

Bob Dole



NEWS

FROM:

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 1993

CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
(202) 224-5358

GRAB YOUR WALLET!

TAXES GOING UP: AMERICAN PEOPLE NOT BUYING CLINTON TAX PLAN

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So in a few minutes, all those Americans who are watching on CNN or C-Span may want to put down your remote control, and grab on to your wallet. Because your taxes are about to go up.

I do want to thank Americans for their help in trying to defeat this bill.

Last Tuesday evening, I asked you to call your Congressman and Senators...and millions and millions of you have done just that.

And in every office I've checked with, your opinion is loud and clear. You don't like this bill. You've heard the President. You've heard from the supporters of this bill. And you're not buying what they're selling.

And that has my friends on the other side of the aisle up in arms.

After all, Members of Congress are going home tomorrow. We're all going to have to look you in the eye and explain our votes. And if so many of you are opposed to this bill, then they're going to have a tough time.

American People Have it Figured Out

So, the Democrats are trying to explain why the American people are opposed to this bill.

And some have decided to blame me...or to blame other Republicans...or to blame radio call-in hosts.

The Democrats say it's our fault. That we're demagogues who are feeding you misinformation...that we're playing to your emotions to get you stirred up...we're playing to your emotions by telling you that this bill is important to your job, your family, and your future.

Well, I appreciate the confidence of the Senators who think I have the power to convince millions of Americans to do what I want.

But what the Democrats haven't figured out is that you have them figured out, and you've got this bill figured out.

The Difference Between the Parties: \$290 Billion

You've looked at this bill, and then--as I suggested the other night--you've asked yourself four questions.

You asked "Does this bill raise taxes?" Boy, does it ever. In fact, one thing this bill has done is clarify the difference between the philosophies of Democrats and Republicans.

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Well, they're right. There's not a dime's worth of difference. There's about \$290 billion dollars worth of difference.

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I wonder what would have happened last November if these Senators had announced during the campaign that they would not only raise taxes once they took office, they would even raise taxes before they took office.

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And then Americans asked a second question--"Does the President's bill control government spending?" And the answer is no.

As Senator Domenici has pointed out, in 1994, the first year of this plan, there is no net cut in spending. None. Zero. In a \$1.5 trillion dollar budget, President Clinton could not find a way to save one dollar.

In fact, 80% of what spending cuts there are in this budget will be delayed until after the next presidential election in 1996. And that creates an interesting scenario.

President Clinton may well go down in history as the only President who increased taxes before he took office, and who didn't cut spending until after he left office.

Losing Jobs

Question number three that Americans asked was "Does the president's plan help put Americans back to work?" And the answer is no.

The State of California's Office of Planning and Research just released a study which shows that the Clinton plan would cost the state of California an average of 351,000 jobs per year--a total of 1.75 Million jobs over five years. And that's just in California.

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And question four is the most important question of all--"Does the President's plan get the deficit under control?"

And even by the White House's own admission, the answer is no.

The President's deficit charts always seem to end about 1997. And for good reason. Because while the President's massive tax increase will lower the deficit in the short term, the plan's inability to deal with spending will send the deficit skyrocketing upwards after 1997.

It's not Bob Dole who has convinced Americans to oppose this bill. It's the answer to those questions.

This has been a very instructive debate. And I want to especially congratulate my colleague, Senator Domenici, for the way in which he has led the debate on our side.

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The Question of Trust

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And that's why I'm voting against it. That's why 43 of my Republican colleagues are voting against it. That's why six of senator Kerrey's Democrat colleagues are voting against it. And that's why the vast majority of the American people are opposed to it.

And when it comes to the matter of trust, let me echo the remarks of the Senator from New Mexico. I would put my record of making the tough votes to reduce the deficit up against anyone in this chamber...and I told President Clinton soon after his election that if he was ready to tackle the deficit head on and cut spending first, then I would be there.

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Let me close by just saying that we can do better. Much better. We can write a budget that truly cuts spending first...that truly moves America in the right direction. And Republicans stand ready to help move America in the right direction.

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The President's plan does not eliminate a single federal program. It does not tell government bureaucrats to spend less money. It says that government programs will be increased--but the increase will not be quite as big as expected.

Now, keep in mind that the tax increases in the President's plan started 7 months ago--on January 1. But the so-called spending cuts are only promised for some future time. In fact, 80% of these promised cuts won't occur--if at all--until after the next presidential election in 1996.

Republicans and some Democrats in Congress heard the message you sent last November. You wanted us to cut spending first. And we had a plan to do just that. A good plan. We tried to eliminate the President's requested tax increases. We tried to make real cuts in government spending. But, unfortunately, the President and the liberal Democrats in Congress defeated all these proposals.

Creating Jobs? -- Workers, Look Out!

The third question you should ask is "Does the President's plan help put Americans back to work?"

And the answer is no.

Back in January, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office told us that if Congress did not do anything...If we did not pass any economic package...Our economy would create 9.4 million new jobs over the next four years.

President Clinton now says that his plan will create perhaps 8 million new jobs over the next four years. In effect, by passing the President's plan, we could lose 1.4 million jobs.

So if you're a restaurant worker in Nevada...A small businessman or woman in Wisconsin...An aerospace worker in California...A defense worker in Georgia...A family farmer in Nebraska...An insurance salesman in Connecticut, an engineer in Alabama, or even a senior citizen in Arizona--look out! The Clinton plan is bad news for you, your job, and your families.

Still, despite all this, there may be a few of you out there who are saying "so what if my taxes are increased...So what if more jobs would be created if we do nothing...If this plan reduces the deficit, then I will support it."

I share your concern, and have said for many years--and have backed it up with tough votes--that reducing the national deficit must be our number one priority.

Solving the Deficit Problem?

So, the fourth question is "Does the President's plan reduce the deficit?"

Unfortunately for America's future and the future of our children and grandchildren, the answer is no.

Yes, President Clinton's massive tax increases will drop the deficit from \$285 billion this year to an estimated \$202 billion in 1997. But just three years after that, most analysts project that the deficit will skyrocket to well over \$350 billion.

And by the way, don't be fooled by the President's so-called "Deficit Reduction Trust Fund." Members of the President's own economic team have dismissed this as a gimmick. The Director of the Congressional Budget Office has testified that this trust fund will not reduce the deficit by one dime.

Call Congress

My fellow Americans, those are the facts. The President's economic plan calls for more taxes, more spending, and higher deficits. That is why we oppose the bill, and why you should oppose it, and immediately contact your Senators and Representatives by calling 202-224-3121.

You've listened to a lot of talking tonight. If you don't remember anything else, remember the answers to the four questions I discussed.

1. Remember that the President's plan is the largest tax increase in world history, affecting millions of Americans.

2. Remember that the President's plan does not really cut government spending--it only slows its growth.

3. Remember that the President's plan does not create jobs.

And finally, remember that the President's plan does not solve the deficit problem. Rather, under this plan, the national debt will increase by a trillion dollars during President Clinton's current term.

Failure of Clinton Plan a New Beginning

My fellow Americans, contrary to what some may be saying, the world will not end if this bill is defeated. In fact, defeating this bill will mark not an end--but a new beginning. An opportunity to begin again and to agree upon a new plan...A better plan...A plan that truly moves America in the right direction.

Thank you for listening, and good night.

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