

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

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## **THE FIRST 100 DAYS**

### **DOLE CONGRATULATES GINGRICH & HOUSE GOP; CITES HOUSE & SENATE SUCCESSSES IN TURNING PEOPLE'S MESSAGE INTO ACTION**

It's been 40 years since a Republican-controlled Congress had the opportunity to mark any milestones. But when Republicans became the majority party after all those years, we wasted no time in making history.

As we approach the end of the first 100 days of the Republican Congress, I want to take a moment to offer my congratulations to House Speaker Newt Gingrich and the House Republican Majority for their spectacular success with the "Contract with America." In his 1992 campaign, Bill Clinton promised to start his administration with "an explosive 100 day action period." Obviously, he had not met Newt Gingrich or a Republican Congress.

Last November, the American people sent a powerful message to Washington. They told us they wanted a government defined by its limit, not by its reach. They demanded a return to freedom and a renewal of opportunity. And they told us they were tired of a government promising too much, and delivering too little.

#### **Keeping Our Promises**

From day one, the new Republican Congress demonstrated its commitment to something all too rare in this town -- keeping our promises to the American people. On January 4th, we rolled up our sleeves, and started turning the message from the people into action.

Action is precisely what House Republicans provided with the "Contract with America." They can be proud that they did what they said they would do -- all ten initiatives were put to a vote, with dramatic, and often bipartisan, results.

If people didn't already know that the Senate is a far different institution with different rules, they know now. At times, it seemed like the Democrat minority wanted to spend 100 days on every bill. But, despite all the filibusters and delays, the Senate also achieved what I believe will be seen as remarkable success.

#### **Leading by Example**

Instead of taking most of January off, we got right down to business. Like the House, we acted immediately to lead by example, forcing Congress to live under the same laws we apply to everyone else. President Clinton quickly signed this long overdue initiative. With a strong bipartisan majority, we approved S.1, to stop Congress from passing unfunded mandates on to states and local governments, unless we send the money to pay for them. I'm proud to say that the unfunded mandates bill is now the law of the land.

Again, leading by example, Senate and House Republicans put our budget cutting zeal to the test right here on Capitol Hill. Senate Republicans cut staff and overhead, reducing committee budgets by 15%.

#### **Reining In Government**

We voted to give the President the line-item veto, a long overdue tool in our efforts to rein in government. To bring real discipline to federal spending, the House approved the Balanced Budget Amendment to the Constitution. Regrettably, the Senate fell one vote short. But, we're not giving up, and it is my hope that before the end of this Congress, the Balanced Budget Amendment will be before the states for ratification. Despite resistance from the protectors of the status quo, it is my hope that before the recess the Senate will make an important down payment on deficit reduction by cutting at least \$15 billion in unnecessary government spending.

(MORE)



We acted swiftly to ease burdens on working Americans, and those who create jobs and opportunities. We restored the tax deduction for more than 3 million self employed Americans for the cost of health insurance premiums. And we took an important first step in regulatory reform by approving a 45-day Congressional review of excessive regulations which cost America money and jobs.

#### Contrast with Clinton Administration

The Republican Congress's first hundred days stand in stark contrast to the first hundred days of the Clinton administration. Instead of an "explosive" action period, President Clinton's first hundred days in office will be remembered for big government policy bombs, such as the biggest tax increase in American history, including retroactive tax increases and tax hikes on Social Security recipients, and a misguided, unpaid-for "stimulus package" that would have added billions to the deficit Americans are demanding we control.

And in 1995, while Republicans were reining in government during our first hundred days, the Clinton administration was at it again, producing a budget that gave up on trying to ever balance the nation's books. And the President protected Washington's chronic wild spending by fighting the Balanced Budget Amendment, and the will of the American people.

#### The Next 100 Days

The good news is, during the next 100 days, the Republican Congress is determined to protect our children, grandchildren and future generations of Americans by producing a budget plan that will lead to balance by 2002.

While the focus during the past 100 days has been on the House -- and rightfully so -- I believe the next 100 days will belong to the Senate. We aren't setting any deadlines, and no one expects the Senate to be a rubber stamp for the House, but we will continue to be guided by the common principles of reining in government, returning power to the people, and expanding opportunity. In the Senate, it is my hope we will address many of the following issues: putting the budget on a path to balance, welfare reform, cutting taxes for families, reform of our legal system, regulatory reform, tough anti-crime measures, voting on term limits, and protecting U.S. interests in U.N. peacekeeping.

On January 4th, I walked across the Capitol to the floor of the House because I had never had the privilege of seeing a Republican Speaker. Now I have, and I know I speak for all of my Republican colleagues when I say I like the change. Tomorrow night, Speaker Gingrich will report to the nation on the historic first 100 days of the Republican Congress. I look forward to watching, and I look forward to tackling the important work that remains ahead.

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