



NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

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I.R.S. RESPONDS TO CALL FOR UNIFICATION CHURCH AUDIT; DOLE ANNOUNCES MEETING

Senator Bob Dole said today that the Internal Revenue Service had assured him that information he had submitted concerning the Unification Church would be carefully evaluated as part of any review of the church's tax exempt status. Dole had written I.R.S. Commissioner Donald Alexander in January asking for an audit of the church which is headed by Mr. Sun Myung Moon.

In his reply, Commissioner Alexander indicated that the I.R.S. periodically reviews the activities of all tax exempt organizations to insure that they are operating within the provisions of the law under which the exemption was granted. Due to provisions of the tax code which prohibit disclosure of tax information, Alexander was unable to comment specifically on whether the Unification Church is being audited at this time.

Dole, who is the author of a comprehensive tax return confidentiality bill, reiterated his view that "the government must move cautiously in any audit of the church in deference to the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom and the principle of tax return privacy. But the facts presented by parents with sons and daughters in the church and news accounts raise enough doubt about the activities of Mr. Moon and his organization to warrant an investigation."

Dole also announced today that he has arranged a meeting between parents with children in the Unification Church and officials of the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The meeting will be held the afternoon of February 18 in the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington.