

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

FOREIGN AID/U.S. WORKERS

DOLE OFFERS "AMERICA FIRST" AMENDMENTS; REJECT SPECIAL FOREIGN AID TREATMENT; USE AID FREEZE SURPLUS TO HELP AMERICAN WORKERS BY REPEALING LUXURY TAX, REVIVING EXPIRING "EXTENDERS"
SENATE FLOOR REMARKS

IF WE WANT TO CUT FOREIGN AID, AS SOME HAVE SUGGESTED, TO HELP PAY FOR EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, I BELIEVE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL WANT US TO DO IT RESPONSIBLY, FAIRLY, AND EQUITABLY. WE SHOULDN'T USE THE APPROACH THAT IS BEING USED BY MY COLLEAGUES ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE, WHICH SAYS THAT SOME FOREIGN AID IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS HELPING OUR UNEMPLOYED - - THAT CERTAIN FOREIGN AID CAN BE FROZEN, NOTWITHSTANDING THE FACT THAT IT EATS UP HALF THE FOREIGN AID BUDGET -- BUT THE REST GOES ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK; AN APPROACH THAT SEPERATES UP THE WORLD INTO "FIRST CLASS" AND "SECOND CLASS" COUNTRIES; AN APPROACH WHICH SAYS THAT A COUPLE OF COUNTRIES ARE SO SPECIAL THEY SHOULD BE "FENCED," BUT THE REST OF THE WORLD JUST ISN'T IN THEIR LEAGUE.

A LOT OF AMERICANS HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN GREECE, OR POLAND, OR BLACK AFRICA, OR LATIN AMERICA, OR CROATIANS SUFFERING IN YUGOSLAVIA, OR SOUTHEAST ASIA, OR CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, LITHUANIA, ESTONIA, OR LATVIA, AND THESE AMERICANS ARE GOING TO WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, AND WHAT MAKES THE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS OF A COUPLE OF OTHER COUNTRIES SO MUCH MORE URGENT THAN THEIR OWN.

"GO ALL THE WAY": NO FOREIGN AID EXCEPTIONS

IF WE GET INTO THIS DEBATE ON CUTTING FOREIGN AID TO HELP UNEMPLOYED AMERICAN WORKERS, LET'S GO ALL THE WAY. LET'S TEAR DOWN THE FENCES, TEAR DOWN THE BARRIERS -- LET'S GO ALL THE WAY.

I BELIEVE MOST AMERICANS AGREE WE OUGHT TO CUT FOREIGN AID. I REMEMBER WHEN I SUGGESTED WE CUT IT 5% A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, AND I WAS CRITICIZED ALL OVER THIS PLACE FOR CUTTING FOREIGN AID. THIS PLAN IS ONLY A FREEZE. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT IF WE START DOWN THIS ROAD, THAT WE OUGHT TO HAVE EXCEPTIONS. I DON'T THINK THAT ANY OTHER COUNTRY THINKS WE OUGHT TO HAVE EXCEPTIONS.

ABOVE ALL, WHY SHOULD WE SAY THAT, WELL, IT'S ALRIGHT TO FREEZE FOREIGN AID TO HELP SOME UNEMPLOYED WORKERS, BUT WE SHOULDN'T FREEZE IT ALL, BECAUSE SOME FOREIGN AID IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN AMERICAN INTERESTS.

SO, IF THERE'S GOING TO BE ANY "SURPLUS" IN THE MITCHELL/BENTSEN PACKAGE, THEN I'VE GOT 13 AMENDMENTS HERE TO SOP IT UP -- WE'LL TAKE CARE OF IT -- WE'LL HELP AMERICA FIRST, AND DO ALL THE THINGS MY COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT WHEN THEY'VE BEEN BASHING PRESIDENT BUSH.

(MORE)

13 "AMERICA FIRST" AMENDMENTS -- CRITICAL TO U.S. JOBS

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF, AND SENATORS DOMENICI, THURMOND, WALLOP, LUGAR, DANFORTH AND SIMPSON, I AM SENDING TO THE DESK 13 AMENDMENTS TO S. 1945, THE EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT OF 1991.

THESE AMENDMENTS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR ECONOMY -- AND MORE IMPORTANT, THEY'RE CRITICAL TO MANY AMERICANS.

WE OFFER TO OUR COLLEAGUES THE ABILITY TO HELP PUT WORKERS BACK TO WORK -- BY USING THE SAVINGS FROM THE MITCHELL FOREIGN AID FREEZE -- WE CAN BEEF UP THE ECONOMY.

I CAN'T TELL YOU THE NUMBER OF CALLS AND LETTERS WE HAVE RECEIVED CONCERNING THE LOSS OF JOBS OVER THE SO CALLED LUXURY TAX. WE ALSO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CALLS AND LETTERS CONCERNING "THE EXTENDERS".

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT WITHOUT CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON THE "EXTENDERS" AND THE REPEAL OF THE LUXURY TAX, WE WILL JEOPARDIZE JOBS AND MIDDLE-CLASS FAIRNESS.

OUR AMENDMENTS PROVIDE FOR A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE EXPIRING PROVISIONS AND THE REPEAL OF THE LUXURY TAX.

I PERSONALLY DON'T SUPPORT SOME OF THE EXTENDERS BUT I THINK THAT AS WE CONSIDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT BILL, WE SHOULD CONSIDER THE EFFECTS OF THE EXPIRING PROVISIONS ON OUR ECONOMY AND WE DEFINITELY NEED TO CONSIDER THE REPEAL OF THE LUXURY TAX -- AFTERALL, IT TOO IS AN EMPLOYMENT ISSUE -- A JOBS ISSUE.

RESEARCH & EXPERIMENTATION TAX CREDIT

THOSE WHO TRY TO KEEP THIS COUNTRY COMPETITIVE THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS SHOULD NOT BE DISCOURAGED FROM THEIR WORK -- A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION TAX CREDIT IS CRITICAL TO OUR COMPETITIVENESS.

HEALTH CARE DEDUCTION

THOSE WHO ARE RUNNING THEIR OWN BUSINESSES SHOULD BE RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT THEIR CURRENT HEALTH CARE DEDUCTION WILL NOT EXPIRE.

THESE AND THE OTHER PROVISIONS ARE LIKELY TO EXPIRE UNLESS WE CONSIDER THEM NOW. WE SHOULD CONSIDER:

THE LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT;
MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS;
SMALL BUSINESS MANUFACTURING BONDS;
EMPLOYER-PROVIDED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE;
GROUP LEGAL SERVICES;
TARGETED JOBS TAX CREDIT;
BUSINESS ENERGY CREDITS; AND
ORPHAN DRUG TAX CREDIT.

LUXURY TAX

FINALLY, ONE OF OUR AMENDMENTS REPEALS THE LUXURY TAX. LET'S FACE IT, THE MIDDLE CLASS WORKING MEN AND WOMEN ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR THIS PHONY TAX.

THE BOATING INDUSTRY HAS JUST ABOUT SHUT DOWN -- 24 PLANTS HAVE -- AND OVER 19,000 JOBS HAVE BEEN LOST. THE AUTO, AIRCRAFT, JEWELRY AND FUR INDUSTRIES ALSO ARE AFFECTED.

I SAY, IT ISN'T HAND-OUTS THAT AMERICANS WANT -- ITS JOBS, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY. OUR AMENDMENTS ARE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

WE'LL CONTINUE TO LOOK AT THIS PACKAGE AND CONTINUE TO REFINE IT. WE MAY HAVE OTHER AMENDMENTS TOMORROW.

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