

News from Senator

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REPUBLICAN LEADER INTRODUCES
LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE
AS 102ND CONGRESS OPENS FOR BUSINESS

- S.6 -- CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
- S.7 -- FAIRNESS IN POLITICS
- S.8 -- TAX RELIEF FOR DESERT SHIELD TROOPS
- S.9 -- THE DIRECT AID FOR DEMOCRACY ACT
- S.10 -- SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST

MR. PRESIDENT, FOR GOOD REASON THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING THE PERSIAN GULF THESE DAYS AND THOSE OF US IN THE SENATE ARE NO EXCEPTION. WE SPENT ALL OF LAST WEEK DEBATING THIS CRISIS ISSUE, AND NOW, AS THE U.N. IMPOSED DEADLINE APPROACHES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WATCH THE PERSIAN GULF, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PEACE.

MEANWHILE, WE HAVE PLENTY OF WORK AHEAD OF US THIS YEAR ON THE DOMESTIC FRONT. AS MOMENTOUS AS THE CONFRONTATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS, THERE IS STILL AN AMERICAN AGENDA THAT DEMANDS ACTION; THAT IS WHY ON THIS FIRST DAY OPEN TO LEGISLATION, I AM INTRODUCING FIVE BILLS -- DESIGNATED SENATE BILLS SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE AND TEN -- ALL OF THEM, LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES THAT SENATE REPUBLICANS BELIEVE ARE PRIORITY ISSUES FOR THE 102ND CONGRESS.

S.6 - CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY I AM INTRODUCING SENATE BILL 6, THE COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND ETHICS ACT OF 1991.

IF LAST YEAR'S ELECTIONS TAUGHT US ANYTHING AT ALL, IT TAUGHT US IT IS TIME FOR REFORM.

THIS BILL BUILDS UPON LAST YEAR'S REPUBLICAN REFORM INITIATIVE BY ADDING SEVERAL NEW PROVISIONS -- A PROVISION ON "FLEXIBLE FUNDRAISING TARGETS," WHICH WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE MITCHELL/DOLE PANEL OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE EXPERTS; A PROVISION ON ETHICS-IN-GOVERNMENT; AND A PROVISION REQUIRING A PARTIAL BAN ON THE ROLL-OVER OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS.

MR. PRESIDENT, LAST YEAR, THE BIPARTISAN PANEL SAID THAT THERE WAS A BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE GOOD MONEY IN POLITICS AND THE BAD MONEY. USING THIS GOOD MONEY/BAD MONEY DISTINCTION, THE FLEXIBLE FUNDRAISING TARGETS PLACE AN AGGREGATE CAP ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE SO-CALLED "BAD MONEY" SOURCES -- PERSONAL FUNDS, OUT-OF-STATE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN EXCESS OF \$250, AND POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTRIBUTIONS. THE FLEXIBLE FUNDRAISING TARGETS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD NOT CAP CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE "GOOD MONEY" SOURCES -- IN-STATE INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS AND OUT-OF-STATE INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$250 OR LESS.

ETHICS. THE COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM AND ETHICS ACT ALSO CONTAINS A PROVISION THAT WILL REQUIRE THE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT MATTERS.

(MORE)

MR. PRESIDENT, IF A MEMBER OR HIS STAFF INTERVENES WITH A FEDERAL REGULATOR, THIS INTERVENTION SHOULD BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED. AND IF THE INTERVENTION IS PUBLICLY DISCLOSED, IT SHOULD BE PUBLICLY DEFENDED.

DON'T GET ME WRONG. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD GO TO BAT ON BEHALF OF THEIR CONSTITUENTS. THAT'S THEIR JOB. BUT IF WE DO INTERVENE WITH A FEDERAL REGULATOR ON BEHALF OF A CONSTITUENT, WE SHOULD BE COMFORTABLE READING ABOUT THE INTERVENTION ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEWSPAPERS. THAT'S WHAT A DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT IS ALL ABOUT.

