

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 17, 1991

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THE GATES NOMINATION

DELAY UNFORTUNATE; SENATE CAN'T WAIT ON SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE POSTPONEMENT OF HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF ROBERT GATES TO BE CIA DIRECTOR.

YESTERDAY'S DECISION BY THE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO POSTPONE UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER ITS HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF BOB GATES TO BE CIA DIRECTOR WAS, IN MY VIEW, UNFORTUNATE.

IN ANY EVENT, WHAT IS IMPORTANT NOW IS THAT ALL SIDES UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT BUSH, AND THOSE OF US WHO SUPPORT MR. GATES NOMINATION, ARE NOT GOING TO STAND BY AND SEE IT DONE IN BY DELAY.

MR. GATES HAS BEEN NOMINATED TO BE CIA DIRECTOR -- HE HAS NOT BEEN OFFERED UP AS A VICTIM FOR SOME PARLIAMENTARY FORM OF "CHINESE WATER TORTURE."

SENATE'S JOB, NOT SEPCIAL PROSECUTOR'S

THE CONSTITUTION GIVES TO THE SENATE, NOT TO THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, THE POWER TO DECIDE ON THE FITNESS OF THIS NOMINEE. WE CAN'T PUT OFF DOING OUR JOB AND MEETING OUR RESPONSIBILITY, ON THE PHONY PREMISE THAT THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR MUST DO HIS JOB FIRST.

THE SENATE'S BEEN AROUND HERE A LITTLE BIT LONGER THAN THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, AND WE DO NOT OPERATE ON HIS TIMETABLE. IF MR. WALSH HAS RELEVANT INFORMATION ON THIS NOMINEE -- AND I VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT HE HAS, EXCEPT FOR INFORMATION THAT WOULD CONFIRM MR. GATES' INTEGRITY AND TRUTHFULNESS -- BUT IF HE DOES, THEN SURELY HE AND WE CAN FIND SOME WAY FOR THAT INFORMATION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE AND TO THE SENATE.

THE GATES HEARING IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 17. BARRING SOME TOTALLY UNFORSEEN DEVELOPMENT, IT CAN'T SLIP ANY FURTHER.

GATES MUST BE HEARD

MR. GATES MUST BE HEARD. ANYONE WHO WANTS TO MAKE ANY ALLEGATIONS OF WRONG-DOING BY OR UNFITNESS OF THE NOMINEE MUST STAND UP AND SAY SO -- OUT IN THE OPEN, NOT IN SOME MEAN-SPIRITED LEAK TO THE MEDIA. AND THEN WE IN THE SENATE MUST FACE UP TO OUR RESPONSIBILITY, AND DO OUR JOB.

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