

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE RELEASE OF TOWER COMMISSION REPORT

I JOIN THE PRESIDENT IN WELCOMING THE RELEASE OF THE TOWER COMMISSION REPORT. IT CAN BE A MAJOR STEP IN HELPING US TAKE THE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS NECESSARY AND GETTING THIS ISSUE BEHIND US.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT COLOSSAL BLUNDERS WERE MADE. SOME ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONNEL CHANGES MAY BE NEEDED. THAT'S ULTIMATELY THE PRESIDENT'S CALL.

THE PRESIDENT HAS NEVER DUCKED THIS ISSUE. HE KNOWS WHERE THE BUCK STOPS. HE'S ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY, AND I'M CONFIDENT HE'LL NOW TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RECTIFY THE REAL PROBLEMS THE REPORT REVEALS.

BUT, AS WE DIGEST AND ACT ON THE REPORT, LET'S KEEP TWO IMPORTANT THINGS IN MIND.

FIRST, WE CAN'T FORGET IT WAS THE PRESIDENT WHO INITIATED THIS REPORT. AND, FOR THAT MATTER, ORDERED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL AND HAS CONSISTENTLY COOPERATED WITH CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS.

HE WANTS THE TRUTH OUT. NOT BECAUSE THE REVELATIONS WE SEE IN THIS REPORT, AND ELSEWHERE, ARE NECESSARILY THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD FOR RONALD REAGAN. BUT BECAUSE GETTING THE TRUTH OUT IS BEST FOR THE COUNTRY.

AND THE SECOND THING TO KEEP IN MIND IS THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE PAST -- AS IMPORTANT AS THEY ARE -- ARE NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THE TASKS OF THE FUTURE.

CLEARLY, ONE IMMEDIATE STEP NECESSARY IS FOR THE PRESIDENT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT HIS HAND IS FIRMLY ON THE RUDDER -- THAT HE'S IN CHARGE, THAT HE'S MAKING THE DECISIONS, AND THAT THERE IS VIGOROUS FOLLOW-UP TO INSURE THOSE DECISIONS ARE BEING FAITHFULLY IMPLEMENTED. I'M CONFIDENT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE TAKING THOSE STEPS.

AND THEN WE HAVE TO GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF THIS NATION. WE HAVE 22 MONTHS LEFT IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, AND MANY, MANY CRITICAL ISSUES TO DEAL WITH. IF WE GET BOGGED DOWN IN FINGER-POINTING; IN TEARING DOWN THE PRESIDENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION -- WE'RE JUST NOT GOING TO BE UP TO THE CHALLENGES AHEAD. AND ALL OF US -- ALL AMERICANS -- WILL BE THE LOSERS.

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