

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 25, 1991

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CIVIL RIGHTS BREAKTHROUGH

HISTORIC CIVIL RIGHTS COMPROMISE BECOMES A REALITY

NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, WE BEGAN A ROUGH-AND-TUMBLE JOURNEY THROUGH THE THICKETS OF TITLE VII AND DISPARATE IMPACT LAW.

AFTER ONE VETO, ONE ATTEMPTED VETO OVERRIDE, SEVERAL FLOOR VOTES, AND LOTS OF OVERHEATED RHETORIC, WE FINALLY END THIS JOURNEY WITH A COMPROMISE.

LAST NIGHT, SENATOR JACK DANFORTH, WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF JOHN SUNUNU, AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL BOYDEN GRAY PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON A COMPROMISE AGREEMENT THAT PRESIDENT BUSH WILL ACCEPT.

THIS AGREEMENT WILL REMAIN FIRM IF NO POLITICALLY ATTRACTIVE -- BUT POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE -- AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED, PARTICULARLY AN AMENDMENT LIFTING THE CAPS ON DAMAGE AWARDS.

THE COMPROMISE IS NOT PERFECT. IT WILL NOT SATISFY EVERYONE.

THE CAPS ON DAMAGES MAY BE FAIRLY REASONABLE -- TOO LOW FOR SOME BUT A BIT TOO HIGH FOR OTHERS.

THE LANGUAGE ON WARDS COVE MAY BE TOO BROAD TO SOME, OR TOO NARROW TO OTHERS.

BUT THAT'S THE NATURE OF A COMPROMISE, AND THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS PRODUCE AN AGREEMENT THAT -- ONCE AND FOR ALL -- WILL UNTIE THE GORDIAN KNOT OF CIVIL RIGHTS -- AND WITHOUT PRODUCING QUOTAS.

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUE FROM MISSOURI, SENATOR DANFORTH, DESERVES OUR PRAISE FOR WORKING TIRELESSLY TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, SENATOR DANFORTH'S LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN THE ENGINE DRIVING THE COMPROMISE EFFORT. THIS ENGINE HAS NOW COME INTO THE STATION.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET PRESIDENT BUSH, WHO HAS TIME-AND-TIME AGAIN STATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO ACCEPT A FAIR AND RESPONSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS PROPOSAL.

WELL, TODAY, WITH THIS AGREEMENT -- AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT -- PRESIDENT BUSH HAS DELIVERED ON HIS PROMISE.

WE CAN HAVE A CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991.

THE TIME FOR DIVISIVENESS HAS ENDED, AND THE TIME FOR HEALING HAS BEGUN.

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BC-TEXT-BUSH/PHOTO
THE REUTER TRANSCRIPT REPORT

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BUSH DURING A PHOTO OPPORTUNITY WITH
SENATE MINORITY LEADER ROBERT DOLE (R-KAN.)

Time: 9:40 a.m.

Location: White House

October 25, 1991

SENATOR ROBERT DOLE (R-KS): (inaudible) for a little meeting, and he was still there. What time did you leave? Ten?

Q: 10:30.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Let me just say I am very pleased with your persistence, and the fact that we have a piece of civil rights legislation that will guarantee against discrimination in the workplace. It's positive, it's sound, and I think it would never have happened if it hadn't been for the persistence, of you, Bob, and certainly Senator Danforth, and I, I couldn't be more happy to have a--have something that I can enthusiastically sign. I think it's good for our whole country.

And I just hope it goes swimmingly through both houses now, and we get on with it.

Q: Senator Dole, did the White House give in?

SENATOR DOLE: No, I think he just indicated, persistence paid off. Senator Danforth did a spectacular job. It's my understanding now if we pass it in the Senate, the House may just take this version. It could be down here by next week (inaudible).

PRESIDENT BUSH: The thing I like about it is I said from day one I wanted to sign a civil rights bill. I think some questioned that. But these two senators never questioned that, and I think we've, we've now got something that is good for the country and it's not going to--I mean, it's positive, it's very positive, and so some of the severest critics are going to have to be--take another look here, because this is very, very positive work, and it's not a partisan thing, it's a strong effort to hit against discrimination in the workplace.

So I'm very, very pleased. I couldn't be more pleased with it.

Q: Thank you.

END PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

The Reuter Transcript Report
President Bush/Photo Opportunity
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