

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

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DEFENSE BUDGET CUT TOO FAR, TOO FAST
DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO REEVALUATE HUGE CUTS IN DEFENSE,
LISTEN TO MILITARY EXPERTS

WASHINGTON - In a joint letter today to President Clinton, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), and Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) called on the President to reevaluate his plans for deeper defense cuts and to listen to his military experts who are saying that deeper cuts could put American security in jeopardy.

Senator Strom Thurmond, Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senator Pete Domenici, Ranking Member of the Senate Budget Committee joined Senator Dole in expressing their concern about the deep cuts in the Clinton budget plan.

"Earlier this year, many of us in the Senate expressed our dismay when President Clinton called for cutting an additional \$127 billion from our defense program", said Dole. "This was double the amount candidate Clinton had campaigned on."

"It seems to me the Administration went about this backwards. The President laid out a budget plan slashing defense by \$127 billion, persuaded Democrats in Congress to pass it, and then asked his military experts what our defense needs are for the post cold war world", said Dole, referring to the so-called Bottom Up Review released in August. "No one was surprised when the facts showed we were cutting too fast, too far to do the job."

"On one hand, the President has sought to expand our military operations around the world in these so-called peace keeping operations, while his budget cuts bring defense spending below a level not seen since before Pearl Harbor. In my view, it is time to sound a wake up call and take a look around the world. North Korea, Iran, Bosnia, Iraq -- you don't have to look too far to see the world is still a dangerous place", said Dole.

"Senators Thurmond, Domenici, and I encourage the President to take this matter under personal advisement and to remember the lessons of the past when America cut defense too far, too fast", said Dole. "As Commander-in-Chief, I know he will not delegate responsibility for our national security to the budget people."

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