

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE CALLS FOR ANTI-DRUG NATIONAL CHECK-OFF

WASHINGTON -- CITING THE NEED FOR A GRASS ROOTS EFFORT TO HELP FIGHT THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY CALLED FOR A SPECIAL CHECK-OFF ON FEDERAL TAX RETURNS TO EARMARK CITIZEN DONATIONS TO A NATIONAL CRACKDOWN ON DRUGS.

"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS IS A PROGRAM THAT DESERVES THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC, AND WE NEED TO HAVE THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO ASSURE THAT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS WILL SUCCEED. ONE WAY THAT WE CAN ENLIST THIS PARTICIPATION, AND AT LEAST PARTIALLY FUND THE PROGRAM, IS TO INSTITUTE A TAX RETURN CHECK-OFF SYSTEM," DOLE SAID.

"THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OBVIOUSLY HAS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE, OVERWHELMING SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON SOME OF THE SPECIFICS, BUT THE SUPPORT FOR THE BASIC GOALS IS VERY CLEAR.

"BUT EVEN WHEN YOU HAVE A PROGRAM THAT HAS GREAT BIPARTISAN SUPPORT, THERE ALWAYS IS THE PROBLEM OF WHERE YOU GET THE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT IT.

"THE CHECK-OFF FUNDS WOULD BE STRICTLY VOLUNTARY AND WOULD BE TAKEN FROM INDIVIDUAL REFUNDS OWED TAXPAYERS. HENCE, IT WOULD NOT REPRESENT A TAX INCREASE NOR WOULD IT ADD TO THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.

"THERE IS A CHECK-OFF SYSTEM ON TAX RETURNS TODAY -- THE CAMPAIGN FUND CHECK-OFF. THIS IS NOT PRECISELY THE SAME AS WHAT I AM PROPOSING NOW, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT INVOLVE ALLOCATION OF ANY PORTION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S REFUND. INSTEAD, IT ALLOCATES A PORTION OF TAXES ALREADY DUE. BUT IT IS INTERESTING THAT 22 MILLION RETURNS WERE FILED WITH THE CAMPAIGN FUND BOX CHECKED OFF. I AM CONFIDENT THAT AT LEAST AS MANY INDIVIDUALS WOULD BE WILLING TO ALLOCATE A SMALL PART OF THEIR REFUNDS TO FIGHT ILLEGAL DRUGS IN THIS COUNTRY," DOLE SAID.

IN 1985, THE LATEST YEAR FOR WHICH THE IRS HAS COMPLETE DATA, MORE THAN 80 MILLION INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS WERE OWED A REFUND ON THEIR FEDERAL INCOME TAX. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE REFUNDS OWED TO THESE INDIVIDUALS WAS \$83 BILLION.

"IF WE HAD IN EFFECT A MECHANISM TO ALLOW THESE INDIVIDUALS TO CONTRIBUTE PART OF THEIR REFUND TO HELP FINANCE THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN, AND IF EACH OF THESE INDIVIDUALS CONTRIBUTED JUST FIVE DOLLARS, WE WOULD HAVE OVER \$200 MILLION TO FUND THE PROGRAM," DOLE PREDICTED.

THE IRS EXPECTS THAT THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE OWED A REFUND FOR 1986 AND THE TOTAL AMOUNTS OWED TO THEM WILL BE SLIGHTLY HIGHER IN 1986 THAN IN 1985.

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