

*Bob Dole*



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 1, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

## UNEMPLOYMENT ALTERNATIVE

ON MONDAY, I URGED MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF INVOKING CLOTURE ON THE MOTION TO PROCEED TO S. 1554, THE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PROPOSAL.

I THINK THAT DEBATE ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES IS NECESSARY AND THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC TO OPENLY DISCUSS THIS PROPOSAL AND ANY AND ALL ALTERNATIVES.

NO ONE DISPUTES THE PAIN AND HARDSHIP OF THE UNEMPLOYED. I SAID THAT ON MONDAY BEFORE THE VOTE, AND I REPEAT IT NOW.

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE IS USING THIS SERIOUS ISSUE AS A POLITICAL GAME -- AND THEY ONLY DECIDED TO DO SO BARELY ONE WEEK AGO.

### PROCESS

SO, HOW WAS THIS PROPOSAL DEVELOPED?

FIRST, THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL APPEARED ON MY DOORSTEP RIGHT BEFORE MARK-UP -- JUST ONE WEEK AGO TODAY.

NOW, WITH NO HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSAL, NO REPORT FILED AND LITTLE REVIEW, THE DEMOCRATS ARE MARCHING TO FLOOR CONSIDERATION SO THAT THEY'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT OVER THE AUGUST RECESS.

### FLAWS OF BENTSEN PROPOSAL

I BELIEVE THAT THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL IS SERIOUSLY FLAWED -- IT BREACHES THE BUDGET AGREEMENT AND IS UNNECESSARILY COSTLY AND ADMINISTRATIVELY COMPLEX.

### FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS ISSUES IN THIS BILL IS THE ATTEMPT TO SIDESTEP THE BUDGET AGREEMENT.

RECOVERY IS UNDERWAY -- LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE:

THE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS ROSE FOR THE FIFTH CONSECUTIVE MONTH.

NEW HOME SALES FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE WERE THE HIGHEST THEY'VE BEEN SINCE AUGUST OF 1990.

GNP AND INFLATION RATE ESTIMATES ARE ALSO ENCOURAGING.

AND, THE LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORTS THAT IN THE MOST RECENT DATA, THERE'S A DECREASE OF 21,000 AMERICANS FILING FIRST-TIME CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS.

WITH ALL THIS GOOD NEWS, I FEAR THAT THESE EFFORTS, TO UNDERMINE THE DISCIPLINE OF THE BUDGET ACT WILL SOON MAKE TRUE BUDGET REDUCTION ILLUSORY AND SEND THE WRONG ECONOMIC MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON.

I HAVE A LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN GREENSPAN THAT SAYS JUST THAT. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT IT BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY REMARKS.

I ALSO HAVE A FEW EDITORIALS.

I THINK MY FRIENDS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE SHOULD PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO THIS MORNING'S USA TODAY ARTICLE, "EXTEND JOBLESS BENEFITS, BUT DO IT THE RIGHT WAY".

THEIR OPINION OF THE BENTSEN PACKAGE IS, AND I QUOTE: "THE IDEA HAS LOTS OF HEART, BUT IT UTTERLY LACKS THE BRAINS OR GUTS TO GIVE IT LIFE."

TWO OTHER EDITORIALS FROM THE WASHINGTON POST ENTITLED "TIME OUT ON THE DEFICIT," AND "THE DEMOCRATS ON UNEMPLOYMENT" CRITICIZE THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL FOR ITS FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY.

I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THESE EDITORIALS BE INCLUDED IN THE RECORD AT THE CONCLUSION OF MY REMARKS.

### T U R

ANOTHER CONCERN OF MINE WITH THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL IS THAT IT UTILIZES THE TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AS THE MECHANISM TO TRIGGER A PROGRAM OF 100% FEDERALLY FUNDED BENEFITS.

THIS MEASURE COMES FROM MONTHLY HOUSEHOLD SURVEY DATA AND HAS NEVER BEEN USED IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM.

IT INCLUDES NEW ENTRANTS TO THE LABOR FORCE WHO HAVE LITTLE WORK HISTORY, COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO ARE BETWEEN TERMS, AND THOSE WHO HAVE QUIT OR BEEN FIRED FROM THEIR JOBS.

(MORE)