

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 16, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

SUSTAIN EXTENDED BENEFITS VETO

DOLE TO PRESS FOR DEBATE ON GOP ALTERNATIVE; STOP POLITICAL GAMES, START TALKING ABOUT RESPONSIBLE BENEFITS PACKAGE

IN VETOING S. 1722, THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 1991, PRESIDENT BUSH SAID THAT AND I QUOTE: "IF A BILL PROVIDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER -- FINANCED UNDER THE BUDGET AGREEMENT -- REACHED MY DESK, IT WOULD BE SIGNED IMMEDIATELY SO WE COULD PROVIDE REAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO THE UNEMPLOYED."

I DON'T THINK THAT THE MESSAGE COULD BE CLEARER THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS WITH EXTENDED BENEFITS. HE HAS BEEN SAYING SO FOR MONTHS.

BUT HE WILL NOT DO SO AT THE COST OF THE BUDGET AGREEMENT. SENDING THE MESSAGE THAT WASHINGTON DOESN'T CARE ABOUT INCREASING THE DEFICIT -- THAT WASHINGTON HAS NO FISCAL CONTROL -- PUTS ALL AMERICANS AT JEOPARDY.

S. 1722 JEOPARDIZES ALL AMERICANS

IT PUTS EMPLOYED AND OUT-OF-WORK AMERICANS AT RISK BECAUSE IT JEOPARDIZES THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY WE HAVE JUST STARTED TO SEE.

IT PUTS FUTURE GENERATIONS AT RISK BECAUSE THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY THAT MONEY BACK WITH INTEREST TO THE GERMANS OR THE JAPANESE OR WHOEVER IS FUNDING THE US GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME.

AND THIS, IS REALLY THE BOTTOM LINE OF S. 1722 AND WHY THE SENATE SHOULD SUSTAIN THAT VETO.

IF THIS DEBATE WERE JUST A MATTER OF WHO COULD PROVIDE THE MOST GENEROUS PACKAGE, THEN I WOULD HAVE OFFERED A PACKAGE OF 25 OR 30 WEEKS OF EXTENDED BENEFITS WITH A REACHBACK COVERING EVERYONE.

BUT IF THAT IS THE APPROACH THAT CONGRESS IS GOING TO TAKE, WHAT WILL BE THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY? I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE HAVE LOTS MORE PROGRAMS -- PROBABLY SOME GOOD ONES -- THAT WILL HIKE THE DEFICIT UP BILLIONS MORE.

BUT IF WE WERE TO DO ALL THAT, ECONOMICS 101 SAYS THAT YOU WILL SEE HIGHER INTEREST RATES, LOWER BUSINESS ACTIVITY, AND HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT.

IN SHORT, THE DECEPTION OF S. 1722 IS THAT IT GIVES EXTENDED BENEFITS WITH ONE HAND, WHILE TAKING AWAY JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH THE OTHER.

(MORE)

THIS DEBATE HAS ONLY BEEN ABOUT POLITICS

IF MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE WERE TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING BENEFITS TO UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS, THEY WOULD HAVE SAT DOWN WITH THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS A LONG TIME AGO TO CRAFT A BILL THAT DOESN'T BUST THE BUDGET AGREEMENT AND RUN UP THE DEFICIT. CERTAINLY, AS WE ALL KNOW, THE INVITATION TO DO SO HAS BEEN THERE.

BUT I HONESTLY DON'T THINK THAT MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE WANT AN UNEMPLOYMENT BILL. AT LEAST THE RECORD SO FAR WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THEY ARE MORE INTERESTED IN POLITICAL BENEFITS THAN EXTENDED BENEFITS.

TWICE A BILL HAS GONE TO THE PRESIDENT THAT WE ALL KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING WAS UNACCEPTABLE. I WONDER HOW MANY MORE TIMES WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEND THE PRESIDENT THE SAME BUDGET BUSTING LEGISLATION THAT PRODUCES POLITICAL SHOWDOWNS, BUT NO EXTENDED BENEFIT CHECKS IN THE MAIL.

AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF POLITICAL GAMES

I THINK AMERICANS ARE TIRED OF POLITICAL GAMES FOR THEY ONLY BENEFIT THE POLITICIANS.

WE ALL WANT EXTENDED BENEFITS LEGISLATION. THERE'S BEEN NO CONTROVERSY ON THAT ISSUE. THE DIFFERENCE, HOWEVER, BETWEEN THIS SIDE OF THE AISLE AND THE OTHER, IS THAT WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE PAID FOR.

I TRULY BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT LEGISLATION THAT IS PAID FOR. I TRULY BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF CONGRESS TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE DEFICIT AND FURTHER MORTGAGING THIS NATION'S FUTURE.

CONSIDER THE RESPONSIBLE GOP APPROACH

AFTER THIS VOTE, I SHALL SEEK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO HAVE THE BILL OFFERED BY MYSELF, ALONG WITH SENATORS DOMENICI, ROTH, LUGAR, SIMPSON, DANFORTH, BOND, SEYMOUR AND OTHERS -- S. 1791, THE DEFICIT-NEUTRAL UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 1991 -- DISCHARGED FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

IT'S NOW 46 DAYS AND COUNTING SINCE BENEFITS COULD HAVE STARTED UNDER THE PROPOSAL OFFERED BY MYSELF AND OTHERS BACK IN AUGUST. LET'S NOT CONTINUE TO LET THE DAYS NEEDLESSLY TICK BY.

I'VE HEARD A LOT OF CRITICISMS OF THE BILL SAYING THAT IT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH.

WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO OFFER MORE BUT NOT LIKE S. 1722 WHICH TAKES AWAY FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MUCH MORE THAN IT GIVES.

IF THERE ARE ACCEPTABLE WAYS TO FINANCE MORE BENEFITS UNDER OUR ALTERNATIVE, I AM MORE THAN HAPPY TO DISCUSS THEM AS POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS.

BUT LET'S START TALKING RATHER THAN SENDING THE PRESIDENT IRRESPONSIBLE LEGISLATION THAT SHOULD NEVER BECOME LAW.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE TO SUSTAIN THE VETO SO THAT A SERIOUS DEBATE ON EXTENDED BENEFITS FOR UNEMPLOYED AMERICANS CAN BEGIN. THAT WAY, CHECKS CAN BE PUT IN THE MAIL AND FOOD CAN BE PUT ON THE TABLE.

###