

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

TAX VOTE: A DEFINING MOMENT

WORLD-RECORD TAX HIKE EARNS PRESIDENT

PLACE ON "MOUNT TAX-MORE":

TAXPAYERS FIND OUT WHO'S ON THEIR SIDE

WASHINGTON -- The following are Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole's closing remarks before the final vote early this morning on the Democrat tax plan:

We are coming to the end of what could turn out to be the most important debate of the year. There's no doubt in my mind that it is a debate that will stand as a defining issue for many years to come. When taxpayers want to find out who was on their side, they'll take a look at this vote ... and they'll know who earned their trust, and they'll know who earned a place on "Mount Tax-More." Because the choice couldn't be any clearer: a vote for President Clinton's plan is a vote for classic, big time tax and spend government.

Make no mistake, if you like big taxes and big spending, then President Clinton's plan is for you. If you like sending more of your hard earned tax dollars to Washington, then President's Clinton's plan is for you. If you like the biggest tax increase in history, then you can start your celebration.

But if you're sick and tired of the status quo, sick and tired of big government and big taxes, and sick and tired of all those phony promises about "change" and "reform", then you're pretty mad right now about what's going to happen in the Senate this morning.

The Taxpayers' Alternative: Cut Spending First

When the American people look back at this vote, they will remember that Senate Republicans offered a much better approach to deficit reduction. That's why we called our alternative "the Taxpayers' Alternative". It was a Main Street, common sense approach: it said, cut spending first. It was a taxpayer-friendly solution: it said, cut spending first. It was an antidote to the Clinton Administration's rampant tax fever: it said, cut spending first.

Unfortunately, fifty-four Senate Democrats voted Wednesday to defeat our "Taxpayers' Alternative". I guess old tax and spend habits are hard to break.

It's too bad. Our cut-spending-first plan contained \$329 billion in tough, enforceable spending cuts, and not one dime in tax increases. Without any tax increases, our plan reduced the deficit more than the President's plan by 1998. In fact, beginning in 1998, our proposal would have continually produced lower deficits than the President's plan. And, in stark contrast to the Democrats' tax-now, cut-later plan, our cut-spending-first plan would move toward a balanced budget in future years.

That's the kind of economic plan that would restore confidence in our free enterprise system. But when I ask businessmen and women across the country how the President's policies have affected their decisions to hire new workers, invest in new equipment or expand, they're quick to tell me they can't afford to expand or hire new workers.

Small Businesses Scared to Death

Thursday afternoon, I mentioned Les Brandt of Topeka, Kansas, a small businessman who told me he's not going to expand his business this year. Mr. Brandt owns Modern Air of Topeka, an eight-man operation in the heating and air-conditioning business. But he says he won't expand because, and I quote, "decisions in Washington could take the whole business away." In other words, he's heard about the Clinton tax agenda, and he's scared to death.

(more)

And it's not only Kansas. Employers and investors all across the nation are worried. Just ask the good folks at Superior Technical Ceramics Corporations, a 100-year old family-owned business in St. Alban's, Vermont. According to Earlyn Church, Vice President of Superior, of the \$300,000 the company made in profits last year, it invested \$160,000 -- that's more than half of its profits -- into a profit-sharing plan for their 90 employees, working Americans who are probably surprised to learn that they are now considered "rich" by the President. With the new Clinton tax increases, the company will be unable to contribute anything this year.

It's no wonder so many businesses say the President's tax plan will force them to lay off workers and scale back their operations.

And remember, these employers -- these job creators -- are worried that the world record Clinton tax plan is just the first installment. They realize that even if they manage to survive this first tax avalanche, they could be buried alive by the soon-to-be-released White House health care plan, another massive tax solution to a national problem.

One Party Monopoly: Democrat Gridlock Freezes Out Alternatives

Let's set the record straight. This deficit reduction effort has been a one-way street; a one-party monopoly, designed to lock out Republicans, lock out competition, and to lock out the taxpayers. This process has been a one party affair -- if you're not a Congressional Democrat, don't bother coming to the party, you're not invited. Meanwhile, a disgusted Main Street America watched from afar, and didn't like what it saw.

Let the record show that there were many Republicans who made it clear to the President, Secretary Bentsen, Chairman Moynihan, and others, that Republicans were ready and eager to work with the President to get the deficit under control.

But time and time again, our offers to sit down to hammer out a bi-partisan deficit reduction plan were rejected.

So here we are, paralyzed by Democratic gridlock. It's the kind of take-it-or-leave-it gridlock which has infuriated the American people, the kind of paralysis that freezes out all alternative solutions.

The Democrats have gone back to the future -- gridlocking back to the days of good old fashioned tax and spend. They love it.

President Has Already Earned Place on "Mount Tax-More"

The choice this morning couldn't be more clear: Senators can vote for President Clinton's record-breaking tax increase, or they can cast a vote for America's taxpayers and send a wake-up call to the White House and to the Congress.

The President has tried to make this a defining moment of his presidency. He's right, it is...and will be for years to come. He's already earned his place on "Mount Tax-More."

The taxpayers are watching. When the votes are counted, they'll remember who was on their side.

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