

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **BALANCED BUDGET: A HISTORIC MOMENT**

**DOLE OPENS DEBATE ON HISTORIC PLAN TO BALANCE BUDGET,  
CUT TAXES, & PRESERVE MEDICARE; VOTE TO FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE  
GOVERNMENT & KEEP PROMISES WILL BE A DEFINING MOMENT**

Thirty-one years ago this Friday, Ronald Reagan delivered a nationally televised speech that began his career in politics. The speech was called "a time for choosing."

Ronald Reagan made clear that the choice facing America was not one between right or left--rather it was one between up or down.

### **Historic Choice for Congress: Status Quo v. Brighter Future**

More than three decades later, this Congress now faces that same choice.

We can either go down the path of the status quo--a path that will lead America into a downward spiral of bigger government, higher deficits, more taxes, and a financially-bankrupt medicare system.

Or we can move America up to a brighter future, a future where our children and grandchildren are free from staggering deficits. A future where power flows from our states to Washington, and not the other way around. A future with a strong and secure Medicare program.

I believe the choice is clear.

### **Keeping Our Promise to American People**

For this historic Republican Congress, the vote on the reconciliation bills will be a defining moment. It will be the moment when the American public will see that we are not business as usual. We are not the status quo. Rather, this Congress is one that keeps its promises to the American people.

There will be plenty of debate in the coming days, and I know the American people will be listening closely. Judging from what's been coming out of the White House lately, I know they will hear a lot of rhetoric, and a lot of scare tactics.

But I believe that in the end, they will see through this smokescreen, and they will see the truth.

### **Balanced Budget Means Brighter Future for America**

And the truth is that the Republican budget contained in this bill is a realistic, thoughtful budget blueprint for America.

The truth is that this budget will ratchet down the deficit by roughly \$30 billion a year during the next seven years. The truth is that it will balance the budget in the year 2002. And the truth is that it is the only real honest budget plan before the American people.

The truth also is that a balanced budget means a brighter future for our children and grandchildren. Our national debt is now so huge that a child born in 1995 will pay more than \$187,000 in taxes over his or her lifetime just to pay their share of interest on the debt. We owe our children a far better future.

A balanced budget will create lower interest rates, which means that more Americans will be able to own a house, buy a car, or go to college. Lower interest rates also mean business will have more money to invest and hire workers.

### **\$245 Billion Tax Cut & \$500 Per Child Tax Credit**

The truth also is that the American people are more able to decide how to spend their hard earned money than are government bureaucrats.

And with the \$245 billion tax cut contained in this bill, millions of America families will have more money to spend.

Our \$500 per-child tax credit will mean that over the coming years, families will have thousands and thousands more dollars to spend on college tuition or braces for their kids. And by rewarding those who save and invest, our capital gains tax cut will also create jobs and opportunity.

### **Preserve, Protect, Strengthen Medicare**

There's an undeniable truth that the President has tried to ignore for months and months. And that's the fact that three of the President's own cabinet members tell us that if no action is taken, Medicare will be completely broke by the year 2002.

(more)

This bill makes the tough decisions necessary to preserve, protect, and strengthen Medicare. We do it by slowing its rate of growth, and by giving seniors more options in selecting their health care.

And despite the phony talk you may hear of "cutting Medicare," the Republican plan will increase Medicare spending from \$4,800 per beneficiary in 1995 to \$6,700 per beneficiary in 2002.

Let me repeat: the Republican plan will increase Medicare spending from \$4,800 per beneficiary in 1995 to \$6,700 per beneficiary in 2002.

I know that during the next few days, some of my friends on the other side of the aisle will be painting horrible pictures. They will tell us that passage of this bill means we are turning our backs on children, on seniors, and on the disabled. They will repeat it again and again. But no matter how many times they repeat it, it does not make it true.

I wish all Americans could read the column by budget expert James Glassman that was printed in October 17 edition of the Washington Post. Mr. Glassman's column makes clear the falsehoods contained in some of the emotional rhetoric we've been hearing.

Mr. Glassman writes that under the Republican plan, federal spending will rise between 1995 and 2002 by \$358 billion--or 24%. Only in Washington would a \$358 billion increase be called a cut.

#### Strengthening the Social Compact

Mr. Glassman makes very clear that President Clinton was absolutely off the mark when he said--and I quote--"I will not let balancing the budget serve as a cover for destroying the social compact."

The truth is--as Mr. Glassman writes--that if this budget becomes law, the social compact will actually be strengthened.

For not only will the government keep its commitments to the elderly and the poor, it will also meet an even more important obligation to the public--the obligation to spend no more than it takes in.

#### President Playing Politics, Avoiding Work of Making Decisions

Throughout this process--on every major issue contained in this legislation--the Speaker and I have invited President Clinton to join with us in giving the American people the fundamental change they want.

Instead of sitting down with us, however, the President has flown around the country, making speeches, playing politics, and avoiding the work of making decisions.

The President apparently believes that the American people don't really want a balanced budget. He believes that the people are so dependent on the federal government, that they won't tolerate slowing its rate of growth. He believes the American people are willing to sacrifice the future of their children and grandchildren, so that government can continue its free spending ways.

He's wrong.

I am reminded of the words of Winston Churchill, who said, "we have not journeyed all the way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies, because we are made of sugar candy."

#### Future of Unlimited Hope, Freedom, & Opportunity

And I say to President Clinton: Mr. President, the American people are not made of sugar candy. They are far stronger and far wiser than you think. And I also say that this Republican Congress is not made of sugar candy. We promised we would balance the budget. And we will. We promised we would cut taxes. And we will. We promised we would protect, preserve, and strengthen Medicare. And we will. We promised we would have welfare reform and we will.

October 1995 is a time for choosing. And I invite all senators on both sides of the aisle. And all Americans to stand with us as we move our country up to a future of unlimited hope, freedom, and opportunity. This is the most historic moment in my memory in the Congress of the United States. Never before have we tried to bring about such fundamental change. It's going to be up to us.

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\* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 10:35 a.m.