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News from Senator

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BOB DOLE

(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-6521

DOLE: MONDALE DEFICIT RHETORIC SHOWS NEED FOR BIPARTISAN COOPERATION

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today cited campaign statements by candidate Walter Mondale as an indication that federal deficits will be a major election issue in 1984.

Dole, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, urged political leaders to seize the opportunity this year to take bipartisan action to reduce the deficit.

"I welcome any candidate's interest in seeking solutions to the looming deficit problem," Dole said. "This indicates that the deficit will be a big, big issue in 1984. However, the American people don't want to see the deficit issue become just campaign rhetoric. They want realistic solutions. I hope that all candidates will avoid actions that would impede or politicize serious Congressional efforts to trim deficits in a responsible manner."

Senator Dole noted that while candidate Mondale stated his determination to tackle the deficit, he had not outlined a detailed program to do the job. "If anyone has a plan, we ought to hear the specifics. However, the willingness to cooperate is just as important and I hope that a bipartisan spirit of cooperation prevails when Congress reconvenes on January 23," Dole said.