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Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

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COCCURRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF OCTOBER 9;1967

HOUSE REPUBLICANS SEEK CUTS IN SPENDING

The serious problems caused by the \$29 billion potential federal deficit this fiscal year made a vote taken in the House of Representatives last Tuesday perhaps one of the most important—and frustrating—in the entire session of the Congress. The parliamentary situation was extremely complicated, but the issue was clear: should the President be directed by the Congress to cut his spending by five billion dollars, and return the money to the Treasury of the United States, or should he not be so directed?

Only the week before, the House had made it clear that it favored these instructions for our Chief Executive, but the Appropriations Committee (with its pro-administration majority) refused to put the Presidential feet to the fire--and refused to include the economy measure in the Continuing Appropriation bill reported to the House for consideration.

Crucial Vote Destroys Republican Effort

When the crucial vote on the floor came, the Democrats emerged from caucus, and promptly frustrated our efforts for economy in government at the highest level. The vote was against economy, and for the Administration: 213-205.

So the unfortunate situation continues -- the President has not yet received an unmistakable directive from the Congress demanding major cuts, cuts so needed in order to abate the inevitable inflation that can only result from this year's 'guns and butter' approach to federal spending.

Economy Must Be the Responsibility of All Branches

There has been a lot of talk in the past few days about whose responsibility it is to determine where the reductions will be made in the budget. Of course, it is the Congress that provides the money for the Executive to carry on the functions of the government. But it is the President who presents the budget, and it is the President who can revise and trim that budget for the American people. It is the President whom the Republicans, and several Democrats, asked tookut the spending in those areas where it can be cut as fast as possible for the relief of the taxpayer, the poor, and the aged on fixed incomes—those hardest hit by inflation. For those persons' immediate relief, we had asked that the President be directed to cut his immediate expenditures. Administration forces in the Congress denied us that opportunity, but there will be other opportunities as the year goes on. The President will eventually get the unmistakable message: cut spending, or else.