

NEWS

FROM:

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U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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LEADERSHIP & BALANCING THE BUDGET

REPUBLICANS MAKING TOUGH CHOICES TODAY
TO ENSURE A BETTER TOMORROW

As we begin the second day of the federal government shutdown, I do want to note that like all Senators, I've read the polls that say more Americans are blaming the Republican Congress for the shutdown than are blaming President Clinton.

And if you think leadership is all about taking polls--as the White House does--then I suppose you can take heart in these results.

But I happen to believe that leadership is more than just trying to make everybody happy. It's about doing what's right for America and what's right for our children and grandchildren.

From the moment the votes giving Republicans their first Congressional majority were tallied last November, we knew we had a choice.

We could either look to the next election, basically leave the status quo intact, and avoid taking any action that might be controversial or unpopular.

Or we could roll up our sleeves and do the hard work of giving the American people the fundamental changes we have needed for so long.

That's the road on which we embarked. We knew the road would be bumpy. We knew there would be those who would urge us to detour to the path of least resistance.

But we also know that if we stay the course, then America will be a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

The Benefits of a Balanced Budget

America will be better because our children and grandchildren will be freed from the crushing burden of our national debt.

America will be better because the lower interest rates that will result from a balanced budget will allow more of us to own a home, buy a car, and take out a college loan.

America will be better because we will have saved Medicare from bankruptcy.

America will be better because we will have returned power to where it belongs--to our states, our cities, our neighborhoods, and our people.

I can't say it any better than did Mr. Joe Ham of Lawrenceville, Georgia, who sent me the following fax yesterday:

"Senator Dole: I know the media and the White House will be pouring on the propaganda, but for our kids' sake and the sake of America, STAND YOUR GROUND."

As Mark Twain said, "In the beginning of a change, the patriot is a scarce man, brave and hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot."

Let me just say to Mr. Ham that when I look at House and Senate Republicans I see patriots...patriots who are willing to pay the price for leadership, and who are willing to pay the price of making the tough choices today that will ensure a better tomorrow.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 2:10 p.m.