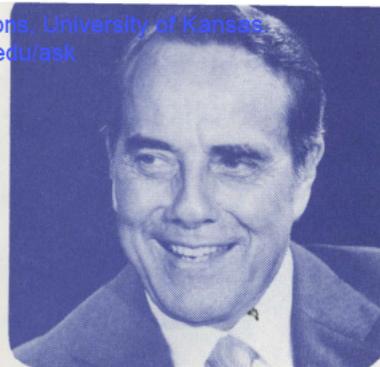


BOB DOLE



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DOLE ON CHINESE STUDENT VOTE
IT'S NOT CHINA POLICY, IT'S 'BASH BUSH'
DEMOCRATS TOSS 'BEAN BALL' AT PRESIDENT

YESTERDAY I PUT IN THE RECORD A REPORT FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AFFIRMING ONCE AGAIN THAT THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER ON CHINESE STUDENTS WILL DO EVERYTHING THE PELOSI BILL DOES -- AND MORE.

OTHERS HAVE ALSO MADE A PART OF THE RECORD AN ANALYSIS DONE BY THE WHITE HOUSE, ANOTHER DONE EARLIER BY THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AND CORRESPONDENCE INVOLVING THE PRESIDENT, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE -- ALL ASSERTING, AND PROVING, THE SAME BASIC POINT: THAT THE EXECUTIVE ORDER DOES EVERYTHING THE PELOSI BILL DOES -- AND MORE.

THE EVIDENCE, THE FACTS -- APPARENTLY THEY ARE NOT ENOUGH. AT LEAST, NOT ENOUGH FOR SOME PEOPLE.

THE PRESIDENT'S WORD

SO, YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT ADDED SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO THE PROOF. HE ADDED HIS WORD. THE PRESIDENT WROTE ME A LETTER, WHICH I WOULD ASK TO INCLUDE IN THE RECORD. I WANT TO READ THE LETTER IN ITS ENTIRETY. IT IS BRIEF. IT IS TO THE POINT.

QUOTE, DEAR BOB:

YOU HAVE ASKED HOW CHINESE STUDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY WILL BE AFFECTED IF CONGRESSMAN PELOSI'S BILL NEVER BECOMES LAW. I AM WRITING TO GIVE YOU MY PERSONAL ASSURANCE THAT NO CHINESE STUDENT WILL BE DISADVANTAGED IN ANY WAY.

AT MY DIRECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS IMPLEMENTED A PROGRAM THAT EXTENDS -- AND EXTENDS IRREVOCABLY -- THE SAME RIGHTS AND BENEFITS THAT CHINESE STUDENTS WOULD RECEIVE UNDER THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. INDEED, WE HAVE GONE BEYOND THE LEGISLATION BY PROVIDING WORK AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL CHINESE ALIENS IN THIS COUNTRY, NOT JUST CHINESE STUDENT, AND ASYLUM PROTECTION FOR ALL ALIENS UNDER THE THREAT OF COERCIVE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS, NOT JUST CHINESE ALIENS. BEYOND THAT, YOU CAN REST ASSURED THAT I WILL NEVER -- THE PRESIDENT UNDERLINES THAT WORD -- NEVER ALLOW ANY ACTION THAT WOULD FORCE THE RETURN OF CHINESE STUDENTS WHOSE LIVES OR LIBERTY ARE AT RISK.

I HOPE THIS COMMITMENT PROVIDES THE ASSURANCES SOME OF YOUR SENATE COLLEAGUES WERE SEEKING.

SINCERELY, GEORGE BUSH. END QUOTE.

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS GIVEN HIS WORD. I BELIEVE HIM. IF THERE ARE ANY WHO DON'T, PERHAPS THEY SHOULD JUST STAND UP AND SAY SO.

STRAW MAN

SO, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ISSUE HERE IS NOT PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR CHINESE STUDENTS. THAT'S A STRAW MAN. THE CHINESE STUDENTS IN THIS COUNTRY ALREADY ENJOY EVERY PROTECTION -- WITH EVERY "I" DOTTED, AND EVERY "T" CROSSED -- THAT THE PELOSI BILL WOULD PROVIDE, SHOULD WE OVERRIDE THE PRESIDENT'S VETO.

THE ISSUE IS NOT CHINESE STUDENTS.

AND, IN FACT, THE ISSUE IS NOT OUR CHINA POLICY, IN ITS BROADER TERMS. MANY SENATORS HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF THAT POLICY. MANY AMERICANS DO, TOO. THAT IS A FACT.

LAST YEAR, I CO-SPONSORED SOME LEGISLATION, AND VOTED FOR OTHER LEGISLATION, THAT -- FRANKLY -- WAS INTENDED TO SEND A MESSAGE NOT ONLY TO CHINA BUT TO THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL, THAT IT WAS TIME TO TOUGHEN UP OUR POLICY.

SOME OF THE QUESTION MARKS THAT EXISTED THEN MAY STILL EXIST NOW. SOME MAY BELIEVE THE SCOWCROFT-EAGLEBURGER TRIPS TO CHINA WERE NOT THE GREATEST IDEA IN THE WORLD. SOME MAY THINK WE NEED MORE ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. SOME MAY THINK WE OUGHT TO TRY TO ISOLATE CHINA. I HAPPEN NOT TO AGREE WITH THAT LAST POINT -- AND MANY SENATORS WERE WITH ME AT RECENT MEETINGS WITH FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, AND EARLIER WITH HENRY KISSINGER, CYRUS VANCE, LEONARD WOODCOCK AND OTHERS; AND THOSE SENATORS HEARD, ALONG WITH ME, THAT EVERY ONE OF THOSE DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS STRONGLY OPPOSE A POLICY OF TRYING TO ISOLATE CHINA.

BUT -- WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THAT POLICY, OR WITH THE POLICY THAT PRESIDENT BUSH IS FOLLOWING -- THERE ARE PLENTY OF WAYS, AND THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES, TO EXPRESS YOUR VIEW.

THAT'S WHAT THIS BODY, THIS SYSTEM, IS ALL ABOUT. TO PUT THE ISSUES ON THE TABLE, AND VOTE ON THEM.

(MORE)