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DAILY DUGOUT -- THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16, 1993

Highlights from Senator Dole and Mitchell's morning briefing.
Compiled and distributed by the Senate Republican Whip's office
(4-2708) and the Senate Republican Conference (4-2764).

DOLE:

THE STOCK MARKET IS DOWN 60 POINTS ALREADY TODAY. WATCH YOUR
WALLETS. PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS A TOUGH JOB. WHAT HE IS
PROPOSING TO DO IS REALLY GOING TO HIT HARD. THE MAIN PROBLEM AS
I SEE IT IS THAT THERE ARE NOT MANY SPENDING RESTRAINTS -- OTHER
THAN DEFENSE CUTS.

WHAT WOULD HE (PRESIDENT CLINTON) NEED TO DO TO GET YOUR SUPPORT?

WE HAVEN'T TALKED. I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE.

IS THIS A SERIOUS EFFORT FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION? BOY! - THERE ARE
A LOT OF TAXES IN THERE. I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT YOU INCREASE JOBS
BY INCREASING CORPORATE TAXES.

ANY TAX INCREASES THAT YOU WOULD SUPPORT? IT WOULD BE VERY
DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT ANY TAX INCREASES. THE DEMOCRATS ARE
FINDING IT TOUGH TO BE "RESPONSIBLE" AFTER ATTACKING REAGAN AND
RUSH FOR 12 YEARS.

CAN THEY COUNT ON ANY REPUBLICAN VOTES? WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHAT
THEY DO. REPUBLICANS DO NOT WANT TAX HIKES. IT IS THEIR
RESPONSIBILITY TO PASS THE BILL -- I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE
ARE NOT GOING TO BE HELPFUL, BUT "RICH" USED TO MEAN SALARIES OF
\$200,000, NOW IT MEANS \$100,000. THIS PLAN WILL HIT ANYONE
MAKING OVER \$30,000.

IS A BTU (BRITISH THERMAL UNIT) TAX PREFERABLE TO A GAS TAX?
WE'VE LOOKED AT BOTH. GAS TAX IS GEOGRAPHICALLY UNFAIR. BTU TAX
COULD HARDLY BE AS BAD AS A GAS TAX, BUT IT IS NOT VERY GOOD
EITHER.

ARE REPUBLICANS GOING TO BE OBSTRUCTIONISTS? NO. WE'LL BE
THOUGHTFUL AND OFFER SUGGESTIONS AND AMENDMENTS AND TRY TO BE
HELPFUL WHERE WE CAN. I'VE BEEN READING OBSTRUCTIONIST
DEMOCRATIC SPEECHES FROM THE PAST AND WE WON'T BE
OBSTRUCTIONISTS, NEARLY AS MUCH.

WHAT ABOUT THE BILL EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS? I DON'T SEE
ANY PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IT WILL ADD TO THE DEFICIT.

I WILL BE OFFERING AN AMENDMENT TO THE NIH BILL SECURING THE
STATUS QUO ON IMMIGRANTS WITH AIDS.

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MITCHELL:

THE SENATE IS SCHEDULED TO PROCEED TO S.1, THE NIH REAUTHORIZATION BILL. I MET WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON AND VICE PRESIDENT GORE THIS MORNING. I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC MESSAGE THAT WILL LAY THE FOUNDATION FOR INCREASING JOBS AND WAGES FOR WORKING AMERICANS.

WILL ALL MAKING OVER \$30,000 BE TAXED? WE DID NOT GO INTO SUBSTANTIAL DETAIL AT THE MEETING. IT WOULD BE BEST TO WAIT UNTIL THE PRESIDENT DELIVERS HIS MESSAGE TOMORROW TO DO THAT.

ARE YOU CONCERNED WITH THE DROP IN THE STOCK MARKET? WE SHOULD WAIT AND SEE ABOUT THE DETAILS FIRST, AS SHOULD WALL STREET.

WILL IT BE EASY TO GET THIS THROUGH? I HAVE NEVER PARTICIPATED IN AN EASY BUDGET AND I DON'T EXPECT THIS WILL CHANGE. WE'VE BEEN ON THE WRONG PATH FOR 12 YEARS AND A CHANGE IN APPROACH IS WHY PRESIDENT CLINTON WAS ELECTED. THE SUBSTANCE WILL INVOLVE SHARED SACRIFICE TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS.

WILL MIDDLE CLASS BE PAYING AGAIN AFTER IN CAMPAIGN HE SAID THEY PAID ENOUGH? WHEN HE LAYS IT OUT \$30-50,000 BURDEN WILL BE VERY MODEST AND HIT HARDER ON THOSE WHO DID NOT PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OVER THE PAST 12 YEARS.

REPUBLICANS HAVE BEEN STRONG ON THEIR CRITICISM THAT THE PLAN IS HEAVY ON TAX INCREASES AND LIGHT ON SPENDING CUTS? NOW WE ARE GOING TO FIND OUT IF THOSE WHO TALK ABOUT DEFICIT REDUCTION REALLY MEAN IT. WE WILL SEE IF THEIR VOTES MATCH THEIR RHETORIC.