAT NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL IN THE SENATE HAD COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SECURITY. NO ONE WAS IN CHARGE.

THE SENATE'S SECURITY SYSTEM COULDN'T BE CALLED INEFFECTIVE -- BECAUSE WE DIDN'T HAVE A SECURITY SYSTEM. AT LEAST, NOT ONE THAT WAS COMPREHENSIVE, COHERENT AND UP TO THE CHALLENGE OF 20TH CENTURY ESPIONAGE TECHNOLOGY.

99TH CONGRESS LAID THE GROUNDWORK

IN THE LAST MONTHS OF THE 99TH CONGRESS, AND WITH THE COOPERATION OF SENATOR BYRD, WE MADE A GOOD START AT PUTTING THE SENATE'S HOUSE IN ORDER. IN THE OFFICES UNDER MY CONTROL, WE DRASTICALLY REDUCED OUR HOLDINGS OF CLASSIFIED MATERIAL. I ORDERED SOME LONG-OVERDUE TECHNICAL STUDIES, TO FIND OUT WHAT HAD TO BE DONE TO KEEP US SAFE FROM ELECTRONIC EAVESDROPPING AND "BUGGING;" AND WE GOT TO WORK ON THE NEEDED CHANGES.

MOST IMPORTANT, WE SAT DOWN AND LAID OUT A PLAN TO GIVE THE SENATE THE KIND OF SECURITY SYSTEM -- COVERING PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, EVERYTHING -- THAT WAS SORELY NEEDED.

NOW, QUITE FRANKLY, THE 100TH CONGRESS HASN'T MOVED FORWARD VERY FAR FROM WHERE WE WERE LAST YEAR. IT'S TIME WE PUT THIS MATTER BACK ON THE FRONT BURNER, WHERE IT BELONGS.

DOLE SENATE SECURITY BILL

THIS HAS GOT TO BE A TOTALLY BIPARTISAN EFFORT. I KNOW THAT THE MAJORITY LEADER FEELS AS STRONGLY AS I DO ABOUT THIS. I HAVE WRITTEN HIM A LETTER -- WHICH I ASKED BE PUT IN THE RECORD AT THIS POINT -- ASKING HIM TO WORK WITH ME IN A CONCERTED EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE SERIOUS SITUATION WE HAVE. AND I HAVE BEEN ASSURED OF HIS WHOLE-HEARTED INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT.

WHAT WE WILL SEEK TO PUT TOGETHER IS LEGISLATION TO SET UP A SENATE OFFICE OF SECURITY -- THE SENATE EQUIVALENT OF THE KIND OF CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY THE DOLE-ROTH BILL CALLS FOR IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

AND THAT OFFICE WILL BE HEADED UP BY A STRONG, EXPERIENCED SECURITY "PRO" -- WITH THE POWERS AND THE POLITICAL BACKING HE NEEDS FROM THE SENATE, TO DO THE JOB THAT HAS TO BE DONE.

FUNCTIONS OF SENATE SECURITY OFFICE

THE OFFICE WILL HAVE THREE MAIN FUNCTIONS. FIRST, IT WILL PUT THE DETAILED, FINAL TOUCHES ON A SECURITY PLAN ALONG THE LINES THAT WE RECOMMENDED LAST CONGRESS. THAT PLAN WILL BE MANDATORY ON EVERY SENATE OFFICE, EVERY SENATE EMPLOYEE, EVERY SENATOR.

SECOND, THE OFFICE WILL BE GIVEN THE MANDATE, AND THE INSTRUCTION, TO INSPECT EVERY SENATE OFFICE VERY THOROUGHLY; FIND OUT WHO IS DOING THINGS RIGHT AND WHO ISN'T. AND EVERY OFFICE WILL HAVE TO BE CERTIFIED, AS HAVING IN PLACE THE KIND OF SYSTEM FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION THAT MEETS THE SECURITY NEEDS OF 1987.

AND, FINALLY, THAT OFFICE WILL HAVE THE FINAL SAY ON WHO REALLY NEEDS ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AND WHO DOESN'T. THE REQUIREMENT IS THAT WE HAVE AN AUTHORITATIVE, COMPLETE LIST

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OF ALL CLEARED PERSONNEL. AND CAN INSURE THAT ONLY PEOPLE WHOSE NAMES ARE ON THAT LIST EVER SEE ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION IN THE SENATE.

ONLY THE FIRST STEP

NOW, AGAIN, PASSING THIS BILL IS NOT THE WHOLE ANSWER. IN MY VIEW, AT LEAST, OTHER REFORMS ARE ALSO NECESSARY. FOR EXAMPLE, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONSOLIDATE THE TWO CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES INTO A SINGLE, STREAMLINED BODY.

BUT THE REAL KEY IS TO RECOGNIZE THE PROBLEM AND GET TO WORK. THE SOVIETS ARE NOT RESTING ON THEIR LAURELS -- EVEN THOUGH, SADLY, THEY'VE GOT PLENTY OF LAURELS TO REST ON.

AND THEY'RE NOT PICKY ABOUT THEIR TARGETS. THEY'LL GO AFTER THE SENATE, OR THE HOUSE, JUST AS THEY GO AFTER THE EMBASSY IN MOSCOW; THE CONSULATE IN LENINGRAD; AND EVERY OTHER VULNERABLE AMERICAN TARGET, HERE IN WASHINGTON OR ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

THE WATCHWORD IS: BE ALERT. OR BE SORRY. I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE SENATE IS ALERT.

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BOB DÓLE
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United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

April 13, 1987

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington

Dear Bob:

As you will recall, as Majority Leader in the 99th Congress, I asked three Senate committees -- Rules, Governmental Affairs and Intelligence -- to do a study of Senate procedures for handling classified information.

The study was an eye-opener. Its bottom line conclusion was that there was no comprehensive, effective security system in the Senate for the handling and storage of classified information; no good handle on which Senate staff had clearances and access to classified information; and no central authority in charge of the security of classified information in the Senate.

Jointly, we began the process of working out legislation to address the problem. Unfortunately, the 99th Congress ended before we were able to enact the needed legislation.

Recent events demonstrate again how important maintaining the security of classified information is to our country. For that reason, I propose that we undertake a new initiative, along the lines of last year's, to enact legislation putting into place a comprehensive, effective system for control of classified information in the Senate. I believe our staffs should aim to have legislation ready to introduce no later than April 24, the first full week after our return from recess.

I look forward to hearing from you, and working with you, on this nonpartisan matter at your earliest convenience.