



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS
(202) 224-8953

DOLE TO BE ACTIVE AS RANKING REPUBLICAN ON SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that he plans to "play an active role" as Ranking Republican member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee.

Dole was named to the position by his fellow Republicans. The Finance Committee has jurisdiction over tax laws, trade policy, the national debt, revenue sharing, and Social Security Act programs, including unemployment insurance, Medicare and Medicaid.

"At a time when inflation is the number one problem and tax relief is being demanded by nearly every sector of the population, I think it's clear that the Finance Committee will be a focal point during this session," said Dole.

"In the health area, I foresee a continuation of the debate over national health insurance. And I expect to be offering a Republican alternative in the coming weeks," said Dole. "As for taxes, while I don't think the Congress will pass a major tax bill this year, unless the economy slackens, I do think several areas of the Internal Revenue Code will receive close attention. Pension laws, the Administration's proposal for real wage insurance, tax treatment of fringe benefits, and tax indexing will all occupy our time," he added.

"I also hope we'll finally give welfare reform consideration, as well as proposals to roll back, to some degree, the recent social security tax increase."

Dole also predicted this will be a big year for international trade legislation. "The President is now consulting with the Congress on the recently concluded Multilateral Trade Negotiations. We will have to express our approval or disapproval of this important trade package by late summer or early fall. Our Committee must move very deliberately on this matter, as it could have a tremendous impact on international trade for decades to come. In the area of agricultural trade, sugar and meat import legislation should get early attention before the Committee."