

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 13, 1993

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TAX INCREASE TRUST FUND UPDATE

PRESIDENT CLINTON, CUT SPENDING NOW:
DEMOCRATS BLAST DEFICIT "GIMMICKS"

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today made the following remarks on the Senate floor on President Clinton's latest attempt to make his record tax increases look more palatable:

The American people aren't going to buy President Clinton's wallet-busting tax bill. They can't afford it. And they know that the President's "tax increase trust fund" is nothing more than a public relations gimmick.

The American people know there are only two ways to reduce the deficit: raise taxes, or cut spending. But the President sees only one way.

So far, he's leading the league in tax increases. In fact, he's set an all-time record. But he's striking out again and again in the one category the people care most about -- cutting federal spending. That's what the people want from Washington: less spending, less government and less doubletalk. So, I would say to President Clinton, Mr. President, cut spending first, cut spending now, and cut out the gimmicks, starting with the phony "tax increase trust fund".

The Bush "Gimmick"

Now, some folks will say, "wait a minute, Senator Dole, didn't President Bush propose something similar last year?" Well, President Bush did call for a voluntary check-off on your tax returns, where citizens could earmark up to 10% of their taxes to deficit reduction.

But there's one huge difference -- while it may not have been the greatest idea in the world, the Bush plan did force real spending cuts.

In fact, an August 25th 1992 article in Newsday says it best: "Economists agree on one point. Bush's proposal would not stimulate -- and could in fact dampen -- growth in the economy because of the significant spending cuts the plan would require."

Listen to the Democrats

Now, how did the Clinton campaign react, the same Clinton team that is now pushing the "tax increase trust fund"?

Listen to this from then-Democrat Party Chairman Ron Brown, "it's a silly gimmick. What we need is a vision for getting the economy back on track instead of some check-off scheme."

Let's remember, too, that the Democrat-controlled Senate itself rejected the so-called Bush gimmick by a 58-to-36 vote on September 25th, 1992. During the debate, the distinguished Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Robert Byrd, called the Bush check-off "a silver bullet -- it sounds good. It's a gimmick." If taxpayers took the idea seriously, my friend went on to say, "there will be no spending left. ... We would have to turn off the lights of the capitol."

But there's more. Listen to this argument made by a prominent Democrat Senator just eight months ago:

"We know how to manage, in an orderly fashion, the fiscal affairs of the largest government in the world, if we will simply rise to our responsibilities. We do not need some sort of ill-conceived, poorly thought out, flawed contraption to try to persuade us how we ought to deal with the problem of the deficit. No, this is simply another means by which some of our colleagues can go back to the rotary club back home, beat their chests and claim they are doing something about the deficit, when in reality

(more)

they are doing nothing of the sort." I couldn't have made a better argument about the Clinton Administration's phony public relations gimmick, but that's not Bob Dole talking. That's Senate Budget Committee Chairman Jim Sasser on President Bush's so-called deficit reduction gimmick.

Cut Spending

With the beleaguered taxpayers already 113 days into the tax and spend Clinton Administration, it looks like the campaign spin is going the other way now. Unfortunately, the only campaign the American people are interested in right now is a campaign to cut federal spending -- but they're not getting it.

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