

News from Senator

Katie Boyle

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 20, 1987

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE  
(202) 224-3135

## DOLE SAYS GORBACHEV SHOULD FIND ANOTHER PLATFORM

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER TODAY SUGGESTED THAT GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV BE OFFERED 10 OR 15 MINUTES TO SPEAK ON U.S. TELEVISION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO ADDRESSING A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS.

The following is Senator Dole's floor statement:

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE PLAN TO HAVE SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION, OR A JOINT MEETING, OF CONGRESS HAS RAISED VERY SERIOUS CONCERNS ON THE PART OF SOME IN CONGRESS; AND, JUDGING BY MY MAIL AND PHONE CALLS, ON THE PART OF MANY IN THIS COUNTRY.

NO ONE'S INTEREST WILL BE SERVED IF AN ADDRESS TO THE CONGRESS IS FIRMLY LAID ON FOR GORBACHEV'S SCHEDULE, AND LATER HAS TO BE CANCELED, OR GENERATES DEMONSTRATIONS ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE.

IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO HAVE A DIALOGUE WITH GORBACHEV -- THE PRESIDENT WILL; AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHOULD, TOO. I HOPE THAT AN APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GORBACHEV AND THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP CAN BE WORKED OUT.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT KIND OF DIALOGUE -- TWO WAY; HE PRESENTS HIS VIEWS; WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE HIM AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS AND VIEWS -- THAT'S THE WAY TO GO. IT JUST MAKES MORE SENSE THAN A ONE-WAY ADDRESS.

SO I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS IDEA OF AN ADDRESS CAN BE SHELVED, NOW, IN THE PLANNING STAGE, AND BEFORE ANYTHING IS SET IN CONCRETE.

I WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION -- IN FACT, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT STRONG CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN -- TO OFFERING GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV 10 OR 15 MINUTES ON TELEVISION, TO ADDRESS OUR NATION; PROVIDED ONLY THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN BE ACCORDED THE SAME

(more)

OPPORTUNITY FOR A DIRECT, LIVE ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE. IN FACT, WITH MODERN TECHNOLOGY, THERE IS NO REASON THE TWO LEADERS COULDN'T SPEAK BACK-TO-BACK, THE SAME EVENING.

AND LET ME STRESS: THIS KIND OF ADDRESS BY GORBACHEV WOULD NOT BE ANY KIND OF SPECIAL HONOR FOR HIM -- I CERTAINLY FEEL NO IMPULSE TO ACCORD HIM, OR THE COMMUNIST REGIME HE LEADS, ANY PARTICULAR HONOR. BUT THE FACT IS THAT THERE ARE TWO SUPERPOWERS ON THIS EARTH; AND THE BETTER WE CAN COMMUNICATE AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S VIEWS, THE BETTER OFF ALL OF US PROBABLY WILL BE.

SO IT SEEMS TO ME THIS WOULD BE A SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD WAY TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER BEFORE IT TURNS INTO A PROBLEM. AND I HOPE THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THE SOVIETS, WILL CONSIDER IT.

-###-