

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **END OF SESSION REVIEW "REPUBLICANS MADE A DIFFERENCE"**

Ten months ago--on January 21st--I outlined the priorities of the Senate Republicans for the first session of the 103rd Congress.

And I pledged that when President Clinton advanced policies that moved America in the right direction, then he could count on Republican support.

### Guided by Republican Principles

But I also said that we remained committed to Republican principles of less taxes, less spending, less government, less regulation, and a strong and secure America. And when President Clinton moved America away from these principles, then we would stand our ground.

As this session comes to a close, I believe it is clear that we have remained true to those words.

Although there are still a few who like to point at Republicans and holler "gridlock," I think any objective review makes it clear that Republicans have worked responsibly with President Clinton when it was in the best interests of the country.

This cooperation started almost immediately after President Clinton's inauguration, when the Senate moved with record speed to approve President Clinton's cabinet nominations.

We have continued that cooperation throughout the session--approving nearly 500 presidential nominations.

### Crime Bill

Senate Republicans have fought for many years to adopt the toughest crime bill possible. And we worked with President Clinton and the majority to adopt legislation which contained tough Republican provisions, including truth-in sentencing, prison construction, violence against women, and anti-gang statutes. And it's important to note that this legislation is paid for.

### Health Care Reform

Republicans have praised President and Mrs. Clinton for placing health care reform on top of our national agenda, and we have played a very constructive role in the initial stages of what will be a lengthy national debate.

Senator Chafee, Senator Nickles, and Senator Gramm have all been joined by Republican Senators in introducing comprehensive and meaningful reform plans.

And in the coming months, I believe you can look for continued Republican leadership, as we seek to unite behind a plan that fixes the parts of our health care delivery system that need to be fixed, while preserving the quality and choice that have made our system the best in the world.

### Flood Relief

Another example of bi-partisan cooperation worth mentioning occurred this summer, when flood waters ravaged the midwest. Republicans and Democrats worked quickly to ensure that the flood victims would receive assistance in getting back on their feet.

And when it became apparent that the Russian government needed our assistance to ensure that their new democracy would stay on its feet, Republicans worked for the quick adoption of a Russian reconstruction package.

### NAFTA: Republicans Break Democrat Gridlock

The prime example of Republican cooperation with President Clinton, however, is the North American Free Trade Agreement. In both the House and the Senate, the President depended upon Republican leadership to break the gridlock which was occurring

(More)

in his own party.

Many in the media said that losing the NAFTA vote would have been fatal to President Clinton's Administration. Yet, Republicans never wavered in doing what was right for America, and in providing the President with the support and the votes needed to adopt this historic agreement.

#### Taxes & Spending: Philosophical Differences

And just as President Clinton has had disagreements with members of his own party, he also has had disagreements with Republicans--most notably on his prescription for more taxes and more spending.

It wasn't partisan politics that led to this disagreement, rather, it was a fundamental difference in philosophy.

When it comes to the economy, the President honestly and sincerely believes that Uncle Sam knows best, and that the road to prosperity is paved with the largest tax increase in American history, more spending, more government programs, and more mandates and regulations imposed on our small businessmen and women.

Every single Senate Republican united against this philosophy. But we did more than simply throw rocks at the President's plan, we listened to the American people's call to cut spending first, and we offered responsible alternatives.

When the President proposed a "so-called" emergency stimulus spending program that wasn't needed and that he simply charged to future generations, the Republicans offered an alternative that was paid for, and that addressed legitimate funding needs.

And when the President refused that offer, we stood firm for America's taxpayers, and saved them eleven billion dollars.

When we return in January, Republicans intend to hold the President to the promise he made to obtain the necessary Democrat votes to pass his massive tax increase--a promise that he would propose a package of real and meaningful spending cuts.

Throughout the next session, Republicans will continue to insist that government should learn to live within it's income...and without so much of the income of the American taxpayers.

#### Foreign Policy

And while Republicans believe that partisanship does "stop at the water's edge," we have joined with many Americans in raising concerns about the direction of the Clinton foreign policy in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, and in insisting that the priorities of the United States not be sacrificed to the priorities of the United Nations.

#### Republicans Made a Difference

I believe that Republicans can look back at this session and take pride in the stands we took and the progress we made. By sticking to our principles and sticking together, Republicans made a difference for the American people.

Make no mistake, there is much more work to be done when we return in January, and we intend to continue to work with the President when we believe he is right, and to speak out and offer responsible alternatives when we believe he is wrong.

Finally, on behalf of my 43 Republican colleagues, I want to wish the President and all those on the other side of the aisle a happy and healthy holiday season.

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