PARTIAL BAN ON ROLL-OVER. FINALLY, MR. PRESIDENT, MY REFORM INITIATIVE WOULD PROHIBIT HOUSE MEMBERS FROM ROLLING-OVER MORE THAN \$50,000, AND SENATE MEMBERS FROM ROLLING-OVER MORE THAN \$100,000, IN SURPLUS CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR USE IN THE NEXT ELECTION. THESE INCUMBENCY WAR CHESTS ARE ONE OF BIG DETERRENTS TO CHALLENGERS AND ONE OF THE BIG REASONS FOR A 97% RE-ELECTION RATE.

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S.7 -- FAIRNESS IN POLITICS -- HELPING CHALLENGERS

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WITH A RE-ELECTION RATE OF 97%, CONGRESSIONAL INCUMBENTS ARE LIVING ON EASY STREET. THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T HAVE TRULY COMPETITIVE ELECTIONS UNLESS WE GO THE EXTRA MILE TO HELP THE CHALLENGERS WHO RUN AGAINST INCUMBENTS.

THEREFORE, TODAY I AM INTRODUCING SENATE BILL SEVEN -- A COMPANION MEASURE TO THE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM PACKAGE -- THAT CAN HELP BRING MORE COMPETITION TO OUR ELECTION PROCESS.

INCUMBENTS ENJOY ALL KINDS OF ADVANTAGES -- THE FRANK, LARGE STAFFS, HIGH NAME RECOGNITION, EASY ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A READY-MADE ABILITY TO TAP INTO THE SPECIAL-INTEREST MONEY THAT FUELS CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SHARING THESE ADVANTAGES, CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGERS ARE MOST OFTEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD, ALL BUT ELIMINATING COMPETITION IN POLITICS.

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR: INCUMBENTS AREN'T TO BLAME FOR PLAYING BY THE RULES -- THE RULES ARE THE PROBLEM. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS CHANGE SOME OF THE RULES TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, AND GIVE CHALLENGERS A FIGHTING CHANCE.

FREE BROADCAST TIME, ADVERTISING DISCOUNT. TO DO THAT, WE HAVE TO GO WHERE THE CAMPAIGN DOLLARS GO -- FOR THE COST OF BROADCAST TIME. TELEVISION ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY HALF OF THE COST OF THE AVERAGE SENATE CAMPAIGN. UNDER S.7, CANDIDATES WOULD BE ENTITLED TO A SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT FOR NON-PREEMPTIBLE TELEVISION TIME, ALLOWING CHALLENGERS TO GET THEIR MESSAGE OUT TO THE VOTERS AT A SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED COST.

ON TOP OF THAT, S.6 ALSO REQUIRES THAT TELEVISION AND RADIO BROADCASTERS PROVIDE, DURING EVERY TWO-YEAR ELECTION CYCLE, FIVE HOURS OF FREE TIME TO BE SHARED AMONG ELIGIBLE SENATE CANDIDATES. THAT'S 300 MINUTES OVER TWO YEARS -- A SMALL PRICE FOR BROADCASTERS WITH LUCRATIVE LICENSES TO USE THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES. FREE TIME IS SURE TO GIVE CHALLENGERS A VALUABLE FOOT IN THE DOOR TO THE VOTERS LIVING ROOMS.

"SEED MONEY," PAC BAN, MASS MAILINGS. CHALLENGERS CAN ALSO GET A MUCH-NEEDED AND HARD-EARNED "JUMP-START" WITH "SEED MONEY". S.7 ALLOWS NATIONAL PARTIES TO MATCH EARLY IN-STATE CONTRIBUTIONS RAISED BY CHALLENGERS -- UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$250,000 FOR SENATE CHALLENGERS AND \$150,000 FOR HOUSE CHALLENGERS.

ALMOST EVERYONE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE AGREES THAT YOU CAN'T LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD WITHOUT A BAN ON ALL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, THE SPECIAL INTERESTS THAT GIVE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THEIR CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO INCUMBENTS.

UNDER THIS BILL'S "TRUTH IN INCUMBENCY" PROVISION, STATE PARTIES COULD FINANCE EARLY TELEVISION AND RADIO ADS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ONLY THE VOTING RECORD OF SENATE INCUMBENTS.

AND S.7 TAKES AIM AT ONE OF INCUMBENCY'S BIGGEST PERKS -- TAXPAYER FUNDED MASS MAILINGS. THIS LEGISLATION WOULD PUT AN END TO THESE TAXPAYER FINANCED SELF-PROMOTION MAILINGS THAT FLOOD OUR MAILBOXES DURING AN ELECTION YEAR.

