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BOB DOLE

R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 6, 1990 CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-5358

LET'S RETIRE THE SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST

TODAY, MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES AND I ARE GATHERED TO ASK THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE SOCIAL SECURITY EARNINGS TEST -- THE UNFAIR TAX THAT TAKES AWAY 1 OUT OF EVERY 3 DOLLARS EARNED BY SENIORS MAKING OVER \$9,360 A YEAR.

MOST OLDER AMERICANS WILL TELL YOU THAT THE EARNINGS TEST IS DESIGNED TO BE MUCH MORE THAN A TAX, AND THEY'RE RIGHT, IT'S A GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED PROGRAM TO PUSH SENIORS OUT OF THE WORK FORCE AND INTO THE ROCKING CHAIR. IN MY OPINION, THAT'S AGE DISCRIMINATION OF THE WORSE SORT. MOST AMERICANS BETWEEN 65 TO ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM ANYONE ELSE - THEY FACE THE SAME BILLS WE ALL DO, AND THOSE BILLS AREN'T GETTING ANY SMALLER.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY ALONE HAS BEEN WILLING TO FACE UP TO THIS PROBLEM. IN EVERY PLATFORM SINCE 1964, REPUBLICANS HAVE CALLED FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE EARNING TEST BURDEN. WE'VE HELD COMMITTEE HEARINGS, WE'VE SPONSORED BILLS, AND STILL THE REPEAL OF THE EARNINGS TAX REMAINS STUCK IN COMMITTEE.

WELL, TODAY WE ARE PUTTING OUR COLLEAGUES AND OUR SENIORS ON NOTICE THAT THIS YEAR -- 1990 -- WILL BE THE YEAR THE EARNINGS TEST IS REPEALED. OF COURSE, IT WON'T BE AN EASY THING TO DO IF MOST DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO OPPOSE US. BUT AS THE REPEAL OF SECTION 89 SHOWED US, ONCE WE GET THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BEHIND US, THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN STOP THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FROM KEEPING OUR PROMISES. I KNOW I SPEAK FOR THE MILLIONS OF SENIOR AMERICANS WHEN I SAY IT'S TIME TO RETIRE THE EARNINGS TEST.