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DEMOCRATS SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY HALLOWEEN TRICKS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) said today that Democrat National Committee Chairman Charles Manatt and Senator Edward Kennedy should apologize to the nation's senior citizens for their irresponsible Halloween charges that President Reagan and congressional Republicans have some "hidden agenda" to reduce Social Security benefits following the election.

"Halloween is over. Mr. Manatt and Senator Kennedy should take off their masks and apologize to the millions of older Americans they've frightened with this complete fabrication," said Senator Dole, Chairman of the Finance Committee which handles Social Security.

"The Republicans have no secret Social Security plan and Mr. Manatt and Senator Kennedy know it. Rather than inventing cruel Halloween horror stories, they should honestly discuss Social Security and its problems," Senator Dole commented.

"The fact is that the past 26 years of Democratic management of the Social Security system has been flawed. The Social Security system will this week have to borrow from other Social Security funds in order to pay old age and survivors benefits for the first time in history."

"Another fact that Democrats ignore is that in 1977, under President Carter, they led efforts to cut Social Security benefits and to raise Social Security taxes. The 1977 Social Security Act Amendments cut Social Security benefits of current retirees by as much as \$130 per month--a total of \$30 billion over the next five years alone. In addition Social Security taxes on employers, employees and self-employed workers will be increased \$180 billion over the next five years," said Senator Dole.

"Senator Kennedy voted for this measure. Tip O'Neill led efforts to pass this measure in the House. It was supported by 182 Democrats including Congressman Claude Pepper."