

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE GIVES BUSH FOUR STARS FOR PRIME TIME PRESS CONFERENCE

MR. DOLE. MR PRESIDENT. I WANT TO CONGRATUALTE PRESIDENT BUSH FOR AN EXCELLENT FIRST PRIME TIME NATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE. IN THE REAGAN YEARS, THE NATIONAL PRESS WAS ALWAYS CLAMORING FOR MORE PRESS CONFERENCES, AND MORE ACCESS TO THE PRESIDENT.

WELL, PRESIDENT BUSH HAS GIVEN THEM ACCESS -- AND THEN SOME. IN FACT, SOME REPORTERS ARE NOW COMPLAINING THEY HAVE TOO MUCH ACCESS I GUESS YOU CAN'T WIN.

BUT PRESIDENT BUSH DEMONSTRATED LAST NIGHT HIS COOL COMMAND OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, ESPECIALLY CHINA. THE PRESIDENT SPOKE WITH EASE AND EXPERIENCE ABOUT THE COUNTRY IN WHICH HE SERVED SO WELL AS OUR AMBASSADOR. THE QUESTIONS WERE TOUGH BUT HE MET THEM HEAD ON WITH CANDOR AND DEPTH.

THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE HUMAN TRAGEDY IN BEIJING AND REFUSED TO BACK AWAY FROM THE STRONG ACTIONS HE HAS ALREADY TAKEN, INCLUDING REAFFIRMING OUR RIGHT TO PROVIDE ASYLUM FOR CHINESE DISSIDENTS.

ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT SUBJECT, THE PRESIDENT UNDERScoreD AGAIN HIS TOTAL AND COMPLETE REJECTION OF THE REGRETTABLE RNC TOM FOLEY SMEAR RELEASE. PRESIDENT BUSH -- AS DO I AND MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE -- VIEW SPEAKER FOLEY AS AN HONORABLE, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT WHO HAS EARNED THE RESPECT OF REPUBLICANS, DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENTS.

AND WE KNOW HE WILL BE A GREAT SPEAKER. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM, AS DOES PRESIDENT BUSH.

I AM NOT A T.V. CRITIC SO I WON'T JUDGE HOW THE LIGHTING AND THE SETTING LOOKED ON THE TUBE, BUT ON PERFORMANCE I'LL GIVE THE PRESIDENT FOUR STARS.

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