

Bob Dole

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
(202) 224-5358

CRIME BILL UPDATE

DOLE PROPOSES JOINT APPEARANCE WITH PRESIDENT CLINTON TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR TOUGH ANTICRIME PROVISIONS IN SENATE-PASSED BILL

Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement voicing his growing concern that President Clinton has yet to spell out his support for the tough provisions in the Senate-passed anticrime bill:

With his recent public statements on new gun-control initiatives, President Clinton is elevating showmanship over substance, politics over good policy.

Earlier this year, Senate Republicans and Democrats were able to put aside their partisan differences and pass a truly bipartisan \$22 billion anticrime package. And that's the way it should be, for there's nothing partisan or political about crime: A mugger doesn't ask if you're a Republican or a Democrat before he sticks a gun in your ribs.

And that's why it's important for the President to lend his unqualified and public support to the tough anticrime proposals contained in the Senate-passed bill.

I challenge President Clinton to join me in making a joint public appearance--anytime, anywhere, in any forum--to endorse the tough provisions of the Senate-passed bill.

The American people deserve the toughest crime bill possible, not a watered-down version or "Crime Bill Lite," as some members of Congress would prefer.

The Senate-passed bill contains the following tough-on-crime initiatives:

- * truth-in-sentencing, which would require violent criminals to serve at least 85% of their sentences;
- * the construction of ten new regional prisons to which states can send their most violent criminals if they adopt the truth-in-sentencing reform.
- * tough mandatory minimum sentences for those who use or carry a gun in the commission of a crime, including life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty, if the crime results in the death of an innocent victim;
- * the death penalty for drug kingpins;
- * a new anti-gang statute to crack down on violent gang activity; and
- * a series of new measures to combat domestic and street violence against women, including three new Federal Rules of Evidence allowing for the admissibility of past sex offenses in sexual assault and child molestation cases.

To the President, I simply say this: Focus your efforts. Keep your eye on the ball. The most important step you can take to fight crime is to fully support these initiatives in the Senate-passed bill.

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