

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Saturday, December 30, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

WEEKLY REPUBLICAN RADIO ADDRESS
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE
REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY

Good morning, I'm Senator Bob Dole. As we prepare to ring in the new year, it's a good time to look back at promises kept in 1995, and to make resolutions for 1996.

1995 marked the first time in more than 40 years that Republicans controlled both houses of Congress. And I'm proud to say that the Republican Congress made 1995 a historic year.

We made great progress simply by keeping the promises we made to the American people -- promises made, promises kept.

We promised you that a Republican Congress would fight for fundamental change: a balanced budget, welfare reform, tax relief for working families, reform of Congress, and shifting power from Washington to where it belongs -- to our states, to our communities, and to the American people.

And day after day, week after week, the Republican Congress has delivered on those promises.

When the year began, we wasted no time in passing an initiative that says Congress will live under the same laws it imposes on everyone else. We passed a reform plan that shines additional sunlight on the lobbying process. We cut Congress's budget -- the biggest cut in 40 years. And we dramatically curtailed the federal government's ability to impose costly mandates on our states and cities -- a major blow to the "Washington Knows Best" crowd.

The Republican Congress fought to reduce the avalanche of red tape and regulations the federal government imposes on our small businesses, and we fought to streamline the seemingly endless criminal appeals process. President Clinton blocked both of these long overdue reforms, but rest assured, Republicans won't give up.

The Republican Congress approved a dramatic welfare reform plan that puts the focus on work, not welfare. It ends unlimited cash benefits, strengthens families, and requires personal responsibility. It also gives the states flexibility to design programs that best meet the needs of the people, and that can best reduce our alarming out-of-wedlock birth rate. President Clinton can still make good on his promise to "end welfare as we know it" by signing this welfare reform bill.

(MORE)

Most importantly, Republicans promised that we would put America on a path to a balanced budget. We made this promise not just to you -- but also to our children, our grandchildren, and generations of Americans to come who deserve a future free of crushing debt. This Congress kept that promise by passing a truly historic plan that would not only balance the budget in seven years, it would also keep our promise to America's seniors by saving Medicare from bankruptcy, and keep our promise to working families by giving them a \$500 per child tax credit.

President Clinton's veto of the Balanced Budget Act hasn't dampened our determination to keep fighting for America's future. Thanks to Republican resolve, we are closer to getting a balanced budget than at any time in a generation. As the budget negotiations continue, we remain hopeful that President Clinton will join with the vast majority of Americans in supporting a balanced budget. And we also hope that he will reconsider his vetoes of bills that would put 620,000 federal workers on the job, with pay.

With your support, the Republican Congress made tremendous progress in 1995. But there is still much more that must be done in 1996.

Let's resolve to finish the job of balancing the budget, and give the American people the real benefits it would bring -- lower interest rates allowing more Americans to realize the dream of home ownership, to buy a car, or to take out a school loan; lower inflation; more opportunity and job creation; and a brighter future for America's children.

Let's resolve to save a Medicare system that otherwise would go bankrupt within a few short years.

Let's resolve to finish the job of reforming welfare, so those who are trapped in a failed welfare system can look forward to a future of work, hope, and opportunity.

Let's resolve to allow working families to keep more of their own hard-earned money, and to provide tax relief that encourages economic growth and job creation.

Amid national surveys that show a disturbing rise in drug use among teenagers, let's resolve to renew the war on drugs -- and to fight to win.

Let's resolve to maintain our commitment to the principles which will continue to move America forward: less spending, less taxes, less federal government interference, more power for the states and the people, more economic growth, and foreign and defense policies that reassert America's rightful place in the world.

And finally, let's resolve as a nation to support the thousands of brave American men and women in uniform preparing to spend the new year on duty in Bosnia.

I know I speak for all Republicans when I say that we look forward to working with you, the American people, in 1996 to ensure that we stay on the path to a brighter, more prosperous future.

Thank you for listening, and may you and your family have a very happy New Year.

###