(MORE)

S. 8 -- TAX RELIEF FOR DESERT SHIELD TROOPS

ONE OF THE PRIORITY MEASURES I AM INTRODUCING TODAY IS DIRECTLY TIED TO OUR SHOWDOWN IN THE GULF. TODAY, I AM PROUD TO INTRODUCE A BILL -- SENATE BILL EIGHT -- THAT WILL GIVE THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE THE AUTHORITY IT NEEDS TO EXTEND TAX FILING DEADLINES AND TO WAIVE ANY SUBSEQUENT I.R.S. PENALTIES FOR OPERATION DESERT SHIELD TROOPS IN THE PERSIAN GULF AND THEIR FAMILIES BACK HOME.

LET'S FACE IT, THESE COURAGEOUS AMERICANS HAVE FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT THAN FILLING OUT TAX FORMS, COMPILING RECORDS OR BEING PENALIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT THEY ARE SO LOYALLY SERVING. I AM PLEASED BY THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE OUR LEGISLATION HAS ATTRACTED IN THIS CHAMBER, IN THE HOUSE AND THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL.

S. 9 -- THE DIRECT AID FOR DEMOCRACY ACT

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED A GREAT DEAL IN THE PAST TWO YEARS; AMONG OTHER THINGS, EASTERN EUROPE IS ON THE ROAD TO DEMOCRACY AND THE TWO GERMANIES HAVE BECOME ONE. AS A RESULT OF THESE DRAMATIC AND FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES, ONE OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES THE UNITED STATES FACES TODAY IS TO ADAPT ITS POLICIES TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF THIS NEW EMERGING WORLD.

NOW, IT IS EASY TO ADJUST DIPLOMATICALLY--SPEECHES AND LETTERS ARE EASY TO WRITE. HOWEVER, IT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE THE POLICIES, RULES AND REGULATIONS BY WHICH WE ACT, EVEN IF THE PRINCIPLES REMAIN THE SAME. AND, IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO MAKE THESE CHANGES QUICKLY.

IN MY VIEW, U.S. FOREIGN AID POLICY HAS LAGGED FAR BEHIND IN MEETING THE DEMANDS OF THE CHANGING WORLD. IN PARTICULAR, U.S. FOREIGN AID POLICY LACKS THE FLEXIBILITY TO DEAL WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. LAST YEAR, I RAISED THE ISSUE OF REALLOCATION OF U.S. FOREIGN AID RESOURCES SO THAT EASTERN EUROPE WOULD GET A FAIR SHARE OF OUR SUPPORT, AND I WILL ADDRESS THIS ISSUE AGAIN AT A LATER DATE.

TODAY, HOWEVER, I WISH TO INTRODUCE THIS BILL WHICH SEEKS TO ADD FLEXIBILITY TO OUR FOREIGN AID POLICY SO THAT WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY HELP BUILD DEMOCRACY AND FREE MARKET ECONOMIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES. IT DOES SO VERY SIMPLY: BY AMENDING OUR POLICY TO PERMIT THE PROVISION OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AT THE REPUBLIC LEVEL THAT EXIST WITHIN COUNTRIES THAT STILL HAVE A COMMUNIST RULING MAJORITY IN OTHER REPUBLIC GOVERNMENTS AND/OR AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL.

IN MY VIEW, THIS BILL WOULD APPROPRIATELY ADDRESS ONE OF THE TOUGHEST SITUATIONS WE FACE IN EASTERN EUROPE: HOW TO ASSIST HYBRID NATIONS--IN OTHER WORDS, COUNTRIES WHOSE GOVERNMENTS INCLUDE BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND COMMUNIST ELEMENTS. A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THIS IS YUGOSLAVIA: FOUR OF ITS SIX REPUBLICS ELECTED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS INTO OFFICE LAST YEAR. HOWEVER, THE LARGEST REPUBLIC, SERBIA, AND ITS SMALLER ALLY, MONTENEGRO, ELECTED HARDLINE COMMUNISTS INTO GOVERNMENT LAST DECEMBER. AND, YUGOSLAVIA'S FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS STILL RUN BY COMMUNISTS, IN ADDITION TO BEING DOMINATED BY SERBIA.

UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM, TO PROVIDE U.S. AID TO YUGOSLAVIA, WE WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT--THE GOVERNMENT THAT HAS THREATENED TO SEND TROOPS INTO THE FLEDGLING DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS IN ONE WEEK IF THOSE REPUBLIC REFUSE TO DISARM THEIR NATIONAL GUARD AND MILITIA UNITS. HOWEVER, IF THIS BILL IS ENACTED, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BYPASS THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND GET U.S. AID DIRECTLY TO THESE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS. IN ADDITION, THIS PROVISION WOULD ALLOW US TO PREVENT AID FROM GOING TO THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT OF SERBIA, WHICH FOR THE PAST 2 YEARS, HAS BEEN SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATING THE RIGHTS OF THE TWO MILLION ALBANIAN PEOPLE IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA. AS I SAW LAST AUGUST, THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVA LIVE UNDER STALINIST CONDITIONS--IN MY VIEW, THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT REWARD THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ACTIONS.

THIS TYPE OF FLEXIBILITY WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE SOVIET UNION. LAST WEEKEND WE WITNESSED THE ONSET OF A BRUTAL CRACKDOWN AGAINST THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE. WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH MORE SUFFERING THEY WILL HAVE TO ENDURE--THE LITHUANIANS AND THE LATVIANS AND ESTONIANS, FACE NOT ONLY POLITICAL AND MILITARY OPPRESSION, BUT ECONOMIC CRISES, FOOD AND FUEL SHORTAGES, AS WELL. BUT, UNDER TODAY'S FOREIGN AID PROGRAM IF WE WANTED TO SEND THESE POOR PEOPLE ANY TYPE OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WE WOULD HAVE TO SEND IT THROUGH MOSCOW.

(MORE)

WELL, I THINK I CAN SAY WITH SOME CONFIDENCE AFTER THIS WEEKEND'S EVENTS, MOSCOW WOULDN'T BE SYMPATHETIC AND WOULDN'T COOPERATE. ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO, IN RESPONSE TO THE CRITICAL FOOD SHORTAGES ACROSS THE SOVIET UNION, THE UNITED STATES AGREED TO PROVIDE GRAIN CREDITS TO GORBACHEV'S GOVERNMENT--A DECISION I STRONGLY ADVOCATED. TO MY GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, I LEARNED LAST WEEK FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, THAT GORBACHEV HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE ONLY REPUBLICS THAT WILL GET THE U.S. GRAIN AND FEED ARE THOSE WHO SIGN THE UNION TREATY. THERE IS ONLY ONE WORD FOR THAT TACTIC: BLACKMAIL.

MR. PRESIDENT, I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT BE A PARTY TO THAT BLACKMAIL. AND, I HAVE ALREADY STATED THAT I BELIEVE A SUSPENSION OF U.S. GRAIN CREDITS IS IN ORDER UNTIL WE GET ASSURANCES FROM GORBACHEV THAT ALL THOSE WHO NEED GRAIN AND FEED WILL GET IT.

UNDER TODAY'S FOREIGN AID SYSTEM, WE ARE BOXED IN: HELP ALL OR HURT ALL. IN YUGOSLAVIA, IN THE SOVIET UNION, WE CAN ONLY SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATS, IF WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS. IF WE WANT TO WEAKEN THE COMMUNISTS, WE CAN ONLY DO SO BY WEAKENING THE DEMOCRATS.

MR. PRESIDENT, THESE ARE THE KINDS OF CHOICES WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE. AS A RESULT WE TEND TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES, HOPING FOR DEMOCRACY, BUT NOT HELPING IT. BUT, I SAY TO MY COLLEAGUES TODAY, THIS IS NOT A TIME TO SIT ON THE SIDELINES, THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO WATCH QUIETLY WHILE NEW DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS ARE COERCED, THREATENED AND FINALLY SNUFFED OUT. THIS IS A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO SPREAD DEMOCRACY AND TO MAKE DEMOCRACY PERMANENT.

