

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE CALLS FOR SWEEPING TAX REFORM

HOUSTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Robert Dole (R.-Kan) continued his call today for Federal tax reform in the face of billions of dollars lost every year to tax cheats, uncollected taxes and preferential tax policies.

Addressing the League of Women Voters biennial National Convention, Dole said that reforming tax law is absolutely essential in the current climate of \$180 billion deficit projections and spending cutbacks:

"Think about it--In 1979, noncompliance with Federal Taxes cost Uncle Sam \$54 billion. Today, that figure has risen to \$75 billion. And, if nothing is done, by 1985, it will have nearly doubled--\$102 billion withheld illegally at a time when the nation's economy is struggling with the prospect of record high deficits. Non-payment of taxes is growing faster than the Gross National Product, and almost as fast as the national debt. A few years ago, it was said that computers had taken the place of taxpayers' consciences, but now, even the computers can't stem the tide of under-reporting, fraudulent exemptions, and just plain concealment that undermines tax collection in this country," Dole said.

Dole told the conventioners about The Taxpayer Compliance Improvement Act of 1982, introduced this year by Senators Dole and Charles Grassley (R.-Iowa), an act which represents the first comprehensive reform of the voluntary tax compliance system in 30 years.

The Chairman of the tax-writing Finance Committee also singled out safe-harbor leasing and self-employed pensions as two targets for immediate tax reform.

"The trend now -- a trend evidenced in the President's budget, and in the most recent budget discussions -- is to work, step by step, to weed out those tax incentives and preferences in the code that narrow the tax base and force us to increase the general tax burden. This will be a slow and careful effort -- it will not happen overnight -- but political and economic facts of life dictate that it must and will be done," Dole concluded.