

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY
STREAMLINE CONGRESS WITH FEWER COMMITTEES
WAR ON DRUGS -- NOT ON THE TAXPAYER

MR. PRESIDENT, ON OCTOBER 22 OF LAST YEAR, THE SENATE GAVE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE ANTI-DRUG ABUSE ACT OF 1988. THAT BILL, FOR THE FIRST TIME, CALLED ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO SUBMIT A NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY TO THE CONGRESS WITHIN 180 DAYS OF THE CONFIRMATION OF THE NEWLY CREATED DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

LAST NIGHT, THE PRESIDENT UNVEILED FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THIS NATION'S NEW COMPREHENSIVE ATTACK ON ILLICIT DRUGS. THE STRATEGY IS ON TIME AND IT'S ON TARGET.

LET ME CAUTION MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE OUTSET -- THIS IS NOT A FIGHT THAT WILL WON OVERNIGHT, WILL NOT BE WON BY MERE DOLLARS, AND WILL NOT BE WON THROUGH PARTISAN POLITICS.

THIS FIGHT IS ABOUT COMMITMENT, ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF OUR CITIZENS AND THE CITIZENS OF OTHER DEMOCRACIES WHO ARE BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY DRUG PRODUCERS, SMUGGLERS, DEALERS AND ESPECIALLY DRUG USERS.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE FED-UP, FRIGHTENED, AND READY TO FIGHT. BUT, THEY NEED OUR HELP.

RESOURCES

MR. PRESIDENT, THE FIGHT IS NOT ABOUT RESOURCES EITHER. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED SPENDING TO COMBAT DRUG USE FROM \$1.1 BILLION IN 1981 TO A PROPOSED NEARLY \$8 BILLION FOR 1990.

THE NEW STRATEGY CALLS FOR AN INCREASE OF \$2.2 BILLION FROM THIS YEAR'S LEVEL. THAT'S MORE THAN THE \$1.7 BILLION THAT THE SENATE HAS DISCUSSED EARLIER THIS YEAR AS THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT SOME CALL "FULLY FUNDING" THE WAR ON DRUGS. SO THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DISAGREEMENT ON THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES.

REVENUE

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS ALSO SENT THE CONGRESS A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF HOW TO PAY FOR THE INCREASED RESOURCES FOR DRUGS. I'VE HEARD SOME ALREADY CALL FOR TAX INCREASES TO PAY FOR THE WAR ON DRUGS. THE GOVERNMENT NOW SPENDS ABOUT \$1 TRILLION EACH YEAR, SO I THINK WE CAN FIND ENOUGH MONEY WITHOUT RAISING TAXES. IF WE LOOK AROUND THE CONGRESS, WE CAN PROBABLY FIND PLENTY OF FAT TO CUT TO HELP FIGHT DRUGS. SO, LET ME SAY LOUD AND CLEAR: THIS IS A WAR ON DRUGS, NOT A WAR ON THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

THE STRATEGY

THE 1988 DRUG BILL LISTED FOUR POINTS TO BE COVERED BY THE NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY -- 1) LONG RANGE GOALS, 2) SHORT TERM GOALS, 3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE BALANCE OF RESOURCES BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND, AND 4) STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

THE STRATEGY DOES GIVE US THE GOALS BY WHICH WE WILL BE ABLE TO MEASURE OUR SUCCESSES AND OUR FAILURES IN THE NEWLY COORDINATED BATTLE. GENERALLY, IT CALLS FOR REDUCING ILLICIT DRUG USAGE BY 10% DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS, AND BY 50% DURING THE NEXT 10 YEARS. THAT'S A BIG CHALLENGE BUT, IF ARE UNITED, WE CAN ACHIEVE THESE NEW GOALS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE SECOND STRATEGY IS DUE IN JUST SIX MONTHS, SO CHANGES WILL BE MADE AS WE GET A CHANCE TO REVIEW WHAT IS WORKING. IN THE MEAN TIME, THE STRATEGY CALLS FOR SPENDING ABOUT 70% OF THE TOTAL FUNDS ON SUPPLY AND 30% ON DEMAND. WE SIMPLY NEED
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