

**Bob Dole**

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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## NAFTA: SENATE VOTE

### REMARKS OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE

In just a few minutes, all the talk will end, and the Senate will join with the House of Representatives in passing the North American Free Trade Agreement.

My remarks tonight will be brief. The hour is late, my position in strong support of NAFTA is well known, and there is no need to prolong what has already been a very lengthy debate.

Despite all that has been said and written about NAFTA in the past few weeks, surveys reflect that many Americans still aren't sure what NAFTA is and what it does.

So, I want to take a few minutes to cut through the hype and the exaggerations, and to talk straight with the American people.

Some of the opponents of NAFTA would have us believe that American negotiators were snookered...that, somehow, Mexico and Canada have fooled Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, and Clinton...that they've pulled the wool over the eyes of every living Nobel-prize economist, and every living former Secretary of State--all of whom support NAFTA.

They want us to believe that the minute this agreement is adopted, the moving vans will be headed to Mexico, transporting American businesses and American jobs.

#### Enhance Economic Growth and Job Creation

Instead of listening to these predictions of doom, the American public should listen to the truth.

And let me be clear in saying that the truth of the matter is that NAFTA is not perfect.

It will not solve all our economic problems, or protect every job. But nearly every unbiased expert who has studied the issue believes that NAFTA will enhance economic growth and job creation in the United States.

#### Global Leadership

And when you sort out all the charts, all the charges and counter-charges, all the predictions that the sky is falling, and you cut right to the heart of the issue, NAFTA comes down to one word: Leadership.

America has a choice. We can choose to be a leader in today's global economy, strengthening our relationship with our first and third largest trading partners, and sending a message to other countries that America is open for business.

Or we can pass the baton of leadership to Japan and to Europe, close our doors to new markets and new opportunities, and resign ourselves to a future as an economic also-ran.

#### Right for America, Right for Kansas

The answer is clear. NAFTA is right for America, and it's also right for Kansas--where it will create new opportunities for our farmers, for our aviation industry, and for our manufacturers. And I ask unanimous consent that editorials from the Chanute Tribune, the Russell Daily News, The Wichita Eagle, the Hutchinson News, the Hays Daily News, and the Topeka Capital Journal be inserted in the Congressional Record following my remarks.

#### NAFTA Just the Beginning

It is important to remember that the battle for free trade and the economic growth and job creation it brings, does not end with the passage of NAFTA--it is just a beginning.

A good agreement in the ongoing "Uruguay Round" of GATT talks will create far more jobs and raise our standard of living far higher than will NAFTA.

(MORE)



And as the Chanute Tribune pointed out, if we really want to create a lot of jobs here in America, then we should stop burdening our small businessmen and women with more taxes, more mandates, more regulations, and more paperwork.

Republicans stand ready to assist President Clinton in that mission, just as we have assisted him on NAFTA.

I want to end by commending those responsible for passage of this agreement.

That list includes President Reagan, who first advanced the idea of a North American Free Trade zone...it includes President Bush and Ambassador Carla Hills, who did the tough work of negotiating.

And it certainly includes President Clinton, Vice President Gore, and Ambassador Kantor, who stood up to the threats of the protectionist element of their party, and who never let up their campaign in these critical last few weeks.

I am also very proud to congratulate my fellow Republicans. By remaining true to our historic commitment to the philosophy of free trade, open markets, and job creation, we made the difference, and we did what was right for America.

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Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 5:40 PM EST.