

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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JUST NUMBERS ON A PIECE OF PAPER

TO PUT IT PLAINLY, I AM DISAPPOINTED. THE SENATE MADE SOME CHOICES EARLY IN THE MORNING OF MAY 10 WHEN IT PASSED ITS FISCAL 1986 BUDGET RESOLUTION-- DIFFICULT CHOICES. CHOICES THAT NOT ONLY LOOK GOOD ON PAPER, BUT ACTUALLY MEAN SOMETHING.

TODAY THE HOUSE MADE ITS CHOICES. BUT THE CHOICES IT MADE WERE THE EASY ONES. CHOICES THAT WOULD DO LITTLE TO ATTACK THE DEFICIT PROBLEM ALL OF US-- REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRAT ALIKE -- AT LEAST SAY WE ARE DETERMINED TO SOLVE.

MY BIGGEST CONCERN WITH THE HOUSE BUDGET IS NOT THAT IT SLASHES DEFENSE SPENDING BEYOND THE LEVEL THAT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE, OR THAT MUCH OF THE SAVINGS ARE "CREAM PUFF" NUMBERS THAT WILL NEVER BE REALIZED --- OR THAT THE HOUSE REFUSED TO ELIMINATE EVEN ONE PROGRAM.

MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS THAT THE HOUSE PLAN DOES NOT FORCE CONGRESS TO PRODUCE ANYTHING CLOSE TO THE AMOUNT OF DEFICIT REDUCTION NEEDED TO SUSTAIN THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

OVER THREE YEARS THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET RECONCILES ONLY \$37 BILLION IN SAVINGS -- ONLY 27 PERCENT OF \$135 BILLION MANDATED IN THE SENATE PLAN. THE SENATE ADOPTED SEPARATE "CAPS" ON THE OVERALL LEVEL OF DEFENSE AND NONDEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS. THE HOUSE REFUSED TO DO SO.

NUMBERS ON A PIECE OF PAPER MEAN VERY LITTLE. WHAT I THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT AND EXPECT FROM CONGRESS IS ACTION THAT WILL MEANINGFULLY REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT AND GUARANTEE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY REMAINS ON TRACK. THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET SIMPLY FAILS TO MEET THAT GOAL. BUT I REMAIN HOPEFUL, THAT DURING CONFERENCE WITH MY SENATE COLLEAGUES, HOUSE MEMBERS WILL RECOGNIZE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND JOIN THE SENATE IN MAKING THE TOUGH AND RIGHT CHOICES.