

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 24, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

OKLAHOMA CITY TRAGEDY

GOP READY TO WORK WITH ADMINISTRATION ON COMPREHENSIVE ANTI-TERRORISM INITIATIVE

On behalf of all the Senate, I extend my sympathies to Senator Nickles, Senator Inhofe, Governor Frank Keating, and through them, to all the citizens of Oklahoma for the loss they suffered last Wednesday.

Kansas and Oklahoma share a common border. And our citizens also share common values. Values like love of God. Love of family. Perseverance through tough times. And a commitment to help those in need. The citizens of Oklahoma displayed these values time and time again this past week, and in doing so, they inspired America and the world.

While all the people of Oklahoma deserve our admiration, the citizens of Oklahoma City are worthy of special praise. It is their friends and family members who were lost as a result of this brutal crime. But while many of Oklahoma City's buildings were shattered, its spirit has stood strong.

I am reminded of the words of the great World War II journalist Ernie Pyle, who once wrote, "Oklahoma City is an especially friendly town. People there have a pride about their town...They just wouldn't live anywhere else." That pride has never left the people of Oklahoma City, and it will guide them during the difficult days ahead.

I salute the firemen, the paramedics, the rescue workers, and all those who have generously volunteered their time and their labor to the relief effort.

Commend Administration's Response

I commend President Clinton for the way he and his administration have responded to this tragedy. The criminal investigation has been thorough and swift, and the tone set by the President right on the mark: those who have perpetrated this unspeakable evil are cowards. There is absolutely no justification, no excuse, for what took place last Wednesday in Oklahoma City. Killing innocent children and other defenseless citizens is the depraved act of depraved minds.

I also want to commend Attorney General Reno for publicly stating that she will seek the death penalty. If ever there was a crime deserving of the ultimate sanction, this is it.

As the rebuilding process continues in Oklahoma City, we must also begin looking to the future. Although there is no such thing as absolute security in a free society, we have an obligation to do everything within our power to minimize the chances that other, similar tragedies will occur elsewhere in the United States.

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Comprehensive Anti-Terrorism Initiative

Last week, I wrote to President Clinton to tell him that Senate Republicans stand ready to work with the administration to develop a comprehensive anti-terrorism plan for America. Senate Republicans have sponsored a variety of anti-terrorism proposals, ranging from the Alien Terrorist Removal Act, to increased penalties for certain terrorist-related activities, to proposals designed to give our law enforcement officials the tools they need, such as expanded wiretap authority. I am also familiar with the administration's own anti-terrorism package, as well as the ideas mentioned by the President last night on television. These ideas will be fully considered.

Republican staff have also been working closely with the F.B.I. on a comprehensive anti-terrorism initiative, and we are prepared to give this initiative the fast-track consideration it deserves.

During World War II, the great Senator Arthur Vandenberg often repeated his belief that "partisanship stops at the water's edge." Terrorists--both foreign and domestic--should have no doubt that partisanship also stops at "evil's edge"--an edge those responsible for the Oklahoma City bombing have clearly stepped over. I know I speak for all the Senate when I say that we stand with the people of Oklahoma, committed to doing all that is needed to protect America from the terrorist threat.

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