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CONGRESS MUST RESOLVE TO RESTRAIN SPENDING NOW, SAYS SENATOR DOLE

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called on the Senate to support a measure that would cap federal spending, setting a limit at 21 percent of the Gross National Product.

The proposal, a resolution sponsored by Senator Bill Roth (R.-Del.) and cosponsored by 46 Democratic and Republican Senators, including Senator Dole, would reduce projected federal outlays by \$30 billion.

"It's a tough goal to meet. But the only alternative is to accept an unprecedented tax burden on the American people-- a total of \$100 billion in new tax revenues to the federal government is projected for fiscal year 1981. Unless these spending and taxing levels are drastically reduced, we can look forward to perpetual stagflation and permanent crisis management of the economy," said Dole, who is ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee.

A Time of Crisis

According to Senator Dole, "We have reached the point of crisis. Inflation continues to run at 18%, saving has become almost impossible and there are severe limitations on borrowing. It is no wonder that the American people are angry and frustrated. The only way to deal with a crisis is through dramatic and forceful action, followed up by tough, intelligent steps to assure the world that there is more to our policy than a few snatches of rhetoric. Adopting the Roth resolution would be just such a step," said Dole.

A Missed Opportunity

"Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee had an opportunity to let the full Senate debate a provision that would have made Congress politically accountable for its cumulative decisions on spending and taxation. I refer to S.J. Res. 126, a constitutional amendment that would have made it easier for Congress to control federal spending. The Judiciary Committee passed up this opportunity by the narrow margin of one vote. I trust the matter will not be allowed to rest there, because it is the only way for Congress to make an enforceable, long-term commitment to budget restraint and equitable levels of taxation. I believe the Roth Resolution will commit us to those policies for 1981, but we have to plan for the years ahead. The time for short-sighted, crisis-to-crisis management of the economy has long since passed. Thus, in addition to supporting the Roth Resolution, I would hope my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee will reconsider and report out S.J. Res. 126, and that the full Senate will pass it. Then we will finally show that we are serious about inflation and willing to make the hard choices that must be made," said Dole.