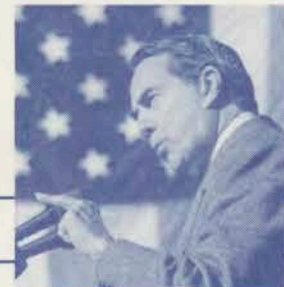


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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104TH CONGRESS

"REINING IN OUR GOVERNMENT WILL BE MY MANDATE"

OPENING OF SESSION STATEMENT MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

As the 104th Session of Congress begins, I want to congratulate Senator Daschle on his election as Democrat Leader. I have said many times that the Senate can operate effectively only if the two leaders have a relationship based on trust. I had such a relationship with Senator Mitchell and Senator Byrd, and I am confident that Senator Daschle and I will continue in that tradition.

I also want to congratulate the 11 new Republican Senators who were elected in November, and I thank them and all my Republican colleagues for their support in electing me Senate Majority Leader.

On behalf of all of us elected to serve, I thank the American people for their trust and their call to action. America has reconnected us with their hopes for a nation made more free by demanding a government that is more limited.

Restoring 10th Amendment: Reining in Government

Reining in our government will be my mandate--and I hope it will be the purpose and principle accomplishment of the 104th Congress.

It was nearly 206 years ago when the first Congress met in New York City. Much of their work was devoted to writing the Bill of Rights--the first ten amendments to our Constitution.

The tenth of those amendments reads: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, respectively, or to the people."

Federalism. The idea that power should be kept close to the people. It's the idea on which our nation was founded. But there are some in Washington--perhaps fewer this year than last--who believe neither our states nor our people can be trusted with power. Federalism has given way to paternalism--with disastrous results.

If I have one goal for the 104th Congress, it is this: That we will dust off the 10th Amendment and restore it to its rightful place in our Constitution.

S.1 - Unfunded Federal Mandates

Senate Bill Number 1 will be step number one: Legislation to end unasked for and unfunded federal mandates on states and cities and communities across America.

Senator Kempthorne, a former mayor of Boise, Idaho, knows all too well how federal mandates are bankrupting our cities and states. Along with many other senators, he has done yeoman's work in preparing this legislation. Hearings will begin this week, and I hope to bring it to the floor very soon.

But we will continue in our drive to return power to our states and our people throughout the 104th Congress. We will roll back federal programs, laws and regulations from A to Z--from Amtrak to zoological studies--working our way through the alphabet soup of government. Our guide will be this question: Is this program a basic function of a limited government, or is it an example of how government has lost faith in the judgements of our people and the potential of our markets?

I believe that, more often than not, the answer to this question will justify less federal involvement, fewer federal rules and regulations, a reduction in federal spending, and more freedom and opportunity for our states and our citizens.

S. 2 - Congressional Coverage

Part of what has allowed government to become so cavalier with power has been its ability to exclude itself from the dictates it has imposed on the American people. This will end with the passage of

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Senate Bill Number 2, and its counterpart in the House--expected to pass in that body today. I can think of no better protection for private citizens and private enterprise than the constant prospect for Members of Congress that we will have to live under the rules we inflict on everyone else.

In the same spirit, we also will propose and pass legislation to protect the rights of private property owners, and to cut the tangle of red tape forced upon our small businessmen and women.

Incidentally, it was said by someone who should know better last year that America's small businessmen and women were getting a free ride from American society. Let me set the record straight: The engine of American society is America's small business. Small business provides the jobs, the competition, and the spark for progress that is the very essence of democratic capitalism. It is small business that carries America--not the other way around.

Republicans also believe that our country's increasingly desperate fight against crime is an area where more freedom is needed at the state level.

S.3 - Crime Bill

Today we will introduce, under Senator Hatch's leadership, Senate Bill 3, a crime bill that will free states and cities to decide for themselves how to spend much of the \$8 billion in law enforcement funds appropriated last year. It will eliminate the wasteful social spending programs included in last year's bill.

And perhaps most importantly, the crime bill we introduce today will begin our effort to restore the freedom from fear we knew in the America of our youth, but lost to the children growing up in America today. We will, without apology, remove from society those who are tearing it apart with casual violence and a new, chilling disregard for human life. Our crime bill will impose mandatory minimum sentences on those who use guns in the commission of a crime, and make sure the jails are there to lock them up.

Tax Cut

And in this session we will cut taxes. Under Senator Packwood's leadership, the Finance Committee will produce, as a top priority, a tax cut that will let families keep more of their own money to invest in their own children and in their future.

