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THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1989

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DOLE BACKS PRESIDENT'S STRONG CAMPAIGN REFORM PACKAGE;
CHALLENGES DEMOCRATS "TO JOIN US ON THE HIGHROAD" TO CLEAN UP
ELECTION PROCESS

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN BOB DOLE TODAY HAILED PRESIDENT BUSH'S CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PACKAGE AS "TOUGH ENOUGH TO TAKE THE ELECTION PROCESS OUT OF THE HANDS OF THE BIG MONEY SPECIAL INTERESTS AND GIVE IT BACK TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

"PRESIDENT BUSH HAS TAKEN THE LEAD ON THIS PRIORITY ISSUE, AND I CHALLENGE THE DEMOCRATS TO JOIN US ON THE HIGH ROAD AS WE MOVE QUICKLY TO CLEAN UP THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE MESS BEFORE THE NEXT ELECTION CYCLE," DOLE SAID.

"THE PRESIDENT'S PACKAGE IS TOUGH FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, FROM CAPITOL HILL TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN TRAIL," DOLE SAID. "GEORGE BUSH IS RIGHT -- IT'S LONG PAST TIME TO SHARPLY REDUCE, IF NOT ELIMINATE, THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, AND TO BRING REAL COMPETITION BACK INTO CONGRESSIONAL RACES -- INCUMBENTS ARE SWIMMING IN PAC MONEY, AND PROFITING FROM COUNTLESS OTHER LAVISH PERKS SUCH AS THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE."

"THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT TAXPAYERS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO PICK-UP THE TAB FOR "REFORM". THE LAST THING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT IS THEIR HARDEARNED TAX DOLLARS GOING TO PAY FOR CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS -- THAT'S NOT REFORM, AND THAT'S WHY THE PRESIDENT IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO PUBLIC FINANCING FOR HOUSE AND SENATE RACES.

"I'M PLEASED THAT "GERRYMANDERING" IS ALSO ON THE PRESIDENT'S REFORM HIT LIST. FOR TOO LONG, POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO PROTECT INCUMBENTS BY MANIPULATING CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES TO FIT THEIR PARTISAN SCHEMES. THE VOTERS KNOW THEY ARE GETTING A RAW DEAL, WHICH IS WHY THEY ARE CLAMORING FOR CLEAN, COMPETITIVE GOVERNMENT.

"I CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT BUSH FOR HIS LEADERSHIP AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM AS WE PUSH THIS REFORM PACKAGE THROUGH CONGRESS. I BELIEVE WE CAN MAKE IT EVEN TOUGHER -- THAT'S WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING."

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