WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the dip in March retail sales figures which many analysts attribute to the massive mid-month blizzard:

"Trying to exploit blizzard-affected retail sales figures as an excuse for Bill Clinton's so-called stimulus package is just the latest White House snow job.

"If anything, consumers are getting more and more worried about being buried under a record-breaking blizzard of new taxes from the Clinton administration.

"It's time to get out the snow shovel to clear away the drifting rhetoric of a White House which continues to ignore the appeals of the American people to cut spending and pay for new programs without adding to the deficit."

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