SURE, THERE ARE SOME WHO WILL SAY THAT DIRECTING AID TO DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICS IS IMPOSSIBLE. IN MY VIEW, THAT ARGUMENT IS SIMPLY A BUREAUCRATIC 'OUT'--A RELUCTANCE TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM BECAUSE THE BUREAUCRACY IS COMFORTABLE WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE BEING DONE NOW. CHANGING THE FOREIGN AID SYSTEM, IN THEIR VIEW, IS INCONVENIENT. WELL, TO ME, INCONVENIENCE IS NOT A COMPELLING ARGUMENT. WHAT IS COMPELLING IS THE SURVIVAL AND GROWTH OF DEMOCRACY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO DO ALL IT CAN TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD. SO, LET'S NOT MAKE BUREAUCRATIC EXCUSES, LET'S ENACT THIS BILL.

LITHUANIA

THIS TYPE OF FLEXIBILITY WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE SOVIET UNION. THIS WEEKEND WE WITNESSED THE ONSET OF A BRUTAL CRACKDOWN AGAINST THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE. WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH MORE SUFFERING THEY WILL HAVE TO ENDURE--THE LITHUANIANS AND THE LATVIANS AND ESTONIANS, FACE NOT ONLY POLITICAL AND MILITARY OPPRESSION, BUT ECONOMIC CRISES, FOOD AND FUEL SHORTAGES, AS WELL.

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(MORE)

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MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES NEEDS TO DO ALL IT CAN TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AROUND THE WORLD. SO, LET'S NOT MAKE BUREAUCRATIC EXCUSES, LET'S ENACT THIS BILL.

S.10 -- SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST

ON ANOTHER FAIRNESS ISSUE, 1991 SHOULD BE THE YEAR WE TELL OUR SENIOR CITIZENS THAT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED AGE DISCRIMINATION IS A THING OF THE PAST. IT IS TIME TO RETIRE THE OUTMODED AND UNFAIR 'SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST', A GOVERNMENT MANDATE THAT PUSHES SENIORS OUT OF THE WORKPLACE AND INTO THE ROCKING CHAIR BY TAKING AWAY ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE DOLLARS EARNED BY SENIORS MAKING MORE THAN \$9,720 A YEAR.

THIS IS ONE TEST THAT DESERVES AN "F". IT IS TIME TO REPEAL IT TO SEND A CLEAR AND LONG OVERDUE MESSAGE TO OUR SENIOR CITIZENS: YOU ARE WELCOME IN OUR WORKFORCE.

HEALTHCARE:

A NATIONAL PRIORITY

EVEN THOUGH WE ARE NOT OFFERING LEGISLATION IN THIS AREA TODAY, ONE OF THE TOP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES THIS YEAR FOR OUR PARTY AND THE NATION MUST BE AMERICA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF LONG TERM CARE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE WILL NOT BE EASY -- THE RECENT CATASTROPHIC CARE DEBATE TESTIFIES TO THAT. AND THE DIFFICULTY OF MEETING THE HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE WILL BE COMPOUNDED BY THE NEED TO DO SO IN A RESPONSIBLE, COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.

NEVERTHELESS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE DEMANDING THAT WE TACKLE THESE ISSUES, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO INTRODUCING PROPOSALS WE FEEL WILL BEST MEET AMERICA'S NEED FOR QUALITY HEALTH CARE. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING VIGOROUSLY WITH OUR DEMOCRAT COLLEAGUES AND THE WHITE HOUSE TO ADDRESS THIS NATIONAL PRIORITY.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER ISSUES THAT DEMAND OUR ATTENTION AND I WOULD LIKE TO QUICKLY MENTION A FEW OF THEM.

ENERGY - TIME FOR
AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

TENSIONS IN THE GULF AND THE SPECTER OF WAR HAVE ONCE AGAIN FORCED US TO FACE A DISTURBING REALITY AT HOME -- WE ARE STILL DANGEROUSLY OVER-DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN OIL FOR OUR ENERGY NEEDS, EVEN THOUGH FOREIGN DESPOTS AND FANATICS CONTINUE TO PLAY THE OIL CARD IN THEIR HIGH-STAKES GAME OF ENERGY BLACKMAIL.

