

NEWS

FROM:

REPUBLICAN LEADER

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SENATE

## IME BILL ENDORSEI

DOLE CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO ENDORSE SENATE'S TOUGH ANTI-CRIME BILL, PREVENT LIBERAL DEMOCRATS FROM PLAYING SCROOGE

WICHITA -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas), calling on President Clinton to give his public and unqualified support to the tough anti-crime bill recently passed by the Senate, today issued the following statement after President Clinton's announcement of the first round of community policing grants:

"While President Clinton and I agree on the need to put more cops on the street, the best Christmas present he can give to the American people is his public -- and unqualified -- support for the get-tough crime bill recently passed by the Senate. The President's support is necessary to prevent the liberal Democrats from playing Scrooge and gutting the tough Senate-passed bill of its most effective provisions.

"The surest way to reduce crime is to keep criminals behind bars. That's why it's crucial for the President to get behind our truth-in-sentencing proposal requiring violent felons to serve at least 85% of their sentences, and our initiative to build ten new regional prisons for the most violent criminals in our society.

"The tough Senate-passed crime bill also contains the following provisions that desperately need the President's public support:

- \* tough mandatory penalties for those who use or carry a qun in the commission of a crime;
- \* a federal anti-gang statute to crack down on gang activity;
- \* the death penalty for drug kingpins;
- \* a "three-strikes-and-you're-out" provision imposing life imprisonment without parole for those who commit three violent felonies; and
- \* a series of measures to combat domestic and street violence against women."