

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ROBERT DOLE (R.-Kan.), ONE OF THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE ONGOING EFFORT TO HAMMER OUT A COMPROMISE BUDGET PACKAGE, TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE POSSIBILITIES OF A BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT:

"I AGREE WITH SENATE MAJORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER THAT A BUDGET COMPROMISE IS WITHIN REACH. THE MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THIS PAINSTAKING COMPROMISE PROCESS ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON THE BUDGET AND ARE MAKING PROGRESS.

"WHILE THE HOPED-FOR PACKAGE IS ATTAINABLE, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THOSE OF US INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS KEEP THE FACTS, FIGURES AND NEGOTIATING POINTS OF THAT PACKAGE TO OURSELVES.

"NEXT WEEK WILL BE A CRITICAL ONE IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE A SOLID, BI-PARTISAN BUDGET PACKAGE. IN MY OPINION, THE PRINCIPALS IN THIS BUDGET PROCESS SHOULD QUICKLY BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS. THOSE PRINCIPALS ARE THE PRESIDENT, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER. THESE KEY FIGURES MUST SOON FIND COMMON GROUND BECAUSE TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

"IF AN AGREEMENT IS REACHED, THE BULK OF THE WORK WILL BE HEADING TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE. WE WILL REQUIRE THE TOTAL SUPPORT OF THOSE INVOLVED IN THE BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS, STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM OUR COLLEAGUES IN BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE, AND THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPALS."