

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

UNEMPLOYMENT GOES DOWN DEMOCRATS DIAL "1-800-DEFICIT"

UNEMPLOYMENT GOES DOWN

THERE'S MORE ENCOURAGING NEWS TO REPORT ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT FRONT. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REPORTED THIS MORNING THAT JULY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPPED FROM JUNE'S 7.0 PERCENT TO 6.8 PERCENT. ACCORDING TO JANET NORWOOD, COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, THESE NUMBERS SHOW AND I QUOTE: "THAT THE DETERIORATION IN THE LABOR MARKET HAS STOPPED."

AND THIS, IS ON TOP OF MORE GOOD ECONOMIC NEWS REPORTED THIS WEEK.

DOLE PLAN - PAYS FOR ITSELF

LAST NIGHT, ALONG WITH SENATORS SIMPSON AND DOMENICI, I OFFERED A SUBSTITUTE BILL TO THE LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM TEXAS, SENATOR BENTSEN, WHICH I BELIEVE WAS A MORE RESPONSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS WE ARE ADDRESSING.

UNFORTUNATELY, MY PROPOSAL DID NOT PASS.

WHILE GOOD INTENTIONED, THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL INCREASES THE DEFICIT BY ALMOST \$6 BILLION -- BREACHING THE BUDGET AGREEMENT APPROVED ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS LAST YEAR. IT PROVIDES A LEVEL OF BENEFITS WHOLLY INCONSISTENT WITH AN ECONOMY ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY AND PROVIDES DISINCENTIVES TO RE-EMPLOYMENT.

IT IS ADMINISTRATIVELY COMPLEX AND UNNECESSARILY COSTLY.

MY BILL PAID FOR ITSELF AND DID NOT INCREASE THE DEFICIT WHICH SHOULD BE GOOD NEWS TO ALL AMERICANS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT KEEPING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY STRONG.

IT PROVIDED THOSE STATES WITH HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO HELP THOSE WHO HAVE EXHAUSTED THEIR BENEFITS UNDER CURRENT LAW.

IT WAS A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE PROPOSAL -- COSTING \$1.6 BILLION LESS THAN THE BENTSEN PROPOSAL.

IT WAS ALSO A PROPOSAL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SAID IT WOULD NOT OPPOSE AND IN FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE LIKELY TO SIGN -- THEREBY PROVIDING RELIEF TO THE UNEMPLOYED AS SOON AS SEPTEMBER 1ST.

1-800-DEFICIT

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE HAVE TRIED TO HYPE THIS ISSUE AS AN EMERGENCY -- AND WHILE PRETENDING TO DIAL 911, THEY'RE REALLY DIALING 1-800-"DEFICIT" WHICH IS A WRONG NUMBER IN MY BOOK.

THE DOLE PROPOSAL IS MORE IN LINE WITH THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM WE ARE FACING AND IS SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERNS AND INTERESTS OF ALL AMERICANS IN CONTROLLING THE DEFICIT.

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