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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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TAXES

DEMOCRAT PLAN REVEALS SAME OLD TAX & SPEND AGENDA

I LISTENED WITH INTEREST TO THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER THIS MORNING AS HE DISCUSSED THE EFFORTS ON HIS SIDE OF THE AISLE TO DEAL WITH AMERICA'S ECONOMIC TOUGH TIMES. I LISTENED, TOO, WITH SOME COMPASSION BECAUSE I RECOGNIZE THAT IN HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS HIS PARTY'S LEADER IN THIS BODY HE IS DOING ALL HE CAN TO PUT THE BEST SPIN ON THE DEMOCRATS NEW TAX PACKAGE. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THAT'S A TOUGH SELL, AND DESPITE HIS GOOD EFFORTS, THE BOTTOMLINE ON THE DEMOCRATS NEW TAX PACKAGE IS THIS -- IT'S NOT A PACKAGE OF TAX CUTS, IT'S A PACKAGE OF TAX INCREASES. AND SLOWLY BUT SURELY, THE SAME OLD LIBERAL ANSWER TO EVERY ECONOMIC CHALLENGE IS BUSTING OUT OF THE CLOSET: RAISE TAXES, RAISE THE DEFICIT, RAISE SPENDING AND THEN RAISE YOUR CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT AS A WAY TO SHIFT THE FOCUS AWAY FROM THEIR TIRED OLD BIG TAXES, BIG GOVERNMENT AGENDA.

CLASS WARFARE

AS WE WITNESSED IN THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, OUR COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE ARE DETERMINED TO CONTINUE WAGING THEIR PHONY CLASS WARFARE CAMPAIGN -- THEY'RE ALL FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS, THEY NEVER STOP TELLING THE MEDIA, A SLOGAN THAT RINGS MORE THAN A LITTLE HOLLOW COMING FROM THE PARTY THAT VOTED AGAINST EVERY TAX CUT RONALD REAGAN SENT TO CAPITOL HILL FOR EIGHT YEARS.

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S A WAR WHERE NOBODY WINS, AND EVERY TAXPAYER LOSES. IT'S THE KIND OF ELECTION YEAR OFFENSIVE THAT'S EVEN BEEN REJECTED BY THE DEMOCRATS' OWN PRESIDENTIAL FRONTRUNNER, PAUL TSONGAS.

KANSAS LETTER

THIS WEEK, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A KANSAS MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY THAT I CITED IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE YESTERDAY, BUT I'LL QUOTE FROM IT AGAIN BECAUSE I THINK IT SPEAKS FOR A LOT OF FOLKS IN AMERICA. STEPHEN AND MARGARET WOLFORD WROTE TO ME AND SAID THAT THEY -- AND I QUOTE -- "ARE TIRED OF WORTHLESS LIP SERVICE ABOUT HOW [THEIR] HARDSHIPS ARE OF THE UTMOST CONCERN OF OUR STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. AND "THEY" ARE ESPECIALLY SICK AND TIRED OF THE ASININE PARTISAN POLITICS THAT, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, PARALYZES ELECTED OFFICIALS FROM DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THE CRISES THIS NATION FACES."

(MORE)

TAX TODAY, TAX TOMORROW

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THIS IS A MESSAGE OF COMMON SENSE FROM MAIN STREAM AMERICA. SO, AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, AMERICANS ARE NOT DEMANDING THAT CONGRESS SHOULD RAISE THEIR TAXES -- THEY KNOW THAT WHEN CONGRESS TAXES SOMEONE TODAY THEY'LL BE BACK TAXING SOMEONE ELSE TOMORROW.

BUSH PLAN

THE GOOD NEWS IS, PRESIDENT BUSH HAS A PLAN. IT IS A PRO-GROWTH AND PRO-JOBS PACKAGE OF INCENTIVES DESIGNED TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY. IT'S A 7-POINT PROGRAM THAT CAN BE ENACTED TODAY, OR AT LEAST BY MARCH 20TH, THE DEADLINE PRESIDENT BUSH CHALLENGED CONGRESS TO MEET IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS.

SO TAKE A LOOK AT THE PLAN...HERE IT IS, AND HERE IT HAS BEEN FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS -- I AM CONFIDENT MOST PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THAT A HEALTHY REAL ESTATE ECONOMY WILL IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF OUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS THE OVERALL ECONOMY. WE CAN ALL AGREE THAT HOME OWNERSHIP -- THE DREAM OF ALL AMERICANS -- SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED.

AND JUST GO ON DOWN THE LINE, AND TAKE AN HONEST AND FAIR LOOK AT THESE PROPOSALS.

IN MY VIEW, LONG TERM GROWTH WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY THE PRESIDENT'S PACKAGE. IT MAY MEAN THAT HIS PROPOSAL NEEDS SOME MODIFICATIONS BUT, HIS PROPOSAL DOES NOT PUT OUR NATION'S SECURITY AT RISK -- IT DOES NOT BUST THE BUDGET AND IT DOES NOT RAISE TAXES.

DEADLINE APPROACHES, SO IS "ZERO"

WE HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. LET'S PROVE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT CONGRESS CAN ACT...EVEN IN AN ELECTION YEAR. WE HAVE ONLY 16 DAYS REMAINING UNTIL THE PRESIDENT'S DEADLINE FOR ENACTING A RESPONSIBLE GROWTH PACKAGE EXPIRES. AND WHEN THAT DEADLINE HITS ZERO, AND ZERO IS ALL WE HAVE TO SHOW FOR IT, ZERO IS WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO THINK ABOUT US.

IF WE CAN'T COME TO AN AGREEMENT, THEN WE OUGHT TO ADOPT THE "WASHINGTON POST" PLAN -- AS ITS EDITORIAL WRITERS SAID ON FEBRUARY 24TH, THE BEST ECONOMIC CURE-ALL FOR AMERICA RIGHT NOW WOULD BE TO "KILL ALL THE TAX BILLS." IT'S PROBABLY BETTER THAT WE LEAVE THINGS ALONE RATHER THAN MAKING THEM WORSE.

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