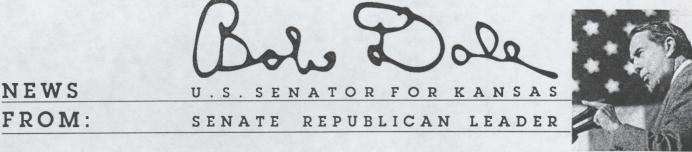
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HELP CASH-STRAPPED STATES REGISTER VOTERS, DON'T SOCK THEM WITH MULTIMILLION DOLLAR MANDATES

I RISE IN SUPPORT OF THE DOLE-STEVENS SUBSTITUTE. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT NO MATTER HOW NOBLE THE IDEAS ADVANCED IN THE MOTOR-VOTER BILL, THE STATES SIMPLY CAN'T AFFORD IT.

EIGHT STATES, INCLUDING MY STATE OF KANSAS, ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL COST OF COMPLYING WITH THIS BILL'S REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE \$80 MILLION. THE TOTAL COST FOR ALL 50 STATES WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MUCH HIGHER.

WE'VE GOT A LAW HERE IN CONGRESS NOW WHERE IF SOMEONE PROPOSED A NEW PROGRAM, THEY ALSO HAVE TO FIND THE MONEY FOR IT. I THINK IT WOULD ONLY BE FAIR TO APPLY THAT SAME LAW TO THIS BILL.

I ASK MY FRIENDS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE STATES TO PAY FOR YOUR LEGISLATION? DO YOU WANT THEM TO CUT THEIR EDUCATION BUDGETS? HOW ABOUT THEIR CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS? OR MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TELL THEM TO RAISE THEIR STATE TAXES, AND PASS THE COSTS ALONG TO THE TAXPAYERS.

IT'S NO WONDER THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES, THE NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION, AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES HAVE ALL CALLED FOR THE DEMOCRATS' MOTOR VOTER BILL TO BE SENT TO THE REPAIR SHOP.

INSTEAD OF FORCING SOMETHING ON THE STATES, WHY DON'T WE LEND THEM A HELPING HAND?

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT THE STEVENS-DOLE SUBSTITUTE WOULD DO, BY PROVIDING PROVIDING GRANTS TO STATES TO HELP THEM SET UP MOTOR VOTER PROGRAMS.

AS SENATOR STEVENS POINTED OUT -- THE STATES, AS THEY SO OFTEN DO, HAVE BEATEN US TO THE PUNCH.

FULLY 27 STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ALREADY PROVIDE CITIZENS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE WHEN APPLYING FOR THEIR DRIVER'S LICENSES. 17 OTHER STATES ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING SIMILAR LEGISLATION.

INSTEAD OF ALLOWING THE STATES TO DETERMINE WHAT WORKS BEST FOR THEM, AS WELL AS TO DETERMINE WHAT THEY CAN AFFORD, MY DEMOCRAT FRIENDS CAN'T RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO MANDATE A "ONE SIZE FITS ALL" REQUIREMENT -- A REQUIREMENT WHICH MANY CASH-STRAPPED STATES SIMPLY CAN NOT AFFORD.

OUR SUBSTITUTE IS MORE FLEXIBLE, COSTS FAR LESS, BEEFS UP FEDERAL AND STATE EFFORTS TO COMBAT ELECTION FRAUD AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION, AND -- MOST IMPORTANTLY -- OUR SUBSTITUTE WILL BE SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT. AND THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE. WE'VE PLAYED THIS GAME BEFORE.

AND THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE. WE'VE PLAYED THIS GAME BEFORE. THE DEMOCRAT BILL WILL PROBABLY PASS THE SENATE. THE PRESIDENT WILL VETO IT. AND THE VETO WILL BE SUSTAINED. AND ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WILL HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

WHY DON'T WE DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR A CHANGE. WHY DON'T WE ACTUALLY PASS A BILL THAT WILL BE SIGNED INTO LAW.

BUT AS WE SAW WITH CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM, THE MAJORITY PARTY WOULD RATHER PLAY POLITICAL GAMES, THAN HAVE MEANINGFUL REFORM SIGNED INTO LAW.