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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**DOLE TO REINTRODUCE RESPONSIBLE ALTERNATIVE: DEMOCRAT BUDGET-BUSTER
D.O.A.; DEMOCRATS SHOULD JOIN GOP & PRESIDENT TO ENACT BENEFITS**

LATER TODAY, I WILL BE INTRODUCING THE DOLE/DOMENICI/ROTH ALTERNATIVE AND CHALLENGE MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE TO STOP PLAYING POLITICS AND DO SOMETHING TO GET BENEFITS TO AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED WORKERS. THE BILL I AM INTRODUCING IS SIMILAR TO THE ALTERNATIVE OFFERED LAST WEEK BUT WITH CERTAIN SIGNIFICANT CHANGES.

MODIFICATION AIMS AT POCKETS OF UNEMPLOYMENT

IN ADDITION TO THE SIX AND TEN WEEKS OF EXTENDED BENEFITS, THIS BILL TAKES AIM AT THE SO-CALLED POCKETS OF UNEMPLOYMENT. CERTAINLY, THERE ARE PROBLEMS OUT THERE WITH THE LOGGERS IN THE NORTHWEST, HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES IN THE NORTHEAST AND WEST, AND BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRIES IN SPOTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

THIS LEGISLATION DIRECTS THE SECRETARY OF LABOR TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM TARGETED AT THOSE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS HIT BY DOWNTURNS THAT ARE NOT REFLECTED IN THE ECONOMY AS A WHOLE. THIS PROGRAM WOULD INCLUDE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE, TRAINING, JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE, AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE DISLOCATED WORKERS TO BE REINTEGRATED INTO THE ECONOMY. THIS PROGRAM WOULD ALSO ADDRESS NEEDS RELATED TO INCOME SUPPORT WHILE THE SERVICES WERE DELIVERED.

IN ADDITION, THIS LEGISLATION DIRECTS THE SECRETARY OF LABOR TO STUDY THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF USING THE INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE EXHAUSTEES, VERSUS THE TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AS A TRIGGER FOR EXTENDED BENEFIT PROGRAMS. WE'VE HEARD A LOT OF DEBATE ON THE FLOOR OVER WHETHER IUR OR TUR IS BETTER AND THIS STUDY SHOULD HELP TO PUT THE ISSUE TO REST.

DOLE ALTERNATIVE PAYS FOR ITSELF

THIS IS THE SAME BILL THAT PAYS FOR ITSELF THROUGH THE SPECTRUM AUCTION AND CERTAIN REFORMS TO THE COLLECTION OF GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS.

THERE IS NO SEQUESTER UNDER THIS BILL AND NO NEED TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY. THE LEGISLATION IS DEFICIT NEUTRAL.

IT RESPECTS THE BUDGET AGREEMENT AND ABIDES BY THE DISCIPLINE AGREED TO ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS LESS THAN A YEAR AGO. IN SHORT, UNLIKE THE CONFERENCE REPORT WE JUST PASSED WHICH INCREASES THE DEFICIT \$6.2 BILLION, THIS BILL PROVIDES TARGETED BENEFITS TO UNEMPLOYED WORKERS WITHOUT MORTGAGING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURES.

PRESIDENT WILL SIGN THE RESPONSIBLE PACKAGE

BUT PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACT ABOUT THIS BILL THAT I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL SIGN IT. THE REAL MEASURE OF SUCCESS AROUND THIS PLACE IS WHAT ACTUALLY GETS TURNED INTO LAW.

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO AMERICA'S UNEMPLOYED WORKERS THAT WE SPENT THE WEEK BEFORE OUR AUGUST RECESS TALKING ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT AND HAVE JUST SPENT ABOUT ANOTHER WEEK ON THE ISSUE. WHAT MATTERS TO THE UNEMPLOYED IS WHAT'S IN THE MAIL BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT PUTS FOOD ON THE TABLE.

SO WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE ON THIS, I HOPE MY COLLEAGUES -- PARTICULARLY THOSE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, WILL LOOK CLOSELY AT THE LEGISLATION WE WILL INTRODUCE AND LISTEN TO THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE SAYS HE WILL SIGN IT.

I HOPE THAT WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE WILL STOP THE POLITICAL RHETORIC AND SIT DOWN WITH US AND WORK THIS ISSUE OUT.

I'VE BEEN AROUND THIS PLACE LONG ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT IT WASTES A LOT OF TIME AND DOES LITTLE GOOD TO KEEP SENDING THE PRESIDENT THE SAME POORLY CONCEIVED, BUDGET BUSTING LEGISLATION THAT IS DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

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