



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE CALLS FOR REVIEW OF SPENDING PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In an attempt "to strengthen the Congressional budget process Senator Bob Dole will today introduce a resolution calling for new effort in the oversight of all current government spending programs.

In a statement prepared for delivery to the full Senate, Dole said his resolution would require "each standing committee to review and evaluate existing programs within its jurisdiction. This evaluation should help us to determine whether there are more effective, efficient, or economical procedures for achieving program objectives.

Saying that "no program should be exempt from close examination," the Kansas Senator added that "only with review and revision of priorities will we see a properly functioning budget process. And it must function properly if we are to avoid further drain on our economy through high deficits -- deficits of such magnitude as has been approved this year."

Dole, who voted against the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution after his attempt to trim the federal deficit failed, said he believes it possible to keep a "lid on current program spending -- even when providing for modest increases or new program initiatives -- only by providing for a thorough re-evaluation of on-going programs. Unless and until the committees undertake this close scrutiny, the ability of the Budget Committee to make sound and effective priority recommendations will be limited." Dole is a member of the Senate Budget Committee.

In addition to review and evaluation of existing programs, Dole's resolution would require committees to identify duplications in programs and determine if any programs should be eliminated or have their funding reduced. Each committee would report results of its study, together with recommendations, to the full Senate no later than December 31, 1975.

Dole said he introduced the resolution now because of the need to begin planning immediately for fiscal year 1977. "Faced with a large deficit this year, we need to drastically reduce the amount of the budget deficit in 1977. If not, we will be faced with net budget deficits for fiscal years 1975 through 1977 approaching \$175 billion. Information provided by the reports will arm the Budget Committee and all Senators with a great deal more information for consideration of the next fiscal year budget."