There seems to be a growing, bipartisan consensus that taxes must be cut, which Republicans welcome and which encourages me to believe the Senate can act quickly. The President's recent comments indicate he is ready to sign such a bill. But I strongly object to the President's insistence on labelling America by "class." We must not divide Americans into economic groups competing against one another for the favors of government; rather, we must lead by instilling hope and restoring freedom and opportunity for all our people.

Cuts in Government Spending

By cutting the people's taxes we will reduce the government's take of their wages--worthy unto itself. But if tax cuts are also to have the effect of limiting government and providing for long-term prosperity, then they also must be matched by real cuts in government spending. This, Republicans are committed to do. No one in this chamber has spoken more eloquently about the need to deal forthrightly with our national deficit than Senator Domenici, who today assumes the Chair of the Budget Committee.

Let me be clear. Like a family examining its finances after a Christmas that was too rich, we will make hard decisions and endure sacrifices to make ends meet. With the one exception of Social Security, every bureaucracy and bureaucrat, every government program and federal expense is ripe for reduction and elimination.

Reduce Committee Budgets

And at the top of that list is the price tag for Congress, itself. Today we will pass a resolution calling upon the Rules Committee to reduce committee budgets by approximately \$34 million. The House is also taking Congressional cost-cutting action today, and we will work together throughout the next two years to save more money across government.

S.4 - Line-Item Veto

We will also work together to pass line-item veto legislation, which we introduce today as Senate Bill 4, and to send a Balanced Budget Amendment to the states for ratification. These measures, which have had the overwhelming support of the American people for some time, have been ignored in Washington for far too long. And these measures go to the heart of the question with which we began: Should governing elites rule society? Should they be able to spend the people's money without check, cloaked by impenetrable rules and omnibus appropriations bills too massive for anyone to read? Or should we trust the people?

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Paternalism or Federalism? The 104th Congress must answer that question by bowing to the will of the people, and putting its trust in them.

Finally, let me make clear that Republicans are acutely aware that the United States has only one Commander-in-Chief, and our Commander-in-Chief is President Clinton. We will support him on foreign policy whenever possible, as we did with NAFTA and GATT, and in revising out dated provisions of law on Russia, South Africa, and the Middle East.

S. 5 - Peace Powers Act of 1995

During the last two years, however, there have been some important areas of disagreement between Congress and the President in the areas of foreign policy. One of these has been the President's apparent willingness to place the agenda of the United Nations before the interests of the United States.

Therefore, we will introduce today "The Peace Powers Act of 1995," which is designated as Senate Bill 5. This legislation repeals the War Powers Resolution of 1973, and places some restrictions on U.S. participation in United Nations peacekeeping activities. The effect of the bill would be this: We would untie the President's hands in using American forces to defend American interests, but we would restrict the use of American forces and funds in United Nations peacekeeping. We do not want American soldiers under U.N. command, and the costs to America of U.N. peacekeeping must be known before it will be approved by Congress.

In a manner consistent with our Constitutional role to appropriate funds and to advise and consent on matters of foreign policy, the Senate will also take a close look at a number of other foreign policy issues in this session; including the costs of the Haiti operation, and the legality and wisdom of aiding North Korea.

It has been said that we have become a nation of competing factions, held together less by our hopes than by our wants. The implication is that we are no longer a great people, but merely "a continent of categories," and special interests. I don't believe this.

Clear Instruction from American People

It has been said that government is uncontrollable because of the uncontrollable appetites of our people. Last November was proof that this is not true. If the recent election proved anything, it proved these ideas to be the self-justification of a government grown too cynical, too fat, and too far removed from the people it is supposed to serve.

Americans have been voting in Congressional elections for more than two hundred years. Some of these elections have made little difference. But others have been turning points in history. The last one was a turning point.

The elections in November provided clear instruction from the American people. The ideas on which we will conduct the business of government were laid out in unprecedented detail during the last election campaign. This was derided as a strategy by political pundits and attacked as heresy by the established powers. But the ideas prevailed. And therefore, I believe the ideas will prevail in this body and in the House and across the sprawling expanse of government.

Republicans welcome the support of like-thinking Democrats as we work to put a leash on our government by restoring the 10th amendment, cutting taxes, balancing the budget, enacting term limits, and taking whatever other measures are necessary to make the government accountable to the voters.

Together, we hope to establish once again America's trust in her people and faith in the unmatched power of freedom to build a world of hope and opportunity for all.

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