

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE SAYS REAGAN DESERVES CREDIT FOR DRAMATIC GAINS ON INFLATION

WASHINGTON — Senator Robert J. Dole (R. Kan.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said today that President Reagan should be given credit for dramatic progress in the war against inflation during 1982. The Commerce Department announced this morning that the Consumer Price Index rose by only 8.9 percent in 1981. That is the lowest rate of increase since 1978 and represents a significant downturn in the inflation rate.

"The President aimed to cut inflation back to the single digit range, and he has done that," Dole said. "Compared with the 12.6 percent inflation we experienced in 1980, and 13.3 percent in 1979, the new CPI means much needed relief for American consumers from the ravages of double-digit inflation. President Reagan has pledged to sustain this momentum in the battle with inflation, and there is every evidence that he will succeed in doing so."

Dole indicated that those who have been banking on a resurgence of inflation should reconsider in view of the 1981 results. "The President will not let up on inflation, and the Congress will support him. Double digit inflation has been beaten, and now it must be squeezed out of all sectors of the economy. Our job is to ensure that recovery from the recession brings real, sustained growth, while inflation is kept at bay — that is the President's goal, and it is mine as well," said Dole.

"We do need the support of the American people. One key to stable recovery is that people understand, and accept, that perpetual inflation is a thing of the past. They ought to be making economic plans based on the expectation of greater price stability than we have seen in some years. The sooner they do so, the faster the recession will end with the economy back on the proper track," Dole stated.

Dole expressed the hope that the press and the public would acknowledge the magnitude of the Reagan Administration's achievement on inflation. "Inflation has been acknowledged as the number one economic problem, and it's agreed that ending inflation is the only route to economic growth, and more jobs. The President's success in attacking public enemy number one shows the validity of his basic economic program. It ought to be cause for reflection among the doomsdayers who fear for our economic future. Lower inflation means we are regaining control over our economy, and that is cause for renewed confidence in our nation," said Dole.