IT IS LONG PAST TIME FOR THE UNITED STATES TO DISCOVER, DEVELOP AND MARKET NEW ENERGY RESOURCES SO WE DON'T HAVE TO WINCE EVERY TIME THE BLACKMAILERS TIGHTEN THE SCREWS.

I AM PLEASED THE PRESIDENT IS BUSY PREPARING AN ENERGY STRATEGY AND I URGE HIM TO SEND IT TO CAPITOL HILL AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.

THIS COUNTRY INVENTED MODERN OIL TECHNOLOGY, AND OUR INDUSTRY STILL LEADS THE WORLD IN DISCOVERING AND REFINING TECHNOLOGIES -- IT IS TIME TO USE THESE AMERICAN ADVANCES TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

UNTIL ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY BECOME AVAILABLE AT REASONABLE RATES, WE MUST BOOST DOMESTIC EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION, BUT UNDER STRICT ENVIRONMENTAL RESTRAINTS.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ENERGY LEGISLATION MUST BE A PRIORITY FOR THE 102ND CONGRESS -- THE AMERICAN EXPECT NO LESS. IT IS TIME WE DELIVER.

BUDGET REFORM PACKAGE

ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, LAST YEAR'S BUDGET SUMMIT AGREEMENT WAS A DEFICIT REDUCTION MILESTONE. CONGRESS DID MANAGE TO PASS REAL AND LASTING SPENDING CUTS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MADE CHANGES IN GRAMM-RUDMAN TO ENSURE THE SUMMIT'S SPENDING CAPS ARE ENFORCED. BUT IN SPITE OF OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE DEFICIT HAS CONTINUED ITS CLIMB TOWARD GREATER AND GREATER HEIGHTS. CLEARLY IF WE ARE GOING TO GET THE BUDGET BACK ON TRACK, THIS CONGRESS NEEDS TO LOOK TOWARD EVEN TIGHTER SPENDING RESTRICTIONS.

LAST APRIL, PRESIDENT BUSH SENT CONGRESS A BUDGET REFORM PACKAGE CONTAINING LEGISLATION ESSENTIAL TO GETTING OUR FISCAL HOUSE BACK IN ORDER: A LINE ITEM VETO CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, A LEGISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT TO ENHANCE PRESIDENTIAL RESCISSION AUTHORITY, AND A BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. TODAY, SENATOR THURMOND, SENATOR SYMMS, SENATOR MCCAIN, AND SENATOR COATS WILL TAKE A FIRM STAND FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND JOINTLY INTRODUCE THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PACKAGE.

(MORE)

I HOPE EACH AND EVERY SENATE REPUBLICAN WILL JOIN ME IN SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THESE FOUR SENATORS TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND BALANCE THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1991

MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL ALSO SOON BE INTRODUCING THE "WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1991, A COMPREHENSIVE PACKAGE OF REFORMS AND INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO HELP WOMEN BATTLE DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE, AND TO GIVE THEM MORE WEAPONS TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST DOMESTIC AND STREET VIOLENCE.

THIS ACT WILL ENHANCE THE AVAILABLE FEDERAL REMEDIES FOR SEXUAL HARASSMENT, EXPAND CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, CRACK DOWN HARD ON SEX AND DRUG OFFENDERS PREYING ON WOMEN AND WILL ESTABLISH A 21-MEMBER COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE WHY WOMEN ARE NOT ADVANCING IN THE CORPORATE WORLD COMMENSURATE WITH THEIR TALENTS AND SUCCESS.

IT IS TIME CONGRESS AND CORPORATE AMERICA WORKED TOGETHER TO FINALLY BREAK THE SO-CALLED "GLASS CEILING" SO THAT QUALIFIED WOMEN CAN TAKE THEIR RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE UPPER ECHELONS OF WORKING AMERICA.

CONCLUSION

MR. PRESIDENT, THESE ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR NATION, AS I SEE THEM.

MEANWHILE THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHALLENGE IS BEFORE US - SECURING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE WHOLE WORLD IS WATCHING - AND IT IS WATCHING BAGHDAD. IT'S NOW UP TO ONE MAN, SADDAM HUSSEIN, WHETHER PEACE WILL PREVAIL. HE MUST KNOW BY NOW, THE WORLD WANTS PEACE. LET'S HOPE HE FINALLY GETS THE MESSAGE.

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