

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONFIRM BOB GATES

A MAN OF EXPERIENCE, INTEGRITY & TALENT,
GATES IS THE RIGHT NOMINEE TO LEAD CIA

WE HAVE FINALLY REACHED THE TIME TO VOTE ON THE GATES NOMINATION.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG PROCESS -- BY MY COUNT, 135 DAYS. IT TOOK US LONGER TO INVESTIGATE BOB GATES THAN TO DEFEAT SADDAM HUSSEIN.

IT HAS BEEN A VERY, VERY THOROUGH PROCESS. THE NOMINEE TESTIFIED IN OPEN AND CLOSED SESSIONS FOR FOUR FULL DAYS, RESPONDING TO ABOUT A THOUSAND DIFFERENT QUESTIONS. THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THOUSANDS OF DOCUMENTS, AND INTERVIEWED HUNDREDS OF WITNESSES, MANY OF WHOM GAVE FORMAL TESTIMONY. THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TOTALS UP TO 245 SINGLE-SPACED PAGES -- AND THAT WITHOUT THE SECTION ON "ADDITIONAL VIEWS." IF STAFF WERE GETTING PAID BY THE WORD FOR THEIR DRAFTING, WE'D NEED A DIRE EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL TO PAY THE BILL.

AND EVERY TIME IT SEEMED WE WERE NEAR CLOSURE ON THIS LONG AND THOROUGH PROCESS, SOMEBODY MANAGED TO COME UP WITH A NEW ALLEGATION OR QUESTION -- SOMETIMES, SEEMINGLY, OUT OF LEFT FIELD. EACH OF THOSE ALLEGATIONS AND QUESTIONS WAS EXAMINED CAREFULLY AND COMPREHENSIVELY.

COMMITTEE CLEARS, STRONGLY ENDORSES GATES

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT LISTS FOUR MAJOR AREAS WHICH IT EXAMINED: THE IRAN-CONTRA AFFAIR; THE ALLEGATIONS OF POLITICIZATION OF INTELLIGENCE; CHARGES OR RUMORS OF PARTICIPATION IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES ILLEGAL UNDER OUR LAWS; AND BOB GATES' VIEWS OF AND CAPACITY TO PERFORM THE ROLE OF DCI.

THE COMMITTEE -- BY A STRONG 11-4 VOTE -- CLEARED BOB GATES OF ANY WRONG-DOING IN ANY OF THE FIRST THREE AREAS; AND GAVE HIM A STRONG ENDORSEMENT IN THE FOURTH.

CERTAINLY, THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SENATOR BOREN, AND THE DISTINGUISHED VICE-CHAIRMAN, SENATOR MURKOWSKI, HAVE DONE EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO MAKE THIS PROCESS BOTH THOROUGH AND FAIR. THEY DESERVE THE THANKS OF ALL SENATORS FOR THEIR DILIGENT WORK.

BOB GATES DESERVES OUR VOTE

AND NOW, AFTER ALL OF THIS WORK -- AFTER ALL OF THE DELAYS, AND ALLEGATIONS, AND RUMORS, AND QUESTIONS; AFTER EVERYONE HAS HAD HIS OR HER SAY, AND EVERY SENATOR HAS HAD THE CHANCE TO READ THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AND CONSIDER OUR OWN POSITIONS -- WE HAVE GOTTEN TO THE BOTTOM LINE. THE COMMITTEE'S WORK IS DONE, AND THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY -- THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FULL SENATE -- TO MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.

THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SENATOR BOREN -- WHO PROBABLY KNOWS BOB GATES BETTER THAN ANY OF US; THE DISTINGUISHED VICE-CHAIRMAN, SENATOR MURKOWSKI; AND NINE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY SUPPORT THE NOMINEE. THE SENATE SHOULD, TOO.

BOB GATES DESERVES OUR VOTE. HE EARNED IT THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY -- BY A CAREER OF HARD AND HONORABLE WORK; AND BY 135 DAYS OF FULL, CANDID AND PATIENT COOPERATION WITH THIS PROCESS.

EXTRAORDINARY CAREER, BEST PERSON FOR JOB

WHEN I INTRODUCED BOB GATES AT HIS FIRST HEARING, I NOTED THAT HE WAS A GREAT KANSAN -- AND THAT ALONE WAS A STRONG POINT IN FAVOR OF HIS CONFIRMATION.

BUT, AS THE COMMITTEE AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED, BOB GATES IS NOT ONLY A GREAT KANSAN, BUT AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN. HIS CAREER -- FROM HIS EARLY DAYS AS A JUNIOR ANALYST AT CIA, UNTIL THESE PAST MONTHS, STANDING AT THE PRESIDENT'S SIDE THROUGH SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE CENTURY -- HIS CAREER HAS UNIQUELY PREPARED HIM FOR THE ROLE OF DCI. PUT SIMPLY, HE IS THE BEST NOMINEE FOR THIS CRITICAL JOB.

BOB GATES HAS THE PRESIDENT'S COMPLETE CONFIDENCE.

HE HAS UNMATCHED EXPERIENCE.

HE HAS UNCOMPROMISED INTEGRITY.

HE HAS GREAT TALENT.

HE HAS A STRONG RECORD OF COOPERATION WITH THE CONGRESS AND ITS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.

HE IS THE RIGHT NOMINEE, FOR THE RIGHT JOB, AT THE RIGHT TIME.

THE PRESIDENT WANTS -- THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY NEEDS -- AND THE NATION DESERVES TO HAVE THIS NOMINEE CONFIRMED, NOW, AND OVERWHELMINGLY.

I URGE ALL SENATORS TO VOTE TO CONFIRM BOB GATES AS DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

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