



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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757

## DOLE ARGUES AGAINST PAY RAISES

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Calling for the Senate to vote down Congressional pay raises proposed in the President's budget recommendations, Senator Bob Dole today also urged the Senate to vote against raises to high level bureaucrats, cabinet officers and the federal judiciary.

Dole has sponsored legislation to deny the increases, and as a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, he voted against modifying or softening the full prohibition on any of these raises taking effect.

Requesting Congress to act as leaders in the fight against inflation, Dole said:

"In the course of efforts to control inflation, major sacrifices have been called for on the part of every sector of the economy. Workers have been told to restrain their bargaining for wage increases. Manufacturers have been required to curtail price increases. Farmers have had ceilings imposed on their prices. These requirements have not been easy or enjoyable for those affected by them. But the American people are a great people who have always been willing to make sacrifices when the need arose to serve the country's basic interest.

"At home inflation continues to be a major force with the cost of living having gone up a full one percent in January alone.

"Clearly no one considers for a moment that the lid is off, and that we can now afford to go on a rampage of wage and price boosts to make up for lost time. Such an attitude is dangerous and exactly the opposite of the mood which must be maintained if inflation is to be controlled.

"Unfortunately, the Congress appears determined to pursue such a course -- but not on an abstract basis concerning some broad policy affecting, say, business, farmers, or labor. Rather, Congress has before it a question of whether it and other officials at high levels of the government are going to set an example of sacrifice, restraint and responsibility -- or tell the American people, "you bite the bullet, but we're going to take care of ourselves with a nice fat raise."

"There is never a "good" time to raise Congressional salaries -- that is a political fact of life. But there are valid reasons to do so, both in the interest of making public service in all three branches of government reasonably rewarding for those who must support themselves and their families.

"But as the saying goes, there is a time and a place for everything, and now -- in the middle of the fight against inflation -- is no time to hand out salary increases throughout the highest levels of the government.

"In my view, Congress should receive pay increases by appropriate amounts and at appropriate times, but in all fairness I do not feel we should have these increases at a time when millions upon millions of Americans are being told to practice restraint and pitch in to control the economy.

"In considering appeals to withhold Congressional pay raises but allow them for everyone else, I was not persuaded that such a step was particularly wise, necessary or appropriate. In looking at the \$36,000 ceiling imposed on certain high Civil Service grades by the present pay scales, I am moved to observe that many Kansans would be pleased and enthusiastic to serve in government at that salary.



- 2 -

"Likewise, in considering the request of Chief Justice Burger that the salaries of Federal Judges be raised, because of the threat that many judges might leave the bench for financial reasons, I have not noticed a great exodus from the lifetime salary and prestige of a Federal judgeship. Nor has there been -- in Kansas at least -- any shortage of qualified candidates for vacancies which arise on the bench."

Citing the importance of setting an example of fiscal responsibility Dole said, "I know of no more important or ready opportunity to demonstrate an attitude that we are attempting to do so than by turning down these raises -- for ourselves and others in positions of high authority and responsibility."

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