

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

### DOLE TO SEEK UNANIMOUS OK TO CONSIDER GOP BILL; WILL DEMS OBJECT? "UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS NOT LAUGHING" AT POLITICAL GAMES

AS PRESIDENT BUSH NOTED IN HIS NEWS CONFERENCE EARLIER TODAY, SOME ENCOURAGING NEWS CAME THIS MORNING WITH THE REPORT THAT SEPTEMBER'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED TO 6.7%.

WHILE THIS RATE IS STILL UNACCEPTABLY HIGH AND I HOPE VERY MUCH WE SEE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT, IT DOES APPEAR TO INDICATE A LEVELING OFF DURING THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS AND THE BEGINNING OF A DOWNWARD TREND CONSISTENT WITH SIGNS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

#### ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS

I HEARD A BUNCH OF FANCY SPEECHES FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE THIS MORNING THAT SEEMED TO INDICATE CONCERN FOR THE UNEMPLOYED AND PASSING EXTENDED BENEFITS LEGISLATION.

BUT LET'S BE FRANK, ACTION SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS. IT SEEMS THAT EACH TIME THE DEMOCRATS SEND EXTENDED BENEFITS LEGISLATION TO THE PRESIDENT, THEY MAKE IT WORSE -- NOT BETTER. THEIR FIRST BILL INCREASED THE DEFICIT \$5.8 BILLION AND NOW THEY WANT TO INCREASE IT BY \$6.2 BILLION.

#### WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY?

UNLIKE THE PROPONENTS OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT, THE PRESIDENT IS STICKING TO HIS PROMISE TO ABIDE BY THE BUDGET AGREEMENT. THE COMMITMENT OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE BUDGET AGREEMENT WOULD APPEAR TO EXTEND ONLY AS FAR AS ITS POLITICAL UTILITY. APPARENTLY FOR THEM, ITS UTILITY HAS PASSED.

I ASK WHERE THE ACCOUNTABILITY IS? IS IT THAT HARD TO SAY WE AGREED TO PAY FOR NEW PROGRAMS AND THAT WE WILL STICK BY THAT PROMISE BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT IS BEST FOR AMERICA?

THE ONE THING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE UNDERSTAND IS THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THINGS AND THAT IS WHAT MY ALTERNATIVE DOES. THE ALTERNATIVE OFFERED BY SENATORS DURENBERGER AND BURNS ALSO PAYS FOR ITSELF.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID HE WOULD SIGN THE DOLE ET AL ALTERNATIVE. HE HAS SAID THAT BEFORE AND HE REPEATED IT IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THIS MORNING DURING A NEWS CONFERENCE.

HE HAS SAID HE WILL VETO THE CONFERENCE REPORT BECAUSE IT IS A TAX ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY JUST WHEN WE CONTINUE TO SEE ENCOURAGING SIGNS.

#### POLITICAL GAMES

PERSONALLY, I DON'T SEE WHAT IS TAKING SO LONG TO GET THE CONFERENCE REPORT TO THE WHITE HOUSE SO THAT WE CAN START DEBATING SERIOUS EXTENDED BENEFITS LEGISLATION SUCH AS THE ALTERNATIVES WE HAVE OFFERED.

(MORE)

I'VE SEEN BILLS MOVE OUT OF HERE QUICKLY BEFORE, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE ASKING THEMSELVES WHY -- WHEN THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE PASSED THE LEGISLATION LAST TUESDAY -- THE BILL HAS STILL NOT REACHED THE HOUSE FOR SIGNATURE -- LET ALONE MADE ITS WAY DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS POLITICS, AND THE FACT THAT MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO CUT INTO NEXT WEEK'S RECESS TO WORK OUT A RESPONSIBLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION WITH THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE.

THEY JUST WANT SHOWDOWNS WITH PRESIDENT BUSH. BUT WHILE SOME DEMOCRATS ARE CHUCKLING ABOUT TRYING TO PUT THE PRESIDENT IN A TOUGH SPOT, UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS ARE NOT LAUGHING.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO BRING UP DOLE ALTERNATIVE

BEFORE THE DAY IS OUT, I WILL SEEK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO BRING UP THE ALTERNATIVE OFFERED BY MYSELF, SENATORS DOMENICI, ROTH, DANFORTH, BOND, AND OTHERS.

I KNOW THAT THIS PROPOSAL PROBABLY DOESN'T PLEASE A LOT OF MEMBERS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE BECAUSE IT IS A REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE. INDEED, THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE HASN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS TO A BILL THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID HE WOULD SIGN INSTANTLY.

IN MY BOOK, THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A LOT OF CONCERN FOR THE UNEMPLOYED, AND I THINK THE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS SHOULD BE ASKING WHERE THE BEEF IS BEHIND THOSE GREAT SPEECHES WE HEARD THIS MORNING.

PARITY FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

I JUST WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO REPLY TO EARLIER STATEMENTS MADE BY THE SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE, SENATOR SASSER.

THE DOLE ET AL PROPOSAL PROVIDES FOR COMPLETE PARITY OF TREATMENT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENDED BENEFITS BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

THE SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE SUGGESTS THAT OUR PROPOSAL HURTS VETERANS RETURNING FROM THE PERSIAN GULF OR OTHER MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BRAVELY AND PROUDLY SERVED THIS COUNTRY.

IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE HAS NOT EVEN BOTHERED TO READ OUR ALTERNATIVE WHICH BASED ON OTHER STATEMENTS I'VE HEARD, DOESN'T REALLY SURPRISE ME.

IDENTICAL TO STANDARDS FOR THE CIVILIAN WORK FORCE, OUR PROPOSAL PROVIDES 26 WEEKS OF BENEFITS TO THOSE INVOLUNTARILY SEPARATED FROM THE SERVICE AND NO BENEFITS TO THOSE WHO VOLUNTARILY CHOOSE TO LEAVE THE SERVICE SUCH AS TAKING A NEW JOB IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THIS IS WHAT CIVILIAN WORKERS GET AND MY PROPOSAL UPS BENEFITS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO MAKE THEM CONSISTENT.

I ALSO WANT TO STRESS THE POINT THAT OUR PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE A FULL 26 WEEKS OF BENEFITS TO THOSE SEPARATED FROM THE SERVICE DUE TO DEFENSE DOWNSIZING BECAUSE THE DENIAL OF THE RIGHT TO RE-ENLIST OR TO SIGN UP FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICE IS CONSIDERED AN INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION.

SO BEFORE CRITICISMS ARE LOBBED AGAINST OUR PROPOSAL BY THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, LET'S AT LEAST GET OUR FACTS STRAIGHT.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED -- DESERVE TO GET THE TRUTH -- RATHER THAN AN EARFUL OF POLITICAL RHETORIC.

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