

News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NOVEMBER 9, 1990

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**CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
HELPING CHALLENGERS A PRIORITY FOR
102ND CONGRESS**

WASHINGTON - "IF TUESDAY'S ELECTION RESULTS TEACH US ANYTHING, THEY TEACH US THAT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER," SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) SAID TODAY. "ONCE AGAIN, IN ALMOST EVERY CASE, BIG MONEY MEANT BIG VICTORIES AT THE POLLS.

"OF THE 35 INCUMBENT SENATORS TO FACE THE VOTERS, 34 WERE RETURNED TO THE SENATE. AND OF THE 406 HOUSE MEMBERS WHO SOUGHT RE-ELECTION, ALL BUT 15 WERE SENT BACK TO WASHINGTON", DOLE SAID. "WITH A RE-ELECTION RATE OF 97%, CONGRESSIONAL INCUMBENTS ARE LIVING ON EASY STREET", DOLE ADDED.

"INCUMBENTS ENJOY PLENTY OF ADVANTAGES -- THE FRANK, LARGE STAFF, HIGH-NAME RECOGNITION, EASY ACCESS TO THE MEDIA, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, A READY-MADE ABILITY TO TAP INTO THE SPECIAL-INTEREST MONEY THAT FUELS CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGNS", DOLE SAID.

"BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SHARING THESE ADVANTAGES, CONGRESSIONAL CHALLENGERS ARE MOST OFTEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. THAT ALL BUT ELIMINATES COMPETITION IN POLITICS.

"TAKE A LOOK AT THE PAC NUMBERS IN THE SURPRISINGLY COMPETITIVE NEW JERSEY RACE BETWEEN AN INCUMBENT AND A CHALLENGER. ACCORDING TO THE LATEST AVAILABLE FIGURES, THE INCUMBENT RECEIVED A WHOPPING \$1.3 MILLION IN PAC CONTRIBUTIONS COMPARED TO A PALTRY \$7,500 FOR THE CHALLENGER. THE CHALLENGER, IN OTHER WORDS, WAS OUT-PAC'D BY A RATIO OF 174 TO 1!

AS OF OCTOBER 17, CONGRESSIONAL INCUMBENTS HAD OUT-RAISED CHALLENGERS BY A 4-TO-1 RATIO. AND THAT'S JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG.

"INCUMBENTS AREN'T TO BLAME FOR PLAYING BY THE RULES -- THE RULES ARE THE PROBLEM. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS CHANGE SOME OF THE RULES TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, AND GIVE CHALLENGERS A FIGHTING CHANCE," DOLE SAID.

DOLE LISTED THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS AS ESSENTIAL STEPS TOWARDS HELPING CHALLENGERS AND RESTORING SOME COMPETITION IN POLITICS.

1. BROADCAST DISCOUNT - TELEVISION ADVERTISING ACCOUNTS FOR ALMOST 50% OF THE COST OF THE AVERAGE SENATE CAMPAIGN. GIVING CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES A SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT FOR NON-PRE-EMPTIBLE TELEVISION TIME WILL HELP CHALLENGERS GET THEIR MESSAGE OUT TO THE VOTERS AT A SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED COST.
2. RESTRICTIONS - UNFORTUNATELY, MANY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN "INCUMBENCY POLITICS." REDUCING THE ROLE OF PACS WILL HELP LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR CHALLENGERS.

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