



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE AMENDMENTS ELIMINATE "MOST OFFENSIVE" ASPECTS OF HATCH ACT REFORM BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Senate today approved three amendments introduced by Senator Bob Dole to HR 8617, a bill which would substantially revise current Hatch Act restrictions against political activity by federal employees. According to Dole, these three amendments would eliminate some of the "most offensive provisions" contained in that bill.

Dole's amendments would (1) ~~delay~~ the effective date for HR 8617 until January 1, 1977; (2) mandate suspension from the civil service for two violations of prohibited political activities; and (3) retain current Hatch Act restrictions for employees of the Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service and the Central Intelligence Agency.

"It is both impractical and dangerous to implement this drastic alteration of long-established principles in the midst of a campaign period," Dole said during Senate debate. His amendment to delay the effective date of the Hatch Act Reform bill until after the 1976 elections was approved unanimously.

Dole pointed out that if current Hatch Act restriction are not retained for employees of the Justice Department, IRS and CIA, the possible sacrifice of "fairness and impartiality in the operations of these agencies would cast a shadow on their reputations. Active involvement in partisan political activity by these employees significantly increases to potential for abuse of privileged and private information about American citizens," he added. This amendment passed by a vote of 67-23.

Dole's amendment to mandate suspension from the civil service for two violations of prohibited political activities passed by a vote of 53-37.