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DOLE DEMANDS REVIEW OF COLD-HEARTED IRS PAPERWORK DEADLINE FOR PERSIAN GULF TROOPS

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) SATURDAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE'S STATED POLICY THAT THE APRIL 15TH DEADLINE FOR FILING TAX RETURNS WILL NOT BE WAIVED FOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN OPERATION DESERT SHIELD, UNLESS WAR BREAKS OUT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM IN THE PERSIAN GULF HAVE PLENTY OF HARDSHIPS DEALING WITH THE RIGORS OF LIFE IN THE SAUDI DESERT AND THE THREAT POSED BY SADDAM HUSSEIN. THE LAST THING OUR TROOPS NEED IS THE IRS BREATHING DOWN THEIR NECKS AT TAX TIME.

"THAT'S WHY I THINK THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO REEXAMINE THIS IRS POLICY, SO THAT RESERVISTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL IN OPERATION DESERT SHIELD CAN GET SOME MUCH NEEDED LEEWAY IN FILING THEIR RETURNS OR APPLYING FOR AN EXTENSION.

"IF THE IRS IS BOUND BY LAW TO FOLLOW THIS POLICY, THEN THE LAW NEEDS TO BE CHANGED. IF THIS POLICY IS A BUREAUCRATIC INTERPRETATION, THEN WE BADLY NEED A SECOND OPINION.

"IF THIS COLD-HEARTED POLICY ISN'T ALTERED BY THE TIME THE 102ND CONGRESS CONVENES, I'LL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO CORRECT IT. I'M CONFIDENT THERE WILL BE STRONG BIPARTISAN INTEREST IN MAKING CERTAIN WE ACCOMMODATE THE REAL NEEDS OF OUR DESERT SHIELD SOLDIERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF."

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