

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE ON SENATE TV EXPERIMENT: DON'T PULL THE PLUG

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY URGED HIS COLLEAGUES NOT TO "PULL THE PLUG" ON THE UPPER CHAMBER'S 18-DAY OLD EXPERIMENT WITH SENATE TELEVISION.

"WE WILL STILL VOTE ON TELEVISION WHETHER THE SENATE IS ON OR OFF THE AIR," DOLE SAID. "BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLES ARE CAREFULLY STUDYING OUR EXPERIMENT ON A DAILY BASIS. I DON'T BELIEVE DROPPING OUT OF SIGHT FOR TWO WEEKS WILL DO MUCH TO ENHANCE THE STUDY, BUT IT VERY WELL COULD CONFUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

ON JULY 29, THE SENATE IS SCHEDULED TO VOTE TO EXTEND THE TRIAL RUN FOR 30 DAYS; TO KILL IT; OR TO MAKE TELEVISION PERMANENT.

UNDER THE TERMS OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HISTORIC DEBUT OF FULL RADIO AND TV COVERAGE OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS, THE CAMERAS ARE TO BE SWITCHED OFF ON MONDAY, JULY 14 FOR A TWO-WEEK 'COOLING OFF' PERIOD TO REVIEW THE EXPERIMENT.

ACCORDING TO THE CABLE SATELLITE PUBLIC AFFAIRS NETWORK (C-SPAN), SENATE TELEVISION HAS ATTRACTED MORE THAN 6-MILLION NEW HOUSEHOLDS TO ITS NATIONWIDE HOOK-UP. CITING GROWING PUBLIC INTEREST FOR SENATE COVERAGE, SENATOR DOLE ALSO REFERRED TO AN ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL THAT INDICATED THAT 70-PERCENT OF THOSE ADULTS SURVEYED SAID THEY WOULD WATCH SENATE TELEVISION IF IT WERE AVAILABLE TO THEM.

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