



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE REFUSES TO SIGN CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today refused to sign the Conference Report on the 1977 Budget Resolution -- objecting to Conference action which he said "understates the deficit levels projected by the budget proposal and attempts to justify direct government job-creating programs that are unwise and inflationary given the current economic trends."

Dole charged that the deficit approved by the Budget Conference Committee was excessive because it is understated, due to manipulations in Conference. The Conference budget proposal projects 1977 expenditures of \$413.3 billion, revenues of \$362.5 billion, resulting in a projected deficit of \$50.8 billion for the coming year.

Dole specifically expressed opposition to actions in Conference which would permit more than a \$3 billion increase in direct federal job creation programs next year. The Conference Report would authorize an increase in spending from \$8.2 billion to \$11.3 billion public service, public works and countercyclical job creation programs. Dole said that this increase was excessive and the result of political, rather than budgetary considerations.

"The Budget Resolution does have its strong points," Dole said. "We are mandating changes in personnel policy and administration within the Defense Category which will save \$4.5 billion dollars from current policy levels. We proposed to save an additional \$1.2 billion through reform of social programs. Legislation will be needed to assure these savings are realized and I am confident Congress intends to follow up on these cost saving commitments."

"Democratic politics prevailed on the jobs programs," Dole continued, "or we could have had a proposal which holds deficits closer to those projected in the President's Budget." Dole said liberal Congressional Democrats are "falling all over themselves to show that they support a full employment program, while ignoring the impact of deficit spending and inflation on the 92.5% of the work force already employed."

Dole pointed out that he is developing a substitute form of the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill -- "a substitute that balances our concerns with the need for more jobs with sanity in spending. Everyone wants to lower the unemployment rate and I plan to introduce a bill which will encourage increased private employment rather than make-work public sector jobs."